

Rives Theatre legacy to remain intact

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

"The show must go on." Losing the historic Rives Theatre to fire on Sunday night has been devastating for the community, but it won't stop Rooster Walk from bringing live music to Martinsville, the organization's leaders said.

Just the day before, on Sept. 7, East Church Street was filled with hundreds of revelers gathered in front of the Rives Theatre for the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival.

Twenty-four hours later, the street was blocked off with yellow caution tape and filled with emergency vehicles as the building burned. Flames could be seen through the charred wooden rafters of the attic, and people as far away as Collinsville reported seeing the column of smoke.

The building was empty when the fire broke out, and no one was injured in the blaze. Fire crews contained it before it could spread to neighboring businesses. However, the theater was a total loss. Martinsville Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Ted Anderson said Tuesday that the investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, event organizers and friends spent the afternoon at the Rives cleaning up from Saturday, packing supplies and equipment, and watching sports on the theater's movie

screen. Nothing seemed amiss when they turned the lights off and locked up for the night, said Johnny Buck, Rooster Walk, Inc.'s Executive Director.

The emergency call came in around 8:30 p.m. Sunday, "We had trucks out here within five minutes, and there was already fire and smoke through the roof," Anderson said. "In a commercial building this large, when the fire is at that stage, we're already behind. It was already through one end of the building to the other."

Fire crews from Martinsville, Fieldale-Collinsville, Dyers Store, Collinsville, and Henry County Public Safety stayed on the scene through the night, pumping 2,000 gallons of water a minute.

Buck praised the fire and rescue workers, "who did a tremendous job keeping everyone safe and the other buildings unscathed."

When he heard about the fire Sunday night, Buck recalled, "You feel disbelief and shock at first, then you start to process not only that it's real, but you start to realize what it means for next week, next month. It's just a really sad moment."

Thinking about all the live music that has come through the Rives in recent years, "a lot of good memories come back to you," he said. "While we hope to continue making more memories in uptown Martinsville with live music, it'll never be quite the same again."

Rooster Walk, Inc. does not plan to cancel any of their upcoming concerts, Buck said, though they are having to find new venues.

"I can't believe this is happening. It's surreal," said Rives Coleman, who managed the theater for 12 years. His name is no coincidence - the building was named for his great-grandfather, Rives S. Brown, Sr., and it has been owned by the Brown/Coleman family since 1938.

On Sunday night, he sat on the curb watching the fire crews work and thought about "all the work and memories and that have gone on there, especially during the past 12 years. It's emotional. It's been an important part of my family, for my daughters."

Though its latest incarnation was as a music venue, the Rives Theatre meant so much more to many people, Coleman said. His two daughters, Bailey and Claire Warner, grew up not only going to concerts at the Rives, but also birthday parties, movie nights, and class field trips there. The lower theater featured a stage for live music, while the upper theater retained a large movie screen and projector.

"I remember Claire Warner getting to see 'Gnomio and Juliet' here with her second grade class and being so proud that her daddy was selling popcorn," he said. "I worked many of those

See **Rives Theatre Fire**, page 10



Fire crews from several agencies battled the blaze at the historic Rive Theatre.



Bassett native Josh Shilling performs with his band, Mountain Heart, at the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts.

Shilling honored in surprise presentation

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

Henry County honored a native son with his own holiday, naming September 7 "Josh Shilling Day" in a surprise presenta-

tion during a local music and beer festival.

Josh Shilling, who grew up in Bassett, found success in Nashville as a Grammy-winning songwriter and musician. He has fronted Americana band

Mountain Heart since 2007, and shared the stage and studio with some of the music world's greatest artists. Never forgetting his roots, however, Shilling still

See **Shilling Honored**, page 5

Former NBA player to visit local schools



Al Wood, a former UNC Tar Heel standout and NBA player, will be in local schools to discuss morals, character, responsibilities and accountability with students.

"The biggest thing for our kids' future is getting them to read and comprehend what they read," Wood said. "Education opens the door for all kinds of opportunities."

but he is remembered by many UNC basketball fans as the 6-foot-6 guy who was the bridge between two more-famous

6-foot-6 guys — Walter Davis and Michael Jordan. He may have been the best shooter ever to wear the Carolina blue. He shot a deadly 56 percent from the field.

In 1976, Wood watched the gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic team, a team coached by UNC's Dean Smith. Their squad included Walter Davis, Phil Ford, Mitch Kupchak and Tommy LaGarde. "I knew that's where I wanted to go to school." While he was the fourth pick in the NBA draft, Wood's NBA ca-

reer was relatively short (six seasons).

An ordained minister based in Fort Mill, S.C., Wood's daily focus now is helping youngsters.

He will hold two sessions at 1:20 p.m., 2:20 p.m. at Bassett High School on Sept. 16.

Wood will address students in Patrick County High School at 10 a.m. on Sept. 17, and that afternoon at 1:30 p.m. will talk to Carlisle School students.

Wood will be in Martinsville Middle School at 9 a.m. on Sept. 18 and at Fields of Faith at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) at 6 p.m. for an event that will be held in Walker Fine Arts Theatre

Wood is slated to be at Magna Vista High School for programs at 9 and 10:15 a.m. on September 19 and at Fieldale Middle School at 1:45 p.m.

He also will visit students in two schools on Sept. 20: Laurel Park High School at 8:45 a.m. and Martinsville High School at 2 p.m.

All are sponsored by Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Henry County Baptist Association and autosbynelson.com.

Community Storehouse struggles to fulfill mission

Staff Reports

The Community Storehouse is in need, much like the families it serves.

Currently the nonprofit agency needs \$30,000 to pay debts and begin investing in this year's Food for Kids: School Backpack Program, set to kick-off Friday, according to Travis Adkins executive director of the agency.

"We are facing a situation where we will be forced to lay off employees, perhaps even move from the facility we're located in. It's that serious," Adkins said. "We're at a critical cash position right now. It's certainly not the first time we've struggled to make ends meet, but it's definitely the most we've robbed Peter to pay Paul in one fiscal year. It's scary. We need the community's help."

The organization is at a critical cash position and needs the community it serves to step up and help out, he said, adding that unexpected expenses, ever-growing demand for services, and loss of funding has created a perfect storm to jeopardize the social work the agency has provided to Martinsville and Henry County since 2001.

The agency's mission is to feed those in need, reduce food waste, and educate the community on the issues of hunger and nutrition. It serves an average of 800 local families a month and for more than a decade, it has operated the Food for Kids: School Backpack Program that provides food to underprivileged children in community schools during the school year.

Last year, that program reached a milestone distributing more than 200,000 backpack bags filled with nutritious, child friendly food to children identified by teachers and counselors.

"These people depend on us. We can't let them down," Adkins said.

The financial crunch is due to a series of unbudgeted, unfortunate events -- including repairs to the agency's Freightliner truck, HVAC repairs to the facility, warehouse exhaust fans and lighting upgrades that became absolutely necessary to continue operations totaled more than \$20,000 -- halfway through

which the agency's modest savings were depleted, he said.

The Community Storehouse pays off-duty deputies to be present during distributions as a protection for the volunteers and fellow clients, after demonstrations that it's a necessary expense. Facility costs alone are over \$10,000 a month.

While the staff and seven member board of directors hold fundraising and charity sales in the agency's thrift store to help offset the unexpected expenses, the depletion of funds has continued, Adkins said. He noted that is partly because the agency experienced an estimated \$20,000 drop in revenue over the last two years because it no longer receives payroll deductions from employees of certain businesses.

Still, the storehouse has continued its strategic plan to maintain and even increased services to those who depend on its social work, abiding by its mantra, "if you need help, we can help you. If you have help to give, we can be your avenue to pass it along to the community," Adkins said.

The storehouse currently has 19 active monthly donors, Adkins said. Monthly donors allow the Storehouse to budget for upcoming debts and service needs. With a facility, a fleet of vehicles, a store that requires supplies, programs that require purchases of food and hygienic supplies, bills are necessary.

This year, Fort Trial Baptist Church stepped up with a \$4,000 donation for the backpack program. Additionally, Walmart, Kroger, and Food Lion are "huge supporters of the Storehouse through food and fund drives," he said in a release.

