

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Vol. 1 No. 7 JULY 2019

FREE

NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Moore gets state post

By Ginny Wray

RICHMOND – Dr. Elizabeth Moore, who has been with the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville for 23 years, has been named the new state archaeologist.

Moore's new position was effective June 10. As the state archaeologist, she is responsible for overseeing archaeology initiatives statewide and representing the state at the national level on archaeology activities and issues, she said.

"I am very pleased to have this opportunity to work to support archaeology throughout the commonwealth and to serve as an advocate for these important resources," she stated in a Department of Historic Resources (DHR) news release. "Discoveries around the state that allow us to understand the past in new and more inclusive ways and to share that understanding to more diverse audiences make this an exciting time for archaeology."

Moore joined the Virginia Museum of Natural History (See Moore p. 9A)

Jeb Bassett explains renovations on the former train depot and the surrounding area in Bassett.

Bassett depot renovations nearing completion

By Ginny Wray

Renovations to the historic Bassett train depot are in the final stages, with completion hoped by mid to late summer.

The inside of the building is essentially done, the outside has a fresh coat of paint and the town clock has been installed at the southern end of the site. Plans have been approved for curbs and gutters around the building and once that is done and the landscaping is in place, the project will be finished.

It will result in a town square that will set the tone for the style of signs and benches in that area, said Jeb Bassett, senior vice president of Bassett Furniture Industries and co-chairman of the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative. Renovations to the depot and surrounding area are part of that collaborative's efforts to revitalize Bassett. The collaborative also is working to make improvements to Fieldale, Stanleytown and Koehler.

A recent tour of the former depot re-

vealed bright white rooms, handicapped accessible facilities and rest rooms as well as a wheelchair lift, a "warming kitchen" with modern appliances and counter space for use by caterers, and new lighting, heating and air conditioning.

The project respects the building's history although the intent was not to do a historically accurate renovation, Bassett said. Most doors and windows are original and operational, and in the largest room, the former depot cargo room, the original brick walls and wooden doors were cleaned to preserve their patina.

Also in that room is a scale that is believed to be original to the depot. During World War II the federal government collected all possible metal for the war effort. However, the scale apparently was spared because Bassett Furniture nearby had converted one of its production lines to make wooden truck beds for the war and the scale was needed when shipping parts for the truck beds



A town clock has been installed outside the depot.

in and out of the depot.

The original depot, a wooden building, was constructed in the 1800s but later burned, Bassett said. The depot that re-

(See Depot p. 3A)

County gets planning grant for Fieldale Rec Center

Henry County has received a \$50,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to study how to create a new, sustainable future for the Fieldale Recreation Center.

The planning grant will be used as a to determine possible interior uses of the building — including tenants, according to Lee Clark, director of planning, zoning and inspections for Henry County.

A lot of work has been done to the exterior of the building, including struc-

tural improvements, addition of a stage and amphitheater outside, grounds improvements, sports facilities and more, he said. The result has been a marked increase in use of the facility, he added.

The next phase is to try and help the Fieldale Heritage Inc., which owns the building, and the Fieldale Recreation Inc., which operates the building and property, increase use of the inside of the center, Clark said.

So the grant funds will be

used for two purposes. The first is to have an asbestos report done to determine where asbestos is located inside and have it tested so officials will know what abatement will be needed before any renovations can be done, he said.

The second use of the grant will be used to prepare a feasibility and sustainability study for the building's use, Clark said.

The ultimate goal is to see the building used to the fullest extent possible so it can be financially sustain-

able, according to Clark. He and Mary Ann Mason of the planning office met with the heritage and recreation boards on June 27 and everyone was on board with that, he said.

"There has to be occupancy to be sustainable," he added.

Tenants and programming would generate income to maintain the center. They could included offices, rented spaces or permanent occupants, sporting events and other recreation activities, he said.

The study to be funded with the ARC grant will show what kinds of businesses could be located in the building and what kind of programming or other uses could be implemented to create revenue, he said.

Occupancy is not a new idea for the center, he said, explaining that barber and beauty shops once existed there.

Andrew Kahle of the recreation board said earlier that if there was a tenant, occupancy insurance would

(See Fieldale p. 3A)

VETERAN EDUCATORS REFLECT ON FIRST YEAR IN NEW JOBS

Gracie Agnew, Carlisle School

By Ginny Wray

Gracie Agnew joined Carlisle School last summer in hopes of rounding out her career in education. Her 40-year career with the Henry County Schools had started in the classroom, moved into school administration and ended in the school division administration before she retired in 2014, though she never stopped working.

Now, as she is about to complete her rookie year as head of school at Carlisle, she said, "I think I have died and gone to

(See Agnew p. 8A)

Sandy Strayer, Henry County

By Ginny Wray

As Henry County School superintendent, Sandy Strayer oversees the education of 7,100 students and about 800 employees.

Her inspiration, she said, comes from her mother. The late Glenda Cox was a day maid at Magna Vista High School.

"She took care of people. My upbringing is to take care of people. One day maybe I'll be half as giving as she was. She brought decorations; she brought food. She was a true caregiver for peo-

(See Strayer p. 8A)



Carlisle Head of School Gracie Agnew is completing her first year in that position.



Henry County School Superintendent Sandy Strayer is finishing her first year in that job but she has been with the school division for 27 years.

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Former state secretary named NCI interim director

Karen R. Jackson, former state Secretary of Technology, has been named the interim executive director of the New College Institute in Martinsville.

She succeeds Dr. Leanna Blevins, who resigned effective June 30 to join the Virginia Tech/Carilion School of Medicine.

Jackson was hired on a six-month contract with an option to renew that contract for an additional six months, according to state Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Franklin County, who is chairman of the NCI Board of Directors.

Jackson, a native of Poquoson, is president of Apogee Strategic Partners, LLC, which provides technology consulting and advisory services to companies, universities, gov-

ernmental entities and nonprofits specializing in technology and business strategy, government relations, public policy, business development and program management.

She served as Secretary of Technology from 2014 to 2018 in the administrations of Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Bob McDonnell and has been a leader in advancing internet technology, cyber and broadband access in rural and underserved areas, according to a news release. She also was part of Virginia's effort to land Amazon's HQ2.

Stanley said he has worked with Jackson since he joined the state Senate in 2011.

"Her knowledge of and experience in internet technology, cyber, advanced

manufacturing and the critical need for Virginia to have a 21st century educated workforce is unparalleled and, quite frankly, she has no peer," he stated in the release. "... Karen Jackson is exactly what NCI needs to take its educational and credentialed training programs to the next level and, in turn, to create a work force pipeline that will attract companies that will locate in our area."

Eighteen months ago the NCI board adopted a comprehensive plan to make NCI a "Southside higher education juggernaut" and leader in the economic revitalization of the region, Stanley said. Now, he added, it is time to make that plan a reality.

"It is our obligation to ensure that educa-

tion leads the way in our community's economic rebirth, and I know that Karen will work with local public school systems, Patrick Henry and Danville community colleges, The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, and our state college and university academic partners to make sure that we provide our students the best educational opportunities" in Virginia."

Jackson said in the release that she is looking forward to working with NCI, its partners, board and regional leaders "to advance new, innovative opportunities in existing and emerging industries such as cybersecurity, data analytics and visualization, advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence,

and help position NCI to deliver industry-relevant training to support these quickly evolving fields."

According to Jackson's seven-page resume, she has a bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport University and a master of business administration degree from The College of William and Mary. She has held several positions with Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, has received numerous awards and served on several boards and commissions.

Dr. Angeline Godwin, president of Patrick Henry Community College, said Jackson's appointment creates an "extraordinary opportunity for us to leverage her experience and reputation as a visionary leader. I am thrilled about the endless possibilities for new joint ventures be-

tween PHCC and NCI with her at the helm."

NCI Board Vice Chairman Richard Hall also praised Jackson.

"As a former owner of an advanced manufacturing company in our region, I can tell you from personal and professional experience that the hiring of Secretary Jackson is a 'game changer' for industries, educators and our community at large, and more importantly will attract new industries back to our area that will employ our friends, family and neighbors in high-paying jobs.

"... We greatly appreciate the years of dedication of Dr. Blevins to the mission and growth of New College. We are absolutely thrilled to now have Secretary Karen Jackson leading New College into a future of growth and prosperity," he added.

Celebrating tradition

Area residents try their hands at inflatable games at the Field Festival portion of the June-German Ball/Juneteenth Celebration presented by the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) on June 21 at Albert Harris Elementary School. The event also featured Gospel groups, jazz exercises, martial arts demonstrations, additional games and vendors as well as the ball that night. June-German balls were traditional events in African-American communities, and FAHI Director Leutisha Galloway said it was recreated this year to help people learn about the tradition and keep it going. Juneteenth commemorates the anniversary of the end of slavery.



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A scale, believed to be original to the train depot, remains in the former cargo room of the depot. The original patina of the brick walls and wooden doors has been preserved.



Renovations are planned for the facades of some of the storefronts on the Reed Stone Block adjacent to the depot.

Depot

(cont. from page 1A)

placed it — the one still standing — was constructed between 1923 and 1927, he said.

“The best we can tell the original depot was red brick. Over time it was painted several times,” he said.

Numerous renderings were done in the process of selecting the outside cream and green paint colors for the renovation project, Bassett said. A committee of Nancy Spilman, Virginia Hamlet and Ruby Davis chose the final project colors, he added.

The new warming kitchen is on the south end of the building next to the former depot waiting room. One of that room’s unique features is a bowed window that enabled passengers to look down the tracks to watch for their train, Bassett said.

Next is a transition area between the waiting room and the cargo area. The floor there was raised to be handicapped accessible, and a wheelchair lift has been installed there so visitors can get to the cargo area.

Peter Morrison of Bassett Furniture has created a timeline, starting in the 1890s, that will be hung on the walls around that transition area. Bassett said the timeline is stored electronically so it can be updated as new historical information comes to light and rehung.

The former cargo room has a raised platform on one end for performances or presentations. The platform is lined with the remnants of old wooden doors that could not be reused. Modern restaurant doors will be used for most people to enter and exit the room, but the remaining original large sliding wooden doors can be opened if needed.

Parking will be available behind the building and next to the Reed Stone Street Block.

The vision is for the depot to be an event center for weddings, social gatherings, business meetings and other activities, Bassett said. When the renovation project is done, a manager will handle bookings, security and other details, he said, adding that the building has a 200-person capacity.

The building is privately owned by the nonprofit Henry

County Furniture Museum. The renovation project has cost \$892,929, which is being covered by the Appalachian Regional Commission (\$500,000), the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (\$200,000), and the Harvest Foundation (\$192,929).

The renovation plans were created by Hill Studios of Roanoke, and John Daniel Construction is the contractor for the project.

Next to the depot is the Reed Stone Block, where the facades of some storefronts will be removed and the brick will be cleaned and lightly stained in complimentary colors, Bassett said.

On one end of that block is a 10-foot wide section owned by the Bassett Furniture Foundation. An outdoor patio with a paver foundation, partial roof and gabion seating walls has been created there by Everything Outdoors. Inside, there are provisions for a kitchen, heating and air conditioning and other features, Bassett said.

A tenant is being sought for the property, he said, adding it could be suitable for a coffee shop or similar enterprise.

He added that the revitalization of the storefront facades and the development of the outdoor common areas should promote interest among businesses in local shops, services and eateries, and commerce and tourism will follow.

Finally, a welcome sign will be erected at Fairystone Park Highway and Carson Lane.

The Smith River Small Towns Collaborative was formed in 2013 to advance the communities of Philpott, Bassett, Stanleytown, Fieldale and Koehler.

Partners included the Harvest Foundation, Henry County Planning & Zoning and Parks and Recreation, Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp., West Piedmont Planning District Commission, Dan River Basin Association and community representatives from Bassett, Fieldale and Stanleytown.

The collaborative worked with those partners to map the “pearls of the community,” creating a vision, plans for develop-

ment and plans for greater curb appeal in the communities, according to Bassett.

“We always had a vision before that” for the depot “but no money,” he said. Once the project was identified as a “pearl,” grant funds could be sought, he added.

In 2016, grants were awarded to Henry County for Phase 1 revitalization. It is being funded with public and private money.



The warming kitchen features new appliances and countertops.



A patio area on one end of the Reed Stone Block has been created with a paver foundation, gabion seating walls, planters and partial roof. Inside, there are provisions for a kitchen, heating and air conditioning and other features.

Master Naturalist training will begin

Training for the Virginia Master Naturalist program will begin Aug. 13.

The program is a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the management of natural resources in our communities.

Basic training will be held at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville. Classroom instruction will be Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., and five Saturday field trips will be taken between Aug. 13 and Nov. 26.

