

Enterprise to publish weekly starting in September, accepting subscriptions

The Henry County Enterprise will mark its anniversary by transitioning to a paid subscription weekly publication, starting on Sept. 7.

Mail delivery and digital subscriptions are being accepted.

Classified advertisements, calendar notices and club news are being accepted. Obituaries will be accepted when we transition to a weekly publication.

The Henry County Enterprise began publishing monthly in April after its debut as a quarterly newspaper in September 2018.

“The positive response and outpouring of support from the communities in Martinsville and Henry County are driving this transition to a weekly publication,” said Debbie Hall, editor. “The support has been tremendous.”

Hall added that a weekly publication will provide more flexibility. “It also will allow us to cover more news as well as features,” she said, noting that ideas and submissions from readers are welcome.

The Henry County Enterprise and The En- (See Enterprise p. 6A)

D-Day remembered



Wreaths were to be placed Thursday, June 6, at Oakwood Cemetery in Martinsville on three markers honoring local men who died in the D-Day invasion and were buried in France. Here, Martinsville City Councilman Danny Turner (left) and W.L. Fowlkes of the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) ready flowers at the marker for Benjamin Kearfott, who was killed in the first wave of the invasion. The others honored with wreaths were R.B. “Crow” Williamson and Noel Washburn. Also at the June 6 program marking the 75th anniversary of the invasion. A biography of the late Clyde England, who survived D-Day, was to be presented to his family. The biography was entered in the Congressional Record.

Blevins, Redd leave NCI

By Debbie Hall

Leanna Blevins will leave her position as executive director of the New College Institute on June 30 for a post with Virginia Tech/Carilion School of Medicine partnership in Roanoke.

“For nearly 15 years, I’ve had the honor and privilege to be part of the team that designed, built and served students at New College Institute. I’ve loved my job, my colleagues, my community, and the work I do. It is bittersweet to leave, but I’m excited to share (See NCI p. 8A)

— MILESTONES IN EDUCATION —

Gwynn overcame obstacles to goal

By Ginny Wray

Savanna Gwynn always dreamed of being a teacher, but life kept getting in the way. There were bills to pay, children to raise and so on.

But now, thanks to various programs and resources, she sees a clear path to the career of her dreams.

Gwynn, of Ridgeway, graduated from Patrick Henry Community College on May 11 with an associate degree in early childhood education. She has begun working toward her bachelor’s of individual study degree with a concentration in early childhood education at James Madison University (JMU). That degree comes with a license to teach pre-kindergarten through

third grade.

At age 33, she also is a full-time mother, full-time employee and full-time student. And she had a 4.0 grade point average at PHCC.

“It was very hard but challenging. ... It’s amazing that I have pushed myself to do this because I have the drive to be in the school system and make a difference,” she said.

She also had help, from programs at PHCC to the Davenport Institute for Early Childhood Development and other resources that enabled her to attend college for free.

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Gwynn is the daughter of Mike and Bonnie Sirt of Ridgeway. She graduated from Mag-



Savanna Gwynn leads 4-year-old children in the Collinsville YMCA after-school program in the “Pete the Cat” story and songs.

na Vista High School in 2004 and went to Liberty University in Lynchburg but came home after half a semester. “Big town, small-town girl,” she said, explaining her homesickness.

Gwynn enrolled in PHCC’s education department but quit when she needed

money. She was working in retail stores in North Carolina when she learned that the Collinsville YMCA had an opening for an aide in the after-school program at Ridgeway Elementary School.

Armed with a passion for working with children but no experience, she got the job.

It was perfect. “I knew I needed to go back to school but I didn’t have the desire or drive that I needed because I was doing what I loved,” she said. That was in 2007. Six months later the YMCA sent her to its Richmond program to become qualified as a (See Gwynn p. 9A)

Degree worth decades-long quest

By Ginny Wray

Wanda Deering’s bachelor’s degree was 45 years in the making.

Deering, 63, of Axton, received her degree on May 11 from Old Dominion University. It was the culmination of a journey that began in 1974 at Ferrum College.

In between, she was married twice, had six children and followed her dreams.

“The desire has to be in you to really want to do it. If you really want to do it, you will have the perseverance to continue. I can’t say it was smooth sailing or was easy. You’ve got to have that perseverance to keep pushing,” she said of earning her bachelor’s degree.

“It is worth it because you have that satisfaction of something only you could complete, and you completed it,” she added.



Wanda Deering shows her allegiance to her alma mater, Old Dominion University, after earning her bachelor’s degree.

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Deering graduated from Laurel Park High School in 1973. She went to work at Tultex Corp. and then American of Martinsville until she saved enough money to start classes at Ferrum College in

1974. Her original goal was to get a doctorate in psychology but Ferrum didn’t have that major, so she studied business administration.

She completed a year at the college but did not return after she married a fellow stu-

dent. He joined the military and they moved to England. But four children, numerous moves and 20 years later, the marriage ended.

Throughout those years, Deering went to college when she could, taking classes now and then at Patrick Henry Community College. At one point she studied to become a medical assistant and a certified nursing assistant, but she never completed that. She also was accepted into the PHCC nursing program but did not finish that, either. “Life” kept getting in the way, she said. “Stuff just got in the way. It was difficult just to go to class and that was before college curriculums were online.”

When Deering was a full-time student in the nursing program, she also worked three part-time jobs. It (See Deering p. 9A)

Two seats open in city

By Ginny Wray

The retirement of Joan Montgomery from the Martinsville School Board leaves two openings on that board for Martinsville City Council to fill.

Montgomery retired from the board after serving a full three-year term and one year of a second term. Council will appoint someone to fill the remaining two years of that term.

(See City p. 9A)

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Chairman of the Board to headline Celebration 2019

By Hyacinth Fiorenzo
The Martinsville Speedway has long embodied the spirit of freedom, fun and excitement for residents of the Southside. As a NASCAR track, it is best known for hosting a variety of lightning fast, adrenaline laced races. Once a year, however, the speedway opens its doors wide and invites the community to join together in a spectacular celebration of our nation's independence – free of charge.

On July 4, the 21st annual Celebration at Martinsville Speedway will kick off. The day of festivities will include rides, food, a concert and a fireworks show. Gates along the main entrance will open at 3 p.m., with free parking available in the grass lots. Rides and food vendors will line the display lots along the front of the track. A concert featuring Chairman of the Board and local band, The Worx, will begin on the infield at 6:30 p.m. The two bands will rock the stands all evening, leading to the area's largest fireworks display at around 11 p.m.

As in years past, the celebration will feature a variety of traditional carnival rides. With a Ferris wheel and a handful of adrenaline rides for the adults, as well as a Giant Fun Slide and a character train for the kids, thrills will be geared to entertain the entire family. "We'll have something for everyone," said Harrison Hamlet, manager of communications for the speedway. "We look forward to this event every year. It's just as exciting as the races for local folk as well as the staff at the speedway." Headlining the concert is Southside favorite and international Grammy-winning recording artists Chairman of the Board. They are best known for classic R&B hits such as "Give Me Just a Little More Time," and "(You've Got Me) Dangling on a String." They are revered locally for their iconic "Carolina Girls" and the crowd favorite, "Carolina Shuffle," which is featured at every Carolina Panthers home game. Ken Knox, the group's front man of 42 years and



The Chairman of the Board will perform at Celebration 2019.

author of the Carolina Shuffle, said he is "honored and humbled to be continuing our legacy" of performing after having lost Danny Woods and General Johnson. With members Thomas Hunter and Brandon Stevens, the group tours both locally and internationally, performing classics as well as new songs off its latest album "All I Need is You Tonight." Knox said he is excited that bassist and musical director Jerry Dee Washington, of Axton, will be appearing locally for the first time since joining the band

in 2010.

Also performing will be The Worx, a Roanoke-based band that has been a local favorite for 27 years. The Worx has received a number of local awards and is a crowd favorite at every event. Their eclectic catalog includes a variety of hits spanning 80s pop to country, rock and R&B dance favorites. Celebration 2019 will conclude with one of the area's largest professional fireworks displays, a showstopper slated to last about 25 minutes, officials said.

In keeping with tradition, festivities are available at no charge to the community through the donations of local sponsors. A complete list was not available. However, Hamlet said that Jeb Bassett, vice president of Bassett Furniture, has fundraised to ensure the continued success of the event. He added the event would not be the same without the hard work and dedication of the fundraising team and the generosity of local sponsors. "We are appreciative of Jeb Bassett and the fundraising crew and all of their hard work in 2019," said Hamlet. Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell said the celebration is "not only a way to celebrate our great nation, but it's also truly a community event. From the area businesses that partner with us to make it possible and keep it free, to the people that come out and enjoy the evening, it is for the people, by the people. We look forward to Celebration every year," he added.



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MEMORIAL DAY HONORED THOSE WHO SERVED, SACRIFICED

Roselawn



Ken Barron (right) presents a certificate honoring the late Billy Barbour to Barbour's sister, Catherine Nichols of Roanoke, at the Memorial Day service at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home and Burial Park. From right after Nichols are Dot Smith, a special friend of Billy Barbour's, and her family, Tonya Rumley and Chantel Rumley, holding Aiyanna Spencer, all of Fieldale. (Photo by Desmond Kendrick)

Memorials, cemeteries and other tributes help ensure that people continue to honor military veterans.

That was the message of retired Army Col. Lewis T. Turner, who spoke at the 72nd annual Memorial Day Service on May 27 at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home and Burial Park.

Turner is a graduate of Bassett High School, Bluefield College, Concord University and Florida International University in addition to his military education. He holds numerous military medals and has been active in community service. He has moved back to Henry County and attends Stanleytown United Methodist Church.

He is a Vietnam veteran and broke his family's chain of two combat deaths, he said.

Such a chain probably is not unusual in Martinsville and Henry County, Turner said, but it is painful nonetheless.

When someone is killed in combat — regardless of whether it is called a war or a conflict — it is personal, Turner said. It hits a family hard and takes a long time to heal, he added.

"The death of American men and women continues to be part of our history," Turner said, and those people's sacrifices must be

remembered.

There are many ways to ensure that, he said. For instance, he recommended the audience visit the various war memorials in Washington, D.C., especially the Vietnam memorial and especially before daybreak. The D-Day Memorial in Bedford also is a must-see, and a special program will be held there June 6 to mark the 75th anniversary of that invasion.

"Local efforts to honor veterans are impressive," Turner said, mentioning the memorials at the Bassett Historical Center and markers around the area.

There are 136 National Cemeteries, including 15 in Virginia, although only those at Culpepper and Quantico still are open for burials of people not related to those already interred there, he said.

The United States has more than 300,000 active duty military personnel stationed in more than 150 countries, and thousands of veterans are buried in cemeteries worldwide, according to Turner. Those cemeteries are "well-maintained hallowed grounds," and their impact is heightened by the contrast of their beauty with the horrors of war.

He urged people traveling abroad to visit places such as Omaha Beach in Nor-

mandy to be reminded that "the fight for freedom doesn't stop at the border."

He also noted that in the Netherlands, families have adopted the graves of U.S. servicemen and they place the flags of both countries on the graves.

(See Roselawn p. 5A)



Left, retired Col. Lewis T. Turner, who was the guest speaker at the May 27 Memorial Day Service at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home & Burial Park, spoke with Marie-Bernice Downey of Martinsville, who was a military nurse during the Korean War years. Downey goes to the services each year to honor a friend who died. Above, C.P.D. Mike Stewart performs the POW/MIA tribute at the Memorial Day Service at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home & Burial Park. The table is set for one, symbolizing the missing service member, and a flag is placed on the table at the start of the service and removed at the end.

People's

and about 80 are veterans, Monday said.

He talked about the role African-American servicemen played in the nation's conflicts and added that on Memorial Day, those Americans and all others who died in service to their country are honored.

He praised those gathered for the program, saying that for many people Memorial Day means cooking out, shopping or gardening. They "don't think a lot about the reason they have a day off," he said.

But without the sacrifices of those who died for their country, Americans wouldn't have the freedom to spend the day however they choose.

China is implementing a so-

cial credit program in which people who do not follow the government's directives will receive negative social credits, which could affect the schools their children can attend or if they can get plane tickets or loans, Monday said. Next year people with negative credits will have a special ring tone on their phones so when they get a call, everyone will know "the government doesn't consider them the right kind of citizens," he added, calling that system "terrifying."

In contrast, Americans can do as they choose thanks to "all those people who came before us, some of whom are buried here," Monday said.

(See People's p. 5A)



MHC Veterans Honor Guard members raise the flag at the Memorial Day service at People's Cemetery on May 27.

Against the backdrop of the restored People's Cemetery on Memorial Day, area residents were urged to remember the sacrifices of those who died for Americans' freedoms.

"A great country requires those willing to lay down their lives for their nation," Martinsville City Attorney Eric Monday told more than 50 people gathered on May 27 for the fifth annual Memorial Day Program at People's Cemetery.

There are nearly 500 graves in that cemetery at the End of Second Street in Martinsville,



Martinsville City Attorney Eric Monday addresses those gathered at the Memorial Day service on May 27 at the People's Cemetery in Martinsville.

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Carlisle alumnus returns to address graduates

Dr. Manas Nigam, a 2007 alumnus of Carlisle, was the keynote speaker at the school's 45th commencement ceremony on May 24.

This year's commencement was significant as Carlisle School is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

A total of 28 seniors graduated this year. Together, they were offered \$3.2 million in merit-based scholarships and received 114 acceptances into 72 different schools.

Special honors went to Teresa Martin, who received the Hooker-Garrett Award, and Shannon Reynolds, who was given the Francis T. West Award. Laura Painter was the valedictorian.

The Distinguished Alumni Award went to Nigam, who is a senior resident in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., focusing on microvascular and upper extremity surgery. During residency, he has cared for more than 1,000 patients requiring surgery for trauma, cancer surgery, chronic wounds and congenital deformities.

In December 2015, through a grant from Georgetown University Medical School, he volunteered with Interplast in Haridwar, India, to perform cleft lip and palate, syndactyly and burn contracture repairs, and he created a rotation for medical students. He also has conducted research in congenital ear deformities, breast cancer reconstruction and limb salvage, resulting in the publication of more than 20 articles and presentations and four textbook chapters.

Nigam received his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 2015. While in medical school, he received



Carlisle alumnus Dr. Manas Nigam addresses the graduates, families and friends.

the University of Chicago Uncommon Fund Grant and the Dennis and Anita Lee Global Health Scholarship, which allowed him to teach preventive health to children at the Sri Ram Ashram in India. In his final year, served as chief of the Medical School Student Council and Student Body.

He completed degrees in finance and economics at the University of Virginia, Class of 2011, where he was a Jefferson Scholar. As a college student, he served as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad. He attended the McIntire School of Commerce, where he received the Warwick D. Johnston International Scholarship to study business at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

He was one of 47 students in his class to be a resident of the Lawn, part of the original U.Va. grounds.

At Carlisle, Nigam completed the International Baccalaureate Program. He was active in school extracurricular activities, including varsity soccer and tennis, the spring musicals and the fall dramas. He also played bass and piano for the



Carlisle School Class of 2019



Teresa Martin (left) receives the Hooker-Garrett Award at Carlisle School's 2019 commencement ceremony. Head of School Gracie Agnew presented the award.



Shannon Reynolds accepts the Francis T. West Award from Head of School Gracie Agnew at Carlisle School's 2019 commencement ceremony.

school jazz band and orchestra.

Nigam volunteered at the Stratford Rehabilitation Center during his time at Carlisle, working with geriatric patients, and he currently is the volunteer medical director for free clinics for the Virginia-Washington, D.C.-Maryland region sponsored by the Sai Center. The role entails organizing physicians and volunteers for medical screenings made available to hundreds of patients without other access to preventive medical care.

The medical field is a common bond in the Nigam family as Manas gets to

work regularly with his brother Dr. Aradhya Nigam, Carlisle Class of 2008, who also is a resident in general surgery at Georgetown University Hospital.

Manas lives in Arlington with his wife Komal Karnik Nigam, JD, MPH. They met during their first year at the University of Virginia and dated long-distance through graduate school, which she completed at Harvard Law School. She now is a senior associate at Hogan Lovells US LLP. They have a one-year-old daughter Shreya.