The Laurel Park Boosters have been dedicated donors to the storehouse, and other grantors/contributors make huge impacts in the work of the agency, but additional help is needed, Adkins said, "and it's needed right now."

To help, text GIVEFOOD to 44321 or visit www.storehousemhc.com to give online. Mail checks or give in person at 4201 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway, Va., 24148. The agency is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Brewster Walk – successful blend of craft beer, music and crowds



Josh Shilling, lead singer/guitarist/pianist for Americana band Mountain Heart, takes the stage with his band Saturday afternoon at Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts.

Hundreds of people, 50 craft beers, and three bands added up to a successful fifth annual Brewster Walk festival in uptown Martinsville on Saturday afternoon.

Musician Josh Shilling, who headlined the event with his band, Mountain Heart, summed up the mood of the crowd as he introduced his song “No Complaints.”

“It’s about what we have today, and that’s no complaints. I’ve got no complaints,” he told the audience as he teased out a few notes from his keyboard. “The weather’s perfect, everybody’s out here enjoying the beer garden, and it looks like we’re in the same headspace, so let’s do this.”

Also performing Saturday afternoon were Isaac Hadden, a 16-year-old guitarist from Roanoke, and C2 & The Brothers Reed, a rock and soul band out of Lexington, KY. The 200 block of East Church Street in front of the Rives Theatre was closed off to traffic as attendees sampled beer, wine, and hard cider from 25 breweries.

Brewster Walk organizers said they were pleased with the turnout, which they estimated was on par with last year. “It was a beautiful day in uptown Martinsville, with plenty of delicious beer and great live music,” said Johnny Buck, who co-founded the event with William Baptist.

Before creating the city of Martinsville’s first uptown craft beer festival in 2015, Baptist and Buck started the



Ballad Brewing was among 25 breweries offering samples of craft beer during the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts on Saturday, Sept. 7 in uptown Martinsville.

nonprofit Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival in 2009. Rooster Walk continues to be held every Memorial Day weekend in Axton. They also formerly organized the Turn 5 outdoor concerts at Martinsville Speedway, which coincided with the fall race. However, when the speedway concert series ended, it left room in their fall schedules to take on a new project.

Until that point, Buck said, “we had held multiple outdoor concerts in Henry County. We wanted to bring an outdoor live music event to

our supporters in the city of Martinsville, as well, and take advantage of the history and beautiful surroundings of uptown.”

Many Rooster Walk organizers and board members already volunteered with another local live music organization, Arts at the Rives Theatre. The historic playhouse turned movie theater turned concert venue was a natural choice for the first Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts held in October 2015.

Brewster Walk has continued to be an annual staple of Martins-

ville’s music scene, even when hurricane rains and wind forced the event inside the Rives building, supplemented with tents and tarps, in 2016.

The past five years have also seen more local craft breweries spring up near Martinsville. This year’s festival featured Mountain Valley Brewing, located in Axton, and Ballad Brewing out of Danville. Both opened in 2017.

Like its parent festival, Rooster Walk, funds raised by Brewster Walk support a variety of charitable ventures in the area. Buck said they plan to use event proceeds to donate \$2,500 to the Penn-Shank Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund for Martinsville High School seniors, \$2,500 to the Rooster Walk Music Instrument Program for local school band programs, and at least two pallets of bottled drinking water for Hurricane Dorian victims.

The Penn-Shank Memorial Scholarship was started to honor two Martinsville High



C2 & The Brothers Reed perform at Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts on Saturday in uptown Martinsville.



See Brewster Walk, page 6

New initiative weighed to tackle overpopulation

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA may soon have “paw-sitive” news for local cat lovers.

A long-running partnership with a national animal rescue group has dramatically cut down on the number of homeless dogs and puppies in the area, said interim SPCA Executive Director Leslie Hervey. Now, they hope to do the same for homeless cats with a project they’re calling “Sweet Tea Kittens.”

The SPCA has worked with North Shore Animal League, a no-kill rescue and adoption organization, since 1992 to increase spay and neuter rates and relocate animals from Virginia to North Shore’s headquarters in New York for adoption.

As a result, “the puppy problem is virtually solved in Martinsville and Henry County,” Hervey said.

Not only have North Shore’s transports freed up space in the shelter to take in more animals, the SPCA has also worked to reduce overpopulation at the source. They began requiring people who brought in litters of puppies or kittens to have the mother and father animals sterilized. The two organizations shared part of the cost, making it more affordable for the pet owner. Then, when the puppies or kittens were old enough, they were spayed or neutered before being made available for adoption.

Hervey, who served as the SPCA’s executive director from 2004 to 2013, recalled, “We used to get a litter of puppies once a day, or even more. Now,

it’s maybe once a month. We’ve ‘graduated’ with North Shore’s help.”

Encouraged by this success with dogs, the SPCA is ready to tackle the even bigger problem of cat overpopulation.

“With the board’s blessing, we have approached North Shore with a proposal to do the same with cats and kittens,” Hervey said. “If we are able to make the Sweet Tea Kittens initiative possible, it could be replicated across the country.”

The proposal is awaiting approval by North Shore’s board of directors. If given the green light, they could start taking more cats and kittens from Henry County in early 2020, she said.

The project’s name came from an inside joke during one of North Shore’s visits to the SPCA. Years ago, Hervey was

at dinner with some visiting North Shore staffers. They told her they liked kittens from this area because they were “sweeter” than others. That, combined with the popular Southern drink, led them to start calling SPCA kittens “Sweet Tea Kittens.”

In North Shore’s service region, there are fewer homeless pets because spaying and neutering is more widespread. Therefore, they have the capacity to take in adoptable animals from other states where overpopulation remains more of a problem and find them permanent homes.

Soon, North Shore will be able to rescue even more animals with the addition of Bianca’s Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center. The 14,000 square foot cat-centered facility has been under construction and is slated

to open later in 2019, according to North Shore’s website.

The SPCA sends about 40 animals per week to New York via North Shore’s mobile adoption unit, a large climate-controlled trailer. While some felines have been part of these transports, their efforts have focused mainly on dogs until now.

In 2018, for example, statistics reported to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services show that the SPCA of MHC sheltered 1,835 dogs and 967 cats. Of those, 1,181 dogs and 132 cats were transferred to rescues out of state.

The reason has to do with supply and demand. Shelters across the country have a harder time adopting out cats because there are so many who need

See New Initiative, page 4



PHOTOS BY KIM BARTO MEEKS

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA is working with the North Shore Animal League, a no-kill rescue and adoption organization, on “Sweet Tea Kittens,” a new initiative to address the overpopulation of cats and kittens.

Safety enhanced along the Smith River with Harvest PUP! grant



Pictured are members of The Harvest Foundation staff and summer interns during a trip on the Smith River as part of a work retreat.

Using the Smith River for paddling, fishing and other forms of recreation and sport will now be safer following a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! grant award from The Harvest Foundation to the County of Henry Department of Public Safety. Development of inputs and other amenities along the Smith River over the past decade has resulted in a dramatic increase in use of the river by residents and visitors, said Matthew Tatum, director of the County of Henry Department of Public Safety. Grant funding from The Harvest Foundation will be used to provide basic water safety training and basic water rescue equipment for first responders on the river. "The Harvest Foundation has supported the development of our rivers and trails for over a decade, not only as beautiful recreational assets of our community but as economic drivers through increased tourism," said Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation. "We believe the increased use of the Smith River is another sign of the con-

tinued growth of our community, and we are proud to partner with Henry County Public Safety on the Swiftwater Response Safety Training project to better equip and prepare our first responders should a river emergency arise." Tatum said with the increase in use on the river, the number of river-related incidents also has increased proportionally. Fortunately, he said, most of the incidents have been minor, and have only required minimal assistance by volunteer rescue squads and local outfitters. "The knowledge that our local responders are adequately trained and prepared for river-related incidents will enhance the marketing resources in our region," Tatum said. "The grant will enable Henry County to train and equip the first responders for necessary river-incident responses. The Smith River is a real gem for our community, and this grant will aid in ensuring the safety of the river." The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will partner with Henry County's Department of Public Safety on the Basic River-Related Incident Response