Deadline for registration is Aug. 1. Tuition is \$60 and includes all materials. Military veterans’ tuition is half price.

The basic training course covers topics such as Virginia biogeography, core biology topics, ornithology and botany, management and conservation of ecol-

ogy systems, teaching and interpretive skills, research skills and others.

Graduates of the program will be Virginia Master Naturalists. To continue and become a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist requires eight hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service. Becoming a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist is not a requirement.

For more information about the program, including a downloadable registration application to participate in the upcoming training session, use the following contacts for the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter:

- Janice Walker, training coordinator; email SWPMNN@gmail.com
- Kathy Fell, president; email kathyfell@yahoo.com
- Chapter website: www.vmnh.net/virginia-master-naturalist-program
- State website: www.virginia-masternaturalist.org

Fieldale

(cont. from page 1A)

be needed, and that would allow for other uses of the building such as gym rentals.

“Gym space is at a premium in the area” and the center gets inquiries frequently about renting it, Kahle said. That would generate revenue for the rec center and also create traffic around it, he said.

Improvements already made to the facility and the opening of the pools have done that to some extent, but the ultimate goal is full use of the center, he said.

“Everyday there are 20 to 30 kids playing pickup basketball on the courts” and elsewhere on the center grounds, Kahle said. “It’s a really good sight. If they’re not playing ball, they might be getting in trouble.”

Because the Appalachian Regional Commission is on the federal fiscal cycle, the grant money will not be available until after October, Clark said. He anticipates that requests for proposals for the sustainability

study will go out in January.

The asbestos testing and report should only take a month or two, he added.

Once the asbestos report and sustainability study are done, Clark said ARC funds will be sought to implement the recommended changes.

Improvements to the community center are part of the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative, which is an effort to revitalize Fieldale, Bassett, Koehler and Stanleytown.

“From the beginning we’ve tried to do what we could for both Fieldale and Bassett. We’ve done a lot in Bassett,” including nearly completed improvements to the Bassett train depot and nearby facades, Clark said. “To be as fair and balanced as possible, we now are concentrating on the Fieldale Recreation Center. We want to do for them what we did for Bassett.”

ARC also helped fund the Bassett depot renovations, he said, calling the ARC one of the

“go-to funding sources for projects in this area.”

The latest grant is part of more than \$4.9 million in ARC grants announced June 10 by Gov. Ralph Northam. The grants will be used for 20 projects in the Appalachian Region of Virginia, which encompasses 25 counties and eight cities in Southwest Virginia, according to a release from Northam’s office. ARC will finalize approval of the project awards later this year.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was established in 1965 to help the region achieve economic prosperity that more completely reflects the nation’s overall prosperity. ARC funds are broadly aimed at providing economic development in the Appalachian Region.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) works with localities and stakeholders in the region to assist in developing strategic projects that are evaluated by DHCD and the governor.

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Economic success strategies topic of session

DANVILLE — GO Virginia Region 3 Council members recently spoke to 60 Lead Virginia participants on strategies for economic success.

GO Virginia Region 3 Chair Charley Majors gave an overview of GO Virginia, the Region 3 Council and the region's innovation strategies during the session held at The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville.

"Innovation is energizing. It creates the opportunities necessary for businesses to thrive. A challenge is that innovation itself can be a challenge to sustain over time," said council member James McClain of Martinsville, co-chair of the innovation committee.

McClain's remarks were followed by a panel called "Shaping the Way Forward Via Technology, Talent and Agriculture." Region 3 Council member Tim Clark shared information on the state of agriculture in southern Virginia and how strategic

partnerships are magnifying individual efforts.

He was joined by Dr. Julie Brown of the GOTEK program, the recipient of the largest GO Virginia investment to date from the GO Virginia Competitive Funding pool that provided up to \$4.9 million. Jeremy



GO Virginia Region 3 Council members (from left) Charley Majors, James McClain and Timothy Clark spoke about building a sustainable economy in rural Virginia to 60 Lead Virginia participants and alumni at The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville.

Satterfield, of Microsoft and SOVA Innovation Hub (another Region 3 project), added technology expertise to the conversation. GO Virginia Region 3 Program Manager and 2009 Lead Virginia Program Graduate Liz Povar moderated the afternoon's discussion.

Region 3 is overcoming the innovation challenge by supporting initiatives such as the SOVA Innovation Hub, a venture spear-

headed by Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities (MBC) Corp. in partnership with Microsoft Corp. The hub will be in South Boston and will increase access to technology while encouraging collaboration and economic opportunities.

Another way Region 3 is combating the forces of economic stagnation is by crowdsourcing.

In April, the Regional

Council announced a request for letters of interest from organizations in the Region 3 footprint open to creating a "regional entrepreneurial investment strategy." The council hopes to choose a lead for this project in the next few months.

GO Virginia is a state-wide business-led economic development initiative with funds to invest in collaborative projects that

lead to high-paying jobs in each region. Its mission is to encourage collaboration among business, education and government in each region. Its goal is to enhance private sector growth and opportunity, to increase economic competitiveness and to align workforce development programs with the needs of employers in the regions.

GO Virginia Region 3 is one of nine regions in Virginia. It includes the counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania and Prince Edward and the cities of Danville and Martinsville.

For more information, visit govirginia3.org and sign up for the Region 3 monthly newsletter or connect with GO Virginia Region 3 on Facebook or LinkedIn.

About Lead Virginia: Lead Virginia is a state-wide leadership program that gives professionals the opportunity to become familiar with the commonwealth's most experienced and talented leaders to build a resource of social capital.

For more information, visit <https://leadvirginia.org>.

Grassroots group tackles local environmental challenges

Virginia Organizing has started a conversation in Martinsville and Henry County to explore the effects of climate change and environmental issues in Southside Virginia.

At the Environmental Justice 101 workshop on May 21 at Patrick Henry Community College, Nik Belanger, organizing director of Virginia Organizing, facilitated a discussion with nearly 40 people about challenges concerning the environment and how they affect communities.

Recycling, litter, uranium mining, coal ash, logging without replanting, wetland destruction and a lack of renewable energy sources were a few topics discussed at the meeting. Many attendees, such as Martinsville resident Ellen Jessee, already are involved in various cleanup and conservation initiatives.

"We have to be smart about how we go about dealing with these issues," Jessee said. "None of the environmental issues we work on exist in a vacuum."

Pittsylvania County resident Dustin Evans spoke about his struggles in the Tidewater region of Virginia when Hurricane Isabel landed in 2003.

"We lived in a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

trailer for a while after Hurricane Isabel hit. We felt hopeless," Evans said. "We had to walk down the street to get meals from the Red Cross and had to rely on others for help during that time."

Belanger spoke about the science behind climate change. He highlighted the top culprits of greenhouse gas emissions including industry, transportation, electricity, agriculture/land use and commercial/residential sector emissions.

"We want a better way to repackage this information so people who are hesitant to accept the data can understand where we're coming from," Belanger said. "Climate change can affect health and mental health, as well as affect socioeconomic factors. Students are missing hours of instructional time from school because of floods. When schools have fewer instructional hours to report, that affects funding."

Some communities have worked to install solar panels on school buildings, expanded the public transportation system by incorporating electric buses, invested more in renewable energy and expanded local weatherization programs, according to Belanger. Attendees broke into



Nik Belanger (left), organizing director for Virginia Organizing, addresses the crowd along with volunteer Ophelia Griggs.

work groups to brainstorm what activities and actions can be implemented to help

Martinsville and Henry County deal with their environmental challenges. Ideas from the groups included encouraging farmers to plant more hemp, offering financial incentives for new buildings to install solar panels, developing better recycling programs locally and getting the faith-based community involved in spreading the message.

"We know when people work together, we can do it," Belanger said. "There have been times where we've seen big things that seemed impossible, but we've chipped away at it and have seen changes."

Belanger said Virginia Organizing works to create concrete improvements in people's lives, shift power to those who are affected and give

people a sense of their own power, he said.

The chapter meet at 6 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at Patrick Henry Com-

munity College in West Hall, room 227.

To find out more about Virginia Organizing, visit virginia-organizing.org.

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
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Monthly Publication
 Published The First Friday Of Each Month

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Center's new director has deep roots at Spencer-Penn

By Ginny Wray

Susan Sabin not only has family ties to the Spencer-Penn Centre. Now she is the center's executive director.

Sabin who had been assistant director of Spencer-Penn since 2017, became its executive director on June 15. She succeeds Mary Jordan, who formerly taught at the center when it was a school, spearheaded the movement to have it become a community center after the school closed and guided it through 15 years of growth.

"Mary was the driving force" behind the center, Sabin said recently. To have started with nothing and grown to the point where it is financially stable and hosts thousands of people each year "is huge. It's a big deal to see how far it has come. ... It's a testament to her (Jordan) and all she's done."

Sabin said when she became assistant director of Spencer-Penn, Jordan told her she would retire when Sabin was ready to take over. But Sabin said she wanted that decision to be Jordan's.

"Mary is like family to me. She's a good friend," Sabin said.

Jordan told her last winter that she might retire this fall, but this spring after a week off, Jordan moved that up to June. Her retirement was announced June 15 at the center's monthly music night, and she officially retired at midnight.

Sabin said she didn't think twice about accepting the executive director's job. Jordan had expressed confidence in her and "she never steered me wrong," Sabin said, adding that Jordan is available if she has questions or needs help.

Actually, she feels Jordan was gradually training her for the director's job when she was her assistant. "She was constantly saying, 'Now this is what this looks like' or 'This is what I do now,'" Sabin said.

As director, Sabin said now oversees the six-person staff and the SPICE tutors and the tutoring program. She also will continue to do everything she did as the assistant director, from scheduling classes and rentals, managing databases, writing articles for the newsletters and fundraising to "taking out the trash," she said with a laugh.

"You do whatever you've got to do," she added.

The center hold classes and camps, has a computer lab and library, sponsors music night and holds craft and vendor events, among many other activities. It is supported by grants and donations as well as its biggest fundraiser of the year, a pig cooking contest. In 2018 that contest drew more than 3,000 people to the center, and this year's event was only slightly smaller due to inclement weather.

"It's mind-blowing to me," Sabin said of those numbers. "I love seeing people walking in the hall. I love to hear the pitter-[at] of little feet and hear little giggles."

As for changes envisioned for the center, Sabin said she hopes to "continue to expand and grow what we've been doing. I want to grow our audience and grow opportunities and services we provide."

That means diversifying services and programs as the needs of the community change. It also means attracting more young people because Spencer-Penn alumni will not always be



Susan Sabin (left) is the new executive director of the Spencer-Penn Centre, succeeding Mary Jordan (right), who retired. They are shown at the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce luncheon in May when Sabin received Young Professional of the Year honor.

there to support the center, she said, adding that any change would be gradual.

But Spencer-Penn will remain a community center, Sabin said.

"We want to make sure it's sustainable and as valuable to our community as it is now. In 100 years, I want it to be as great a resource as it is now," she said. "Spencer-Penn has got a life of its own. ... If we are all willing to put in the work and have that passion, there's no reason it can't continue to grow."

Sabin grew up in Henry County, graduated from Patrick County High School and has a bachelor of arts

degree from Ferrum College. After college she worked for STEP in Rocky Mount and then did contract work for the Smart Beginnings program and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

One day she went to Spencer-Penn to talk with Jordan about summer camps to be held there and "the topic of assistant director came up," Sabin said. She applied for the job and was hired a few months later.

But she was no newcomer to the center. Her grandmother, father and

several cousins attended school there.

"I had a lot of memories here growing up," Sabin said. "I wanted to preserve" those memories and traditions.

She related how recently she found a photograph of her grandmother, the late Ramona Hall, at Spencer-Penn that she had never seen before. And at music night a local woman told her a story about her grandmother that she had not heard before.

"I would never have known that" if she had not gone to work at Spencer-Penn, Sabin said. "For someone so important to me to continue that, to hear the stories and see the pictures, it's special."

Sabin and her husband, Heath, an attorney in Martinsville, live in Horsepasture. Her mother and stepfather, Margie and Rodney Martin, live in Patrick County, and her father and stepmother, Kenneth and Audrey King, live in Ridge-way.

Sabin knows that Jordan retired twice before but returned both times. But she doesn't expect that to happen this time around.

"I plan on being here as long as they'll let me. If it was up to me, I'd retire from here," said Sabin, who will turn 30 on Aug. 4.



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Godwin to join board

JACKSON, Miss. — Patrick Henry Community College President Dr. Angeline Godwin has been named to the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Presidential Advisory Board.