Students earn degrees, credentials at New College



More than 100 people attended a reception to honor recent graduates at New College Institute.

After countless hours in the classroom completing projects and earning internship hours, all while maintaining family and job expectations, New College Institute (NCI) students earned their degrees and gained credentials to take the next step in their careers.

NCI celebrated the accomplishments of recent graduates at a reception with more

than 100 in attendance. Graduates earned their bachelor's or master's degrees and all of their classes took place locally, at NCI.

They brought the total number of degrees earned at NCI since its inception in 2006 to more than 425.

Dr. Leanna Blevins, NCI's executive director, commended the hard work of the graduates as well as the support of friends and family members.

"All year long, the staff and faculty at NCI look forward to this night. We love celebrating the completion of a journey for each student and to involve their families. It takes a village to invest that much time, energy, money, and sacrifice," she said.

Those earning bachelor's of liberal studies/elementary education

degrees from Longwood University include Whitney Cassell, Leigh Ann McGuire, Nisamar Sechrist, Casey Tucker and Brittany Wells.

Earning bachelor's of social work degrees from Longwood Univer-

sity were Rick Curry, Jennifer Dowdy, Makita Ellis, Sierra Harris, Breanna Robertson, Sara Roetken and Mia Smith.

Donna Hutson and Mark Toole earned master's in educational leadership degrees from James Madison University, and the following earned certificates in educational leadership from James Madison University: Michelle Adams, Raina Brim, Elizabeth Creasy, Katie Elliott, Jennifer Gunter, John Hatchett, Clif Jones, Jasmine Lovelace, Hope Perry and Jonathan Wood.

Three graduates, Curry, Perry and Sechrist, addressed the crowd. They shared

their experiences as students and the paths that brought them to programs offered through NCI.

Curry acknowledged the journey he had with his classmates and teachers. He also mentioned that he was the oldest member of his cohort, having graduated from high school 49 years ago, "It was an amazing journey. I would never had returned to school if it had not been for NCI."

Perry expressed appreciation for the access NCI provides, "I believe NCI provided me the opportunity to take that next step in my professional journey. The JMU Ed Leadership Program was convenient and worked

with my professional schedule and my family's schedule. It was perfect for me," he said.

Reflecting on her experience in the Longwood education program at NCI, Sechrist said, "NCI allowed me to reach my goal to become an English language teacher without having to leave home. NCI gave me a new family and a sense of pride. NCI will forever be part of my journey and of the lives I will be able to touch during my teaching career."

To learn more about academic programs and service available through NCI, call 403-5610 or visit www.NewCollegeInstitute.org.

PHCC faculty honored with awards



Michelle Zollars, an associate professor of developmental English at Patrick Henry Community College, was recognized as PHCC Distinguished Faculty of 2019 at the college's May 11 commencement. She is shown with PHCC President Angeline Godwin.

Two Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) faculty members were honored at the May 11 commencement ceremony at the college.

Daniel Edwards, instructor of industrial electronics technology, was named the Teaching Faculty Member of the Year. Also, Michelle Zollars, an associate professor of developmental English, was recognized as PHCC Distinguished Faculty of 2019.

The Teaching Faculty Member of the Year is recognized for making a tremendous impact on the campus and in students' lives, according to a PHCC press release. The honoree receives a \$2,000 cash prize and a significant professional development stipend from the Pat-



Daniel Edwards, instructor of industrial electronics technology at PHCC, was named the Teaching Faculty Member of the Year at the PHCC commencement ceremony May 11.

rick Henry Community College Foundation.

Edwards was instrumental in implementing the mechatronics program at PHCC in 2013. Since the program's inception, it has grown explosively, issuing more than 300 national certifications, the release stated. For six consecutive years, Edwards' program has maintained a 100 percent passing rate. Every student that has taken the national industry certification exam has passed.

This past year, Edwards was influential in coordinating the college's partnership with the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) and Festo. These partnerships have given his students numerous opportunities to gain skills and creden-

tials that are in high demand by local employers. Because of the caliber of the program that Edwards has built, numerous employers from around the region are actively seeking to recruit his graduates.

"Daniel Edwards exemplifies everything that is good about PHCC's faculty," said Colin Ferguson, dean of the science technology engineering, math – health and applied programs. "He is there for his students. His graduates are successful. He is fully dedicated to student success. He deserves to be recognized."

Zollars, the PHCC Distinguished Faculty of 2019, received \$750 from the PHCC Foundation for her commitment to student success, according to the press release.

Her role at the college extends well beyond the classroom. From training adjunct faculty members to redesigning policies to increase student engagement, she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure her students and fellow instructors have everything they need to make PHCC an excellent learning environment. the release stated.

PHCC had 535 graduates for the 2018-19 year and about 220 of them marched in the commencement ceremony. There were 800 credentials — degrees and certificates — conferred this year.

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

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Magna Vista High School speaker: ‘Be a Warrior’



Magna Vista High School Class of 2019

Two members of the Class of 2019 challenged their fellow graduates to appreciate the education they received at Magna Vista High School and share their skills and talents with others in the future.

Graduates William Caleb Hubbard and Cinthia Garcia Corona spoke at Magna Vista’s commencement exercises on Saturday, May 25.

Hubbard, who was introduced by class secretary Carly Kathleen Jackson, spoke on “Success Is No Accident” and noted that he and his classmates

Martin

(cont. from page 1A)

division concludes June 30.

The votes for Martin and his firm were unanimous. His contract with the division will run through Dec. 31. He will be paid \$7,500 per month as acting superintendent; his firm will be paid a total of \$5,000 for helping to conduct the search, according to school officials at the meeting.

Martin currently serves on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, where he represents the Iriswood District. In the past, he has served as the superintendent of Henry County Schools. His career in public education spans thirty-three years, during which he also served as the superintendent of schools in Manassas Park City Schools, Williamsburg-James City County Schools, Fauquier County Schools, and Lincoln County Schools in North Carolina.

He has served as a faculty member at The George Washington University and currently is the coordinator of educational lead-

are a family that always will be the Magna Vista’s Class of 2019.

Quoting author Anthony Brandt, world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and retired soccer player Edson Arantes do Nascimento — commonly known as Pelé — Hubbard said hardships the students faced had tested, strengthened and motivated them for the future.

“For every struggle we’ve faced, we have achieved great accomplishments which, in hindsight, made the struggle all worth it,” Hubbard said.



ership programming at the New College Institute for James Madison University in Martinsville.

Martin was named the 2007 Virginia Superintendent of the Year and also received the Tech Savvy Superintendent Award for 2007 from eSchools News. He is archived in the Smithsonian Institute for a one-to-one laptop initiative and received the Smithsonian Innovation in Technology Award in 1999.

He received his B.S. in special education from James Madison University, his M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from West Virginia University, and his Ed.D. degree in Education Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Martin and his wife, Joyce, live in the Axton community.

All the students have a passion, whether it is about furthering their education, sports, cheerleading, dance, band, clubs, choir and beyond, he said.

“No matter what your passion was, it brought you here to this moment. It proves the last four years were no accident. We worked hard. We persevered through tough courses. We made sacrifices to make school the top priority. Sacrifices which paid off, and now here we are,” Hubbard added.

In her speech, Corona spoke on “Be a Warrior for the World.” She talked about how quickly the past four years had passed, with their trials and tribulations, and noted the successes of FFA chapter victories, Raider

competitions, drama championships, Beta recognitions and more.

She thanked the school’s teachers who “shared their time, talent and knowledge with us. Each and every one of them put in the effort to demand excellence whether we wanted it or not.”

“It’s time to take down our parking passes and clean out our binders one last time. When we leave this field today, we should have the desire to share what we have achieved: our knowledge, our skills and our talents,” said Corona, who was introduced by class treasurer Peter A Nguyen.

“... Remember, ‘Once a warrior, always a warrior.’ The world needs more warriors like us,” she added.

Smart Machine and PHCC create co-op program for welding students

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) and a local employer are launching a new program that will provide students with industry networking, experiential training and a well-paying part-time job.

PHCC and Smart Machine Technologies (SMT), which has been manufacturing industrial equipment in Ridgeway for more than 40 years, are creating a co-op program for PHCC’s welding students.

Beginning during the college’s summer semester, selected students will take their welding out of the classroom and into the workplace. Through the co-op, students will work with seasoned welders at SMT to gain on-the-job experience while they are still

finishing their last semester of class work. The West Piedmont Workforce Development Board will assist Smart Machine with the on-the-job training as eligible.

“This is an incredible opportunity for our students,” said PHCC’s welding instructor Randy Smith. “Most of our students are working and going to school at the same time. Now, instead of working just a minimum wage job, they could be getting in-the-field, real-life welding experience — and great pay.”

In the SMT co-op, students will be making \$12 per hour and likely will work 20 hours a week, although the hours will be flexible to accommodate the student’s academic obligations. To be considered for the co-op,

students must obtain a recommendation from a PHCC welding instructor and must be enrolled in WEL 198 and WEL 298. Instructors advise that the optimal time to co-op will be during the final semester of welding classes.

Officials at SMT said the co-op program is an opportunity for SMT as well. The co-op program will enable SMT to train potential future recruits on the company’s processes and product line before they even apply for a job. When co-op graduates apply for jobs at SMT, recruiters will know exactly how these graduates weld and what they are like

on the job before even beginning the interview process.

Because SMT’s product quality depends heavily on the skill and knowledge of the employees who fabricate the product, having a lead in the hiring process could directly impact SMT’s competitive advantage in its industry. According to PHCC’s welding instructors, hiring great welders can be competitive, especially for companies trying to hire PHCC’s graduates.

For more than 30-years, PHCC’s welding program has ensured that 100 percent of its stu-

(See Smart p. 8A)

Enterprise

(cont. from page 1A)

terprise in Patrick County both are owned by Virginia Media Inc. That is a subsidiary of Mountain Media LLC, in Lewisburg, W.Va., which owns and publishes newspapers in both states. The company’s newspapers in Virginia include The News Messenger in Blacksburg, The Radford News Journal, The Fincastle Herald, The Salem Times Register and The New Castle Record.

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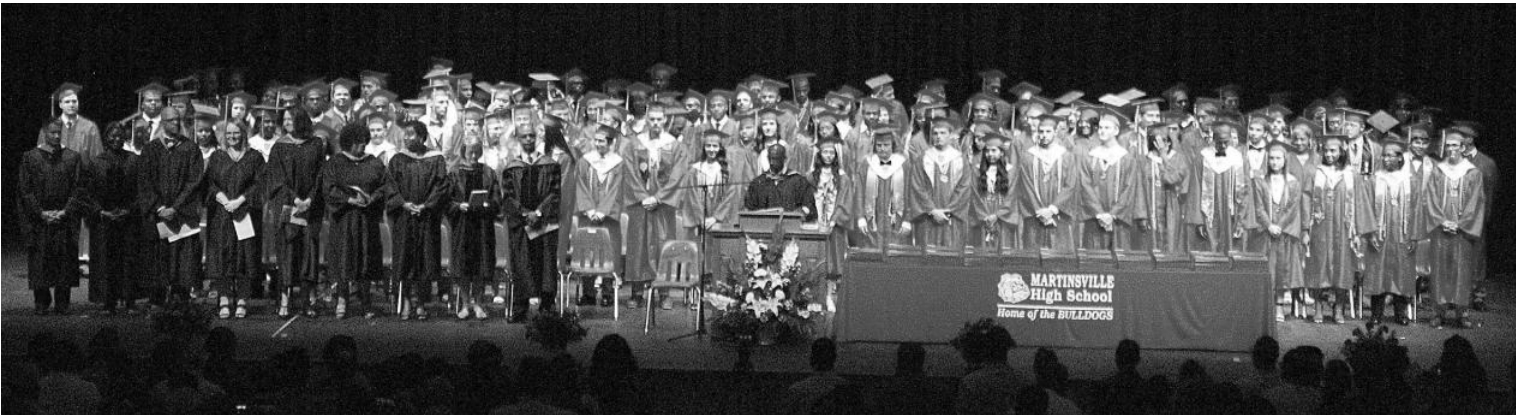
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Martinsville speaker: ‘You can do anything’



Martinsville High School Class of 2019

Govern, Patel, John Ainsley Phillips, Brennan Scott Richardson, Guadalupe Rivera, Allie Katherine Robinson, Aidan Tanner Self, James Michael Sigmon, Mirayah Janae Stone, Tyrese Tyshawn Vaughan, Cierra Nichole Warren and Jameka Reyna Wilson.



This car was decorated for the graduation of the Class of 2019. It was in the Martinsville High School parking lot at the commencement exercises May 25.

Members of Martinsville High School’s Class of 2019 helped the city school system improve its performance on the state Standards of Learning tests and achieve full accreditation, according to School Superintendent Zeb Talley.

Addressing the graduates at their commencement exercises on Saturday, May 25, Talley noted that when he became superintendent three years ago, none of the city schools were accredited by the state.

This year’s seniors were sophomores then, and “they were smart; they buckled down” and improved the school’s results on the Standards of Learning tests, he said.

Now, according to preliminary results, all the city schools have been accredited for

three years, he said.

“They proved the state SOL gets couldn’t defeat them,” he said, urging the graduates to “keep that vision. ... This (graduation) is a stepping stone. You can do anything you set your mind to.”

Talley was joined on the program by MHS Principal Aji Dixon; Nigal Devonta Davis, who led the Pledge of Allegiance; the school band; Symphonic Band; and Gospel Choir.

Dixon urged students to understand that “how you live is always more important than where you live” and more important than how long you live. He added that there is more reward in service to others than making a lot of money.

“Do everything with excellence,” he added, noting that the Class

of 2019 amassed \$1.65 million in scholarships and financial aid.

Students speakers were senior class President Taylar Alexandra Brown, who gave the welcome, and Priyansi Behaves Patel, senior representative, who spoke on “Bulldog Vision.”

Brown said the past four years had gone quickly as the students changed from “clueless” freshmen into young adults now embarking on new journeys. She said she hopes her classmates will meet their challenges and achieve their goals.

“Just getting by is not acceptable,” she added.

Students will measure their high school careers in friendships, not semesters or even years, Brown said.

“Rise up and go after your dreams,” she added.

Patel echoed the sentiments of many of her classmates when she announced, “We made it!”

She also noted how they had changed in four years, and said high school is a “collective group of memories,” including the broken air conditioning system, tests, teachers and more.

The future will pro-

vide endless opportunities, Patel said, and she urged the others to change challenges into opportunities.

“We are the best class of MHS,” she said to thunderous applause from her fellow graduates. She cited their accomplishments in sports, robotics, band, clubs and other areas and suggested the graduates salute those who helped them grow.

“Follow your dreams, never forget who you are and give back to the community,” she said. “Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog.”

Diplomas were awarded to the students by Dixon with assistance from assistant principals Clarence Simington and Teresa Davis as well as Martinsville School Board members.

Graduates named to the Superintendent’s List for having a 4.0 cumulative grade point average or higher included: Maurice Harold Bell IV, DeMaya Nyteria Bradley, Brown, Alayna Jane Campbell, Davis, LaTroya Denay Gravely, Jose Dominique Hairston, William Ruffin Jarrett, Emily Jose Santiago, Tyler Brett Lawless, Michael Tristan Mase, Nathalie Ortiz Mateos, Murray Elliana Mc-

County, VDOT begin project to beautify, upgrade section of Virginia Avenue

Work has begun on the Virginia Avenue Transportation Enhancement project in Henry County.

The project is a joint effort between Henry County and the Virginia Department of Transportation. It will beautify and upgrade a section of Virginia Avenue centered on the Kings Mountain Road intersection.

The project will consist of the following items:

- Installation of a Collinsville entrance sign
- New curb/gutter/sidewalk sections from Alma Boulevard to Kings Mountain Road
- Two crosswalks at the intersection of Kings Mountain Road and Virginia Avenue and new pedestrian signage at the crosswalks
- Installation of a pedestrian refuge median on Virginia Avenue between Fenderz Restaurant and Walgreens
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) detectable warning surfaces
- Landscaping along Virginia Avenue between the new Collinsville entrance sign and the pedestrian refuge median

In addition, new internally-lit street signs will be installed at seven intersections along Virginia Avenue, from Kings Mountain Road to Commonwealth Boulevard. Work on the project started May 6 and final completion is expected in October.