program. Brian Williams, DRBA program manager and owner of Smith River Outfitters, said even with the education provided to new users of the river, incidents can still occur. "We appreciate the investment Henry County Public Safety has made in working to better respond to the increased number of river-related incidents and the diligence to improve the safety of our residents and visitors involved in these activities," Williams said. "The Smith River provides tourism and economic development to our community, and an efficient Swiftwater rescue response is imperative to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all river visitors." The Harvest Foundation's Pick Up the Pace! grants program is a competitive, small grants program designed to engage people and organizations in sparking innovative ideas, collaborations and change in Martinsville and Henry County. These six-month grants for up to \$10,000 are available for application year-round. To find out more, visit www.theharvestfoundation.org or call (276) 632-3329. The Harvest Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 2002 by the sale of Memorial Hospital. The foundation seeks to invest in community initiatives that support economic development within Martinsville-Henry County. To improve the community's health, educational opportunity and quality of life, Harvest will work to support organizations and projects that build and maintain economic prosperity. To date, the foundation has put more than \$125 million in grant dollars back into the community and has an annual grants budget of roughly \$10 million. To find out more about Harvest, visit www.theharvestfoundation.org.



Matthew Tatum (left), director of the County of Henry Department of Public Safety, is pictured with Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation. Henry County's Department of Public Safety was awarded a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! grant to enhance safety on the Smith River.



Brian Williams (right), owner of Smith River Outfitters, talks to a group from The Harvest Foundation during a trip on an upper portion of the river in Bassett.



Pictured are Sheryl Agee (left) and DeWitt House of The Harvest Foundation.

County school board hears technology update

Staff Reports

Henry County Schools are ahead of the curve when it comes to incorporating technology in classrooms.

In an update to the school board, Elizabeth Adkins, director of Technology and Innovation in the division, said there are approximately 7,100 iPads, about 1,600 laptops in carts, 550 desktops, an estimated 1,500 laptops for certified staff and others, 420 Interactive boards in classrooms, 300 Apple TVs and about 50 document scanners.

Adkins also offered ideas to help improve technology's reach in and outside of classrooms, such as suggestions for facilitators perform a more invasive removal of previous class work from devices to ensure the devices are maintained in a new state for the next set of students, and the removal of a faulty management software.

A management software used by the county was not performing to the standards of the board, prompting Adkins to suggest an exodus from that software to a more proven one. The move to a new management software would involve switching systems for three class grades, she said, adding five days would be needed for IT crews to reconfigure the software.

She also discussed a mobile device management system.

"We use the mobile device management system to be able to see where our devices are in the county, not just in our schools, but we can track them to someone's house, or if one

is missing, we can help parents locate it," Adkins said.

Adkins also shared a video with the board, showing Henry County students who discussed their love for technology and the reasons it is useful for them in the classroom.

Superintendent Sandy Strayer said, "We say this all the time, that we only have our students for a short amount of time, and we know that we need to provide them experiences, opportunities, and teaching skills that will help ensure that they can be successful at any job and jobs that don't even exist yet."

In other matters, the board:

Approved a recom-

mendation to observe Hispanic Heritage Week. The initiative began in 1968 during President Lyndon Johnson's tenure and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to begin Sept. 15 and end Oct. 15.

Will recognize Attendance Awareness Month, which includes a Call to Action, with schools to highlight the importance of attendance, mobilize the community to make improved attendance a shared civic priority and use data to track the attendance gap and show the number of students chronically absent, whether they are concentrated in particular grades, schools and student populations.

Approved a Consent

Agenda that included the minutes from previous meetings and bills.

Approved several overnight and/or out-of-state field trips.

Considered proposed revisions to school board policies to bring current policies into compliance with new, revised or current laws.

Heard public comment from Debbie Bowman, who discussed bus routes.

Awarded a one-year, \$42,000 contract to the Pierce Group for employee benefit broker services. The cost will be paid from Self-Insurance Reserve Funds to the firm that specializes in administering employee benefit programs to public sector clients. The division may

exercise subsequent contract renewals up to five years. Henry County also is using the firm.

Approved an additional appropriation to the School Nutrition Program of \$239,864. The funds are from the Virginia Department of Education and earmarked for the Fresh Fruit and

Vegetable Program.

Met in closed session to discuss a number of issues, including requests for release of compulsory attendance, pending legal matters and personnel. When the board reconvened, it approved a personnel report and considered special placement/nonresident requests.

HJDB EVENT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 20

Bassett Jamboree ★

Featuring... ★ DANCERS WELCOME

JUST CAUZ'
BLUEGRASS BAND

Concessions Available Jam Session 6:00
Admission \$5.00 Donation Just Cauz' 7:00

HJDB EVENT CENTER
3289 RIVERSIDE DRIVE - BASSETT, VA
276-629-1369

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication
Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher

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

ADVERTISE!

Sidney McClure, Advertising Consultant
advertise@theenterprise.net
(276) 732-5177

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

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

New Initiative from page 2

homes. “Everyone has a cat and kitten problem,” Hervey said, especially at this time of year.

March through October is typically known as “kitten season” because of the large numbers flooding shelters, and the local SPCA is no different. Director of Operations Catherine Gupton said Saturday that they have a list seven pages long of community members who have found litters of kittens and are waiting for space to open in the shelter.

With so many kittens available at this time of year, the shelter is not always the primary source for adoptions, Hervey said. “People tend to get kittens by various means — your neighbor’s cat had kittens, or a pregnant cat showed up and had kittens under your porch.”

However, those “free” kittens are not really free of charge when you consider all the health costs, she said. Animals from the SPCA are vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered, and tested for any diseases they may have before adoption. The organization spends about \$350 to care for each animal, according to the SPCA website, so the adoption fees of \$20 per cat and \$100 per dog do not reflect the true costs.

The short reproductive cycle of cats also contributes to overpopulation. The ASPCA (American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) states that a kitten can go into heat and become pregnant as young as four months old, and produce two or more litters of kittens every year. This adds up to an estimated “tens of millions” of cats living outdoors across the U.S., according to the ASPCA.

To cut down on cat overpopulation, not only should cat owners spay and neuter their pets, but outdoor cat colonies need to be addressed, as well. Some of these cats are feral, meaning wild, while those that interact with humans but do not have an owner are known as “community cats.” Left unchecked, these cats continue to reproduce and add to the epidemic of unwanted kittens.

The local SPCA wants to help more of these outdoor cat colonies in Martinsville and Henry County receive vet care and spaying/neutering services.

“We are interested in

finding people who are aware of community cats. They may be feeding them or trying to trap and fix them,” Hervey said. “We want to create a network of these colony keepers so that the SPCA can be a source of information and concentrated services.”

Some communities or local governments deal with outdoor cats by killing them, or trapping them and taking them to shelters where they are likely to be euthanized. The ASPCA and American Humane Society state that not only are these methods costly and inhumane, they do not solve the root of the problem. These and other national rescue groups endorse the “trap-neuter-release” method instead: Humanely trapping the cats, taking them to a vet to be fixed, and then releasing them back into the colony.

“Legally our hands are tied — the SPCA cannot trap and release,” Hervey said. However, colony caretakers who do trap and release can find low-cost veterinary services through the SPCA.

The SPCA has been offering pet wellness clinics four to six times a year for the public to bring cats and dogs for reduced-cost exams, vaccines, and more. Veterinarian Dr. Eric Lorens provides the services. At the most recent clinic on Saturday, August 31, about 95 animals received care in six hours, Gupton said.

“It’s a dream to have the clinic monthly,” Hervey said. “We feel there is more need in the community, but it would require additional vets or maybe a traveling service.”

To make the services more affordable, the veterinarian charges a reduced fee, and the SPCA absorbs costs for staffing. “We actually lose money on providing clinics,” Hervey said, but they believe the benefits to the public are worth it.

“I do believe wellness clinics have greatly improved the health of animals in our community,” she said. “Heartworm used to be everywhere, but now we find heartworm is the exception. Parvo is almost gone. This improves the overall health of the animals, as well as the people who interact with them.”