She joins 38 other college presidents from across the nation on the board and will provide input into the organization's strategic plan, priorities and direction. Advisory Board members advocate for Phi Theta Kappa, its members and its mission; serve as liaisons between PTK headquarters and the college leaders in their states; and advise the society's executive director and other senior leaders.

Phi Theta Kappa provides scholarships and opportunities to its members for growth and development. The Presidential Advisory Board was established in 2015.

Godwin became the third president of Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) in 2012. Under her leadership, the college has seen an increase in high-demand programs and partnerships with area businesses and organizations. Before joining PHCC, she ran family-owned businesses in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Godwin served as vice president for research and development at the University of Southern Mississippi from 2002 to 2004 and as president and CEO of the Mississippi Technology Alliance and the Institute for Technology Development from 2000 to 2002. She was president of the Ashland Community and Technical College in Kentucky from 1997 to 2000.

She also has held



Angeline Godwin

administrative and teaching positions in Tennessee, Michigan and Florida. She is a first-generation college graduate with a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan and a doctorate in English from Florida State University. She also holds two master's degrees and a bachelor's degree and an associate degree from Gulf Coast Community College in Florida.

Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society that recognizes the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helps them grow as scholars and leaders. It has more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations.

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Ricky Walker (center), director of the ANCHOR Commission, shows improvements made to the boys' bunkhouse at Lee Ford Camp to The Harvest Foundation staff and two board members. A Harvest PUP! grant was used to buy bunkbeds for the facility.



William Kirby (from left) of the Harvest board; DeWitt House, senior program officer at Harvest, and Ricky Walker, director of the ANCHOR Commission which has the deed to Lee Ford Camp, tour the boys' bunkhouse at the camp. A Harvest grant was used to buy the beds shown here.

Lee Ford Camp improvements leading to increased use

By Ginny Wray

Lee Ford Camp is coming back to life, one project at a time.

Since 2016, partnerships and donations of money, materials and labor have been used to repair and upgrade the kitchen and bathroom in the main lodge, place gravel on trails, clear trees, improve a small cabin and more. The efforts are paying off with increased public use of the Ridgeway facility.

In the boys' bunkhouse, a Harvest Foundation Pick Up the Pace! (PUP) grant was used recently to buy double bunkbeds so the facility can serve an additional 16 campers. The money also was leveraged to raise another \$8,000 from the Martinsville Kiwanis for the work.

Also, the deck area on the boys' bunkhouse was

upgraded, the entry was repaired and improved and the screen door to the building was replaced. Other repairs were made to driveways and parking areas. Recently, The Harvest Foundation staff and two board members, Chairman David Stone and William Kirby, toured the camp to see the work being done there.

They saw the 1.5-acre lake, lodge, two bunkhouses, small cabin, picnic tables, climbing/rappelling tower, sports areas and six primitive camping sites.

"It will never be Five Star but it's very nice for what it is," said Ricky Walker, referring to luxury hotels that earn Five-Star ratings.

Walker is director of the ANCHOR Commission, which serves at-risk youth in the community and holds the deed to the 17-acre camp in Ridgeway.



This is the climbing tower and high ropes course at Lee Ford Camp. Repairs are needed to the ropes course's cable connections on trees.

The camp was created in the 1950s by a donation of land to the Martinsville Ki-

wanis Club from Heck and Mattie Ford in memory of their son, Lee Ford, who died in an Army training accident shortly after World War II. The Kiwanis Club and Charity League operated summer camps there for several years and have been consistent community partners with the camp, Walker said.

When the area's economy declined and the Kiwanis Club's membership shrank, it no longer could support the camp, he said. In 1999 the club deeded the camp to the ANCHOR Commission, and a major fundraising campaign was held to renovate the facility.

But by 2002, the camp's use declined and its condition deteriorated. When Walker retired from the Henry County Sheriff's Office and joined ANCHOR in 2016, he set to work to improve the camp's condition, he said.

Through partnerships with and support from area churches, civic groups, businesses and others, as well as labor from inmates of the Martinsville Sheriff's Office, the camp facilities have been added onto and improved, rotting wood has been replaced, grounds have been cleaned up and the lodge kitchen was upgraded, among numerous other projects.

In a move typical of the partnerships being used to improve the camp, the boys' beds that were replaced were donated to the HOPE Center's new facility for women in Pittsylvania County. Men from the Axton center assembled the new bunkbeds at Lee Ford Camp and in return, they will get to use the camp later this summer.

Also, security has not been an issue at the camp since a Henry County Sheriff's deputy moved into the former "staff house" near the entrance to the property. ANCHOR and a church helped fix up the house and the deputy and his family have made thousands of dollars worth of improvements to the home, Walker said.

"The Good Lord really has been looking after us since we've been here," Walker said, explaining that when a need arises, so does a solution.

In 2018, the camp was

rented 58 times and was host to nearly 2,000 people. The year before, the camp was rented 54 times and nearly every weekend between May and September. Four camp sessions were held for the first time since the mid 1990s, Walker said.

In all, 1,300 people used the facility in 2018, and 80 percent of them were under age 18, he said, adding that ANCHOR youth go to the camp often.

"Ninety percent of the referrals (booking use of the camp) are new people who came here for an event" and want to return with an activity or event of their own, Walker said.

The camp has hosted parties, reunions, Magna Vista High School JROTC Raider camps, holiday gatherings and more. Users are charged a \$75 donation for use of the lodge and \$25 per bunkhouse each night. All proceeds — roughly \$7,000 to \$9,000 a year — are used to provide electricity and maintain the facility.

Groups using the lake for activities such as swimming and boating must have a certified lifeguard present, Walker said.

This summer, about 40 youth from Tanzania will be there for a week through Teamwork Ministries, he said, adding that the goal is for them to build a new shelter at the camp if there is enough time to organize that effort.

There also is a climbing tower and high ropes course on the property. Walker said they were inspected this year for the first time since 2002 and it was determined that the ropes course's cable connections on trees need work, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Repairs and renovations to the camp are designed to serve the next generation of campers, Walker said.

"I want to get back to the 1970s-90s when it was used all the time," he said.

Walker's work at Lee Ford Camp came about through his job with ANCHOR but is not part of it, he said. Instead, "it's a labor of love," he said. "It's a great asset of the area."

"Thank you for your passion. Thank you for your hard work," Harvest President Allyson Rothrock told Walker.

PRIDE celebration held in Martinsville



Martinsville's first PRIDE celebration was held Saturday, June 15 at Shindig Uptown Bistro and Catering.

TGIF draws huge crowd



Music fans filled the Uptown Martinsville Farmers Market on June 21 for the first TGIF concert of the 2019 season. The next concert will begin at 7 p.m. July 19 in the Broad Street Parking Lot and will feature Stone Canyon.

Sponsors pitch in for Celebration 2019

Dozens of area companies, organizations and individuals stepped up to help sponsor Celebration 2019.

The celebration was held July 4 at the Martinsville Speedway. It was the 21st year of the event that features live music, carnival rides for children and a fireworks display, all without charge.

"Definitely in the community, it is a tradition," said Jeb Bassett, who has spearheaded fund-raising efforts for the celebrations for several years. "Sponsors recognize that and realize it's Clay's goal always to be a free event for

the public. That's why sponsors are asked to support the event."

Bassett was referring to Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway which has hosted the celebrations since they began.

Bassett and a committee of four other people send letters to potential sponsors, alerting them that the event is coming up and that they will be called on to help. They are receptive when contacted, he added.

This year, dozens of sponsors contributed to the celebration, an increase from last year's number, Bassett said.

"We relied heavily on certain sponsors for a number of years," he said. Now, "we try to spread it around to recruit more (sponsors) so it is not a burden."

The amounts each contributed varied, Bassett said, declining to elaborate on actual donations.

Following is a list of the Celebration 2019 sponsors:

Adkins Construction; American Global Logistics; American National Bank; Ameristaff; Amy Pace Lampe, CPA; Appalachian Power; Applied Felts; Arconic; Bassett Funeral Home; Bassett Furniture; Bassett Office Supply; BB&T;



This is a fireworks display from a previous Celebration event at the Martinsville Speedway. (Martinsville Speedway Photo)

Bea Frick; Beeson Industrial Supply; Blue Ridge Aquaculture; Blue Ridge Bank; Blue Ridge Gymnastics; Bubba Judy; Burton & Company Insurance; Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth; Campbell Family Group; Carter Bank and Trust; City of Martinsville; Collinsville Printing; Cool Knobs and Pulls; Cunningham Tire; Debbie's Catering; David and Cindy Cunningham; Dillon Insurance; Doris Berry and Rod Berry; Eastern Panel; Eastman and Commonwealth Laminating; Faneuil; Fidelity Bank; First Piedmont; and Food Lion Corp.

Also, Frith Construction; G.S. Industries; Gary Collins of Stifel; Georgia Pacific; Henry County; Henry County Sheriff's Office; Hooker Furniture; J&R Management; King's Mountain Animal Clinic; Light Electric Co.; Lightning Transportation; Martinsville Bulletin; Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce; Martins-

ville Smiles; Monogram Foods; Morris & Morris Dentistry; Nationwide Insurance; Brad Parker Insurance Agency; Nelson Automotive; One Hour Martinizing; Pepsi; Quirk Design and Build Construction; Raceway Ministries; Sarver Cleaning Service; Scott Insurance/Joel Nichols; Shenandoah Furniture; Southeastern Wood Products; and Southern Virginia Proper-

ties. Also, Southwest Virginia Gas; Soval Health; Stataline Heart & Vascular; Steve Martin Trenching; Stone Dynamics; Sunbelt Rentals; Tarheel Paper & Supply Co.; The Greene Co.; The Lester Group; The Results Companies; TR Properties; ValleyStar Credit Union; Virginia Mirror; West Window; Zenith Logistics; and Martinsville Speedway.

Mustangs' fireworks



Martinsville Mustangs fans were treated to their first fireworks display of the season on June 21. More fireworks were to be held July 5, and the final event for the season is scheduled on Aug. 1.

Historical society's new board members



The Martinsville-Henry Historical Society has named new board members to serve three-year terms. They are (from left) Jay Dickens, Eric Monday, Ann Martin, Zack Fleming and John Phillips. Other members of the board are Virginia King, president; Bob Tuggle, vice president; Joyce Staples, secretary; Debbie Hall, treasurer; Dr. Barry Dorsey; Glenn Wood; and Lisa Martin. (Contributed photo)

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Strayer

(cont. from page 1A)

ple in the schools. She always said you've got to do that," Strayer said in a recent interview.

In Strayer's case, taking care of people means working to make sure students have relevant instruction, rich curriculum and rigorous assessment. For teachers, it means challenging them to try innovative things while recognizing that "they're in the trenches. They make us look good," she said. For parents and the public, it means making time to listen to their concerns, understanding the skills their businesses need and helping rebuild the area's economy.

That is a tall order for someone who has been school superintendent only since November. She was interim superintendent before that, but it is her 27 years in the Henry County Schools that have taught Strayer what she wants and needs to accomplish on the job.

Strayer succeeded Dr. Jared Cotton as superintendent. She was a member of his senior leadership team, and she said he encouraged her to be the system's next superintendent. She also cited the example she saw set by Joe DeVault, retired school administrator and now a member of the Henry County School Board that hired Strayer as superintendent.

"I wanted to follow in Joe's footsteps," she said.

Strayer joined the school system in 1992-93, teaching government, drama and economics at Bassett High School for 10 years. She then became assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville High School; returned to Bassett High as assistant principal after consolidation; became principal of Collinsville Primary in 2005-06; and in 2010 moved to the school board office where she held a variety of jobs.

"I still have the heart of a teacher," she said. "My heart is with the students. I love being with the kids."

Someday Strayer hopes to return to teaching and the satisfaction of having a student say she challenged, inspired or believed in him, that he would not have succeeded if not for her.

Now, she hopes to get a similar reaction on a larger scale.

"I'm all about inspiring people," she said, whether they are students in the classroom or parents to become more involved or community members to share their knowledge and expertise.

Strayer said she has faced challenges in her first year as superintendent. Foremost among those challenges is finding enough time to meet with people and determine how to improve the schools and student learning.

The system also has



been hit by numerous staff vacancies, Strayer said. It was coincidental, but the system lost numerous key people through attrition who had been in critical roles for a long time, and it still is not fully staffed, she said.

"Now we have a relatively young staff," she said, adding that she just turned 50.

Strayer also has learned that she has to depend on people around her. That includes her leadership team, which is the same as when Cotton was superintendent, as well as people to keep her calendar and answer her phone.

She also has ideas she would like to implement, some of which are updated versions of past programs. For instance, she and Dr. Cotton both believed that all students should have the same opportunities. "I want to expand that, but that's going back to where we were," she said, citing the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that used to be called vocational classes.