“We are excited to work with VDOT on this effort,” said County Administrator Tim Hall. “This stretch of Virginia Avenue serves as the ‘front door’ to our community for many of our visitors, and we want them to see us at our best.”

June German Ball to make a comeback

By Angela Jones

The Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) is bringing back the June German Ball on June 22 to celebrate the past.

“It is like taking a step back in time and reliving history,” said Leutisha Galloway, FAHI director. It will be a celebration of the past, allowing people today to relive history, she added.

The German Ball originated in 1938 by the Baldwin Brothers.

They recognized the culture and heritage of African American area residents.

The events were held each June. They featured entertainers from the Jazz age such as Jimmie Lunceford & His Dance Orchestra, who performed at the inaugural event that was held on the Baldwin Block, where the New College Institute now is located.

“We want to bring it back yearly and allow people to remember

our culture and heritage,” said Galloway.

This year’s event will be the first since 2015. It will be held at Albert Harris Elementary School, 710 Smith St., Martinsville. The Field Festival will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the dance will start at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 732-3496 or visit the FAHI website at www.fahimuseumva.org.



PHCC mechatronics students and instructor Daniel Edwards (far right) hold a few of their certificates and use some of their certificates to spell “PHCC.”

All PHCC mechatronics students pass certification exam

For the sixth year, every mechatronics student at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) has passed the national certification exam.

That means the program has maintained a 100 percent certification pass rate since its inception in 2013.

This year, however, the number certifications these students have earned has exponentially grown. Since August 2018, PHCC has awarded more than 300 certifications through the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3). All of these certifications were earned by the 60 students studying mechatronics at PHCC.

While studying for their associate degrees, the students in this program can take up to nine industry certifications offered by NC3 in areas such as hydraulics, pneumatics, programmable logic controllers, and robotics. When a potential employer views a résumé with NC3 credentials, it show that the applicant has the required skill competencies for the job.

Some of these students have already accepted job offers to begin working after graduation, and some

have been offered starting salaries of \$28 to \$32 per hour.

“When our students start looking for jobs, these credentials are really going to set them apart,” said PHCC Instructor Daniel Edwards. “The certifications prove to all the local companies who are trying to hire people who have these skills that our students have what it takes. They’ve proven themselves through these national exams.”

When PHCC partnered with NC3 at the beginning of the 2018 fall semester, the college was among the first institutions in the nation to offer NC3 certifications. Starting this summer, PHCC will take the lead again by becoming one of the first institutions to offer the second level of Industry 4.0 training through NC3.

The National Coalition of Certification Centers develops and authenticates certification courses that prepare students to enter some of the nation’s fastest-growing industries. With real-time industry data the coalition collects from a global network of industry experts, NC3 develops programs that meet current and future labor market demands.

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DeHart Dance Theatre

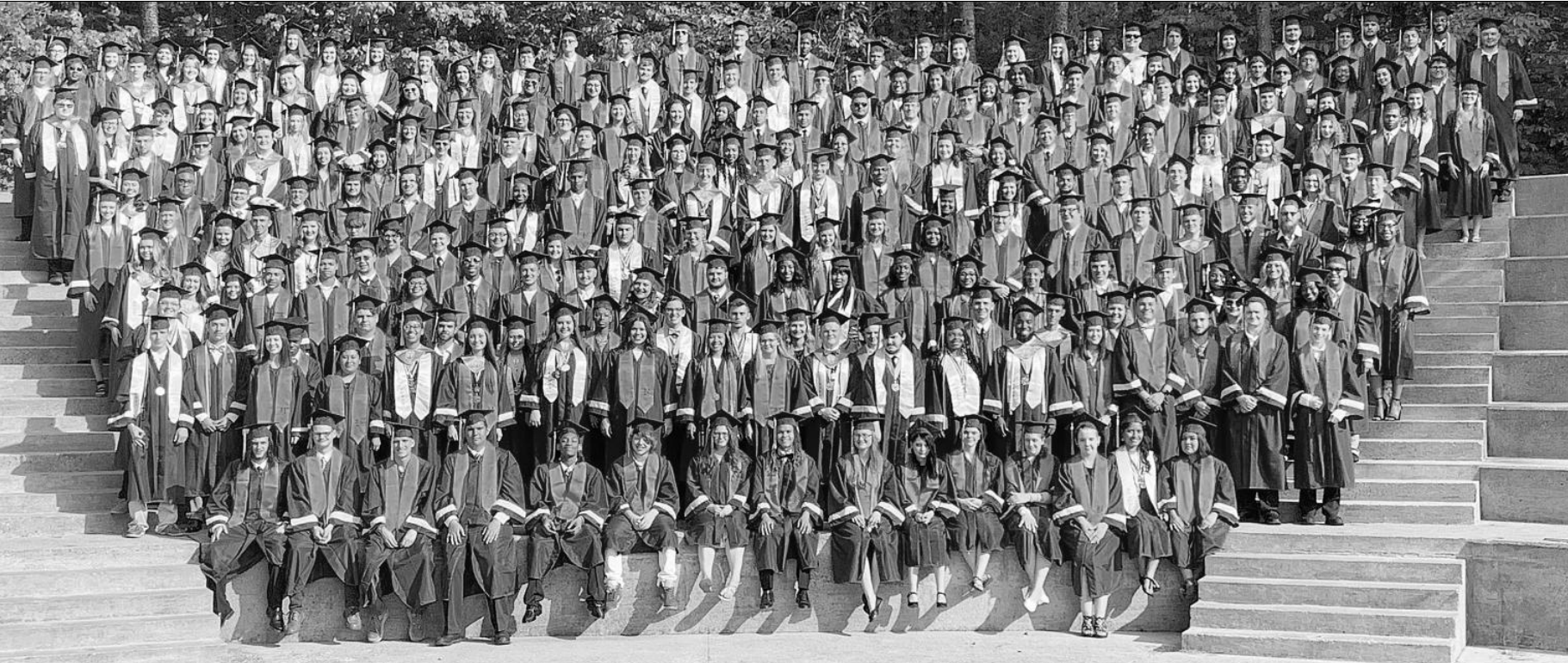


Deana DeHart was the choreographer and director for Busch Gardens, Williamsburg for 25 years. She has choreographed four Carnival Cruise Ship shows and now her students are dancing in shows all across the country. She is currently working on two Busch Gardens shows for their 2019 season.

Join us at the Spencer Penn Centre for dance classes that start in September 2019.

deanadehart@msn.com
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Bassett speaker: *Grads said ‘I will,’ not ‘I can’t’*



Bassett High School Class of 2019

At the 41st annual Bassett High School commencement exercises on Friday, May 24, members of the Class of 2019 were urged to celebrate their bloopers and follow their fears — and their dreams.

Student speakers were Kristin M. Hodges on “Celebrate Your Bloopers” and Francisco J. Garcia-Zepeta on “Follow Your Fears.” Their topics reflected the senior quote by Grace Helbig, which reads, “The only thing you can do in this life is pursue your passions, celebrate your bloopers, and never stop following your fear.”

Hodges noted that bloopers “are fun if we will only learn to celebrate — maybe even learn from them.”

Mistakes often are hard to accept but “when you get to the point in your life when you can move past the failures and manage to grow stronger from them, you are a much stronger person,” she

said.

She urged fellow graduates to swallow their pride, admit they erred and move forward, learning from their mistakes to avoid repeating them.

“Failures can be great ways to discover new paths,” Hodges said. “Your plans for the future are looking bright right now, but you probably won’t follow the exact path you thought you would. However, in those off-course experiences, you will hopefully stumble upon passions and people that you come to love.”

Garcia-Zepeta told the audience that there are two kinds of fear: one where a project is due that day and you haven’t started it, or when you have to present that project despite an intense dread of speaking in front of people.

“... The other, however, involves having that dream in your life — you know the one — it’s the part of you that

sometimes gets shoved back because you just don’t think you have it in you to make it happen so you decide to go with something much safer,” he said.

That may be the easier choice but “it can never bring you all that life has to offer,” he added.

Garcia said of his classmates: “Every blue graduation gown on this field is filled with a person who looked fear in the eye and said, ‘I will’ instead of ‘I can’t,’” whether it was in mastering a musical instrument, on a sports field or participating in national level competitions.”

All those fears have brought the students to graduation “and those same fears will lead us, as Buzz Lightyear would say, ‘to infinity and beyond,’” Garcia added.

Class president Ashtyn Grace Gammons welcomed the graduates and their family members and friends and also pre-

sented the class gift. She praised the Bassett teachers and administrators and the graduates’ parents, and told her classmates:

“As we all go our separate ways going into a new season of our life, always remember the place you have called home for the past four years,” Gammons said.

Other class officers are Myiah Knyvonnea-Alexius Jean Terry, vice president, and Syndey Nicole Clark and Erin Elizabeth Nelson, historians.

Also taking part in the commencement program were the Concert Band, JROTC Color Guard and BHS Choral Ensemble. Dylan M. Cassell gave a choral tribute entitled “You’re Gonna Miss This.”

Diplomas were awarded by School Superintendent Sandy Strayer; Principal Tiffany Gravey; and assistant principals Joshua Bocock, Antonio Hairston and Duane Whitaker.

Honor graduates were: James Phillip Anglin, Carroll Henry Armfield, Victoria Lee Barnhart, Caleb Elijah Belcher, Cameron Layne Blankenship, Ceirra Noelle Clark, Sydney Nicole Clark, Ke’arie Niyae Clemmons, Carlee Janaise Cockram, Majen Raye Collins, Kyeem Rashaad Dicks, Kaitlyn Brianna Edwards, Mitchell Alexander Edwards, Samantha Danielle Edwards, Steele Ashley Foley, Ashtyn Grace Gammons, Kendra Monique Gilbert, Taylor Renee Hancock, Christopher Ross Harper, Anna Elizabeth Hatchett, Cameron Blake Haynes, Jasmine Kathleen Hayzlett, Cara Elyse Helbert, Hunter Rece Hiatt, Kristin Marie Hodges, Cameron Trae Hooker, Christopher Robert Hummer, Benjamin Thomas Hylton, Cataesha Alexis Lye Jamison, Seth Alan Janey, Ty Alexander Johnson, James William Joyce, Hailey Ni-

cole Kancherla, Abigail Elizabeth Laine, Olivia Leigh Manns, Taylor Leigh Manns, Brooklyn Markel Martin, Kaitlyn Nicole Martin, Landon Christian Martin, Addison Marie Merricks, Jessica Ann Miller, Victoria Ann Mitchem, Micah Nehemiah Montgomery, Seth Wayne Moore, Erin Elizabeth Nelson, Destiny Michelle Nemes, Monica Joanna Olamendi Portugal, Sergio Zarate Pacheco, Rebecka Ailyn Perez, Virginia Marie Philippott, Shaprille Taylious Preston, Megan Nicole Price, Ashley Sophia Quezada, Logan Dean Quinn, Jimmy Wayne Rea, Sierra Bree-Ann Reeves, Haley Lynne Riggs, Cooper Daniel Robertson, Emily Grace Sechrist, Tristan Daniel Shelton, Thomas Wayne Shively, Dylan Cole Sigmon, Lezlie Rose Stein, Elizabeth Cheyenne Stone, Samantha Faith Upchurch, Taylor Brooke Vaught and Austin Ray Witcher.

Schools’ Career Academy students take part in National Signing Day

To help close the skills gap and raise awareness of career options in the skilled trades, Henry County Public Schools’ Career Academy participated in SkillsUSA National Signing Day sponsored by Klein Tools on May 8.

The event celebrated more than 2,500 high school seniors nationwide who are pursuing careers in the skilled trades. The Career Academy was among about 300 schools that took part in National Signing Day, which was similar to the events held for high school athletes.

Career Academy students who took part in the “signing” were Logan Blevins, who will enter the Marine Corps and pursue welding; Kevin Culligan, who will study welding at Patrick Henry Com-

munity College; Austin Edwards, ERI, maintenance; P.J. Adams, Henry County, maintenance/construction; and Skyler Craig, who will pursue HVAC with McKinney Heating and Air.

“This is an exciting day for our students as they commit to careers in the skilled trades,” said Jerry Byrd, SkillsUSA adviser at Career Academy. “These seniors have worked hard over the years to prepare for this next chapter of their life. Through their education at Career Academy, our seniors understand the hard work needed to be successful in the trades. This recognition is very well deserved by each and every one of them.”

“We are thrilled to be able to partner with SkillsUSA and Klein Tools’ for our first-ever National Signing Day,”

said Michael Minter, principal of Career Academy. “As the shortage of skilled workers worsens, we at Career Academy encourage students to enter this rewarding industry upon graduation. Our seniors should be very proud of everything they have accomplished at Career Academy as they continue to further their education and training post-graduation. We wish them all the best as they prepare for their lifelong careers.”

The students also received Klein Tools Signing Kits, which included a hat, T-shirt and their

first pair of Klein Tools pliers. Klein Tools, a family-owned and operated company, has been designing, developing and manufacturing premium-quality, professional-grade hand tools since 1857.

SkillsUSA is a non-profit partnership of students, instructors and industry that has developed SkillsUSA Framework skills. They include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. The association serves more than 360,000-member students and instructors a year in middle schools,

high schools and colleges.

SkillsUSA programs also help establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Career Academy’s Agriculture Program offers the following courses: Introduction to Veterinary Science, Advanced Forest Management, Small Animal Care, Horses and Equine Management, Woodworking and Agricultural Mechanics and

Opportunities for Beef and Pork Projects. The Industrial Maintenance Program offers the following courses: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration I; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration II; Industrial Maintenance Technology I; and Industrial Maintenance Technology II. For more information on National Signing Day, visit www.klein-tools.com/nsd. For more information on Career Academy, visit <https://www.henry.k12.va.us/Domain/880>.

Smart

(cont. from page 6A)

dents earn American Welding Society and American Society of Mechanical Engineers credentials. Because of the program’s record for producing successful employees, PHCC’s welding students are frequently offered jobs from companies like Deere-Hitachi, Altec and Smart Machine before they even graduate from the program.

“At SMT, we have

great employees with a wealth of knowledge, and many of our best are PHCC graduates,” said Steve Smith, the Plant Manager for SMT. “Over the next few years, we anticipate our company will be evolving and growing. As this happens, we’ll need to add to the great knowledge base we already have. Naturally, we want to continue hiring the best of the best.”

NCI

(cont. from page 1A)

that I have a wonderful opportunity with Virginia Tech,” Blevins wrote in a social media post.

“I really enjoy building and growing programs and I had a really great opportunity to be part of building and growing programs at Virginia Tech,” she said Tuesday.

Blevins has been directly involved with the creation and development of New College since her work with the New College Planning Commission in 2004.

NCI was officially established in 2006, and during her tenure there, Blevins also served as associate director and chief academic officer.

She was named the interim executive director in July 2015, and in December 2016, she was selected to permanently fill the top spot at NCI.

“We are grateful for Dr. Blevins’ 15 years of dedicated

service to the vision and goals of The New College Institute. I wish her all the best in her professional pursuits,” said State Sen. Bill Stanley, Jr., R-Franklin County. Stanley also is chairman of the NCI Board of Directors.

“The board and I are excited and highly motivated to continue the transformation of NCI into a cutting edge educational platform that will educate our citizens for the jobs required in this new 21st century economy, and that will, in turn, create a dynamic workforce pipeline that will bring new manufacturing industries to our region,” Stanley said.

Blevins also has worked as assistant to the president at the University of Virginia as well as offices of state government relations, university relations, and faculty advancement, also served as director of career development at the University of

Virginia’s College at Wise and as a student consumer advocate at Virginia Tech.

She views the new position as restarting her employment with VT, and while leaving NCI will be bittersweet, Blevins said she is excited at the prospect.

“Sometimes, you just get a new opportunity. I’m excited” for the future, she said.

Blevins earned a B.A. from Virginia Tech and an M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She is an active board member of Smart Beginnings of Martinsville Henry County, the Virginia Network of Women in Higher Education, the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, Danville Science Center, and is a volunteer with the Blue Ridge Gymnastics Academy Parents Association and an alumnae of LEAD Virginia.