For more information on the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA, visit www.spcamhc.org or call (276) 638-7297.

Road projects underway

Several new road maintenance projects are underway in Henry County, and a road closure remains in effect, according to a release from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Virginia 618 (Fanny Cook Road/Max Kendall Road) is currently closed as crews work to replace two separate pipes. The work is estimated to take approximately three weeks to complete. Once that section is completed, the road will reopen for about two weeks, before it is again closed for another three weeks to replace two additional pipes.

This closure is to through traffic only; access to all private property will be maintained during the project.

All replacement work is expected to be completed in October 2019. Crews also are work-

ing on turn lane construction for U.S. 220 South/U.S. 58 East Bypass. The project began August 26, with completion expected in May 2020. There will be no lane closures as the contractor is working behind guardrail, but drivers may experience brief periods of flagging on Virginia 877 to off load equipment and materials. A temporary right lane will be in place during the working hours of 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Also, U.S. 220 business (Virginia Avenue) in Collinsville will have shoulder and lane closures in place in the right lane at the intersection of Virginia 728 (Wheeler Avenue) through September 13.

Work crews also will perform slurry seal work on various routes in Henry County from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., the release stated.

Warning issued about self-administered evidence kits

RICHMOND —Attorney General Mark R. Herring issued a warning about a recently launched product that purports to offer survivors of sexual violence the ability to perform forensic evidence collection outside the healthcare and criminal justice systems. These kits have been roundly criticized by professionals and experts in sexual violence, as well as law enforcement agencies, because they may delay or prevent survivors from connecting with important healthcare resources and sources of support, and because they could give survivors false hope that evidence collected might be used in a criminal proceeding, when such evidence could be ruled inadmissible because of chain of custody issues.

“It’s really important to provide survivors of sexual violence with options and choices, but these self-administered kits could actually be harmful or counterproductive for a survivor,” Herring said. “Professionals have already identified serious shortcomings in these products, including significant concerns about whether collected evidence could actually be used in a court proceeding, about survivors’ privacy, and about the way these products might discourage a survivor from con-

necting with the care they need. A true survivor-centered, trauma-informed response to sexual violence includes not just evidence collection, but also examination by medical professionals, including specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, treatment for injuries, screenings for pregnancy or infections, and mental health resources and support that promotes healing and recovery.”

Following the recent launch of the “MeToo Kit,” attorneys general from Michigan and North Carolina, as well as the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and numerous survivors’ advocacy organizations from around the country warned against using self-administered evidence collection kits.

Since 2015, Herring has worked to eliminate Virginia’s backlog of untested rape kits, and to transform the way the Commonwealth works to prevent and respond to sexual violence. He and his team have also led efforts to invest in training and infrastructure that will ensure a more survivor-centered, trauma-informed response to sexual violence by Virginia law enforcement agencies.

“I’m really proud of the work we’ve done in Virginia to improve

the way we deal with sexual violence. We’ve nearly eliminated the rape kit backlog. We’ve required prompt testing of kits. We’ve provided extensive training on trauma-informed responses and how to engage survivors in a way that minimizes re-victimization and builds stronger cases. While there’s always more to be done and plenty of areas where we can still improve, these kits may create more problems than they solve,” he said.

Grant funding secured by Herring has allowed DFS to develop a new statewide PERK Tracking System, which will be used by DFS, local agencies, hospitals, and other stakeholders as appropriate. The PERK Tracking System will allow DFS to monitor statewide compliance with the comprehensive PERK legislation.

Herring and his team have, and will continue to, host trainings and provide support for law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates across Virginia on trauma-informed, survivor-centered techniques for handling sexual assault cases, overcoming the unique challenges of investigating and prosecuting sexual violence cases, and the best way to reinvestigate cold cases.

Longwood SBDC marks 30th year assisting small businesses in Central Virginia



(from left to right) Business Analyst Michael Scales, Executive Director Sheri McGuire, Regional Director Lin Hite, Regional Consultant Kelvin Perry, Lead Regional Consultant Michael Duncan

Small business has a friend in Central Virginia. It’s a friendship that’s expanded and grown since 1989 when the Longwood Small Business Development Center (SBDC) opened its doors in Farmville. In the 30 years since, Longwood SBDC has served more than 6,000 new and existing businesses from Petersburg to Martinsville.

“Originally Longwood SBDC served seven counties in the immediate area around Farmville,” Executive Director Sheri McGuire explains.

Longwood SBDC originated with an office in Longwood’s College of Business. McGuire knows the business well — she’s been with the SBDC in a variety of capacities for 25 years.

“Today Longwood SBDC has a territory that covers 9,471 square miles and includes 20 counties and five cities,” McGuire says. “Growth started as soon as other localities heard about SBDC. South Boston joined SBDC in 1991, then Martinsville was added in 1997 and finally Petersburg in 1999. It’s a big territory.”

Partnerships with local and regional institutions that provide in-kind support have also formed over the years. Current partners include the Crater Planning District Commission in Petersburg, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in South Boston, Danville Community College (DCC) and Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) in Martinsville.

PHCC President Angeline Godwin is enthusiastic about Martinsville’s small business/college connection.

“PHCC has enjoyed its partnership with SBDC,” Godwin says. “Entrepreneurship is

alive and well in our region, and this collaboration further enhances our work.”

Danville’s Director of Economic Development Telly Tucker concurs.

“Longwood SBDC is a vital part of Danville’s economic development framework that enables us to extend our reach throughout the region,” he adds.

Reaching small business owners in an increasingly tech-savvy world has necessitated some changes to SBDC’s business model as well.

“We adapted through the years by adding contract consultants that specialize,” McGuire explains. “Existing businesses tend to be more specific with the issues they bring to us — and we’re seeing more existing businesses now versus start-ups.”

In 2018 alone Longwood SBDC provided 363 entrepreneur consultations, 55 training seminars with 368 attending and 91 jobs created and retained.

“In recent years SBDC has adapted its marketing,” McGuire adds. “We are sharing our client success stories through a variety of outlets, so that other business owners will understand exactly what we do. From a business owner’s perspective, that’s important.”

Recent businesses assisted by SBDC have high praise.

“Longwood SBDC helped us think through all the details,” states Bobby Long, co-owner of Long’s Farm Supply in Brookneal. “When I went to Longwood SBDC, I was looking for an objective and professional opinion — and that’s what I got.”

Tim Meyers, operations manager for Danville’s Ballard Brewing Company, was equally enthusiastic.

“Our business has grown since we’ve been working with Longwood SBDC,” he says. “Our SBDC consultant was super helpful in giving us a roadmap so that the growth we’re experiencing is good growth.”

“The business plan SBDC helped me with included description, vision and projections — everything was there,” comments Tonya Haley, owner of Haley’s Honey Meadery in Hopewell.

McGuire sees the variety of her work at SBDC as a plus.

“It’s a different case study every day — like putting pieces of a puzzle together,” she notes. “I enjoy providing the resources that can bring that puzzle together.”

McGuire is pleased with the assistance Longwood SBDC continues to provide to small business owners. Future plans include expanding consultant expertise, integrating technology training through partnerships with Microsoft, and partnering with the GO Virginia initiative.

“I tell clients that SBDC services are an investment made by local and federal government, economic developers, and Longwood University. That investment’s paid back through business tax dollars as the economy grows,” McGuire concludes. “Every small business owner should take advantage of that.”

As a small business resource for 30 years, the Longwood SBDC core mission is to provide education, consulting, and economic research to support potential and existing small business owners throughout Southern Virginia. Longwood SBDC works with local sponsors to provide consulting services free of charge; for more information visit www.sbdclongwood.com

Martinsville native featured at IALR entrepreneur event

(DANVILLE, Va.) – The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) will host the next “Evening with an Entrepreneur” speaker event featuring local business leader Connie Nyholm, owner and CEO of the VIRginia International Raceway (VIR).

The free event, to be held Sept. 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at IALR, is open to the public. However, seating is limited and advance registration is required at <http://bit.ly/Nyholmevent>.

“As IALR continues to seek ways to foster economic transformation across Southern Virginia, entrepreneurship remains a significant source of opportunity for our citizens and communities,” said Mark Gignac,

executive director of IALR. “We look forward to learning from proven business leader Connie Nyholm and helping inspire others to pursue their own business goals.”