To ensure all county students have the same opportunities in those areas, the system has started the Career Academy with programs in agriculture, cosmetology, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and industrial maintenance at the former Figsboro Elementary School. Instead of having some of those programs at each high school, all county students now have access to them at the Career Academy.

Strayer also believes all high school seniors should have internships to help determine their career paths. The O! Henry internship program thrived under Gloria Foley, but since she retired it has been hard to find businesses and organizations that can take interns, Strayer said.

Ideally, Strayer said the school system would be able to offer each child a pathway into the future he or she wants with a broad range of courses.

What she does not want is to hear students say, "I'm from Henry County and I can't do that," she said, adding that she wants students to take advantage of opportunities at, say, Patrick Henry Community College, Pied-

mont Arts and other venues to see orchestras and plays and athletic events and more.

If she could wave a magic wand, she would create "more exposure and opportunities for our students," Strayer said, adding that in recent years educators have done surveys and taken other steps to ensure they have added programs that students want.

Partnerships are an important part of that, so Strayer has met with local government and economic development groups, attended community meetings, and talked with people to build community relations and let people know she values their feedback.

"The best part is hearing the support" of people when she was named superintendent, Strayer said. "I was pleasantly shocked at all the people who felt I was approachable, who wanted to come and let me know of problems." She added that she cannot fix everything but she tries to listen to people, to let them know the reasons behind decisions and to know they are appreciated.

Strayer's competitive nature comes out when she talks about her relationship with Gracie Agnew, also a veteran educator finishing her rookie year as head of school at Carlisle. She and Agnew worked together at Fieldale-Collinsville High School and they, along with Dr. Zeb Talley, superintendent of Martinsville Schools, meet regularly and work together when possible.

"The thing about Gracie and I, if you're not first, then you're last. She thinks she's the best and I know I am," Strayer said, laughing. "She wants her kids to have the best but I do, too. I'm sure Dr. Talley feels the same."

But Agnew's scale is far smaller, with only 340 students, compared to 7,100 in Henry County. Both sizes have opportunities and challenges, Strayer said.

"We are all competitive. We want to win the game," she said. But, she added, "It's a good competitive. We want kids to aspire to be better, coaches to work hard" and teachers to do the same.



Agnew

(cont. from page 1A)

heaven."

That is because she said her work at the private Carlisle School has allowed Agnew to go back to doing what she and other educators believe is right for the students, not solely what the state dictates.

Agnew explained that when she started teaching English in Henry County Schools in 1974-75, she and others created a pilot honors English program.

"It was exciting," she recalled recently. "We got to design the curriculum and teach students the way we knew they needed to be taught. It was an exciting time for me as a teacher because from the ground up, I was part of the planning."

"Fast forward to 2018," Agnew continued. "I now have the opportunity to come to a school where it's all about doing what you know is right and good in terms of education, where you, along with the teachers and educators can make those decisions without being dictated by the state."

Agnew also told the story of her last year as principal at Bassett High School when the state sent out a notice that it was changing the kind of calculator to be used on Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Agnew said she had just bought new calculators to replace old ones but they did not meet the new state requirement.

"We had no control. Whether it was right or wrong, we didn't have a voice. Here, we have a voice," she added.

Agnew became Carlisle's head of school after Tommy Hudgins left the job last summer. She said she brought her passion for education and her love of children to Carlisle, and she found a strong curricula anchored by the goal of always having excellence in education.

"We trust teachers and we trust administrators to make sure the curriculum is strong and is being taught effectively to all students," Agnew said. "You do that by making sure you have the right teachers in place, and we do. We have teachers who are passionate and who want to be here."

Teachers are able to provide differentiating instruction, which means considering each child as an individual and teaching according to his or her learning style, Agnew said. "Teachers have the tools in place to take that child where he needs to be."

"Differentiation means not all children learn the same way, not all children achieve at the same level. But your goal is to make sure each child achieves according to that child's ability," she added.

Carlisle teachers set the bar high for students, Agnew said, holding her hand up above her head. "The expectation is to bring the child up, never to teach to the middle. We don't automatically think a child can't do (something); we think they can. If you believe in them, they will want to please you. They will bring everything out of themselves to make sure they give you 110 percent," she said.

Agnew said she is "reaping the rewards" of the quality education Carlisle is known for. "I think Carlisle has always had a sense of family, a sense of excellence. It always welcomed parents' involvement. I'm here to take it to the next level," she said.

That means not just offering a STEM program of science, technology, engineering and math. Next year, she said, Carlisle will have a STEAM Academy, adding arts to the mix. It will start with pre-kindergarten children learning coding and continue through all 12 grades at the school, Agnew said.

"We will not cut fine arts," she said. "We recognize the importance of fine arts in a child's education," so it is incorporated throughout the curriculum.

The same is true for writing and community service, Agnew said, adding that students in all grades have to complete a certain number of community service hours each year.

Carlisle offers Spanish lessons in all grades, starting in pre-kindergarten. Next year French will be added, and Agnew said she is attempting to implement Mandarin instruction as well.

"When we said we want to prepare students to be global citizens, it has to start with pre-kindergarten," she said.

The AP Capstone program also will begin in the fall. That will allow seniors to earn another diploma or certificate by taking additional research and seminar classes, she said. "That's what colleges want to see, that students have taken the classes and done well," she added.

Despite her satisfaction in what she is doing at Carlisle, Agnew said there have been challenges, including "stepping into a role more like a superintendent."

With the Henry County schools, she had been a principal and was comfortable administering a school. But at Carlisle she oversees the lower school, middle school and high school, which is "more like a superintendent if you equate it to Henry County," she said.

That also meant she had to learn how to work with the board that governs the school, something she had not done before. "We have a partnership but I have to understand I answer to the board," she added.

Carlisle began the school year with 340 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, and growing that enrollment to 400 students is a priority in the coming year. To do that, Agnew said the school will do a better job of marketing itself.

"If you're looking for a choice and if you want that special touch and if you want an education that is truly individualized for your child, then it's right in your backyard. It's all about choice," she said.

Agnew has been friends with Sandy Strayer, who also is completing her rookie year as superintendent of Henry County Schools, for many years. Agnew was principal and Strayer was assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville when it was a high school, and "we still work together," Agnew said.

Both Agnew and Strayer said they meet and work together, their staffs are invited to each other's professional development events, and they share experiences with things such as dismissing classes for inclement weather.

"I'm not sure who has the more difficult job," Agnew said. "With me, it's smaller. But it doesn't matter how small it is. We're on an equal level because we want a successful school division and that's what we're striving for. The way we get there might be a little different."

Three local schools cited for improvements

Three area schools have been selected to receive the 2019 Board of Education's Continuous Improvement Award through the Exemplar School Recognition Program.

Martinsville Middle School and Martinsville High School, as well as Magna Vista High School in Henry County, are among 183 school statewide that

will receive the award. A school receives this award for being accredited or accredited with conditions and significantly improving academic and school quality indicators for each of the past three years, according to a press release from the Martinsville Schools.

Schools must demonstrate one or more of the following: an increase in the academic

achievement of all students in reading or math; an increase in academic achievement for two or more student groups in reading and math; an increase in attendance; or an increase in graduation rates and a decrease in students who drop out of high school, the release states.

Magna Vista Principal Charles Byrd said the award is a "testament to the hard

work and dedication of the faculty and staff of Magna Vista High School. The undying commitment of our staff and parents to the success of the students in our community shows each day as they work to do their very best for every student, all of whom work so diligently to achieve the educational goals they have set for themselves."

According to a release from Monica Hatchett, director of communications & organizational learning with the county schools, the school staff works closely with students starting in the ninth grade to keep them on track to graduate with their cohort group. For the past several years, graduation rates in the school division have held steady, she stated.

Moore

(cont. from page 1A)

(VMNH) in 1996 and was assistant director of research and collections for two years. Since 2007 she has been the VMNH curator of archaeology, conducting research, curating collections and conducting educational and outreach programming related to archaeology.

Moore said is proud of her work to develop the lab and collections at VMNH.

"When I first came here there were 50 or so specimens in the archaeology collections, and they were mostly casts for educational purposes. Our lab was the top of a storage cabinet outside my office, and the collections all fit in that storage cabinet," she said. "Now we have wonderful, extensive collections" and a lab with the only accessible collection for animal remains in the state.

That collection has nearly 400 animal skeletons that can be accessed by researchers, students and scholars, she added.

Moore's career research has focused on how faunal remains—bones, shells, hides,



Dr. Elizabeth Moore shows a cabinet of her favorite type of research collection, animal bones, at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Moore recently was named the state archaeologist for Virginia.

etc., and molecular vestiges of DNA or proteins — can offer insight into the ways "people in the Middle Atlantic region have used animals and food through time for subsistence, economics, ceremonial, and social purposes, particularly in Virginia and Maryland," she said.

Also at VMNH, Moore has overseen laboratory analysis and investigation of artifact collections recov-

ered during DHR field schools on the Eastern Shore's Northampton and Accomack counties and in Virginia Beach. She also has participated in and led volunteers during many of those annual and semi-annual events, which DHR co-sponsors with the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), and Council of Virginia Archaeologists (CoVA), and the US Forest Services' Passport in Time program.

Dr. Joe Keiper, executive director of VMNH, praised the collections Moore amassed, calling them unique and enduring contributions.

"She was probably the most active zooarchaeologist in the state," he said, adding that field studies animal remains at Virginia Indian sites. "There are research collaborators all over the state who covet her skills."

Also since 2007, Moore has served as chairman of DHR's State Review Board (SRB), which advises DHR register program staff about historic properties under early consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

"As chair of the State Review Board,

Dr. Moore has offered wise counsel on all properties that go before the board, not just archaeological sites," said DHR Director Julie V. Langan. "But her advocacy for, and knowledge about below ground historic resources, combined with her expertise in the field and in the lab, means she has made significant contributions already to DHR's register program and the agency's mission."

During her career in Virginia, Moore has served as president of the ASV, as a member of CoVA's Collections Committee and as Virginia's state coordinator for public archaeology with the Society for American Archaeology. She is a member of many other professional organiza-

tions, and in 2015 the ASV recognized her as "Professional Archeologist of the Year."

Moore is the author or co-author of numerous technical reports and articles in professional journals and also has authored contributing chapters in edited books.

A native of New York, she earned her doctoral and master's degrees in anthropology from The American University in Washington D.C., and her undergraduate degree from State University of New York at Potsdam.

The previous state archaeologist, Dr. Michael Barber, retired from DHR in March.

Moore added that she was not looking to leave VMNH but was attracted to the state post because "it's such a unique position and exceptional opportunity," she said. "There is only one (state archaeologist) per state. It is a capstone position for a career."

Keiper said VMNH will launch a search for Moore's successor in Martinsville in late summer, timing it with the academic calendar. He said it could take a year to fill the position.

In the meantime, a staff member will keep the VMNH lab archaeology lab open and active, and VMNH will be open to any collaborative initiatives Moore seeks in her new job, Keiper said.

"She's still part of the family but in a different role," he added.



A footbridge is in place across Mulberry Creek (left) on the newest section of the Dick & Willie Passage trail. At right, a rest room facility is being constructed at the trailhead on Spruce Street.

Dick & Willie Trail's newest section nearly finished

Acquisitions start for final leg of route

By Ginny Wray

As the newest section of the Dick & Willie Passage trail nears completion, right-of-way acquisitions are being completed for the final section of the more than 10-mile route.

The final section, called 6A, is in the design phase, according to Henry County Engineer Tim Pace. He said the path was changed numerous times because some property owners were not willing to give up their rights of way, but now option agreements have been secured for the route.

"It is not what we wanted, but it will allow us to construct (the trail) where it ends on the current Dick & Willie to the trailhead on Spruce Street," Pace said.

Once that section is done, the Dick & Willie will be more than 10 miles one way. Section 6A is 2.7 miles

long. It starts along Mulberry Creek where the Dick & Willie now ends, turns and follows Spruce Street for about a mile to the trailhead, he said. A sidewalk on Spruce will be used or modified for the project, he added.

The crossing at Spruce will have to meet Virginia Department of Transportation specifications, according to Pace. The final design has not been determined, but it could include things such as pavement markings, signs, flashing lights or all those things, he said.

From that trailhead, the path picks up the section that is nearly finished. That 2.5-mile section goes from Spruce Street to Sam Lions Trail, Country Club Drive and ultimately the Smith River Sports Complex.

Officials had expected that section to be completed

by May, but rainy spring weather and then the addition of a rest room facility at the trailhead delayed it, Pace said. Now, barring more heavy rain over several days at a time, it should be done in August, he said.