Sammy Redd, NCI’s coordinator of student services, also resigned from his position.

Deering

(cont. from page 1A)

taught her valuable lessons that she shares with young women today who are juggling school and motherhood.

“Set priorities. You don’t need everything today. If you want to go to school, you have to let go of some stuff,” she said.

Women also have to decide if they want to have children when they are younger or put off motherhood while they attend school and build a career, she said. Deering was physically better able to have children when she was younger, but she said she had more patience when she had her last two at the ages of 39 and 41 after she remarried.

“I think the balance is for young mothers to work part-time,” she said. When their children are older and in school, mothers can focus more on finishing school and having a career.

Deering’s second marriage didn’t last, and working became difficult if not impossible because of an earlier hip injury from a fall. So she

and her six children moved in with her mother until she found a home she could buy. Eventually, Deering’s mother passed away and her children grew up and left for college, although the two youngest later returned home.

“For the first time in all those years I didn’t have a kid with me,” she said. “I didn’t have to change diapers or shuttle children to school or activities.

“After some soul searching, I realized I still wanted to go to school,” she said, and her children agreed.

“Maybe they felt because of them I didn’t finish. They wanted me to finish what I started. Also, that was something that was in me all the time but because I was so busy with life and all the children, it was buried within me,” Deering said.

She went back to PHCC and studied human services, especially counseling. She got her associate degree in 2016 and then began online studies at Old Dominion. She lived on a tight budget — something she recommends young people learn to

do — and took a semester off when her youngest daughter was hurt in an auto accident.

Three years later, she had accrued about 147 credit hours and said she graduated with a 3.98 grade point average.

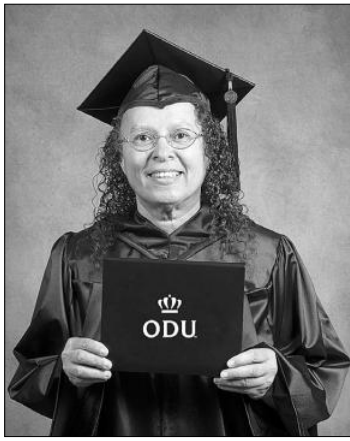
Instead of taking part in commencement ceremonies at ODU, Deering chose to travel with other family members to see her grandson graduate from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

She has mixed feelings about graduating from college at the same time as her grandson. “Maybe I should have done this a long time ago,” she said. But at the same time, “I’m happy I finally completed it.”

Deering tried to pass the value she places on education to her children.

“That was the reason why I did as well as I could, to let them know it can be done. I don’t ask my kids to do anything I can’t do myself,” she said.

The oldest is a 1987 Bluefield College graduate who was a communications officer in the U.S. Air Force



Wanda Deering

for three years and now is in business in Berlin, Germany. The next oldest is the mother of seven children. She hated school but now is taking IT certification classes. The third is a lawyer with Nationwide Insurance and also teaches at Akron University in Ohio, and the fourth is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University who now works at The Harvest Foundation in Martinsville. The fifth attended Radford University who now works in early childhood education in Martinsville, and the sixth is “getting himself together to go back to college,” his

mother said.

She also has 13 grandchildren.

For now, Deering is open to all options for her future.

“Counseling is my thing but it doesn’t have to be everything I do,” she said.

For instance, she would like to find a way to bridge the gap between children and senior citizens; help young people stay out of trouble; possibly open a private counseling practice; and so on. She doesn’t even rule out going back to school for a master’s degree.

She offers advice to others who think they cannot get their college degree because of age or some other obstacle.

“As long as you are alive and well, don’t give up on your dreams. I was thinking at one point I was too old to go back to school. Then I said, ‘Why not?’

“Age is nothing. You will be surprised at how many young people will look up to you. Some people say, ‘I’m too old to go back to school.’ I say, ‘You’re not too old to go back. I’m 60. You’re just a baby.’”

Gwynn

(cont. from page 1A)

director for the after-school program, and now she is the licensing and school-aged program director for the local YMCAs, in charge of the after school-programs as well as the Y’s summer camp program. She also has other responsibilities, all of which focus on child care.

During the years in between, Gwynn had two children — Delaina Gwynn, now 5, and Brodie Gwynn, now 2. She worked part-time until 2013 when she got a chance to move into a full-time job. “It was hard to work part-time and go to school,” let alone work full-time, she said.

Then Dr. Kristen Delaney, associate professor of education and early childhood at PHCC, came to the YMCA and introduced the staff to the Davenport Institute program. Gwynn’s world opened up and the largest obstacle to her dream — paying for higher education — was removed.

Davenport Institute

The Davenport Institute for Early Childhood Development was created to improve the skills of child care workers in Virginia. It provides scholarships, coaching and mentoring to incumbent

child-care workers pursuing career studies certificates at participating Virginia Community Colleges, including PHCC, according to online information.

Gwynn said Ben and Betty Davenport, armed with the knowledge that the years between birth and age 5 are critically important to a child’s development, funded the institute.

“If they didn’t cover us, they guided us” to other resources that would, Gwynn said of herself and the five other YMCA employees in the Davenport program. Those resources included the Virginia Early Childhood Education Foundation’s Pathfinders program and the Virginia Department of Social Services, which help pay for some early childhood education classes.

The Davenport program also provided incentives to keep students pursuing additional certificates that stack up to build credentials. As a result, Gwynn has earned two certificates and an associate degree.

Gwynn also was named a Davenport fellow, one of three in the state chosen from among the early childhood education students who took part in the initial Davenport program. Fel-

lows receive all costs of tuition, books, supplies and other expenses for their second year in the early childhood education program; attend conferences and training programs; and perform 20 hours of community service a year.

Kim P. Gregory, director of the Davenport Institute at PHCC, said the fellows attended an event in Richmond last July and a leadership event in February where they went to a session of the General Assembly, were introduced in the Senate chambers, met a legislator and attended a reception.

“Savanna is high energy. She represented us very well,” Gregory said. “She is truly serving as an ambassador for the (Davenport) program and early childhood education professionals.”

Delaney added that the purpose of the fellows is to “create leaders in the field who advocate for early childhood education.”

She noted that Gwynn has grown in confidence and commitment as a result of her training and experiences.

“When I first met her, she was (saying), ‘I don’t know if I can come back.’ She had taken classes and not done

so well,” Delaney said. But when she saw her recently, Gwynn was emphatic that she had to do well in a biology class to keep her 4.0 GPA, Delaney added.

“Seeing that growth in her I know she’s a really good person to be in the leadership program. ... I have no doubt she’ll be amazing and be a wonderful teacher,” Delaney added.

Gwynn also is taking advantage of the 2 plus 2 program. Delaney explained that in the past, four-year colleges and universities did not accept transfers of early childhood education credits from community colleges toward bachelor’s degrees. After 2 1/2 years of working to tweak the program, that is changing and JMU will accept the credits, Delaney said.

The two-year JMU program is entirely online, which is a blessing for Gwynn. If she had to move to attend college, she would have to leave her job at the YMCA and family members who help care for her children when she is working or at school.

After earning her degree and license, she hopes to teach in an area school system.

“I want to be the one (teacher) they remember,”

she said. “I want to get wedding invitations” from former students who remember her.

Gwynn credits Delaney and the programs through PHCC for her success, as well as the YMCA for encouraging and helping her and her coworkers. In return, “it looks good on them to have high quality child care,” she said the YMCA.

If Gwynn had not been exposed to any of that, “I probably still would be here at the Y trying to make an impact where I could ... and enjoying life as much as I could but still longing to be in the classroom. Without an education, what if the Y closed? There would be no other opportunity.

“I really want to better myself. This is an amazing job but I want to be able to tell my kids ‘I did this. You can, too’,” she said.

And she has advice for others who are struggling.

“Just know anything is possible. You have to reach down and try and get that support. Try to stay positive even if you have bad days,” she said, adding that with work, school and motherhood, “stress gets to you. There’s not a lot of time for yourself, but it’s possible” to succeed.

City

(cont. from page 1A)

Also, the term of Eric Hruza will expire at the end of June. He could not be reached for comment on whether he plans to seek another three-year term.

Any city resident interested in being appointed to the school board should come to the Martinsville City Council public hearing at 7:30 p.m. June 11 or have someone else at that meeting mention their name, according to Mayor Kathy Lawson. Those interested do not have to attend that meeting, according to a Facebook posting from Councilman Jennifer Bowles.

City council will schedule interviews with applicants in a closed session on June 25 and make its appointments shortly after that, Lawson said.

Montgomery, who most recently has been the school board chairman, retired effective May 31 after about four decades of work for and service to the city schools. That day she also sold her home in Martinsville and moved to Henry County.

Montgomery said when she was appointed to the school board four years ago, she

told city council that she only wanted to serve one term. She said in a recent interview that she stayed on an extra year at the request of the attorneys who represented the school board in a discrimination lawsuit, and she agreed. That suit now has been dismissed.

In fact, Montgomery said she was reluctant to serve on the board in the first place.

“I had been retired. I spent 36 years in the school division and I wanted to really retire,” she said, referring to her career that included about 25 years as a principal in all the city schools except the high school.

But then she learned that the city school system had lost 250 students and 50 teachers in one year. Some of those resigning were qualified people for whom she had written recommendations. When she asked why they were leaving, “they said it (the school division) wasn’t what it used to be,” Montgomery said.

All that “prompted me to start looking at things,” she said.

When she was interviewed by city council for the board seat, “I said, ‘We’ve lost a bunch of kids; we’ve lost a

bunch of teachers. Something’s not right. If you want things to stay as they are, don’t choose me.’”

She did not expect to be appointed because there was an incumbent board member who wanted to serve another term. But the next day Montgomery got the call that she had been chosen.

Three years ago when school Superintendent Pam Heath retired in July shortly before teachers were due to return in the fall, the school board named veteran city educator Zeb Talley to succeed her.

“We needed someone who knew the situation, knew the issues and could make quick changes. He’s changed the culture of things” in the division, she said, in part by being responsive to parents and teachers.

“Our goal for him was to communicate” with staff, parents and teachers, Montgomery said. The board directed him to be visible, hire highly qualified teachers, respond to teachers and others in a timely manner and earn accreditation for all the city schools, she said.

“He met all the goals we set,” Montgomery said.

“You always want to leave a place better and I do feel that way,” she said. “Now we (the schools) are fully accredited and will be this year from all indications. We have stopped the flow of teachers. We have a lot of new teachers, really, good, young teachers who want to be here. ... That’s a positive.”

The school board and administration also have worked to restore trust and support with teachers and staff, “and that’s what we felt was lacking,” she said.

The city school division has not recouped the students it lost, Montgomery said, but the four remaining school board members are committed to improving the division.

“We now are a high poverty school division, but we have proven that is not a determining factor in achievement. There are some school divisions struggling that are not high poverty,” she said.

Montgomery said school systems always will have critics, but she does not hear the negative comments like she did when she joined the board.

The system’s turnaround is Montgomery’s proudest achievement with the school

system.

“I’m most proud that the school division is doing well now. It is fully accredited, with a full staff. I think we have a committed superintendent and school board and they are headed in the right direction,” she added.

That direction will include dealing with the issue of reversion if city council opts for that path. “It will be a big challenge to see what happens to us,” she said, declining to give her opinion on whether the city should revert to a town.

At age 70, Montgomery is ready to leave that to others. “I just want to enjoy my retirement, not tied down to meetings and calls,” she said. “It’s a good time to give it up to someone else who is younger and has time to serve.”

She still teaches for James Madison University at the New College Institute and an online course for the University of Phoenix. She and her husband, Monty, plan to travel and resume their quest to visit all 30 major league baseball parks in the United States.

They are at 15 and counting.

Blue Ridge Parkway resurfacing to be done

More than 115 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway will be resurfaced this summer and fall.

The work include 42 miles from Milepost 175 to 217, Mabry Mill to Cumberland Knob area, according to a press release.

Also scheduled for resurfacing are:

- Milepost 241 to 262, Doughton Park to West Jefferson area (21 miles)
- Milepost 292 to 345, Cone Memorial Park to N.C. Minerals Museum area (53 miles)

The work was expected to start in late May and continue through November, with no work scheduled during

October, the release stated. Work locations, within scheduled project areas, will change weekly and visitors in active work zone areas should expect single lane closures and delays.

The work will take place on the parkway and includes the paved road-side pullouts.

One-lane closures are possible in affected areas, the release stated. As with any road project, motorists and park users should use caution. In the interest of visitor safety, park visitors are asked to:

- Check the parkway's Real Time Road Map for regularly up-

dated work zone information.

- Expect delays while work takes place Monday through Friday. Lane closures will be managed with flagging operations and a pilot car to lead traffic through work zones.
- Observe reduced speed limits in work zones, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; to maintain safe operations and allow for proper curing of pavement.
- Anticipate loose gravel on the road surface during pavement curing times. Bicyclists and motorcyclists are asked to exercise extreme caution as loose gravel on top of the

paved surface, during the required curing time, could result in loss of control. On-site message boards will recommend alternate routes.

- When circumstances prevent bicyclists from keeping up with traffic, dismount and move off of the road to let the on-coming traffic pass when traveling through a single lane closure.

Project vendors will work in short sections and repeat the resurfacing process as they move from section to

section of the full project. The steps in this process include prepping the surface, applying a chip seal surface of liquid asphalt and stone chips, allowing the surface to properly cure, vacuuming the work area to minimize loose gravel, applying a fog seal on top of the chip seal surface, and finishing by painting new road marking lines. The process will then repeat on the next section of the project.

Pavement preservation is becoming a regular road maintenance

strategy in national parks, according to the release. Studies find that for each dollar spent on pavement preservation, between \$6 and \$10 in future pavement rehabilitation costs are saved, it added.

Funding for road maintenance in national parks, including the parkway, comes in large part from the Highway Trust Fund, which is derived from a federal gas tax managed by the Federal Highway Administration.

Power Tour to stop at speedway June 9

By Jarrett Pearson

Martinsville Speedway is gearing up to host the 2019 Hot Rod Power Tour on Sunday, June 9.

The speedway is one among four venues that were added this year to mark the tour's 25th anniversary. The Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn., the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., and the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, in Fort Wayne, Ind., also are hosting the tour for the first time ever.

“What the Hot Rod Power Tour brings to Martinsville is an economic impact that is very vast,” said Michael Morrison, event director of the tour. “Hotels are full, all the restaurants are full, people are out and about throughout the town. “People from all over the country come out. We get people from Australia, we get people from Canada that come down and join us on the tour,” Morrison added. “For the car show culture out there, this is one of the biggest events. If car shows are your thing this is something you definitely want to get checked off your bucket list.”

Spectator admission and parking are free at the event that is co-hosted at the speedway by VisitMartinsville and the Smith River Sports Complex.

The Hot Rod Power Tour spans seven days and will travel through as many cities on a road trip through the highways and byways of America, with thousands of hot rods, customs, street machines, muscle cars and more passing through the nation's small towns throughout their journey.

It also will go through Patrick County, after leaving the speedway around 8:30 a.m. on Monday, according to Jonathan Large, a local business owner and tour participant. Large suggested those interested in seeing the tour pass may catch a glimpse along on U.S. 58, as the entourage of vehicles passes on

the way to Bristol.

“For small towns this is a really neat experience because you will see tons and tons of cars and it's almost like a big parade. To see these cars is a great opportunity,” Large said, adding that he and his son, Nathan, 13 will be in a 1966 Chevrolet convertible this year.

“We did it last year and had fun,” Large said, and explained his friend, Greg Boyd, and Boyd's son Trace, also 13, are among the participants.

“A lot of the guys (in the tour) like seeing the kids because that's the next generation,” Large said. “We have a ball. To see it, and if you go to any of the stops, it's a big car show. Everybody is friendly and they enjoy it.”

Large, Nathan, Boyd and Trace will leave their homes on Saturday, June 8, to travel to zMax Speedway in Concord, N.C., for the kickoff of the Power Tour.

The seven-city journey is expected to bring together more than 6,000 vehicles and more than 100,000 spectators before it ends June 14 at Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk, Ohio.