Nyholm will share remarks about the challenges, solutions and advice integral to her experience and will invite discussion in an interactive format. The evening will end with a networking reception. Nyholm’s talk will be the second in a series designed to highlight the journeys of successful entrepreneurs and encourage growth of entrepreneurship in Southern Virginia. Rick Barker, Founder and President of Supply Resources Inc. and its affiliates, served as the debut speaker for the series

this past spring.

A Martinsville native, Nyholm invested in VIR, known as America’s Motorsport Resort, in 1998 with a partner and since then has been dedicated to growing the track using the values of hard work and communication learned from her dad. Now the majority owner, she has taken VIR from near abandonment 20 years ago to one of the top six road courses in North America as recognized by Car and Driver magazine. Nyholm has transformed VIR into not only one of the most challenging tracks anywhere, but a one-of-a-kind racing facility and resort that attracts business to the region and includes on-site lodging, dining, shooting,

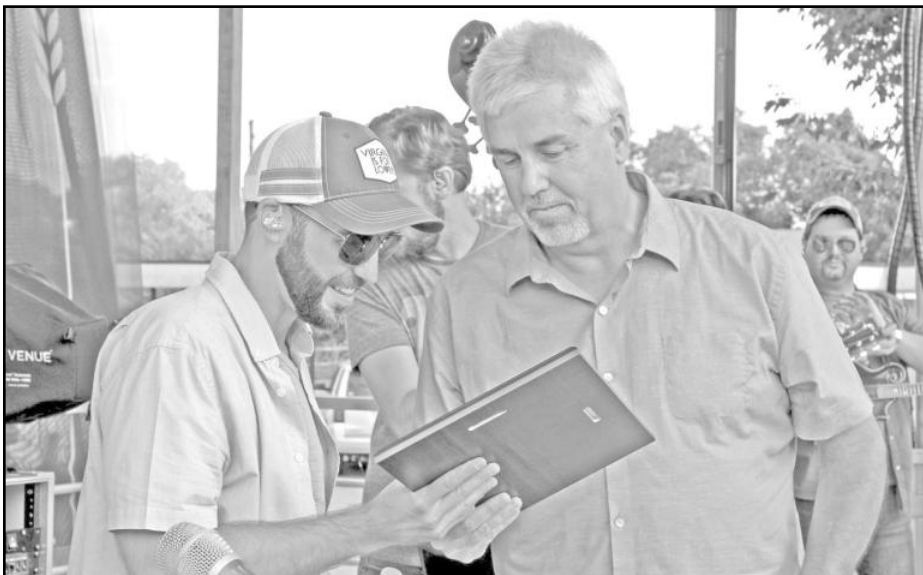
karting, spa services, industrial park amenities and more.

Nyholm currently serves as a member of the board of IALR and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and is President of the Roadracing Industry Council. She is a past member of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, the Richmond Federal Reserve’s Community Investment Council, the Launch Place board, Virginia FIRST Foundation and the Southern Virginia Vehicle Motion Labs Advisory Board. Nyholm graduated from the College of William & Mary in 1981 with a B.A. in Economics. To learn more about Nyholm and VIR, visit www.virnow.com.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation with advanced learning, applied research, advanced manufacturing, conference center services and economic development efforts. IALR’s major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia, including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

Connie Nyholm, Owner and CEO of VIRginia International Raceway, will serve as the speaker for IALR’s ‘Evening with an Entrepreneur’ speaker series on Sept. 16.

Shilling Honored from page 1



Henry County Administrator Tim Hall presents a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors to musician and Bassett native Josh Shilling declaring Sept. 7 “Josh Shilling Day” in the county.



Bassett native Josh Shilling performs with his band, Mountain Heart, at the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts.

comes home to perform at least once a year.

That was the case on Saturday evening, when Mountain Heart headlined the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts in uptown Martinsville. The band had just started playing their second song, when Shilling’s bandmates abruptly stopped. Thinking something was wrong, Shilling turned to see Henry County Administrator Tim Hall and one of the festival organizers, Johnny Buck, walking onstage.

“Okay, now I’m scared,” Shilling quipped into the microphone.

Hall was holding a plaque - a proclamation from the Henry County Board of Supervisors declaring Sept. 7 to be Josh Shilling Day in the county. As it turned out, the band, Brewster Walk organizers, and Shilling’s family were all in on the surprise.

The idea originally came about because “Josh is well-

known in our community for his talent and for his love of his hometown,” Hall said. “He’s a terrific advocate for Martinsville-Henry County. Our board members and staff wanted to recognize that and say ‘thanks’ for his efforts, and proclaiming a day in his honor was a great way to do that.”

Hall suggested the idea of presenting the award during Shilling’s Brewster Walk performance. Buck and co-organizer William Baptist were “immediately on board.”

The next step was bringing the rest of Mountain Heart into the loop, and making sure Shilling’s friends and family knew about it so they could plan to be there for the presentation. Luckily, no one spilled the beans beforehand.

“I was surprised on so many levels,” Shilling said later. “It’s a huge honor.”

Hall took the microphone and began reading the proclamation to the crowd. In it, he

praised Shilling not only for his success in the national music industry, but for his role as the “artist-in-residence” for the annual Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival held in Axton every Memorial Day weekend, thus “helping to make our home-grown festival one of the best in the country.”

Among Shilling’s accomplishments, he has played the renowned Grand Ole Opry more than 130 times and shared the stage with acts ranging from Lynyrd Skynyrd, Montgomery Gentry, Merle Haggard, George Jones and Brad Paisley to Alison Krauss, Tony Rice, The Avett Brothers, Yonder Mountain Stringband, The Punch Brothers, Levon Helm, John Fogerty, and many more.

Mountain Heart’s self-produced 2016 album “Blue Skies” debuted at the number two spot on the Billboard Charts and received a favorable review from Rolling Stone magazine, among other accolades. Shilling won

two Grammys for his songwriting collaborations with the Infamous Stringdusters in 2018 and The Travelin’ McCourys in 2019.

Hall finished by encouraging the Brewster Walk audience to “follow the example of Mr. Shilling by being proud of where we come from and where we are, and working diligently to make our community even better than it is today.”

Later, Hall recalled, “Seeing how the other members of Mountain Heart got behind it, when they stopped playing the second song and just looked at Josh, was a cool moment. And then the crowd went crazy when it realized what we were doing, so that just topped it off,” he said. “Josh deserves it, and I was happy to be part of the whole thing.”

The next day, Shilling was still processing the honor he had received. “I don’t have the words to describe how it felt to receive the proclamation. It was amaz-

ing,” he said. As for the plaque, he said, “This is going on the studio wall, right next to the Grammys.”

During the presentation, he said his 5-year-old daughter was watching on Facetime and asked him later what it all meant. “I explained it was a day named after me, and she said, ‘Oh, that’s awesome, it’s Daddy Day!’”

Shilling said Martinsville and Henry County would always feel like home. “Even after 12 or 13 years of being gone, just about every day I get a call, a text, an email from somebody in this area saying ‘Hey, how ya doin’? When are you coming back?’”

Asked about his musical career, Shilling remained humble. “I feel like I’m standing on the shoulders of giants,” he said. “People have lifted me up and helped me so much at every stop along the way. They’ve allowed me to accomplish what ultimately was a childhood dream.”

“I can’t think of anywhere else in the world I’d rather be from.”



The crowd cheers on Josh Shilling and Mountain Heart on Saturday afternoon at the fifth annual Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts.



SCC offers tips for Virginia investors considering initial loan procurements

RICHMOND – Companies using blockchain technology need to raise capital just like any other company. One way these companies have raised capital is through initial coin offerings (ICOs), which require the new company to create tokens that can be sold to investors and used for the development of new projects and innovations.

As an alternative to ICOs, however, initial loan procurements (ILPs) are an increasingly popular crowdfunding method for companies looking to attract investment capital for blockchain projects. ILPs appeal to investors interested in blockchain technology, but who are wary of the volatility and other risks of ICOs.