Since the rain stopped, the contractor has been working non-stop to get caught up, he said. A footbridge of Mulberry Creek was put in place in mid-May, and a large segment of a wall on the lower end close to the sports complex was nearly done in mid-June.

Grading and paving, which are the last major construction items, should be done in mid-July, Pace said. He anticipated that paving would take two to three weeks.

The rest room facility was added to the trail after the path was changed to accommodate residents' complaints about the trail running behind their homes in the Country Club Drive area. The trail now will run along that street, which freed construction funds that were diverted to the

rest room project, Pace said.

The rest room is being constructed at the parking area in the trailhead. It will be similar to some structures at the sports complex, Pace said, with a stacked rock look at the bottom and then brick further up.

"We wanted it to be nice because it's on the road" and visible to passersby, he said. "It will be pleasing and not just a (painted) cinderblock building."

Picnic tables, benches, trash cans, signage and other features will be added to the trail as it is completed, Pace said.

The final section of the trail, 6A, could be finished in early 2021 if all goes well, according to Pace. It is a VDOT project using federal highway funds so it has to meet state and federal regulations and guidelines, he said.

He hopes the project will go to bid in early 2020 and be ready to start construction by spring. The approximately \$1.4 million section likely will take about 12 months to finish, he added.

VDOT will fund 80 percent of that section, and Henry County funds should cover most of the rest of the cost, he said.

When the entire trail is completed, he said it will have cost about \$4 million.

Pace praised the work of the project's contractor, Norris Construction, for dealing with the weather delays and said he hopes the experience does not deter the company from working with the county again in the future.

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

MARC Workshop posts 50th year of serving community

By Ginny Wray

For 50 years, MARC Workshop Inc. has helped residents of Martinsville and Henry County with intellectual disabilities reach their maximum potential.

It does that by providing programs and services that help them build social and other skills so they can better fit into the community and realize their full potential, according to MARC's vision, mission and objectives.

"The biggest thing our services provide is skill building, social engagement and community" to integrate participants into the community as much as possible, said Melody Justice, director of MARC.

"We try to facilitate an air of acceptance for them" and work with them in the community on things such as appropriate behavior, she added. "I feel we also give them a sense of purpose. They have a place to go every day" and sometimes volunteer on projects that help the community.

But as the community has changed in half a century, so has MARC Workshop. It was created before the public schools began offering special education services, and for many years after that its participants provided products and services for local businesses and industries. But as companies closed or left the area, the workshop evolved into a day support program.

With that, its mission changed. No longer is it a sheltered workshop focused on training and employment services for its participants. Now, it seeks to help them learn and gain life experiences and skills to develop their abilities as much as possible. It also recognizes that these people may function best in a supportive atmosphere that provides guidance and "directional assistance," its objectives state.

Even MARC's name has changed with the times. For decades MARC stood for the Martinsville Association of Retarded Citizens. Now, MARC is an acronym for Making Another Right Choice and the people it serves are individuals with intellectual disabilities. Those changes reflect verbiage that is right for the times, Justice said.

MARC dates back to 1962 when the Martinsville-Henry County Women's Club and the Martinsville-Henry County Mental Health Association formed a committee to assess the education

and vocational needs of residents with intellectual disabilities in the area. As a result of that study, the Martinsville Association of Retarded Citizens (MARC) was organized, according to a history compiled by MARC.

A three-phase project was designed to meet those residents' needs:

- Classes for trainable children, which became the MARC School.

- A sheltered workshop, which became MARC Work-

shop Inc.

- A sheltered living facility, which never was created.

The MARC School opened on Aug. 20, 1964, at the First Baptist Church in Martinsville. It operated there for five years until the Henry County and Martinsville school systems began serving students in need of special education.

In April 1969 the MARC Workshop Inc. opened on Jordan Street in Martinsville with three people receiving services.

William C. Ham, the first director of the workshop, and Barbara May, his assistant, trained all the students at that time.

"The shop faculty and other interested citizens feel that the workshop, as opposed to an institutionalized approach, is one of the outstanding developments in the history of the county and the city," according to an April 13, 1969, article in the Martinsville Bulletin.

By November of that year, the workshop was serv-

ing 22 individuals and had room for 80 more, a Henry County Journal article stated. To learn skills in hopes of joining the area's work force, they made plastic ice scrapers and golf tees, lead needles for Pannill Knitting Co. and denim bags for the local DuPont plant. Another local company contracted for the workshop to make workmen's aprons for tools using sewing machines from Sale Knitting Co.

The individuals were paid for their work.

"This is a plain, common-sense down to earth business approach," Ham said at that time. "We're trying to get these children ready to go into industry, and they must be taught what to expect when they get there."

By 1979, the MARC Workshop was an approximately \$250,000 a year operation. The following year it won a \$116,000 state contract for plastic dining utensils. It was the first state contract ever awarded to a workshop for the handicapped in Virginia, and it increased MARC's production of spoons, forks and knives by 12 million pieces, published reports stated.

A RECORD OF SERVICE

In addition to MARC's contracts for products and services, it had contracts with the Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Medical Assistant Services, Piedmont Community Services, Henry County Public Schools and Martinsville Schools.

On MARC's 20th anniversary in 1989, Marian Pearson, a supervisor at the workshop, told the Martinsville Bulletin that she was an example of the opportunities MARC provided. She was one of the three clients when the workshop opened because she was recuperating from an illness. As a result of her training at MARC, she became able to provide for herself, took courses at Patrick Henry Community College and worked her way into a supervisory position at MARC, she said.

A decade later, MARC had served more than 300 clients and helped more than 60 of them obtain jobs outside the workshop. More than 50 high school students also had received MARC services at no cost to the local governments, according to Justice.

(See MARC p. 2B)



The Dry Bridge School on Jordan Street was constructed in 1929 with a Rosenwald Grant, designed to build schools to serve African-American children in the South. It was renamed the East Martinsville School when it joined the Henry County School System, and became the home to MARC Workshop in 1969. Today, MARC hopes to plan and find funds for its restoration.



Melody Justice (from left), director of MARC Workshop, is shown with Tonya Green, who participates in MARC, and her mother, Deborah Green, at the workshop.

Family finds friends, fun, safety at MARC Workshop

Tonya Green likes the social setting and interacting with friends at the MARC Workshop. Her mother likes the peace of mind she has when Tonya is at MARC.

"I can't find the words," Deborah Green said of her daughter's participation at the workshop in Martinsville that serves people with intellectual disabilities. "It's refreshing, wholesome. For me, it's peace of mind."

She knows her daughter is in a safe environment at MARC, and "she wouldn't come if they didn't treat her well. They might spoil her a little too much. It's good for them; not good for me," Deborah Green said, with a laugh.

Tonya Green was quick to say why she likes spending her days at the workshop.

"I like to be around friends and talk and have a good time," she said.

Tonya Green, now 49, started going to the MARC Workshop when she was 11, spending part of her days in school and part at the workshop. She graduated from Fieldale-Collinsville High School around 1987 and said she liked school.

"I didn't get in no trouble, nothing like that," she added.

In fact, Green "still talks about going

back to school," said her mother, who lives in Villa Heights.

In the later years at MARC, Tonya said she did piece work on a machine that made plastic utensils.

"I enjoyed it because I did 20 boxes a day" and was busy, she said.

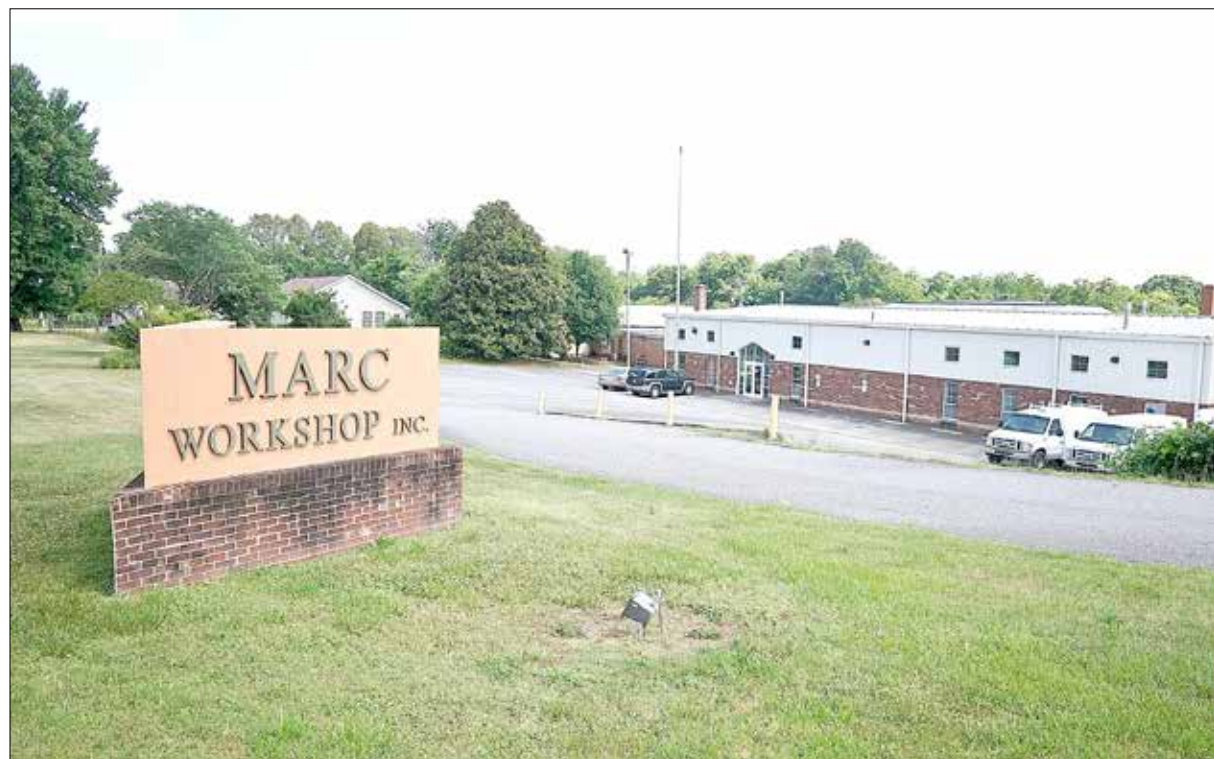
She also was paid for her work. "I wanted to make money," she said. The money was "pretty good," and she used it to buy food, she said with a laugh.

But times and the Martinsville area economy changed. Contracts for things such as plastic utensils and other items MARC participants worked on dried up.

Green said she stopped coming to MARC in 2015 when it closed a consignment shop it had operated and where she had worked. A year later it ceased to operate as a sheltered workshop and transitioned into a day support program, still located on Jordan Street where it began in 1969.

It now helps participants learn social skills and behaviors that help them integrate into the community. They go on field trips, seek volunteer opportunities in the community and learn about computers, among other things.

(See Green p. 2B)



The Lucy Pannill Sale Building is the most visible of MARC's three buildings between Jordan Street and East Church Street (U.S. 58).



A door with an arched entry is just one example of the character of the former school that became MARC Workshop in 1969.

Green

(cont. from page 1B)

Funding for the 14 people now served at MARC come from Medicaid waivers or Piedmont Community Services, according to MARC Director Melody Justice. When funds for Tonya Green to return to MARC were found this year, she started back in February.

"It's very nice to come back," she said.

Green now spends three days a week at MARC, and that would be expanded to five days if funding could be found, Justice said.

Her days at MARC are full. "We do crafts, go to convenience stores, eat lunch, go to the park," Green said. She and the other participants had an Easter party and cook-

out, and they play corn hole and other games.

Although she said she would rather be working, Green add that "it's still OK" at MARC.

Deborah Green said Tonya will stay at MARC as long as the funding lasts. In the meantime, Tonya will continue to look for work, her mother added.

That is difficult in this area, Justice said. Job opportunities here are limited, unlike larger areas where there are more employers to draw from, she said.

If she was not at MARC, Deborah Green said her daughter would be "home playing with the dog, doing home stuff ... cleaning, washing. Helping mom do those things."

Tonya grimaced as her mother said that.



Tonya Green is shown in the 1990s working at MARC Workshop on a machine that made plastic eating utensils. She could produce 20 boxes of the utensils a day, she said.

MARC

(cont. from page 1B)

according to a Martinsville Bulletin article.

At that time, its work included packaging screws for furniture and window companies, labeling items, stuffing envelopes, making corner pads for packaged furniture and plastic tableware, custom sewing and making graduated beakers. The workshop had 15 staff members and 40 clients, with a waiting list.

Community support for the workshop always has been strong. It has four binders of newspaper clippings, photographs and mementoes, many detailing donations and contributions from area companies and

groups as well as certificates of recognition from numerous groups.