The tour always starts where the last one ended so next year the tour will pick up in Norwalk. With that comes new batch of venues as HOT ROD tries to never go to the same venue in consecutive years. Instead, they prefer to wait about two years before traveling through the same place. While Martinsville Speedway will not host the event next year, the tour may return there in a couple of years.

Vehicle registration and information is available at <https://www.hotrod.com/events/power-tour/>. For more information, go to www.VisitMartinsville.com, the MHC Visitor Center inside The Baldwin Building at 191 Fayette Street, or call (276) 632-8006.

Cook Out is going up



Cook Out restaurant is being constructed in Collinsville at the former site of the Sonic eatery. The framing for the new building is going up. (Photo by Ray Reynolds)

Library lists upcoming activities, programs

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers a variety of programs and activities.

The following programs affect all branches— Martinsville, Collinsville, Ridgeway and Stuart:

- Online registration for Summer Reading started June 3. This is open to all ages. For more information, contact the local library branch.
- The Kick-Off to Summer Reading is 3-6 p.m. June 6 at the Bassett Library. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Children 18 and under eat free while adults pay \$2.

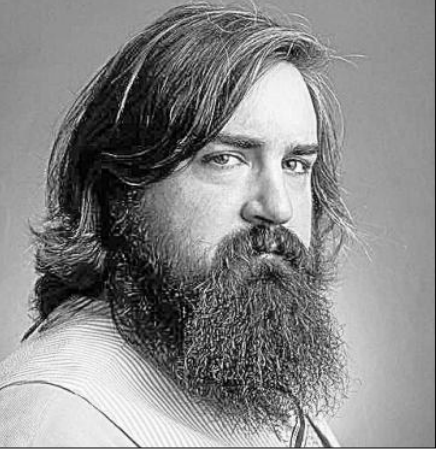
Following are activities that are specific to the Martinsville Library. For more information, call that library at 403-5430.:

- Every Wednesday and Friday, line dancing classes begin at 10 a.m.

This is free and open to the public.

- Summer Feeding started June 3. The Martinsville Library will be serving lunch to children 18 and under for free from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays. The cost is \$2 for adults. On Fridays the library will serve snacks.
- June 7, the Friday Evening Movie series begins from 6 to 8 p.m. Popcorn will be provided.
- Saturday, June 8, a “Summer Sounds” concert behind the library will be held from noon to 1 pm. Pirates of the Piedmont will perform. Open to the public.
- Tuesday, June 11, the Second Tuesday Book Club will meet at noon.
- Tuesday, June 11, “Our Version (See Library p. 11A)

A PINBALL PREMONITION THAT MAY PROVE SHOCKING



By BEN R. WILLIAMS

I don't believe in premonitions. I'd like to believe in premonitions, along with ghosts, aliens, Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, Mothman and a slew of other strange and supernatural things, but I've just never found the evidence all that compelling.

However, something recently happened to me — or, more accurately, to a good friend of mine — that I can't quite account for.

On the evening of Saturday, May 18, I had a buddy up to my house to help me do some regularly scheduled pinball machine maintenance (like you do). We'll call him Bill. It was a fine evening; I grilled a few burgers, we told some tales, and we worked on the machines until well after dark.

At one point, as I was replacing a plastic set on Flash Gordon and Bill was working on rebuilding the flippers on Grand Lizard, I decided it would serve me well to step outside for a moment and enjoy nature's splendor. I didn't say anything to Bill; I simply exited the room, stepped outside, and walked back into the house about a minute later feeling, shall we say, relieved.

About five seconds after I finished washing my hands, Bill stepped into the kitchen. He was white as a sheet.

“Dude,” he said, “did you hear that?”

The tone of his voice caused the little hairs on the back of my neck to stand up.

“Whuh?” I said helpfully.

“Where were you?” Bill said.

“I was outside,” I said. “I came back in maybe 30 seconds ago.”

This was not the answer Bill had been hoping for.

He proceeded to tell me that while he was working on the pinball machine, he had heard a loud pop, like the sound of an incandescent light-bulb burning out, and he had felt something hit him in the back of the head, right on the battery pack of the headlamp he was wearing. His first thought was that I was pulling a prank on him, but when he turned around, he realized he was alone in the room.

I told him that I was outside when it happened, and if I was going to pull a prank on him, it wouldn't involve hitting him in the back of the head for no reason while a 750-degree soldering iron was within his reach.

He opened the battery compartment on his headlamp and examined the three triple-As to see if one had exploded; they were perfectly fine. We went back into the pinball room and looked at every corner and crevice. Where he had been standing, there was absolutely nothing that could have even potentially hit him in the back of the head.

To make matters even stranger, I noticed that my soldering iron was glitching out; instead of reading “750F,” the little blue LED display was displaying gibberish, just random numbers and letters. I turned it off and turned it back on, and the display read “750F” once again.

“I think you must have gotten shocked,” I said. “Maybe the jolt scrambled my soldering iron and then traveled through your headlamp.”

“I wasn't even touching the machine,” he said.

“I'm going to tell myself that you got shocked,” I said.

“There's no way,” he said. “I wasn't even touching the machine.”

“Bill, I live alone in this house in the woods,” I said. “I'm telling my-

self you got shocked.”

As soon as we finished the last of the pinball repairs, Bill packed his tools, announced he was feeling pretty tired and left. Normally we play a few rounds after repairs, and I couldn't help but wonder if he was still feeling creeped out by the weird incident that had happened earlier. I know I was.

The next day, I sent Bill a text to thank him again for his help. He texted me back that he had an interesting story for me.

Bill said that after he left my house, he planned to stop at his usual gas station on the drive home and fill up his car. Just as he was approaching the gas station, however, a car in the opposing lane backfired right as it passed him. Suddenly, he said, he had a bad feeling. He felt like if he stopped at that gas station, he might get robbed at gunpoint. Instead of stopping, he decided to just drive straight home.

When he got home, he said, his wife woke up and told him that she had had the worst nightmare. She dreamed that on his way home, he stopped at that gas station he always stopped at, and someone shot him in the back of the head.

Like I said, I don't believe in premonitions. But if I'm ever hanging out at home and feel something hit me in the back of the head, I'm calling in sick to work the next day.

Livy's ice cream shop opens

The official grand opening of Livy's ice cream shop was held May 10.

Owner Rodney Billings cut a ribbon to open the shop at 2842 Virginia Ave., Collinsville. Officials with the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and Homestead Creamery took part in the event.

Livy's offers Homestead Creamery's award-winning, hand-dipped ice cream and minimally pasteurized milk.

"We are very excited about today. To have our ice cream showcased down here in the Martinsville, Collinsville area is just awesome. Rodney's done such a great job of presenting it too and he's taken it to a whole different level with the tin roof stuff and the sundaes," Homestead Creamery President Mike Grisetti stated.

Livy's has an old country store concept, with a tin roof and old wood. It is open daily from 4 to 9 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 10 p.m.

Its website is www.livysicecreamshop.com.



Shown at the ribbon-cutting for Livy's ice cream show are (from left) Homestead Creamery Board Chairman Donnie Montgomery, Homestead Creamery Class 2 Milk Products Manager Jonathan Grisetti, Henry County Supervisor Joe Bryant, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Fultz, Homestead Creamery President Mike Grisetti, Livy's ice cream shop owner Rodney Billings, Olivia Billings, Livy's team member Haley Quinn, Kameron Billings, Livy's team member Tracy Keen, Connie Billings, Roger Billings, State Farm Agent Chris Starnes and Chamber Deputy Director Sharon Shepherd. (Contributed photo)

Library

(cont. from page 10A)

of Antique Roadshow" will be held from 4 to 6 pm. No appraisals will be given. For more information or to sign up for an appointment, call the library.

- Wednesday, June 12, there will be a Summer STEAM activity in the meeting room at 4 p.m. Participants will learn how to code.
- Thursday, June 13, a "Top Shelf STEAM" activity will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open to the public.
- Thursday, June 13, "Books and Brews" will meet at Mountain Valley Brewing at 5:30 p.m. This month the book is "Fly Girls" by Keith O'Brien. Open to the public.
- Friday, June 14, the Teen Movie Series kicks off. Show starts at 1 p.m. Free snacks provided.
- Saturday, June 15, a family friendly movie will be shown from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Popcorn will be provided.
- Tuesday, June 18, "Nurture the Natural Way" workshop at 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room. For more information or to sign up, call the library. Open to the public.
- Wednesdays, June 19 and 26, American Sign Language classes will be held at 5:30 p.m. For more

information or to sign up, call the library. The classes are free and open to the public.

- Thursday, June 20, Book Bingo will begin at 2:30 p.m. Open to the public.
- Thursday, June 20, the library will host a Pub Trivia Night at Mountain Valley Brewing at 7 p.m. The theme for trivia is "Game of Thrones." Prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. Open to the public.
- Monday, June 24, the History Lecture Series with Colin Ferguson continues, starting at 6 p.m. The topic will be D-Day. Light refreshments will be provided.
- Tuesday, June 25, the Martinsville Library, in partnership with Patrick Henry Community College, will hold a College Fair from 6-8 p.m. This is free and open to the public.
- Thursday, June 27, Cat Castles begins at 3 pm. Construct animal playhouses while adoptable cats from the SPCA "test" your work. For more information or to sign up, call the library. Open to the public.
- Friday, June 28, the Teen Movie Series continues, starting at 1 p.m. Free snacks provided.

Griffith staff to be in city

The staff of 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith will be in Martinsville on June 26. The representatives will be in the Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St. The staff will be available to help constituents from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St. The representatives will be in Conference Room 32 on the lower level of the building.

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Unused food now helps the hungry

By Ginny Wray

Thousands of pounds of food that might have ended up in the garbage now are helping feed needy residents of Henry County and Martinsville.

The program, called Feeding Hope in MHC, uses volunteers to collect unopened, pre-packaged food from area school cafeterias and other sources and deliver it to Grace Network and the Salvation Army, which distribute it to people in need.

It began in mid-January and by the time school ended in late May, an estimated 8,564 pounds of food were collected and redistributed, according to figures compiled by Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director of Grace Network.

“We have been extremely pleased with the outcomes of the project,” Hinchcliff stated. “The schools were very accepting of the process and we have been able to redistribute so much of the product that would otherwise have been discarded.”

Referring to Grace Network and the Salvation Army, she said, “We have both had wonderful feedback from our clients receiving this product and (it) is much appreciated.”

The program takes advantage of unopened breakfast and lunch foods that students place on “sharing tables” in their school cafeterias for other children to help themselves to, according to Philip Wenkstern, executive director of the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, and Hinchcliff.

But in the past not all the food was taken from the sharing tables so it was discarded.

Wenkstern said he and Monica Hatchett of the Henry County Public Schools talked about the leftover food and knew there were families in the community who would benefit from the milk, cheese, fruit and other items.

“We knew there were some challenges with respect to adhering to food safety guidelines and ensuring school buy-in, so she (Hatchett) did a lot of work ensuring the processes would work for the school systems,” Wenkstern stated.

Grace Network and the Salvation Army helped fine-tune the program, he said, and Harvest Foundation grants were used to buy refrigerators to store the food at the schools and ice chests to transport it. Harvest provided a \$7,525 Pick up the Pace! (PUP) grant and the Harvest Youth Board gave a \$2,555 grant for the equipment last fall.

Now, instead of going in the garbage, the food that is not eaten by the students goes to Feeding Hope.

Volunteers were recruited to pick up and deliver the food to both Grace Network and the Salvation Army. One of them is DeWitt House, senior program officer with the Harvest Foundation and a former educator with both the Henry County and Martinsville schools. He learned of the program during the Harvest grant application process and found he could fit volunteering into his work schedule.

“I’ve been in the schools for 32 years and seen a lot of food thrown away. The idea of being able to take food and get it to people who need it and appreciate it and benefit from it is very rewarding,” he said, adding that more volunteers would be welcome.

Grace Network distributed the food to clients who qualify for its food pantry, and the Salvation Army distributed it to clients during its weekly feeding program. Both agencies are continuing their usual food programs this summer even though Feeding Hope has shut down for the summer when schools closed. It will resume in the fall, Hinchcliff said.

Angie Smith, social services director for the local Salvation Army, said it received “a little bit of everything” through the program, such as milk, juices, fruit, vegetables and other items.

Sometimes the cooks used the milk to prepare the meals it serves, but most of it was given to clients to take home, Smith said. Generally, the volunteers dropped off the food by 10 or 11 a.m. and it was gone by 1 p.m., she added.

“They take it home for their children to eat when they get home, and they eat off it until they can go to another soup kitchen” or other source of food, she said.

The Army usually serves 50 to 90 people in its feeding program on Wednesdays and Fridays. Smith said that food is donated by area businesses and collected in an annual canned food drive conducted between October and December.

Although the Feed-



DeWitt House (standing) helps Harvest Foundation Youth Board members Elli McGovern (left) and Sophia Esdaile (right) transfer food from coolers to refrigerators at Grace Network.

ing Hope program did not operate for the full year, it was ahead financially.

According to Hinchcliff’s calculations, the food is valued at \$1 a pound for a total of \$8,564. The program’s volunteers average two hours of work each week with a value of \$25.43 an hour, for a total of \$5,289.

So the program’s total value for half of its first year was \$13,853, which exceeded the initial investment of \$10,080 in the Harvest grants, she said.

With no further monetary investment needed, “our return on investment will prove to be very successful,” Hinchcliff said.

Wenkstern agreed. “The biggest expenses for the grant were the refrigerators, which should last at least 10 years. As long as students at the school system continue contributing uneaten food from lunch and breakfast I think the program will provide a tremendous return on investment while addressing some pressing challenges in the community,” he stated in an email.

Hatchett, who is the



Alex Clifton, a technician with the Henry County Schools, helps collect unopened food at area school cafeterias and deliver it to Grace Network and the Salvation Army, which distributed the food to needy area residents. This collection occurred after the schools closed for the summer.

county schools’ director of communications and organizational learning, echoed that.

“We have been so grateful to partner with Grace Network and Salvation Army to return unused food to our community rather than discarding it. I’m not sure any of us knew exactly what to expect when we started, but I think we have all been very pleasantly surprised with how well things have gone and we are certainly looking forward to continuing this important partnership for years to come,” she stated, also in an email.

All those interviewed said they expect the program to continue next year, and two had suggestions for it. Smith at the Salvation Army said it would be helpful to find ways to make the volunteers’ pickups at the schools easier and also to try and continue the program in the summer.

Wenkstern suggested that the program be promoted to students and school staffs at the start of the school year.

That would “ensure that they are aware of the positive impact their choices can have on the community,” he said.

SOVAH Run attracted 150 of all ages



Girls 9 and under runners included (from left) Jordyn Gibson and Cailee Hairston.



Girls age 11-14 runners included (from left) Sarah Campbell and Emily Lyons.



5K female winners are (from left) Amanda Goad, Jackie Ventura and Ashley Crouch.

More than 150 runners turned out for the SOVAH Super Run 5K and 8K on May 10 despite the threat of rain and the warm, humid conditions.

This race welcomes all runners but is the featured spring event for the local Girls on the Run and STRIDE programs.

Girls on the Run is a nationwide program is designed to inspire young girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum by creatively integrating running into their lives. The program serves girls in the third- through eighth-grades in teams at Axton and Meadow View elementary schools; Collinsville YMCA; and Rocky Mount, according to Courtney Hair-

ston, council director of Girls on the Run and sports director at the YMCA.

A similar program, called Stride, serves boys of the same ages at Carlisle School.

Hairston said the run offers many lessons to the youth.

“Completing the 5K enables both the Girls on the Run and Stride participants to gain a true understanding of the confidence that arrives through their accomplishments as well as an outline for setting and achieving their goals. Crossing the finish line with their team mates, family and friends gives them a defining moment that accomplishing their goals is possible,” she stated.

About a third of the field for the SOVAH Super Run

was made up of girls and boys ages 12 and younger. The event featured a 5K, which is 3.1 miles, and an 8K at 4.97 miles.

The 5K women’s division was led by Jaclyn Ventura with a time of 24:19. Amanda Goad finished second at 25:09, followed by Ashley Crouch at 25:26. In the 5K men’s division, Michael Perdamo led the field in a time of 19:50, followed by RJ Scott with a time of 20:49. John Showers finished third at 22:17.