As with any investment opportunity, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) reminds Virginians to investigate an ILP offering before they invest. “Protect yourself financially by knowing the risks and how an offering works before you invest your hard-earned money. Understand how you will be paid and any legal or tax implications,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising.

Investors interested in ILP offerings should understand how they work and how they are

different from ICOs. An ILP allows borrowers and creditors to enter into loan agreements through smart contracts stored on a blockchain. These contracts cannot be altered and provide a level of security lacking with ICOs. Instead of receiving tokens as with an ICO, an ILP investor lends money to the company that agrees to pay the loan back at an agreed time under the contract. With ILPs, investments are tied to the company’s repayment of the loan and an investor is entitled to returns in the form of interest on capital invested. ILPs purport to be less volatile and speculative than ICOs, where investors hope that the tokens they receive will maintain or increase in value over time.

For questions about investment products and companies that may be regulated, contact the SCC Division of Securities and Retail Franchising at 804-371-9051 or toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945. You may also visit the division’s website at www.scc.virginia.gov/srf/. To learn more about initial loan procurements, visit the North American Securities Administrators Association’s website at www.nasaa.org/51590/informed-investor-advisory-initial-loan-procurement/?qoid=investor-advisories.

INVENTORY LIQUIDATION SALE

REALLY NICE!



Sofa & Loveseat
\$595



LAZBOY Reclining Sofa
\$795



Twin Bedding Set
\$179



ONE ONLY!
Twin Adjustable Bed with Mattress
\$795

LAZBOY Riverside Furniture

1580 Greensboro Rd., Martinsville, VA
M-F 9-5 Sat. 9-2
276-632-1286

Tourism Revenue Reached 74.3 Million in Martinsville – Henry County in 2018

Martinsville - Data released by the United States Travel Association (USTA) reveals that all regions in Virginia posted an increase in tourism revenue last year.

According to the US Travel Association, tourism in Virginia generated \$26 billion in travel spending. Tourism also supported 235,000 work opportunities for Virginia communities and contributed \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes. The increase is largely attributed to Virginia's tourism promotion and development efforts all around the state, including: new hotels, restaurants, agritourism, craft breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries, sports, outdoor recreation, festivals and events, music venues, wedding venues, meeting and convention venues, attractions and so much more. Virginia's changing tourism industry make the Commonwealth a destination for authentic travel experiences and vibrant communities.

Tourism is at a record level in Virginia, and visitor spending has continued to grow year after year. With continued increase in mobility, more sophisticated technology, and changing demographics, travel demand is at an all-time high. Travelers are seeking unique experiences in their leisure time, and view travel as an important factor for their quality of life.

Tourism was again a critical contributor to the local economy in 2018.

Tourism revenue for Martinsville – Henry County reached \$74.3 million, a 4.9 percent change over 2017. Local tourism-supported jobs totaled 773 while state and local tourism-related taxes were \$4.8 million. All data was received by the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) from US Travel Association and is based on domestic visitor spending (travelers from within the United States) from trips taken 50 miles or more away from home.

“Virginia's tourism industry had a banner year in 2018, hitting new records and making important impacts on our communities across the Commonwealth,” said Rita McClenney, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. “As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Virginia is for Lovers and the tourism industry's continued growth this year, we also celebrate the people who impact and influence our communities with their vision, passion, and love for the tourism industry. Our industry is made up of creative, hard-working, and dedicated professionals, and they work every day to make our communities more vibrant and dynamic. They help to make Virginia the best place to live, work, and visit, and are our most powerful ambassadors for Virginia is for Lovers.”

According to Beth Stinnett, Assistant Director of Tourism for Martinsville-Henry County,

“We are delighted to say that tourism revenue, jobs supported, and taxes generated have continued to increase over the past several years for Martinsville – Henry County.” She added, “This data shows the direct impact that tourism-related attractions, events and amenities has on our community and the significance of tourism.”

The Virginia Tourism Corporation receives its annual economic impact data from the U.S. Travel Association. The information is based on domestic visitor spending (travelers from within the United States) from per-person trips taken 50 miles or more away from home. Detailed economic impact data by locality is available on www.vatc.org under Research.

The mission of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation is to create new job opportunities and expand the tax base for the area. The organization strives to support and develop local industry, as well as market Martinsville-Henry County globally as an exceptional place to live, work and play. The EDC is a public-private partnership between the City of Martinsville, Henry County, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG) and the Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont.

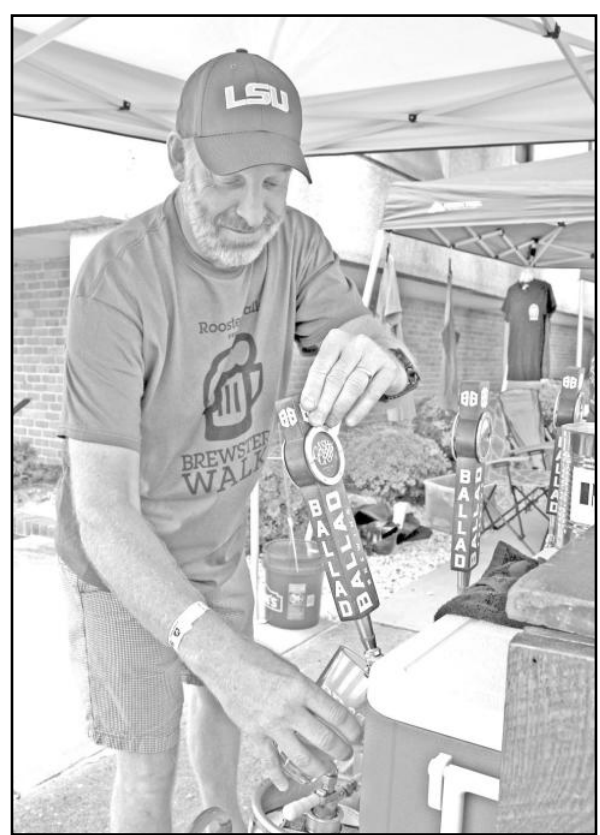
Brewster Walk from page 2

School graduates from the class of 2000, Edwin “the Rooster” Penn and Walker Shank, who died suddenly within a year of each other while still in their 20s. The two friends also inspired Rooster Walk's name.

The instrument program collects, repairs and donates instruments to entry-level band programs in the Martinsville and Henry County public school systems, so that all students can afford to participate in band.

In the past 10 years, Rooster Walk Inc. has donated more than \$200,000 from event proceeds to various local and regional charities.

For more information on Rooster Walk, Inc., visit www.roosterwalk.com.



Crowd at Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts on Saturday.



Emcee Johnny Buck, Executive Director of Rooster Walk, Inc., introduces headliner Mountain Heart on Saturday at Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival & Concerts.

Timber workshops set

If you are planning to sell timber, there are two important factors to consider. First, timber is a commodity, and demand and prices fluctuate widely. Second, if you are planning to sell your timber without employing a good consulting forester, you could be committing a cardinal sin.

“Selling your timber without consulting a forester is like selling your house without the aid of a Realtor,” said Dr. Jerry L. Bettis Sr., forestry specialist with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) at Virginia State University (VSU). “You should never sell your timber without professional assistance.”

The Small Farm Outreach Program at VSU will hold three workshops on selling timber. The workshops will be held at the following locations:

Date: Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to noon
Location: VCE, Appomattox County Office
177 Morton Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522

Date: Oct. 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: VSU, Randolph Farm Pavilion
4415 River Road, Petersburg, VA 23803

Date: Nov. 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: VCE, Emporia/Greeville Office
105 Oak Street, Emporia, VA 23847

These workshops are free and open to the public. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration is open for the September event. Registration for the October and November events will open later this fall. To register, visit <http://www.ext.vsu.edu/calendar>, click on the event and then click on the registration link.

At the workshops, Bettis will discuss important considerations and tips for selling timber, including how to find and select a professional, consulting forester. Foresters can advise on issues, such as timber appraisal, harvest planning, timber sale coordination, and boundary marking.

There is no daily market price report or government price support for timber. Therefore, sellers need to be active daily in the local timber market

to understand timber prices. They also need specialized training to understand how to measure timber volumes.