With the help of grants from the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, which had helped support MARC since 1969; The Harvest Foundation; the state; and others, MARC created brain injury services in 2004. That continued until 2015 when it was taken over by the nonprofit Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia in Roanoke.

Four years later, MARC assumed ownership and operations of the W.C. Ham work program and facilities.

Among other services, MARC also established mobile employment services in lawn maintenance,

moving assistance and commercial document destruction as well as a consignment shop called the CellarChest. That was disbanded in 2015.

CHANGING COMMUNITY

In the early 2000s, many local furniture and textile industries closed or left, costing the area thousands of jobs.

The change also cost MARC the contracts on which it had depended for a large percentage of its income and work for participants. MARC also lost four participants who were hired at Nilit to do work they had done at the workshop.

Now, "forks and spoons are cheaper from China," said Justice, who has been director of MARC since March 2018.

Also, the federal waiver program for sheltered workshops was redesigned to require that participants be paid at least minimum wage. By the time MARC ended its production, it had only one person who produced items at that rate, Justice said.

In all, MARC has provided training and employment services to more than 550 people. Of those, about 90 eventually joined the work force, Justice said.

In 2016 MARC transitioned into a day support program. Services now are individualized for each participant and focus on skills for independent living and behavioral modification, she said.

Participants go on outings at least once a week, often placing "happy rocks" they have decorated around the community, and they recently started a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program at the Blue Ridge Regional Library. An art teacher works with the group, and participants are learning computer skills.

In addition, MARC is starting a volunteer program. Participants are rolling newspapers for the SPCA, and Justice said she is "trying to find more things like that to help the community know we have value and worth."

The workshop now serves 14 individuals and could handle a total of 17. It is licensed by the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Medical Assistant Services.

BUILDINGS ALSO CHANGE

When MARC Workshop opened in 1969, it was in the former Dry Bridge School on Jordan Street.

That building had been constructed in 1929 with a Rosenwald Grant, designed to build schools to serve African-American children in the South.

The Dry Bridge School's name was changed to the East Martinsville School when it became part of the Henry County School System.

A second building on the campus was constructed in 1958, and both buildings operated as East Martinsville School until 1968. MARC moved in the following year and the property was deeded to the MARC Workshop Inc. by Martinsville City Council on Sept. 15, 1999.

When the buildings needed renovations to become modern and meet MARC's service needs, MARC's board began the organization's first fund-raising campaign. It culminated in construction of the 7,500-square-foot Lucy Pannill Sale Building, which opened in July 2002 and completed the three-building campus that remains today.

MARC is not using the Sale building, and Justice would like to find a tenant for it, possibly for production distribution or a new business.

She also hopes to find grants and other funds to restore the Rosenwald school building as well as make repairs to the 1958 building.

MARC has held fund-raisers, and it gets assistance from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia-Martinsville, designated funds with the United Way, funding from Medicaid waivers for participants and Piedmont Community Services funding for participants. It does not receive any money from Martinsville or Henry County, Justice added.

She came to MARC seven years ago to work in the brain injury services. She is a graduate of Bassett High School and Radford University.

In addition to Justice, directors of MARC have included Ham; Franklin P. Foard; Hugh Poole; Jeff Krantz; Jay Church; Catherine Wingfield, who was the assistant director when the director's job was not filled; David Draper; and co-directors Steve Purcell (who focused on production) and Carlton Redd (who oversaw rehabilitation services, billing and related areas).

In the future, Justice said the workshop will continue.

"The need is there. You talk to parents and it's a lifesaver for them, and it allows them that break to rejuvenate," she said.

A reception will be held later this year to celebrate MARC Workshop's anniversary, Justice added.

Mountain bike race is July 13

The Sledgehammer XC Mountain Bike Race will be held July 13 at the Mountain Laurel Trails biking complex in Ridgeway.

The Southern Classic MTB Series will travel to Ridgeway for the first time this year for the inaugural Sledgehammer XC race. The event is being hosted by the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.'s Tourism Office (Visit-Martinsville) and Mountain Laurel Trails.

The Sledgehammer is the final race in the USA Cycling Virginia State Championship Series. According to USAcycling.org, "Within the United States, USA Cycling is the national governing body for the sport of cycling and oversees the disciplines of road, track, mountain bike, cyclocross, and BMX."

Online pre-registration for the race will be available through July 12. On-site registration will begin at 9 a.m.

The facility also will open to the public at 9 a.m., and the first heat race will start at 10 a.m.

Racers must be licensed by USA Cycling to participate. One-day licenses will be available for \$10 at registration. Approved helmets are required.

Bob Norris owns Mountain Laurel Trails.

"Having the opportunity to host a USA Cycling VA State Championship event in Henry County is remarkable. It speaks to the popularity and quality of trails and outdoor recreation that we have. We are looking forward to the race and would like to invite racers and spectators out to Mountain Laurel Trails to compete or watch the Sledgehammer race and enjoy some great food from Nana's Kitchen," Norris said.



The Mountain Laurel Trails biking complex is situated on 100 acres. It currently stretches 10 miles and will eventually reach 15, and it encompasses varying levels of difficulty, from beginners to seasoned bikers.

Mountain Laurel is consistently named among the top mountain bike trails in Virginia by SingleTrack.com, is top rated and is used by bikers from all over the region.

"Mountain Laurel Trails is an incredible facility in Henry County which sees hundreds of mountain bikers every year, and we hope by hosting the XC Mountain Bike Race this summer that hundreds more get to experience the trails for the first time," said Beth Stinnett, assistant director of tourism and Film Office coordinator for the EDC. "Once you've experienced the facility, you will understand why Mountain Laurel Trails is continuously voted one of the best in Virginia."

For more information on the Sledgehammer XC event, visit www.SouthernClassic.Bike. For more information about Mountain Laurel Trails and other outdoor recreation in Martinsville and Henry County, go to www.VisitMartinsville.com/play.

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A LIST OF JOKES THAT NO ONE EVER LAUGHS AT



By BEN R. WILLIAMS

The following is a list of jokes that I tell at every opportunity, even though no one has ever laughed at them and, in all likelihood, never will.

Whenever I'm sitting at the head of a long table, whether it's for a nice dinner or some sort of meeting, I like to stand, lean forward over the table, and say, "Thank you all for coming; now, what's to be done about THE BATMAN?"

On several occasions I have given presentations while standing at a nice podium. To break the ice, I've made the following joke: "Ladies and gentlemen, in honor of this special event, I had this podium delivered here today from Carthage. It was carried across the Alps on the back of an elephant. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is a genuine Hannibal Lectern." No one has ever laughed at this joke, and most people have reacted with confusion,

probably because it requires knowledge of the Second Punic War and the works of author Thomas Harris, all in service of a gag that's not funny even if you understand it.

There's a guy in town that I took Driver's Ed with back in the early 2000s. I bump into him about once a year. Every time I see him, I ask him, "So, you still driving cars?"

In the weeks and months following the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral on April 15, I have asked a number of people if they heard about the break in the investigation. "No!" they usually reply, "was it arson?" "It was," I say. They ask who did it. "No one is completely certain," I reply, "but the bell ringer has a hunch." While this joke has never made anyone laugh, it has made several people pretty angry.

In 1993, the Academy Award-winning film "Schindler's List" was released. There is a popular elevator company called Schindler Elevator Corporation, and the word "Schindler" is prominently stamped somewhere in their elevators. In England, an elevator is called a "lift." You can probably see where this one is going.

Whenever someone mentions the Titanic, I tell them, "You want to hear something crazy? It's been more than 100 years since the Titanic sank, but to this day, the swimming pool is still full of water."

A guy walks into a bar, and sitting at the end of the bar, there's a man with a big orange head. The guy goes up to the bartender

and says, "Listen, what's the deal with that dude's enormous orange head?" The bartender replies, "Hey, you want to know the story, you buy him a drink and ask him." So the guy goes over to the man at the end of the bar and says, "Look, I hate to be rude, but I'll buy you a beer if you tell me the story of how you got that big orange head." The man with the big orange head says, "Ah, my friend, therein hangs a tale.

"You see, some years ago, I was walking along the beach when I tripped over something. I looked down to find an old oil lamp between my feet. Knowing how these sorts of things work, I rubbed the lamp, and next thing you know, a genie popped out. The genie told me he would give me three wishes. I thought for a few moments, and I

told the genie that for my first wish, I'd like to be the wealthiest man in the world. The genie snapped his fingers, and POOF! There was a pile of gold bars at my feet, my wallet began overflowing with cash, and my accountant immediately called my cell phone to tell me that I was suddenly and inexplicably richer than Bill Gates.

"For my second wish, I asked the genie to make me the most desirable man on the planet. The genie snapped his fingers, and POOF! The most beautiful women I had ever seen in my entire life suddenly appeared before me, all of them enamored with me.

"Now for my third wish - and here's where I think I might have gone wrong - I wished I had a big orange head."

Griffith staff will aid constituents

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be available to help constituents this month.

The staff will be at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Parkway, Bassett, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. July 24. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

that day, the staff will be at the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker St., Stuart.

For more information, contact Griffith's Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405.

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Photographer to stay on Trump campaign trail

Ray Reynolds, a Collinsville photographer and contractor, recently returned from the kickoff of President Donald Trump's 2020 re-election campaign in Orlando, Fla.

Reynolds, 58, volunteers at many other GOP events up and down the East Coast but until the 2016 campaign, he was not political and never had even voted. He said that was because the national political scene seemed of little importance. That changed when his lifestyle was impacted, he said.

"I became political because I lost my health insurance" when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, went into effect, Reynolds said, and explained that his mother's death soon followed. It was the result of limits on Medicare coverage, Reynolds said.

His sister died while waiting for a procedure that could have saved her life, Reynolds said, adding that pre-approval was required because the procedure was considered to be a nonemergency, even though it was related to serious heart and lung issues.

Reynolds said the combination of tragedies prompted him to accept an offer to volunteer for the Trump campaign during the South Carolina Primary. "On Aug. 15, 2015, I did my first event in Greenville, S.C.," Reynolds said.

During that and similar events

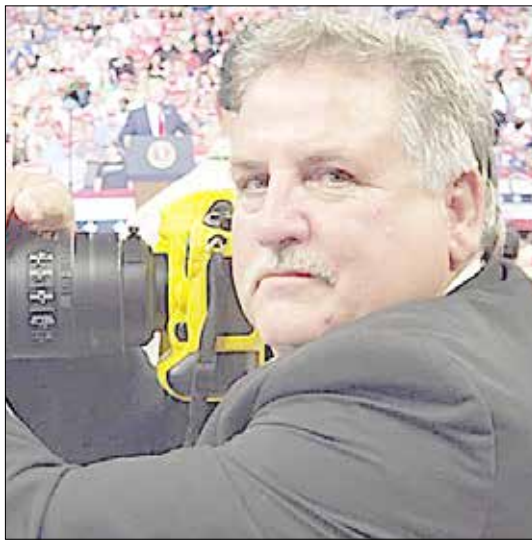
"I got to hear his plans to change the country and put America first. He believed in our veterans and law enforcement, and it resonated with me," Reynolds said of Trump.

Reynolds said he met Tony Porter, a wounded warrior who has had 175 operations, and Bobby Dowling, a retired NCIS agent who now is Porter's bodyguard. Both planned to attend an event for Trump in Fayetteville, N.C. Reynolds decided to go as well, and while there he learned that Porter would be a guest on a nationally syndicated TV show. Reynolds also learned he would be the exclusive photographer for Porter's appearance.

During an event at Liberty University, Reynolds said he also met Joshua Macais, who named him the official "Veterans for Trump" photographer.

"That is the first time I got credentials," Reynolds said, adding that he passed the muster of the Secret Service and was by then attending many Trump events as a volunteer photographer.

He recalled that a photo of Melania Trump at a podium in Myrtle Beach, S.C., "put me on the map." The photo also graces the back cover of Reynolds' first book, "The Trump



Ray Reynolds, of Collinsville, is shown with his signature yellow camera at President Trump's 2020 campaign kickoff event in Orlando, Fla. Trump is visible at the podium in the background.

Movement: My Path, My Purpose."

That book, like his second, "Making America Great Again, My North Carolina Story," offers pictorial timelines of Reynolds' 58,000-mile journey to 59 events in 2016.

After traveling to another event in Charlotte, N.C., he became the official North Carolina photographer for the rest of the campaign.

Many times, Reynolds said he returned to his home in the wee hours of the morning to grab a couple of hours sleep before heading to the next event.

During Reynolds' interview, Debbie Howell called, and on speaker-

phone, said Reynolds "is the most dedicated supporter of Trump I've ever met. He has sacrificed the most and he did it from his heart."