In the 8K, Delores Ford led the women’s group in 31:27 and finished second among all runners. Gina Richardson was second with a time of 40:20, followed by Elizabeth Harris at 44:43. The men’s 8K was won by Gregg Dean

at 31:11, followed by Josh Follweiler in 32:51 and Mark Joyce in 35:05.

In the 5K, age groups were won by Perdamo, 27; Scott, 55; and Showers, 35.

Following is the 5K list of the overall finishers, names and ages of the runners, final place in the runners’ age groups and times:

- 1 Michael Perdamo, 27; 1 overall; 19:50.3
- 2 RJ Scott, 55; 2 overall; 20:49.8
- 3 John Showers, 35; 3 overall; 22:17.5
- 4 Thomas Fulcher, 10; 1 in age group 10-14; 23:43.2
- 5 Ashton Doss, 10; 2 in age group 10-14; 23:43.6
- 6 Cole Bryant, 11; 3 in age group 10-14; 23:55.0.
- 7 Jaclyn Ventura, 32; 1

overall; 24:19.7

- 8 Brayden Wilson, 14; 4 in age group 10-14; 24:42.5
 - 9 Rodney Bryant, 44; 1 in age group 40-44; 24:46.3
 - 10 Amanda Goad, 13; 2 overall; 25:09.6
 - 11 Nick Reed, 42; 2 in age group 40-44; 25:26.3
 - 12 Ashley Crouch; 3 overall; 25:26.9
 - 13 Will Vaughn, 11; 5 in age group 10-14; 25:55.4
 - 14 Ed Lynch, 75; 1 in age group 70-99; 26:58.9
 - 15 Johnathan Fulcher, 37; 1 in age group 35-39; 27:30.9
 - 16 Tiffany Martin, 26; 1 in age group 25-29; 27:35.5
 - 17 Chandler Horsley, 9; 1 in age group 0-9; 27:55.7
 - 18 Brady Wells, 11; 6 in age
- (See Run p. 3B)

Bassett Cruise-In draws hundreds of cars, enthusiasts in fourth year

The Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In is in its fourth season of bringing cars of all makes and models, and people who appreciate them, into Bassett.

The cruise-ins are held from 4-8 p.m. in downtown Bassett. Admission is free to the public.

On the first cruise-in of the season on May 18, there were 403 cars registered. That was a record turnout, according to Tim Stone, sponsor representative on the cruise-in committee of GBAC (Greater Bassett Area Community Inc.), which organizes the series.

"All makes and models (of cars) are welcome. There is no judging, no competition. It's a social event" that is held to bring people into Bassett," he said.

"The cruise-ins started as a result of the Smith River Small Towns col-

laborative effort that is under way to revive Bassett, Fieldale, Stanleytown and Koehler," Stone said. "This venture was to bring people to our area to see what's being done and hopefully transform it," he added.

According to the cruise-in website, the series' purpose is "to create, manage and sustain annual events that will promote the Bassett community and Henry County while providing a safe family environment which appeals to car enthusiasts all ages."

To do that, cars of all types will line the roads and parking areas in Bassett six times this summer. Bassett Funeral Service is the title sponsor for the series, and each cruise-in has a nightly sponsor that sets the tone for that night.

The May 18 cruise-in was spon-



The May 18 Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In had 403 cars registered, a record for the cruise-ins.

Fieldale Heritage Festival



The Kitchen Pickers Band (above) was among the groups performing at the Fieldale Heritage Festival on May 18. Also featured were vendors, antique cars (right), animals (below), food and other attractions.



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Rent the Historic Parish House!

Christ Episcopal Church Parish House, located at 311 East Church Street, is a handsome Georgian four columned red brick house. The present structure, dating from 1920, was designated a Virginia Historic Landmark and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. This beautiful 1920's era home is the perfect setting to host a variety of events, for example:

Birthday Parties

Anniversary Celebrations

Baby Showers

Engagement Parties

Portrait Sessions

Board Meetings

Special Dinners

Club Gatherings

Make your 2019 reservation by June 30, mention this ad and save 10% on the rental fee. For details call the church office 276.632.2896 or go to: www.christchurchmvl.org.

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Rooster Walk 11



Rooster Walk 11 Music & Arts Festival drew thousands of fans to Pop’s Farm east of Martinsville on May 23-26. Six stages featured a variety of performers and groups to suit diverse musical tastes. There also were vendors for everything from food to clothes and arts and crafts, and fun and games for children in the Kids Coop. Many fans chose to camp at the site while others parked nearby and rode a free shuttle to the festival site. Shown here at Rooster Walk are Rowan Franck (at right), 3 1/2, who had a big time mastering the water slide in the Kids Coop; C2 & The Brothers Band (top right), who performed at the Ballast Point Lake Stage; the Kids Coop (middle right), which provided a safe, fun area for children; LOVE letters (middle left), which were eye-catching in the Bassett Law Stage area; and the Fireside Collective band (top left), which performed before a crowd of spectators and dancers. Rowan Franck is the son of Jay (a former Martinsville resident) and April Franck of Asheville, N.C.



Eastman ranked among best large employers

Eastman, which has about 700 employees in Henry County, has been named to Forbes’ list of 2019 America’s Best Large Employers.

Eastman was ranked 133rd out of 500 large employers, who are defined as companies with more than 5,000

U.S. employees, according to a news release from Eastman. This is the second consecutive year Eastman has made the list, ranking 232nd in 2018.

Companies are chosen based on the opinions of American workers. The most important factor in determining

a company’s ranking comes from the likelihood of current employees recommending the company to family or friends, the release states.

“This recognition reflects the fact that our people matter,” said Mark Costa, board chairman and CEO of Eastman. “Our team members are the key to Eastman’s success and to fulfilling our purpose of enhancing the quality of life in a material way. The significant gain that we made on the list this year is an indication that we are pursuing a mission and a vision that our team believes and finds meaningful. For any company, that is the greatest reward.”

In collaboration with the analytics firm Statista, Forbes asked 50,000 American employees working for large firms or institutions to rate, on a scale of 0 to 10, their willingness to recommend their own companies.

In addition, participants were asked to evaluate other employers that stood

(See Eastman p. 6B)

Computer upgrade to limit transactions

Henry County and the Public Service Authority will make computer hardware upgrades that will affect customers’ transactions and payments.

Customers will be unable to conduct in-person financial transactions from 3-5 p.m. June 7, and the availability of online payments will be limited through June 10.

“The upgrade will help protect

the integrity of our financial management system,” said Christian Youngblood, information services director for Henry County and the PSA. “By doing the upgrade on a Friday afternoon and over the weekend, we minimize the inconvenience to taxpayers and PSA customers.”

Staff expects all systems to be back online before the start of business on Monday, June 10.

Run

(cont. from page 1B)

- group 10-14; 28:09.5
- 19 Dylan Chappell, 13; 7 in age group 10-14; 29:42.4
- 20 Jack Kirby, 8; 2 in age group 0-9; 30:06.8
- 21 Sarah Campbell, 10; 1 in age group 10-14; 30:11.7
- 22 Meredith Vaughn, 41; 1 in age group 40-44; 30:19.6
- 23 Mallory Knight, 29; 2 in age group 25-29; 30:37.1
- 24 Amy Stultz, 35; 1 in age group 35-39; 31:06.9
- 25 Sharon Kirby, 47; 1 in age group 45-49; 31:19.6
- 26 Gauge Hairston, 14; 8 in age group 10-14; 31:22.2
- 27 Laura Smith, 52; 1 in age group 50-54; 31:30.3
- 28 Lyn Hill, 50; 2 in age group 50-54; 31:30.4
- 29 Heather Via, 26; 3 in age group 25-29; 31:33.2
- 30 Mikhail Hairston, 30; 1 in age group 30-34; 31:53.8
- 31 Cailee Hairston, 9; 1 in age group 0- 9; 31:54.4
- 32 Julie Wells, 49; 2 in age group 45-49; 32:53.9
- 33 Heather Ashe, 38; 2 in age group 35-39; 32:59.4
- 34 Aquila Taylor, 29; 4 in age group 25-29; 33:00.2
- 35 Lucas Soqui, 11; 9 in age group 10-14; 33:25.8
- 36 Will Kirby, 11; 10 in age group 10-14; 33:38.6
- 37 Amy Mitchell, 35; 3 in age group 35-39; 33:44.0
- 38 Melanie Bryant, 50; 3 in age group 50-54; 34:06.7
- 39 Linda Soqui, 42; 2 in age group 40-44; 35:06.0
- 40 Heather Cobbler, 36; 4 in age group 35-39; 35:24.5
- 41 Keonna Gravely, 21; 1 in age group 20-24; 36:03.8
- 42 Larri English, 33; 1 in age group 30-34; 36:04.3
- 43 Katie Ingram, 30; 2 in age group 30-34; 36:04.5
- 44 Jordyn Gibson, 7; 2 in age group 0-9; 36:18.8
- 45 Doug Gibson, 39; 2 in age group 35-39; 36:21.0
- 46 Daila Sechrist, 11; 2 in

- age group 10-14; 36:34.5
- 47 Stephen Sechrist, 37; 3 in age group 35-39; 36:36.2
- 48 Jennifer Doss, 36; 5 in age group 35-39; 36:39.0
- 49 Kortnei Gravely, 8; 3 in age group 0-9; 36:44.9
- 50 Michelle Lyons, 39; 6 in age group 35-39; 36:49.2
- 51 Emily Lyons, 11; 3 in age group 10-14; 36:50.0
- 52 Donna Gravely, 41; 3 in age group 40-44; 37:02.9
- 53 Gabrielle Wilson, 9; 4 in age grou 0-9; 37:36.5
- 54 Bobby Wilson, 39; 4 in age group 35-39; 37:37.6
- 55 Stacy Rayner, 36; 7 in age group 35-39; 37:54.9
- 56 Bridgette Fulcher, 35; 8 in age group 35-39; 38:50.4
- 57 Akira Craighead, 9; 5 in age group 0-9; 38:53.5
- 58 Maddie Bennett, 9; 6 in age group 0-9; 38:53.7
- 59 Lily Patterson, 9; 7 in age group 0-9; 38:55.6
- 60 Hannah Craighead, 31; 3 in age group 30-34; 38:56.1
- 61 Mary Perfel, 40; 4 in age group 40-44; 38:59.1
- 62 Christy Hall, 51; 4 in age group 50-54; 38:59.4
- 63 Elena King, 11; 4 in age group 10-14; 39:41.5
- 64 Katherine Cecil, 14; 5 in age group 10-14; 40:32.4
- 65 Peighton Boone, 12; 6 in age group 10-14; 41:07.3
- 66 Benjamin Boone, 39; 5 in age group 35-39; 41:07.6
- 67 David Gilleran, 64; 1 in age group 60-64; 41:19.1
- 68 Angie Hutchens, 50; 5 in age group 50-54; 42:08.2
- 69 Patrick Drane, 9; 3 in age group 0- 9; 42:08.7
- 70 Tammy Durham, 48; 3 in age group 45-49; 42:34.6
- 71 Amelia Davis, 9; 8 in age group 0-9; 42:35.6
- 72 Alison Hodges, 9; 9 in age group 0-9; 42:35.7
- 73 Eddie Davis, 53; 1 in age group 50-54; 42:36.2
- 74 David Hodges, 38; 6 in age group 35-39; 42:37.2
- 75 Scarlet Law, 11; 7 in age

- group 10-14 42:46.7
- 76 Wes Bowling, 36; 7 in age group 35-39; 42:50.1
- 77 Kylie Bowling, 8; 10 in age group 0-9; 42:50.2
- 78 Emily Cope, 10; 8 in age group 10-14; 43:02.1
- 79 Larry Cope, 51; 2 in age group 50-54; 43:06.4
- 80 Samantha Cope, 36; 9 in age group 35-39; 43:07.0
- 81 Leah Vaughn, 8; 11 in age group 0-9; 43:16.6
- 82 Amanda Bennett, 31; 4 in age group 30-34; 43:21.1
- 83 Madelynn Chappell, 10; 9 in age group 10-14; 43:21.3
- 84 DaNiyah Hairston, 10; 10 in age group 10-14; 44:15.4
- 85 Mercedes Smith, 29; 5 in age group 25-29; 44:16.2
- 86 William Cassell, 15; 1 in age group 15-19; 44:26.9
- 87 Kylee Deatherage, 10; 11 in age group 10-14; 44:35.0
- 88 Brian Jarvis, 39; 8 in age group 35-39; 44:36.9
- 89 Dallas Bonhams, 13; 11 in age group 10-14; 45:27.1
- 90 Tyana Muse, 10; 12 in age group 10-14; 45:49.5
- 91 Justin Witcher, 29; 1 in age group 25-29; 45:49.6
- 92 Taylor Lovell, 11; 13 in age group 10-14; 46:03.2
- 93 Conor Ingalls, 15; 2 in age group 15-19; 46:41.0
- 94 Kyra Ingalls, 9; 12 in age group 0-9; 46:43.3
- 95 Jessica Lovell, 40; 5 in age group 40-44; 46:43.8
- 96 Hannah Ingalls, 11; 14 in age group 10-14; 46:55.4
- 97 Carol Broadax, 56; 1 in ge group 55-59; 47:23.6
- 98 Katelyn Jamison, 10; 15 in age group 10-14; 47:33.0
- 99 Alex Gerlach, 28; 2 in age group 25-29; 47:33.5
- 100 Lilliana Wilson, 9; 13 in age group 0-9; 47:42.6
- 101 Abigail Turner, 18; 1 in age group 15-19; 47:49.1
- 102 Carrie Ingalls, 46; 4 in age group 45-49; 47:49.4
- 103 Anaira Evans, 11; 16 in age 10-14; 49:05.7
- 104 Parker Russell, 7; 4 in

- age group 0-9; 49:12.6
- 105 Melissa Law, 38; 10 in age group 35-39; 49:25.1
- 106 Zadee Cunningham, 11; 17 in age group 10-14; 49:30.2
- 107 Katelynn Young, 11; 18 in age group 10-14; 49:31.4
- 108 Aryanna Abbott, 12; 19 in age group 10-14; 49:31.6
- 109 Kristen Young, 30; 5 in age group 30-34; 49:41.4
- 110 Piper Turner, 8; 14 in age group 0-9; 50:05.4
- 111 Brianna Scott, 10; 20 in age group 10-14; 50:13.3
- 112 Elisa Scott, 38; 11 in age group 35-39; 50:13.7
- 113 Jennifer Rakes, 31; 6 in age group 30-34; 50:17.5
- 114 Tensley Dawson, 8; 15 in age group 0-9; 50:17.7
- 115 Wayne Smith, 39; 9 in age group 35-39; 50:21.3
- 116 Madison Jamison, 9; 16 in age group 0-9; 50:39.3
- 117 Amber Gerlach, 22; 2 in age group 20-24; 50:41.0
- 118 Chloe Wilson, 1; 17 in age group 0-9; 50:44.4
- 119 Ernestina Smith, 48; 5 in age group 45-49; 50:45.4
- 120 Trinity Hairston, 11; 21 in age group 10-14; 50:45.9
- 121 India Hairston, 28; 6 in age group 25-29; 50:46.1
- 122 Samantha Wilds, 31; 7 in age group 30-34; 50:46.4
- 123 Peyton Dowdy, 32; 8 in age group 30-34; 50:52.2
- 124 Telisha Williams, 42; 6 in age group 40-44; 51:26.9
- 125 Doug Williams, 44; 3 in age group 40-44; 51:27.0
- 126 Lucas Vasquez, 7; 5 in age group 0-9; 51:27.1
- 127 Franklin Kirk, 12; 12 in age group 10-14; 51:56.9
- 128 Rebecca Franklin, 25; 7 in age group 25-29; 51:57.7
- 129 Johanna Maxie, 12; 22 in age group 10-14; 52:03.2
- 130 Patricia Hairston, 35; 12 in age group 35-39; 53:55.8
- 131 Sara Brim, 11; 23 in age group 10-14; 54:08.1
- 132 Rachael Kreul, 33; 9 in

- age group 30-34; 54:09.4
- 133 Lindsey Ramirez, 9; 18 in age group 0-9; 54:19.4
- 134 Kimberly Ramirez-Albino, 33; 10 in age group 30-34; 54:44.9
- 135 Stacey Davis, 26; 8 in age group 25-29; 1:01:41.6
- 136 Hall Max; 6 in age group 0-9; 1:01:41.8

Following is the 8K list of the overall finishers, names and ages of the runners, final place in the runners’ age groups and times:

- 1 Gregg Dean, 42; 1 overall; 31:11.6
- 2 Delores Ford, 36; 1 overall; 31:27.4
- 3 Josh Follweiler, 36; 2 overall; 32:51.7
- 4 Mark Joyce, 51; 3 overall; 35:05.0
- 5 Elber Maya, 39; 1 in age group 35-39; 35:47.7
- 6 Joshua Anderson, 37; 2 in age group 35-39; 36:29.8
- 7 Lucas King, 8; 1 in age group 0-14; 38:34.5
- 8 Todd King, 45; 1 in age group 45-49; 38:34.9
- 9 Gina Richardson, 51; 2 overall; 40:20.5
- 10 Rob Seltzer, 49; 2 in age group 45-49; 40:49.3
- 11 Elizabeth Harris, 35; 3 overall; 44:43.6
- 12 Stephanie Bates, 38; 1 in age group 35-39; 45:43.0
- 13 Laurette Martin, 52; 1 in age group 50-54; 45:48.7
- 14 Eric Miller, 56; 1 in age group 55-59; 46:02.0
- 15 Larry Biggs, 60; 1 in age group 60-64; 46:11.9
- 16 Molly Follweiler, 35; 2 in age group 35-39; 52:18.5
- 17 Silvia Maya, 35; 3 in age group 35-39; 53:45.2
- 18 Rick Bates, 38; 3 in age group 35-39; 56:36.8
- 19 Patricia Stevens, 59; 1 in age group 55-59; 57:44.6
- 20 Lisa Hughes, 57; 2 in age group 55-59; 1:00:58.3

Drill being held to introduce students to EMS field

A mock emergency scene scheduled to be held at 1 p.m. on June 12 is designed to introduce middle school aged students to careers In Emergency Services, according to a release from Henry County Public Safety.