Research has shown that selling timber with the aid of a good consulting forester earns 23 percent more per acre, 64 percent more per board foot, and 120 percent more on projected future income. With these kinds of returns, you can easily recoup the costs of employing a consulting forester, which typically ranges between 8 to 12 percent of gross sales.

Bettis says to ask your woodland owning neighbors to recommend a consulting forester or you can also find a list of consulting foresters in your area by accessing www.dof.virginia.gov or calling (434) 977-6555. If you are planning to sell timber, it is strongly recommended that you get professional assistance, ask plenty of questions, and do not forget to regenerate your cutover land, he added.

If you have forestry questions, contact Bettis at jbettis@vsu.edu or (804) 524-6967.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Small Farm Outreach Program office (smallfarm@vsu.edu) or call (804) 524-3292 / TDD (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Congressional staff to hear concerns

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on

September 25.

The staff will be Henry County from

2:30 to 4 p.m., at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Parkway, Bassett.

Call the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with questions.

OPINION

An Ernest conversation

Jim Varney died on Feb. 10, 2000. For many of you, that name may not be familiar, but I expect his alias will ring a bell: Ernest P. Worrell.

If you don't remember Ernest, he was the southern-fried rubber-faced know-it-all who endlessly hounded his unseen neighbor Vern. He first appeared in a truly remarkable number of regional commercials that were filmed in Nashville, which led to a TV show called "Hey Vern, It's Ernest" and nine (nine!) Ernest movies.

I loved Ernest. I loved those low-budget commercials. I loved his Saturday morning TV show. I loved every one of his movies (and not just the heavy hitters like "Ernest Goes to Jail" and "Ernest Scared Stupid," but the direct-to-video classics like "Slam Dunk Ernest" and "Ernest in the Army"). I even dressed up like Ernest for Halloween when I was about seven. To this day, there is not a year that goes by that I don't watch at least one Ernest movie.

Jim Varney's death, for me, was right up there with John Belushi or Chris Farley or John Candy. He was a gifted comedian who left the stage far too soon.

Jim Varney didn't get

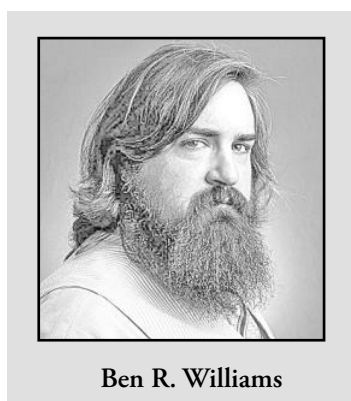
that same universal outpouring of grief, however. By 2000, the Ernest character was mainly viewed as an annoying piece of 1980s pop culture ephemera that kept showing back up with diminishing returns. The day that Jim Varney died, I couldn't find a single tribute to him on the internet.

I had a website, so I decided to create my own tribute.

It was pretty simple, just a picture of Jim Varney in his Ernest garb, the dates of his birth and death, and a few paragraphs about what Ernest meant to me. I was 15 at the time, so I'm sure these paragraphs were terrible, but they were heartfelt.

I really didn't expect anything to come out of my little tribute, but I was in for a surprise.

About a week after I posted it, I received an e-mail from a lady we'll call Margaret. Margaret told me that she was a lifelong friend of Jim Varney; they had known each other since they were children. She had found my website because in the wake of her friend's death, she had searched the internet to see if there were any Jim Varney tribute websites, and at the time, I had the first and only such website



Ben R. Williams

on the internet (I continue to list this fact on my résumé).

Even at 15, I was skeptical. I wasn't sure if this lady was putting me on. However, we struck up a sort of pen-pal friendship, e-mailing each other back and forth, and before long, I had no doubt she was telling the truth.

Margaret told me all about her friend Jim. She told me about what a kind person he was. She told me about his devout faith. She told me how happy he would have been to know he made such a positive impression on a youngster like me.

I recall that we also talked about his frustrated ambitions. Believe it or not, Jim Varney was a classically-trained actor — he

studied Shakespeare at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon — and he always wanted the opportunity to play more serious characters. Ernest had made him a wealthy man and a household name, but it was difficult to emerge from Ernest's shadow. Before his death, he had begun to branch out a bit — he had played Slinky Dog in the first two "Toy Story" movies and had a wonderful, meaty role in a Billy Bob Thornton movie called "Daddy and Them" that was released posthumously — but he never exactly got the opportunity to play Hamlet.

She also spilled some ink telling me about one of Varney's collaborators, a man that she didn't care for one whit, and she told me the reasons why. I was suddenly learning all kinds of behind-the-scenes dirt about Ernest P. Worrell.

At one point, she even asked me if I would contribute a chapter to a book she was working on about Jim Varney. I wrote the chapter and e-mailed it to her, but I have no idea if she ever self-published the book or not.

All of this was somewhat strange at the time, but it's even stranger looking back on it today. My Ernest tribute website led to a months-long correspon-

dence between a 15-year-old and a 50-something lady from Kentucky, both of us reminiscing, in different ways, about a lost friend.

I still think about Jim Varney fairly regularly, especially in light of the background information Margaret provided. I think about what it must have been like to create a unique, wildly successful character, only to later realize that same character has perhaps shut a few doors you would have preferred remain open. I think about the great "what if" that we experience with anyone taken before their time, the question of what they would have gone on to create had they been given just a few more years.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that in every Ernest movie, Ernest works a menial job with a smile on his face, usually plotting some kind of big score before inevitably getting swept up into misadventure. Perhaps there was a lot more of the late Jim Varney in the character than any of us realized. Perhaps, beneath the slapstick and the goofy grin, Ernest P. Worrell was a more achingly human character than anyone ever gave him credit for being.

KnowwhutImean?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a nation we have seemed to somehow elevated the 2nd amendment to the status of one of the Ten Commandments as if God positively said, "Thou shalt bear arms." Of course, the irony is there is the commandment which forbids murder and nowhere in Holy Scriptures do we see the necessity of having weapons. We can debate this all day long and then some, but with the recent shootings in El Paso, Midland Texas and Ohio, it is time for less debate and more action. I'm all for gun ownership but why can't we as a society limit that to pistols, rifles and shot guns? No one needs semi-automatic weapons or military style weapons unless they are policemen or in the military.

My father-in-law used to say, "Your rights end when they infringe on mine." When violent, hate filled people legally obtain a weapon and use it for killing innocent people, their rights need to come to an end, even if it means law abiding citizens pay that price with them. The current administration says the mentally ill are to blame and yet they aren't in the majority of the ones who pull the trigger in these killings.*

Perhaps they are so beholding to the NRA lobby that they lack the moral fortitude to pass more restrictive legislation. One powerful lobby should not buy and pay for the silence and inaction of a legislative body.

I get it. I really do. We like our

fire power. I have enjoyed target practice and shooting at clay disks. It is an enjoyable experience and a rush. We should all be allowed to do that or hunt animals when we wish. I also get the argument that guns don't kill people. People kill people and it is an issue of a sick heart, absent from the love of Jesus. But if restricting the access to the ease of these guns can save even one life, wouldn't it be worth it?

Bold action has always led to change for the better. Bold action created the WPA and led us out of the Great Depression. Bold action cut tax rates in the 1980s and revived a faltering economy hurt by long lines at the gas pumps and the loss of jobs. Before that, bold action led to the Civil Rights Act

of the 1960s which paved the way to greater social equality. The times call for bold action once again in the face of the national epidemic of gun violence by restricting a class of weapons to only the military and our law enforcement personnel. I'm tired of seeing "Thou shalt not kill" being violated in mass killings. Most of all, I'm tired of lowering the flag to half-staff every two weeks when it could be flying high and proud.

As Congress returns from summer recess, it will be interesting to see if there is the boldness there to really do something great. They have the moral authority, the backing of the majority of 'we the people,' and so may God give them the moral strength to do something bold for

the welfare of all the people.