While some people have paid for his food and perhaps an occasional hotel room, Reynolds' efforts are unpaid. "We were all volunteers," he said of many people working on the campaign.

Reynolds said his efforts have their own rewards. In addition to Trump's victory, Reynolds said he met and talked with Oliver North for two hours. He has met Steve Bannon; Lara Trump, daughter-in-law of the president; and "down to earth, blue collar workers, retired sheriffs from Patrick County, other people like me that never voted before because Trump resonated with them."

The list includes people of all genders and ethnicities, as his books attest.

"Most people know I'm not in this for the money or to be a celebrity," Reynolds said. "We all have freedom and we all are one. My biggest thing in 2020 is unity," he said.

Although there are those pushing an agenda of division, "pictures don't lie" about the base of Trump's appeal, Reynolds said, adding that in between his campaign travels, he is working on a third book. He said that project will focus on the period from Trump's 2016 victory until now.

Seniors treated to picnic, warned of scams in area



Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy addresses the crowd gathered for the Martinsville-Henry County TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council Senior Appreciation Day Picnic recently. With him are (from left) Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, Martinsville Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Hall, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry and Deborah H. Bell, community outreach coordinator in the Roanoke Office of the Attorney General in Roanoke.

More than 120 area residents attended the 23rd annual Senior Appreciation Day picnic of the Martinsville-Henry County TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council.

S.A.L.T. stands for "Seniors and Law Enforcement Together," according to Stephanie LaPrade of the Southern Area Agency on Aging.

Triad organizations began in Louisiana in the 1980s to foster collaboration between senior citizens, seniors' organizations and law enforcement to combat rising crime against the elderly, according to Deborah H. Bell, community outreach coordinator in the Roanoke Office of the At-

torney General in Roanoke. It was started in Virginia in 1995 by then-Attorney General Jim Gilmore.

Bell attended the June 19 picnic at Jack Dalton Park in Henry County.

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry and Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy, Sheriff Steve Draper and Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Hall thanked those present for attending the event and encouraged them to contact their local law enforcement agencies if they see or hear anything suspicious.

For example, Draper said recently, area residents have been getting calls that they

missed jury duty.

"We will serve your personally or in the mail" with jury duty notices, not by phone, he said. "It's going on here. Don't fall for it."

"If in doubt, call" law enforcement if you receive a letter, get a phone call or someone wants to do work at your house that you did not solicit, Cassidy said. That way police can determine if the contact is legitimate, he added.

Hall observed that seniors have a tendency to be isolated, which makes them potential victims. For that reason, he encouraged

them to contact law enforcement if something raises their suspicions.

Law enforcement is most successful when it works hand in hand with the public, he added.

Perry echoed that sentiment, encouraging the seniors present to develop relationships with law enforcement officers. "We all work in this together," he added.

Bell, of the Attorney General's Office, said there are more than 100 Triad groups in Virginia. She praised the local group for the strong turnout at meetings and the dedi-

cation of the local law enforcement community.

The June 19 picnic was designed to promote community cohesion and encourage attendance at the groups' seminars held every other month, she said.

Bell said the seminars cover topics such as the anatomy of a 911 call, companion animals, fire safety and opioids and seniors, and they also provide resources for seniors.

The picnic also included lunch and music by Johnny Johnson and the Southern Gentlemen.



More than 120 area seniors attended the TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council Senior Appreciation Day Picnic. The 23rd annual event was held June 19 at Jack Dalton Park in Collinsville.

Ribbon cutting held for Blueway



Paddlers take to the Smith River after a ribbon was cut to mark the opening of the Smith River Blueway. A public dedication at the Great Road River Access was held to celebrate the milestone in outdoor recreation for the community. Henry County officials and board members were joined by representatives from Henry County Parks and Recreation, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. tourism division, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Dan River Basin Association, the Army Corp of Engineers, Eastman Chemical and local river enthusiasts for the event. The blueway is an official water trail with access ramps, informational signs and brochures.

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HELP WANTED

Course Maintenance and Golf Shop attendants. Please apply on property or our website www.primland.com. Primland is an E/O/E.

MAINTENANCE WORKER Apartments/Houses Experience preferred Sat-Mon- Fri Please call 276-66-1527

MEE-MAW'S COUNTRY KITCHEN located at 5445 Figsboro Road, Martinsville accepting applications for short order cooks. Immediate employment available. Apply in person. Pay based on experience. Speak with Sheila at (276) 632-1700 to schedule and interview.

EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS and those experienced in all phases of construction. Immediate employment. Must be dependable, able to pass a drug test, able to travel, have a valid driver's license and transportation. Pay based on skill level and experience. Call (276) 226-0332 or email resume to malakadoni@gmail.com.

34 FT FARM WORKER POSITIONS: Bonnie Brae Fruit Farms, Inc of Gardners, Adams County, PA. All applicants must be willing and qualified to perform work described in this ad and available for entire period August 1 - November 21, 2019 for the temporary position. Must have 3 mo. verifiable harvest exp. Workers will be expected to perform manual jobs accurately and efficiently through harvest. Use wooden straight ladders, metal step ladders, and picking bags that when filled weigh 40 pounds. They must pick apples and peaches, both piece rate and hourly and may at times do other manual labor on the farm if there is a lull in harvest work. All fruit must be handled to avoid bruising according to daily instructions by the orchard supervisor. Other work may include thinning, weeding, picking roots and rocks, cutting shoots and suckers. May operate and help maintain hand-operated equipment, such as loppers, trimmers, saws, shears, and clippers. Employer expects workers to work with or without supervision at such tasks. Must be able to safely maneuver ladders up to 18 long on steep and uneven terrain. Must be experienced in distinguishing between apple varieties and be able to spot pick trees for acceptable color. Follow required sanitary practices. Outdoors, in all weather, extensive walk, climb, twist, turn, bend, push, pull, reach, and stretch. All tools and equipment will be provided by the employer at no cost to worker. Possible daily/wkly hrs: 7A-3P, 35-40+, likely weekend and holiday work as the crop requires. Hours will fluctuate and the ¾ guarantee applies. Employer complies with applicable fed, state, and local laws, hourly wage minimum of the AEW \$13.15, piece rate wages will vary. Housing/utilities provided at no cost to workers who are reasonably unable to return to their place of residence same day. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided by the employer, or paid by employer before 50 percent of the work contract is completed. Must show proof of legal authority to work in the US w/in 3 days of hire. Apply at the nearest State Workforce Agency office, the PA CareerLink office, or www.jobgateway.pa.gov. Ref. Job Order #13059391.

RETAIL STORE SALES ASSOCIATE - P/T We're expanding and looking for the right individual to join our wonderful candy store team! You must enjoy customer interaction and a friendly, fast paced environment. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person at Nancy's Candy Company, 2684 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, Va. 24120, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or email resume to nancyscandy@embarq-mail.com

CANDYMAKER: F/T Mon. - Thurs. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Must be hands on, motivated with ability to operate production machinery and able to lift up to 55 lbs. Prefer 1+ years experience in assembly and/or quality inspection. Competitive benefits including 100% company paid health insurance, vacation, holidays, and matching retirement fund. Air conditioned environment. Apply in person at Nancy's Candy Co., 2684 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, Va. 24120 or email resume to nancyscandy@embarq-mail.com.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE THURS. JULY 4TH 2741 Salem Hwy. Stuart, VA. 8 a.m. tp 6 p.m. Various Items

FAMILY YARD SALE JULY 4TH, 5TH, 6TH 8a.m. - 2p.m. 103 Akers Dr. Stuart, VA

WANTED

GRANDFATHER SEEKING FEMALE ROOMMATE, with/without kids in Stuart. \$250 month;\$250 deposit. Must have clean record. Contact Frank 276-694-4801

YOUNG WOMAN LOOKING FOR A SMALL ROOM/APARTMENT TO RENT in downtown Stuart. Fully employed. Call (276) 930-5084.

HELP WANTED

RETAIL STORE SALES ASSOCIATE - P/T We're expanding and looking for the right individual to join our wonderful candy store team! You must enjoy customer interaction and a friendly, fast paced environment. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person at Nancy's Candy Company, 2684 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, Va. 24120, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or email resume to nancyscandy@embarq-mail.com

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FERRUM COLLEGE GROUNDSKEEPER (Ongoing/recurring seasonal status) Ferrum College has an open position for a Seasonal Groundskeeper. The individual will perform general grounds work, including mowing lawns with riding and push mowers, using trimmers, cleaning walkways, and assisting with snow removal. This position is a non-benefits eligible position and is considered to be an ongoing/recurring seasonal status. The person filling this position will work approximately 20 to 30 hours per week. Occasional weekend work is required. Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds on a regular basis. Valid driver's license required. Submit application to and three references to: resumes@ferrum.edu or to Human Resources, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088-9000. Background check required. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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HELP WANTED

a minimum of 3 months of prior experience working in tree fruit orchards handling primarily manual tasks associated with fruit production and harvest activities. Workers must be able to perform all work activities with accuracy and efficiency. Saturday work required. Must be able to lift/carry 60 lbs. Employer-paid post-hire random, upon suspicion and post-accident drug and alcohol testing required. \$13.15/hr or current applicable AEW or applicable piece rate depending on crop activity. 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 PA CareerLink- Berks County, 1920 Kutztown Rd., Ste. F, Reading, PA 19604. Ph: (610) 988-1354. Provide copy of this ad. PA Job Order #13032388.

50 POSITIONS - Temporary/seasonal work planting, thinning, tree training, pruning and harvesting apples, peaches, grapes in an orchard, from 7/26/2019 to 11/7/2019 at Mt. Ridge Farms, Inc., Piney Apple Acres Inc.; Steven Slaybaugh Farm in Biglerville, PA and multiple worksites within Adams county. This job requires a minimum of three months of prior experience working in a tree fruit orchard performing manual and machine tasks associated with commodity production and harvest activities. Saturday work required. Must be able to lift/carry 75 pounds. Employer-paid post-hire drug testing is required upon reasonable suspicion of use. \$13.15/hr or current applicable AEW or applicable piece rate depending on crop activity. 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. Transporta-

HELP WANTED

tion 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

HELP WANTED

Workforce Agency in state in which this ad appears, or Adams County CareerLink, 150 V-Twin Drive, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Ph: (717) 334-1173. Provide copy of this ad. PA Job Order #13023620.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

100 Mile Yard Sale! July 6th. Business Highways 15, 360, 460, 47. *Amelia, *Burkeville, Keyville, Chase City, Farmville, *Blackstone. 804-334-2506, Facebook: vayardsalemiles. *Massive Sales

AUCTIONS FARM & LAND AUCTION Carroll & Pulaski Counties, 73+/-Acre Farm with 5BR renovated Farm-House, Barn & Outbuildings, PLUS Three Residential Lots, Bidding ENDS JULY 16 @4:00PM, www.HouseAuctionCompany.com 252-729-1162 VAAFL#916-VAAL#3054

BANKRUPTCY AUCTION. July 29 at 12 noon at the Jefferson Center, Roanoke, Virginia.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTH CENTRAL VIRGINIA. 6 Properties - 5 Counties in South Central Virginia. Total Tax Assessed Value: \$5,592,433.00. [Bidders must be prequalified Prior to the Auction] Contact: Walker Commercial Services, Inc. VAAF#549 540-344-6160 www.walkercommercialservices.com

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POLICE OFFICER - RECRUITMENT NOTICE

The City of Martinsville, VA, is seeking qualified applicants to be tested and investigated for current & future vacancies for the position of Police Officer.

Applicants must be at least age 21, have good employment, police, credit and personal records; be of good physical and mental health and be able to pass entry-level psychological and polygraph tests. High School diploma or GED required.

NORMAL WORK HOURS: Rotating Shift

HIRE-IN RATE: \$35,791 DOQ. Salary will increase after successful completion of Police Academy training; superb educational incentives, excellent benefit package, including early retirement with a pension.

AFTER THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETED: The Police Department Supplemental Packet will be emailed with instructions upon completion of the online City Application.

THE MATERIALS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PACKET WILL BE NOTARIZED FOR FREE AT City of Martinsville - Human Resources Department 55 West Church Street Suite 220 Martinsville, VA 24112

APPLICATION & POLICE DEPARTMENT PACKET DEADLINE: August 15, 2019

In order to apply visit <http://www.martinsville-va.gov/>

EOE. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.



Freelance Reporters

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.

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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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(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, and activities at the Blue Ridge Library in Martinsville are in a separate calendar in this edition.)