About 40 middle school students participating in the Patrick Henry Community College’s Talent Search Program – Career Exploration Camp will observe local emergency responders receive and respond to an emergency scene.

Through a cooperative program between Patrick Henry Community College and Henry County Department of Public Safety, students will witness the real-life application of 911 dispatchers, firefighters, paramedics, sheriff’s deputies, fire marshals, emergency managers and others performing tasks related to their profession.

Held at the Public Safety complex at 1024 DuPont Road, the drill starts with an arsonist igniting a fire to a structure who then panics and calls 911. Then, dispatchers notify emergency services personnel who respond to the scene, extinguish the fire, treat victims, identify the arsonist, and ultimately ensure the arsonist is arrested.

The mock scene will be designed to introduce students to all aspects of an emergency scene, with the intent of instilling an interest in them and hopefully propel them to consider pursuing emergency services as a career.

The event concludes when area emergency services providers have performed all operations on the scene and the Director of Public Safety conducts a press conference with media at the scene to discuss the event.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

(The following information is from visitmartinsville.com, the website of the Tourism Office of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp., and contributed items. See visitmartinsville.com for more information on these and other events. Also, events held more than once a month are listed each time but described only on the first event of the month.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

BLOOD DRIVE: 1 to 6 p.m., Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett. "Home of the Mountain Dew Cake" -give blood and eat cake.
MARTINSVILLE MUSTANGS EDUCATION/TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT: 7:15 first pitch, Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.
ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
ANNUAL MILES 4 VETS GOLF TOURNAMENT: 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. tee time, Forest Park Country Club, 1821 Mulberry Road, Martinsville. \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Cost includes cart, lunch and one beverage. For more information call Mandy Folman (276) 632-6442 or email mfolman@southernaaa.org. Sign up online at www.mile1.net.
RIDE 'N DINE: 9:30 a.m., Dick & Willie Trail, 699 Liberty Street, Martinsville. Cyclists will meet at the Liberty Street access point, ride along the trail and dine at a local eatery. For more information call (276) 358-1312.
MONTHLY MOVIE INSIDE THE LIBRARY: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Featured movie "Marley and Me." Pizza combos, including popcorn and water \$3.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER: 3 to 7 p.m., Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department, 3525 County Line Road, Bassett. Dinner to include baked spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, dessert and a drink for \$7. Proceeds help a member battling cancer.
KARAOKE AT PAPA'Z PIZZERIA: 8:30 p.m., 4288 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Family friendly event. Held every Saturday night. Outdoor seating and children's area available.
ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
FIREWORKS NIGHT AT HOOKER FIELD: 7 p.m., Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. Fireworks show free with ticket purchase. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.
BLUEGRASS GOSPEL AND MOUNTAIN MUSIC SONGFEST: 10 a.m. to noon, Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 120 Old Bassett Heights Road, Bassett. Free event.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

WINE TASTING AT HAMLET VINEYARDS: 1 to 5 p.m., 405 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Cost \$5.
25th ANNUAL HOT ROD POWER TOUR: Martinsville Speedway, 340 Speedway Road, Martinsville. Largest traveling car show, first time tour venue at Martinsville.
MOUNTAIN LAUREL TRAIL BIKE RIDE: 2 p.m. every Sunday, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. For more information call (276) 340-9144 or (276) 618-0343.
HENRY COUNTY'S SUNDAY ROAD RIDE: 2 p.m., Ridgeway Library, 900 Vista View Lane, Ridgeway. For more information call Tommy (276) 618-0343.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

YOGA: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Banquet Hall from 8 a.m. to noon.
VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING CAMP FOR GIRLS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. PHCC Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette Street, Martinsville. Camp starts in the summer and operates one Saturday a month through the school year. Camp is free, lunch and transportation will be provided. For more information or to enroll call (276) 656-5461.

MONDAY, JUNE 10 - THURSDAY, JUNE 20

SERVSAFE MANAGER TRAINING: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays. PHCC, 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville. Course will teach manager food safety knowledge, food-borne illness prevention and how to train employees in food sanitation. Certification provided upon

completion. Pre-registration required. Cost \$150. (276) 656-0260 or ph.augusoft.net.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

HARDEE'S TUESDAY JAMBOREE: 8 to 10 a.m., Hardee's, 933 Fairystone Park Highway, Stanleytown. Music to include old style gospel and country.
"FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION": 10:30 a.m., Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Guest speaker Eric Helms. Admission is free.
SUMMER READING PROGRAM: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Designed for ages 3 to 12. Emphasizes reading and the joy of reading. Free event.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

BIKE CLUB VARIETY RIDE: Fieldale Trial, 3521 River Road, Fieldale. Evening ride that consists of road, trail or both. A light will be needed for this event. Call (276) 618-0343 for more information.
PUBLIC THEOLOGY: Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. Guest speaker will be in attendance with snacks or dinner available. For more information call (276) 833-2171.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

KARAOKE AT TEN PIN CAFE: 9 p.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Free admission.
SECOND THURSDAYS: 5 to 8 p.m., 20 East Church Street, Martinsville. Every second Thursday residents come out and tour uptown and revisit and become reacquainted with the new shops and familiar venues. There will be extended hours and blockbuster sales.
THROWBACK THURSDAY MOVIE: Rives Theatre, 215 East Church Street, Martinsville. Movie showing "On Her Majesty's Secret Service." Call (276) 403-0872 for movie times and pricing.
SPENCER -PENN CENTRE: 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Group and class schedule listed. To sign up or for more information call (276) 957-5757.
-11:30 a.m., Chair aerobics, taught by Paula Battle.
- 6 p.m., Martial Arts, taught by Sifu Kristian Gordon. \$40 monthly fee for members, \$65 for non-members.
-6:30 p.m., Aerobic exercise class, taught by Anita Hooker.
50 YEARS OF LOVE ART CAMP: 1 to 4 p.m., Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.. Call (276) 957-5757 for more information.
CLYDE HOOKER AWARDS: 5:30 p.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Come recognize businesses and individuals that are involved in and support Piedmont Arts and other cultural organizations. Donations accepted in lieu of admission.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
RIDE 'N DINE: 9:30 a.m., Dick & Willie Trail, 699 Liberty Street, Martinsville. Cyclists will meet at the Liberty Street access point, ride along the trail and dine at a local eatery. For more information call (276) 358-1312.
FLAG DAY CERMONY: 11 a.m. to noon, Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Admission is free and open to the public.
JUNE'S MUSIC NIGHT AT SPECNER PENN CENTRE: Doors open at 5 p.m., Spencer Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. 5:30 p.m. open mic, 6:20 p.m. Jason Harris and Friends will perform and at 7:40 p.m. performance by The County Boys. \$5 donation requested.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 - FRIDAY, JUNE 14

OSHA TRAINING CERTIFICATION: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday. PHCC, 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville. This 10-hour program is targeted to entry level workers and covers general industry safety and health hazards. Certification card provided after course completion. Cost: \$80. Registration required. Call (276) 656-0260 or ph.augusoft.net.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

KARAOKE AT PAPA'Z PIZZERIA: 8:30 p.m., 4288 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Family friendly event. Held every Saturday night. Outdoor seating and children's area available.
ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
STAFFORD'S SATURDAY MORNING JAM: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Stafford's Music, 1320 South Memorial Blvd., Martinsville. Enjoy the performances of local musicians.
BASSETT HIGHWAY 57 CRUISE-IN: 4 to 8 p.m., Bassett World Headquarters, 3525 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. All makes and models welcome. Free admission.
HOOKER FIELDS STAR WARS AND FATHER'S DAY RECOGNITION: 7 p.m., Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

WINE TASTING AT HAMLET VINEYARDS: 1 to 5 p.m., 405 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Cost \$5.
MOUNTAIN LAUREL TRAIL BIKE RIDE: 2 p.m. every Sunday, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. For more information call (276) 340-9144 or (276) 618-0343.
KEITH MCFADEN LIVE: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. Enjoy a relaxing evening at the brewery with amazing tunes from one of Lynchburg's premier performers. For more information call (276) 833-2171.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

DOLLAR MONDAYS: 7:15 p.m. first pitch, Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd. Tickets, hotdogs and adult beverages for \$1. Visit www.visitmartinsville.com for game lineup.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

HARDEE'S TUESDAY JAMBOREE: 8 to 10 a.m., Hardee's, 933 Fairystone Park Highway, Stanleytown. Music to include old style gospel and country.
SUMMER READING PROGRAM: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Designed for ages 3 to 12. Emphasizes reading and the joy of reading. Free event.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

NASCAR NIGHT: 7 p.m., Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. Watch Martinsville Mustangs vs. Forest City Owls. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.
BIKE CLUB VARIETY RIDE: Fieldale Trial, 3521 River Road, Fieldale. Evening ride that consists of road, trail or both. A light will be needed for this event. Call (276) 618-0343 for more information.

(See Attractions p. 5B)

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henrycountyenterprise.com

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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

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Attractions

(cont. from page 4B)

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

KARAOKE AT TEN PIN CAFE: 9 p.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Free admission.
SPENCER -PENN CENTRE: 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Group and class schedule listed. To sign up or for more information call (276) 957-5757.
-11:30 a.m., Chair aerobics, taught by Paula Battle.
- 6 p.m., Martial Arts, taught by Sifu Kristian Gordon. \$40 monthly fee for members, \$65 for non-members.
-6:30 p.m., Aerobic exercise class, taught by Anita Hooker.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
RIDE 'N DINE: 9:30 a.m., Dick & Willie Trail, 699 Liberty Street, Martinsville. Cyclists will meet at the Liberty Street access point, ride along the trail and dine at a local eatery. For more information call (276) 358-1312.
TGIF SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES: 7 to 10:30 p.m., 100 East Church Street, Martinsville. Performance will be held in the parking lot on Broad Street. Admission \$7.
LITTLE LEAGUE NIGHT AT HOOKER FIELD: 7 p.m., Hooker Field, 450 East Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. Martinsville Mustangs vs. Edenton Steamers. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.
HJDB FRIDAY NIGHT JAMBOREE: Doors open at 6 p.m., Historical J. D. Bassett High School, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett. 6 to 7 p.m. Jam session and 7 to 9 p.m. a performance by The Friday Night String Band. Concessions available. \$5 admission.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

KARAOKE AT PAPA'Z PIZZERIA: 8:30 p.m., 4288 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Family friendly event. Held every Saturday night. Outdoor seating and children's area available.
ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
PET SAFETY DROP-IN SESSION: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Martinsville Library, 310 East Church Street, Martinsville. SPCA will be on site. Free admission.
JUNE GERMAN BALL: 10 a.m., Albert Harris Elementary School, 710 Smith Street. Celebrate the culture and heritage of the Fayette Street area. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Field Festival with live music, food, and dancing and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. German ball dance.
2ND ANNUAL RIDE FOR LIFE: 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. kickstands up. Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad, 18287 A. L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway. Rain or shine event. Scenic ride through the Blue Ridge Mountains. \$15 a bike, \$5 for a second rider. Free hotdog or hamburger plate included with ride. Door prizes will be awarded.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

WINE TASTING AT HAMLET VINEYARDS: 1 to 5 p.m., 405 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Cost \$5.
MOUNTAIN LAUREL TRAIL BIKE RIDE: 2 p.m. every Sunday, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. For more information call (276) 340-9144 or (276) 618-0343.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

HARDEE'S TUESDAY JAMBOREE: 8 to 10 a.m., Hardee's, 933 Fairystone Park Highway, Stanleytown. Music to include old style gospel and country.
SUMMER READING PROGRAM: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Designed for ages 3 to 12. Emphasizes reading and the joy of reading. Free event.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

BIKE CLUB VARIETY RIDE: Fieldale Trial, 3521 River Road, Fieldale. Evening ride that consists of road, trail or both. A light will be needed for this event. Call (276) 618-0343 for more information.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

KARAOKE AT TEN PIN CAFE: 9 p.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Free admission.
SPENCER -PENN CENTRE: 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Group and class schedule listed. To sign up or for more information call (276) 957-5757.
-11:30 a.m., Chair aerobics, taught by Paula Battle.
- 6 p.m., Martial Arts, taught by Sifu Kristian Gordon. \$40 monthly fee for members, \$65 for non-members.
-6:30 p.m., Aerobic exercise class, taught by Anita Hooker.
CITY OF MARTINSVILLE NIGHT AT HOOKER FIELD: 7 p.m., Hooker Field, 450 East Church Street, Martinsville. Martinsville Mustangs vs. Edenton Steamers. General admission \$6, reserved seating \$7.
NEW BUSINESS SEMINAR: 6 to 8 p.m., PHCC-Thomas Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette Street, Martinsville. Learn how to build a foundation to your new business. Free admission.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
RIDE 'N DINE: 9:30 a.m., Dick & Willie Trail, 699 Liberty Street, Martinsville. Cyclists will meet at the Liberty Street access point, ride along the trail and dine at a local eatery. For more information call (276) 358-1312.
TED DALTON LIVE PERFORMANCE: 7 to 10 p.m., Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. Enjoy a relaxing evening at the brewery with amazing tunes on the brewery barn deck. For more information call (276) 833-2171.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

KARAOKE AT PAPA'Z PIZZERIA: 8:30 p.m., 4288 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Family friendly event. Held every Saturday night. Outdoor seating and children's area available.
ROCK-IT BOWLING: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sportlanes, 10 Koehler Road, Martinsville. Food and beverages available for purchase at the Ten Pin Cafe. Visit www.sportlanes.com for more information.
STAFFORD'S SATURDAY MORNING JAM: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Stafford's Music, 1320 South Memorial Blvd., Martinsville. Enjoy the performances of local musicians.
MARIE ANDERSON LIVE PERFORMANCE: 7 to 10 p.m., Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. For more information call (276) 833-2171.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

TOURISM TAKEOVER AT HAMLET VINEYARDS: 1 to 5 p.m., Hamlet Vineyards, 405 Riverside Drive, Bassett. VisitMartinsville will take over the Hamlet Vineyards for a celebration of L-O-V-E. Wine tasting \$5.
MOUNTAIN LAUREL TRAIL BIKE RIDE: 2 p.m. every Sunday, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. For more information call (276) 340-9144 or (276) 618-0343.

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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.
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ful record of fundraising or combination. Job Description and application is available on our website www.spcamhc.org. Email exec@spcamhc.org

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9 POSITIONS -Temporary/seasonal work planting, cultivating, harvesting/cutting and baling evergreen Christmas trees and making wreaths and roping on a tree farm, from 7/1/2019 to 12/15/2019 at Cartner Brothers LLC, Newland, NC in Avery county. This job requires a minimum of one month of employment experience in out-of-doors manual labor jobs, preferably on a tree farm. Saturday work may be offered, but is not required. Must be able lift/carry 25-100 lbs. Employer-paid post-hire drug testing is required upon reasonable suspicion of use. \$12.25/hr or current applicable AEWR. Raise/bonus at employer discretion. Workers are guaranteed 3/4 of work hours of total period. Work tools, supplies, equipment supplied by employer without charge to worker. Housing with kitchen facilities provided at no cost to only those workers who are not reasonably able to return same day to their place of residence at time of recruitment. Transportation and subsistence expenses to work site will be paid to nonresident workers not later than upon completion of 50% of the job contract. Interviews required. Apply for this job at nearest State Workforce Agency in state in which this ad appears, or NC Works Career Center - Avery County, 428 Pineola St., Newland, NC 28657. Ph: (828) 737-5419. Provide copy of this ad. NC Job Order #11073223.

THE COUNTY OF PATRICK is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the full-time/temporary position of Re-assessment Clerk.
The position provides data entry and clerical support for the upcoming general reassessment of real estate in Patrick County. The duration of employment will be from July 2019 through the completion of the reassessment in early 2021. The position will work under the general supervision of personnel from the profes-

sional firm conducting the real estate reassessment process. Duties of the position will entail extensive data entry of real estate records and will provide general clerical support to the staff of the reassessment firm.
The desired candidate must possess excellent office skills and be proficient with the use of a computer. The ability to set priorities, keep confidential information, and work cooperatively with other members of an office staff are essential. The successful candidate must be able to work with the public in a courteous and tactful manner and to work independently without direct full-time supervision.

The rate of compensation for the position is \$9 per hour. The regular work week will be forty (40) hours per week. Hours will vary, however, depending on the requirements of the reassessment firm.
Applications are available online at www.co.patrick.va.us and at the County Administration Office. Interested candidates may submit a Patrick County employment application and resume to the Patrick County Administration Office, Room 218, by mail to Patrick County Administration, Attn: Geri Hazelwood, P.O. Box 466, Stuart, Virginia 24171, or by email to ghazelwood@co.patrick.va.us. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2019.
Published by direction of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

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The Virginia Media LLC. family of newspapers is seeking **freelance reporters** for assignment coverage in the City of Martinsville, Henry and/or Patrick counties and the Town of Stuart.

Responsibilities will include writing features, sports, breaking news and other general assignment coverage, as well as photography. Hours may include days, evenings and/or weekends.

Ideal candidates will have newspaper reporting experience, know how to meet a deadline, be detail oriented, have a strong commitment to accuracy, a commitment to work, willingness to learn and a desire to improve to become an integral part of our continued success.

Experience and/or formal education is preferred, but not necessary.

Candidates are asked to submit a cover letter, resume and clips of previously published articles (if applicable), to dhall@theenterprise.net.

Trustees select new chairman

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Board of Trustees has elected Dr. Thomas R. Benzing of Waynesboro as board chairman.

Benzing has been a trustee since 2015 and has served as vice chairman since 2017. He succeeds Dr. Barry

Dorsey, who served as board chairman since 2017. “I believe this museum is a hidden gem in the commonwealth and, during my tenure as chair, I hope to work with the rest of the board, the museum’s staff, and its charitable foundation to strengthen recogni-

tion for its statewide value to scientific understanding and education,” said Benzing.

Benzing is a professor at James Madison University (JMU) in the School of Integrated Sciences where he teaches and conducts research in water quality and water resources management.

He is a research associate at the Virginia Museum of Natural History and a research scientist for the South River Science Team.

Benzing also serves as JMU professor-in-residence at Waynesboro High School, as conservation chairman for the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited

and on the board of the Center for Coldwaters Restoration.

“The museum looks forward to the next two years of Dr. Benzing’s leadership,” said Dr. Joe Keiper, executive director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History. “This is an exciting time in the museum’s history, as it looks to continue expanding its impact throughout the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Benzing brings a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge of VMNH, which will allow the museum to continue to reach its lofty goals.”

The board of trustees also elected Dr. Arthur

V. Evans of Richmond as vice chairman. Evans has served on the board since 2015.

He is a career entomologist who is a research associate for the Virginia Museum of Natural History and a research collaborator at the Smithsonian Institution. He is an adjunct professor at Randolph-Macon College, University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Evans, who is also an accomplished author and lecturer on insect biology and natural history, is known in the greater Richmond area for his radio program, “What’s Bugging You?” which airs on WCVE

Richmond Public Radio.

“I look forward to serving the Virginia Museum of Natural History in my new role as vice chair of the board of trustees and will continue to promote the museum’s research activities, education programs and exhibits throughout the commonwealth,” he said.

The trustees also voted to re-appoint Jennifer Burnett as treasurer and elected Janet Scheid for another term as secretary.

The board recognized outgoing trustees Christine Baggerly, Monica Monday and James W. Severt II.

Concert series held in Fieldale

The Mill Whistle concert series is being held this summer on the grounds of the Fieldale Recreation Center, 70 Marshall Way.

The concert series began May 11 and will continue June 8 with the band 220 South. After that, the dates and bands:

- July 6: FATZ
- Aug. 10: Remedy
- Sept. 7: De-Ja-Vu
- Oct. 5: The Rogues

All the concerts will begin at 6 p.m. Donations are being accepted to benefit the Fieldale Recreation Center and Pools. Concessions are being provided by the Fieldale Cafe and Bahama Sno-Shack. Coolers are not allowed.

Summer food program set through Martinsville schools

Martinsville City Public Schools is participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, according to a news release from the city schools.

There will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service, it added.

Meals will be provided, on a first come, first serve basis, at the sites and times as follows:

- Martinsville High School, 351 Commonwealth Blvd. Monday – Thursday from June 3 to July 25. Breakfast will be available from 8:15 am to 9:45 a.m. and lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 pm. The service will be closed July 1-5.
- Northview Gardens, 755 Stultz Road, Martinsville. Monday - Thursday from June 3 through July 25. Breakfast will be available from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be available from noon to 12:30 pm. The service will be closed July 1-5.
- Martinsville Middle School, 201 Brown St., Martinsville. Monday – Thursday from June 3 through July 18. Breakfast will be available from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be available from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The service will be closed July 1-5.
- Albert Harris Elementary School, 710 Smith Road, Martinsville. Monday – Thursday from June 3 through July 25. Breakfast will be available from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. and lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The service will be closed July 4-5.
- First Baptist Church of East Martinsville, 1043 East Church St., Martinsville. Tuesday and Thurs-

day form June 11 to July 25. Lunch will be available from 12:30 to 1 p.m. The service will be closed July 1-5.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax: (202) 690-7442; or by email to program.intake@usda.gov.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge (BGCBR) is able to offer an after-school care program at Clearview Early Childhood Center with help from community partners and a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! (PUP) grant from The Harvest Foundation.

“We know childcare is a primary need in our community,” said Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation. “We have to lift up our existing child-care system by addressing gaps like the need for extended hours. The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge has found an innovative way to fill a need in our community’s child-care system, and we’re happy to see the programming at Clearview Early Childcare Center grow.”

Joanie Petty, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs,

said the clubs were contacted by a teacher at Martinsville City Public Schools in August 2018 about a lack of enrollment in the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) program at Clearview. A lack of after-school care for children 3 to 5 years of age was identified as the cause. After conducting a needs assessment at Clearview, 62 families, with 75 children to serve, expressed a need for after-school care.

“What struck me at first was that no one was serving 3 and 5 year olds for after-school care – they didn’t have anywhere to go,” Petty said. “We headed straight to the Department of Social Services because we needed to be licensed. In that process, we found the playground did not meet requirements for that age group.”

The after-school program began in January with a six-month

provisional license. To grow and sustain the program, Petty said the clubs reached out to community partners to help.

“We’ve worked with BB&T, the Comcast Foundation and the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia-Martinsville (formerly Martinsville Area Community Foundation) to leverage funds for safer, newer and age-appropriate playground equipment that will benefit kids in and after school,” she said. “We’re filling an important need in the community for quality child care for younger children after school. And we are working with many partners to ensure that all kids, especially those who need us the most, are provided the resources to have a safe, fun, caring and productive place to go after school.”

(See Club p. 7B)

VMNH moves to ed. secretariat

Thirty-five years after the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) was created under the Secretary of Natural Resources, its oversight has been moved to the Secretary of Education.

Gov. Ralph Northam approved the move when he signed Executive Order 31 recently.

“Virginia is home to some of the finest state-funded arts and cultural institutions in the country,” he stated in a release. “Integrating the Virginia Museum of Natural History into the robust network of other museums, colleges, and universities will better support its mission and help facilitate more partnerships, expanding the reach of the museum’s resources for citizens and visitors of the commonwealth.”

Joe Keiper, executive director of VMNH, said he does not expect any changes in the museum’s operations, staffing or budget as a result of the shift.

The change is a matter of common sense, he said. Because all the state’s museums are under the Secretary of Education, he added that he hopes the change will bring more access to like-minded people.

Keiper noted that the museum has had dozens of collaborations with institutions such as Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute and others to make discoveries about the commonwealth’s natural history. He ex-

pects that VMNH also will continue its existing collaborations with other agencies under the Secretary of Natural Resources, such as the Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. VMNH also works with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

In addition, VMNH was the only non-regulatory agency under the Secretary of Natural Resources, Keiper said. Regulatory agencies deal with state law, but VMNH has not done that, he said.

“We can relate to colleagues in education better than natural resources,” he said.

According to Executive Order 31, the Secretary of Education is responsible for coordinating among and supporting public education institutions throughout the commonwealth. The secretariat provides guidance to the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Community College System and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia as well as Virginia’s 16 public colleges and universities, 23 community colleges and five higher education and research centers, seven state-funded arts and cultural institutions, and the Library of Virginia.

The museum was founded in 1984 in Martinsville to investigate, preserve and exhibit

various elements of natural history found in Virginia and other parts of the United States and the world. The state museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, encourages and promotes research in the varied natural heritage of the commonwealth and beyond.

The VMNH has award-winning exhibits, ground-breaking scientific research and collections, and transformational educational programs for all ages. It has developed a strong reputation for significant research and important collections, which now number more than 10 million cataloged items.

“We are thrilled to have the Virginia Museum of Natural History,” said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. “Education is our mission and its statewide outreach education and distance learning programs, resources and traveling exhibits will enable us to reach more learners than ever and encourage them to think in a global context that is relevant to all Virginians.”

“It has been a pleasure to work with the museum and better educate the public on how our natural systems and wildlife play a vital role in all facets of life and civilization,” said Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew J. Strickler. “We will continue to work with the museum and Secretary Qarni’s office to support its significant research and important collections.”

Eastman

(cont. from page 3B)

out either positively or negatively in their respective industries.

The employees who took part in the survey were consulted anonymously through several online access panels, not through their employers. The mix of respondents (gender, age, region and ethnicity) in the sample represents American employees, the release added.

Eastman Chemical is the leading global manufacturer of performance films for the automotive and architectural markets. The corporation’s third largest

facility is located in Fieldale in Henry County, according to the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

Built in 1956, Eastman purchased the facility and business from Solutia Performance Films in 2012. The following year, Eastman announced a \$40 million expansion to be carried out over the next three years. This facility is now one of the largest and most integrated window and performance-coated film manufacturing sites in the world.

Eastman also operates film manufacturing and distribution

facilities at the Patriot Centre industrial park. The company acquired the former Commonwealth Laminating & Coating in 2014, adding an experienced workforce and Commonwealth’s expertise, paint protection technology, brand and channels to its portfolio, the EDC states on its website.

Worldwide, Eastman employs about 14,500 people and has customers in more than 100 countries. The company had 2018 revenues of approximately \$10 billion and is headquartered in Kingsport, Tenn.

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Club

(cont. from page 6B)



Clearview Early Childhood Center has a new program operated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge and a new safe, age-appropriate playground for its participants. Pictured (from left) are Morgan Norman, Dr. Zeb Talley Jr., Sheryl Agee, Che're Martin, Joanie Petty, Marisa Womack, Nancy Hoy, Sheilah Williams, Jan Turner and TiaShauna Carter.

Petty said because there are few preschool programs in the Boys & Girls Clubs organization, it reached out to Melanie McLarty and Ruth Ann Collins of Smart Beginnings to ensure the program met state standards.

"We could not have done this project without being collaborative and creating relationships with community partners who also have a mission to provide safe, educational and fun places for kids to go after school," Petty added.

Sheilah Williams, director of the Clearview Early Childhood program, said the creation of the playground and outdoor classroom space at Clearview has been a community effort.

"We've had one door after another opened with many community partners coming on board," she said. "It warms my heart that there are so many wonderful community organizations out there that see the difference we're making with our children. It didn't put a burden on anyone – it was people coming to the table saying, 'I want to help.' They asked, 'What can we do to help?'"

Williams said the process didn't happen overnight. It was a huge undertaking that her staff and others help bring to fruition.

"Just seeing how many classes we can have on the playground at one time now is amazing," she said. "I cannot find the words to describe how I feel. I really want the community to know what we have. Most of this program is locally funded, and there

are many localities that don't have what we have. This shows that our city council, our school board and our superintendent believe in having an early start for children and the importance of building that foundation. These kids are prepared for kindergarten."

Partners credited with establishing the playground and outdoor learning classroom at Clearview: Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, Martinsville City Public Schools, Kiwanis Club, Department of Social Services, Comcast Corp., BB&T Bank, Hooker Furniture, Community Foundation of Southwest Virginia, The Harvest Foundation, City of Martinsville, Martinsville Sheriff's Office, Christ Episcopal Church, Longwood University at NCI – Social Work Program, Rural King, Southern States, Burr Fox and the Eagle Scouts Program, Byron Smith, Dr. Willis and Sandra Wheless, Max Kendall Lumber Co., Lester Home Center, Karen Despot, R&J Tire, Skyline Tree Service, Hunter Moore and Boxley, Eddie Cockerham, Pam Brinegar, Jan and Tony Turner, Eric Martin and HB Martin.

The Harvest Foundation's Pick Up the Pace! grants program is a competitive, small grants program designed to engage people and organizations in sparking innovative ideas, collaborations and change in Martinsville and Henry County. These six-month grants for up to \$10,000 are available for application year-round. To find out more, visit www.theharvestfoundation.org or call (276) 632-3329.

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2. REACT:

- Leave the area immediately, without using anything that could ignite the natural gas
- Do not use any electrical device, such as light switches, telephones /cell phones, garage door openers
- Do not use an open flame, matches or lighters
- Do not try to locate the source of the gas leak
- Do not try to shut off any natural gas valves or gas appliances
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- Go to a safe location
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- Scratch the coating on a gas pipeline.
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- Smell, hear, or see gas.
- Have ANY questions about gas lines.

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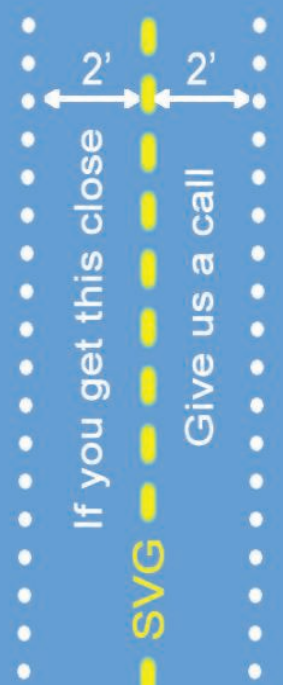
Call 911

Eliminate ignition sources

Evacuate nearby structures

Do not attempt to stop the gas

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