JULY 8

- “Ready, Set, Create” summer camps at Spencer-Penn Centre; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 8-11. Fees range from \$10-\$40. Call 957-5757.
- Verizon Innovative Learning Camp for Girls in grades 6-8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the PHCC Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette St. The program starts in the summer plus one Saturday a month during the school year. Free. Call 656-5461.

JULY 9

- Summer Reading Program at Spencer-Penn Centre for children ages 3-12; 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Pre-registration encouraged. Call 957-5757.

JULY 10

- Henry County Bike Club variety ride on the Smith River Trail System. Call 618-0343 or check the bike club’s Facebook page for ride locations and times.

JULY 11

- Second Thursdays, 5-8 p.m., sponsored by Martinsville Uptown to encourage residents to get to know the uptown businesses. Many stores will extend their hours for the event; many restaurants will offer specials.
- Throwback Thursday Movies at the Rives Theatre, 215 E. Church St., Martinsville, featuring “True Grit”; sponsored by the theater and VisitMartinsville. Movies begin at 7 p.m.; admission \$5.
- Painting with Ed Gowen: Cloudscape Over Lake: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. This is an adult class. Register online or call 632-3221; advanced registration required by noon the day before the class. All supplies included.
- Classes and groups at Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road. To sign up or for more information, call 957-5757:
- — Chair aerobics, 11:30 a.m.; sponsored by the M/HC Coalition for Health & Wellness and taught by Paula Battle.
- — Martial Arts classes, 6 p.m., taught by Sifu Kristian Gordon. All ages and all fitness and experience levels welcome. Monthly fee: \$40 for Spencer-Penn members, \$65 for non-members.
- — Aerobic exercise class, 6:30 p.m.; sponsored by the M/HC Coalition for Health & Wellness and taught by Anita Hooker.

JULY 12

- ’90s Night at Martinsville Mustangs vs. Holly Springs Salamanders, presented by Patrick Henry Community College; 7 p.m. at Hooker Field.
- Ride ‘N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail, sponsored by the Henry County Bike Club, 9:30 a.m. Each

week cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the trail to ride and have lunch at a local eatery. A different lunch spot is chosen each week. Call Marti at 358-1312 for more information. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it is raining.

- Friday Morning Jam Sessions: 10 a.m. to noon at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, with Jim Philpott & Friends. Breakfast from 8-10 a.m., \$5 donation; lunch at noon, \$6 donation. Call 629-1369.
- Spencer-Penn Centre Music Night of bluegrass music, open mic 5:30 p.m., Lucky City Bluegrass 6:20 p.m.; and Two Young Two Old 7:40 p.m. Old Dominion Cloggers will perform. Concessions available. Donation: \$5. Call 957-5757.

JULY 13

- First annual Sledgehammer race in the Southern Classic MTB Series, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mountain Laurel Trails, 411 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. First heat race begins at 10 a.m. Online pre-registration closes at 8 p.m. July 12; on-site registration \$10 extra. Admission: \$25-\$49 depending on class of event. Call 340-9144.
- Pickers and Fiddlers Bluegrass Gospel & Mountain Music Songfest, 10 a.m. to noon at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 120 Old Bassett Heights Road, Bassett. This is held the second Saturday or each month; bring instruments to join in. Free; refreshments provided.

JULY 14

- Henry County Bike Club’s Sunday Road Ride, 2 p.m. starting at the Ridgeway Library. For more information, call 618-0343.
- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, at 2 p.m. every Sunday. For more information, call 340-9144 or 618-0343. Check the club’s website and Facebook pages for possible location changes.

JULY 15

- Basketball clinic for youth ages 8-18, 9 a.m. to noon July 15-17 at the Bassett Community Center. For more information, call Michael Jarrett, 629-5525.
- “Ready, Set, Create” summer camps at Spencer-Penn Centre; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 15-18. Fees range from \$10-\$40. Call 957-5757.

JULY 16

- Summer Reading Program at Spencer-Penn Centre for children ages 3-12; 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Pre-registration encouraged. Call 957-5757.

JULY 17

- Henry County Bike Club variety ride on the Smith River Trail System. Call 618-0343 or check the bike club’s Facebook page for ride locations and times.

JULY 18

- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- Classes and groups at Spencer-

- Penn Centre. Call 957-5757:
- — Chair aerobics, 11:30 a.m.
- — Martial Arts classes, 6 p.m.
- — Aerobic exercise class, 6:30 p.m.
- Art at Happy Hour, 5-7 p.m. at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave. Exhibition: Expressions 2019.

JULY 19

- Franks and Dranks, 6 p.m. at the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden, 207 Starling Ave., Martinsville; in case of rain, the event will be held at Piedmont Arts. Cost: \$20 for adults; \$5 for children ages 12 and under; cash bar. Ticket includes admission and all-you-can-eat hot dogs and fixing’. Call 632-3221.
- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- TGIF summer concert series with Stone Canyon; 7-10:30 p.m. at the Broad Street Parking Lot, 100 E. Church St., Martinsville. Admission: \$7. Call 734-5326.
- Hometown Heroes Night with the Martinsville Mustangs vs. Wilson Tobs, 7 p.m. at Hooker Field.
- Ride ‘N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail, sponsored by the Henry County Bike Club, 9:30 a.m.
- Friday Morning Jam Sessions: 10 a.m. to noon at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, with One Day at a Time.
- Friday Night Jamboree at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Jam session, 6-7 p.m.; Larry Simon & Friends, 7-9 p.m. Dancers welcome. Concessions available. Admission: \$5 donation.

JULY 20

- Bassett HWY 57 Cruise-In, 4-8 p.m. in downtown Bassett. Free. Music; free popcorn; food court at the train depot; door prices for cruise-in participants. Call 365-4252.
- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.

JULY 21

- Treasure from the Vaults: 2:30-4 p.m. at the MHC Heritage Center and Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. Local museums, cultural centers and private collectors will share items not usually on public display. Free; refreshments will be provided. Call 403-5361.
- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, at 2 p.m. every Sunday.

JULY 22

- “Ready, Set, Create” summer camps at Spencer-Penn Centre; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 22-25. Fees range from \$10-\$40. Call 957-5757.

JULY 23

- Summer Reading Program at Spencer-Penn Centre for children ages 3-12; 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Pre-registration encouraged. Call 957-5757.

JULY 24

- Life Care Planning for seniors and their families, 10 a.m. to noon at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Call 629-1369.
- Henry County Bike Club variety ride on the Smith River Trail System. Call 618-0343 or check the bike club’s Facebook page for ride locations and times.

JULY 25

- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- Classes and groups at Spencer-Penn Centre. Call 957-5757:
- — Chair aerobics, 11:30 a.m.
- — Martial Arts classes, 6 p.m.
- — Aerobic exercise class, 6:30 p.m.

JULY 26

- Dino Festival at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Ave., Martinsville, featuring life-size cast skeletons of iconic creatures of the Mesozoic Era, fossils, presentations and dino-themed activities, crafts and concessions; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paying attendees on Friday can attend Saturday’s festival at no charge. Admission: \$ for adults; \$5 for ages 3-18; free for children under 3. Call 634-4141.
- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- Ride ‘N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail, sponsored by the Henry County Bike Club, 9:30 a.m.
- Friday Morning Jam Sessions: 10 a.m. to noon at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, with The Kitchen Pickers.

JULY 27

- Dino Festival at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Ave., Martinsville; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$ for adults; \$5 for ages 3-18; free for children under 3. Call 634-4141.
- Comics Art Class with D. Michael Watkins, a monthly class on how to create comics; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Spencer-Penn Centre. Fee: \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call 957-5757.
- Rhythm by the River, 5:30-8 p.m. on the grounds of the Bassett Historical Center. Free. Call 629-9191.
- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.

JULY 28

- “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Patrick Henry Community College Patriot Players in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Call 656-0244.
- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, at 2 p.m. every Sunday.

JULY 31

- Henry County Bike Club variety ride on the Smith River Trail System. Call 618-0343 or check the bike club’s Facebook page for ride locations and times

Martinsville library branch plans activities for July

The Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library has numerous activities scheduled for July.

For more information on the activities, call the Martinsville Library at 403-5430.

Plans include: Every Wednesday and Friday, a line dancing class will begin at 10 a.m. It is free and open to the public.

Summer feeding continues from July 8 to Aug. 2. The library will serve 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.

July 5, MADwags Robotics Outreach program will be held from 1-2 p.m. Children will learn about robotics. To sign up, call the library.

July 5, the library will continue its Friday Evening Movie from 6-8 pm. Popcorn will be provided.

July 6, Board Game Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a favorite game or try one the library has on hand. This is free to the public.

July 9, the Second Tuesday Book Club will meet at noon.

July 9, two escape rooms will be held. The first is for children from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The second is for adults from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To sign up, call the library.

July 10, a summer STEAM activity will be held in the meeting room at 4 p.m. Participants will work with robotics and Legos.

July 11, a “Top Shelf STEAM” activity will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

and 3-5 p.m. Participants will use straws and magnet building tiles to build creations.

July 11, “Books and Brews” will meet at Mountain Valley Brewing at 5:30 p.m. This month participants will read “Bird Box” by Josh Malerman.

July 12, the Teen Movie Series continues at 1 p.m. Free snacks provided.

July 13 is the last day to resister for summer reading with the Blue Ridge Regional Library System.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, July 15-16 and 22-23, improv acting classes will be held from 6-8 p.m. After completing all of the classes, participants will hold an improv show at 6 p.m. July 29.

July 16, an Autism Awareness drop-in session will be held from 1-3

pm. Representatives will provide information about autism, resources and support as well as sensory stations.

July 18, Book Bingo starts at 2:30 p.m.

July 18, the library will host a Pub Trivia Night at Mountain Valley Brewing. The theme will be “Harry Potter.” Trivia starts promptly at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

July 20, a family friendly movie will be shown from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Popcorn will be provided.

The last time to log books for summer reading is 1:30 p.m. July 20. Prizes will be awarded the following week. For more information, contact your local library branch.

The library will hold ice socials to celebrate the end

of summer reading. The preschool event will be at 10:30 a.m. July 23, and the others will be held at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. July 24.

July 25, a “Krafting with Kitties” workshop will begin at 3 p.m. Drop in with a current craft project, or do a craft that the library provides, while adoptable cats from the SPCA wander around the room “inspecting” the work.

July 26, the Teen Movie Series wraps up with a show that starts at 1 p.m. Free snacks provided.

July 30, a “Cook the Book” contest begins at 5:30 p.m. Participants will choose a recipe from selected cook book at the library, prepare the dish, share it and vote on the best dish to win a prize. Call the library to sign up.

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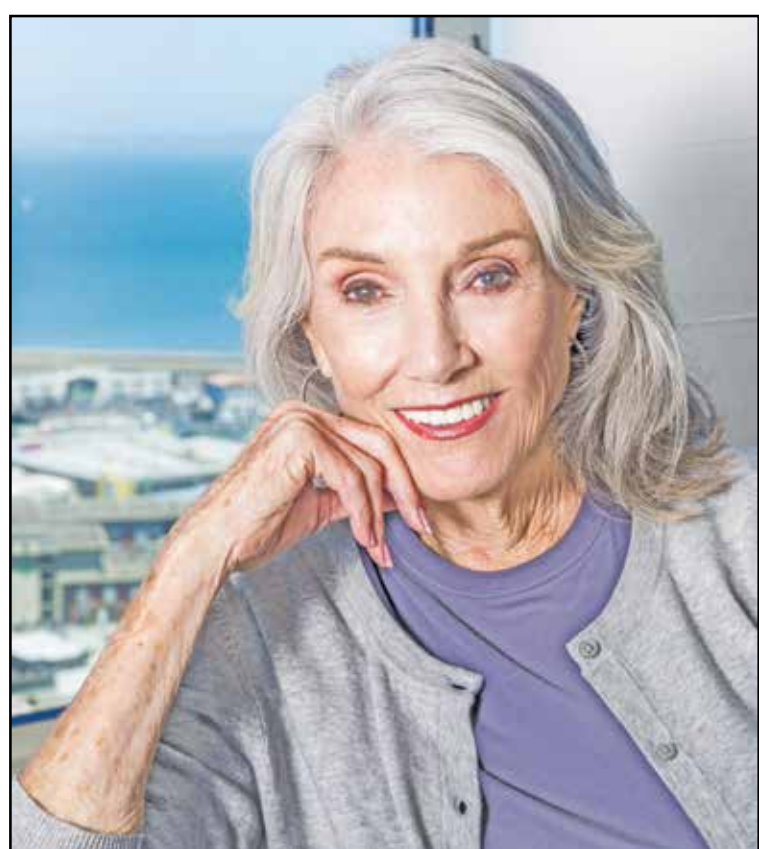
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