(*According to 2016 book, "Gun Violence and Mental Illness," psychiatrists Liza Gold and Robert Simon report that less than 5 percent of shootings are caused by people with a diagnosable mental illness. In fact, it goes on to state that the mentally ill are more likely to shoot someone they know rather than strangers and they are more likely to be victims of a shooting rather than the perpetrator of one. This information can be found at Behavioral Scientist.org "The myth of mental illness causing mass shootings.")

Jim Pence
Martinsville
Minister, Pleasant Grove
Christian Church

Garden Club of Virginia receives national award for work with Virginia State Parks

RICHMOND — The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) received a national award for its decades of work with Virginia State Parks.

The National Association of State Park Directors presented the GCV with the President's Award for a Statewide Organization at the NASPD annual conference in Rogers, Arkansas.

"The Garden Club of Virginia first planted the seeds for state parks in Virginia in 1929," said Virginia State Parks Director Craig Seaver. "From the early days to today, the garden club has been a vital partner in the Virginia State Parks mission to conserve natural resources while providing public access to the outdoors."

The GCV was founded in 1920 and within a decade members were working to establish a state park system.

"The founders of the Garden Club of Virginia knew how important preserving open space was to the fabric of the commonwealth," said Jean Gilpin, president of the Garden Club of Virginia. "In 1929, GCV petitioned the General Assembly for funds to establish what are now Virginia State Parks. It is appropriate that in recognition of this heritage and in celebration of our 100th anniversary, the Garden Club of Virginia embraces state parks with a centennial gift: \$500,000 in grants awarded over five

years. GCV is proud and honored to share our mission of preservation, conservation and education with Virginia State Parks."

Since 2016, 17 state parks have received \$364,653 in grants that have funded projects such as the Youth Conservation Corps, which helps engage young people in park projects to develop a conservation stewardship ethic; children's Discovery Areas and Playscapes to allow children an unstructured yet safe play area to learn about and experience the outdoors; Track Trails to promote health and wellness initiatives; native pollinator habitat; shoreline stabilization projects; educational exhibits in park visitor centers; and other conservation projects.

"The garden club has done so much for Virginia State Parks in recent years and over the past decades," Seaver said. "I'm proud of this partnership with the garden club, and I'm pleased the organization is being recognized nationally by the NASPD."

For more on everything Virginia State Parks has to offer, visit virginiastateparks.gov.

Kevin McDonald and daughter Ellie explore the new Discovery Areas at Hungry Mother State Park, created with a grant from the Garden Club of Virginia.

Local show choir in contest to perform with Foreigner

The Magna Vista High School Show Choir is among the participants in a contest to share the stage with English-American rock band, Foreigner, and sing

the band's hit, "I Wanna Know What Love Is." The winner also will receive \$500 from the rock band. To vote, visit q99fm.com/choir-rockstars, and click on

"Choir Rockstars" tab on the homepage. Then click "View Entries." Magna Vista Choir should be listed on the top. The deadline to vote is September 17.

September is Healthy Aging Month



Join Us!

Health & Wellness Fair

Saturday, September 21 | 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

New College Institute | 191 Fayette Street Martinsville

FREE Flu Shots FREE B/P Screenings

Plus free information on the following topics:

- Joint Health
- Sleep Health
- Balance Issues
- Cancer Awareness
- Hearing & Sight Problems
- Diabetes
- Nutrition & Fitness
- Hospice Care
- Senior Resources
- Medicare Enrollment
- Disability Rights
- Giveaways

Partners for this event include:

- New College Institute
- SOVAH Health
- Walgreen's
- United Way
- Family Wise
- Southern Area Agency on Aging
- MHC Coalition for Health & Wellness
- The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside VA

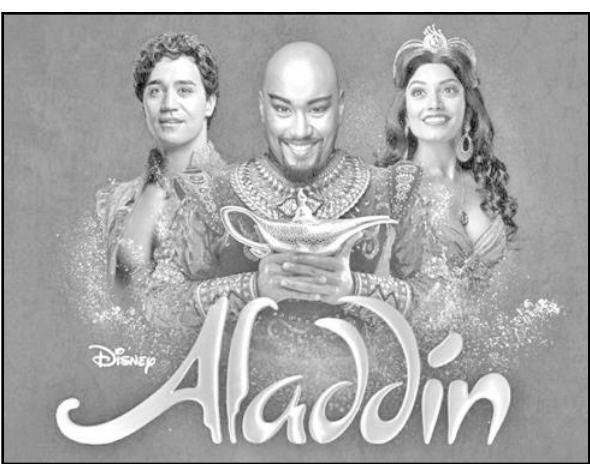
Piedmont Arts' Bus to Broadway Takes a Magic Carpet Ride to "Aladdin"

Hit Broadway musical based on Disney's animated classic

Piedmont Arts' Bus to Broadway will take guests on a magic carpet ride to the hit Broadway musical, Aladdin, on Saturday, October 19 at Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) in Durham, North Carolina.

From the producer of The Lion King comes the timeless story of Aladdin, a thrilling new Disney production filled with unforgettable beauty, magic, comedy and breathtaking spectacle. It's an extraordinary theatrical event where one lamp and three wishes make the possibilities infinite. Hailed by USA Today as "Pure Genie-Us," Aladdin features all your favorite songs from the film as well as new music written by Tony and Academy Award winner Alan Menken (Newsies) with lyrics penned by the legendary Howard Ashman (Beauty and the Beast), Tony Award winner Tim Rice (The Lion King, Aida), and book writer Chad Beg-

uelin (The Wedding Singer). Directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Casey Nicholaw (The Book of Mormon, Something Rotten!), this "Fabulous" and "Extravagant" (The New York Times) new musical boasts an incomparable design team, with sets, costumes and lighting from Tony Award winners Bob Crowley (Mary Poppins), Gregg Barnes (Kinky Boots), and Natasha Katz (An American in Paris). See why audiences and critics agree, Aladdin is "Exactly What You Wish For!" (NBC-TV). Bus will depart Piedmont Arts at 11 a.m. for a 2 p.m. performance at DPAC. Guests may bring lunch or snacks to enjoy on the trip. Optional boxed lunch available for pre-order. Tickets to Bus to Broadway: Aladdin are \$115 each or \$125 with optional boxed lunch. Limited tickets remaining. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, September 12

Matthews Gallery Dedication: Piedmont Arts 215 Starling Ave. Martinsville 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. call (276) 632-3221 for more information.

Friday, September 13

Harvest Moon 5K-10K: 7 p.m., call (276)632-6427 for more information.

Forever Doo Wop: Presented in partnership with King's Grant. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$8 on show night. Concert starts at 7 p.m. Doors to the theatre will open at 6 p.m. Event time 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. the next day Rives Theatre, 215 E Church St., Martinsville. Call 276-403-0872 for more information.

Adult Health Care: Application assistance for free/low cost Health Care Coverage for adults 19 to 64. In the lobby of HCM Health Department, 295 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. For more information call (276) 732-0509.

Jim Philpott, Tim Stegall & Friends: 10 a.m. -noon at the HJDB Event Center, Riverside Dr, Bassett in the cafeteria, free music program by Jim Philpott, Tim Stegall & Friends. Lunch Available at noon for \$6. Call Patti Farmer at (276) 358-0489 for more information.

Saturday, September 14

Bassett Heritage Festival: The Annual Bassett Heritage Festival. Downtown Bassett near Historic Train Depot, 3559 Fairystone Park Hwy Bassett. Call (276) 629-5032 for more information.

Moonshine Memories: Cruise-in style car show with prize drawings for vintage vehicle owners. Pan Parrot Steel Band. Exhibits of vintage vehicles, moonshine theme items, tales and fun. Start time is from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4087 Snow

Creek Rd, Martinsville. Call (540) 483-1890 for more information.

Fish Fry Fundraiser: Fundraiser for the preservation of the HJDB Event Center 3289 Riverside Dr. Bassett. Call (276)-629-1369 for more information.

Artspiration: Kids: Located at Piedmont Arts 215 Starling Ave. Martinsville from 1-3 p.m. Call (276) 632-3221 for more information.

Annual Brunswick Stew & Auction: Dinner 4 p.m. Auction begins 7 p.m. Located at 123 Mitchell Road, Axton. Call Milton Kendall at (276) 732-1111 for more information.

Sunday, September 15

Wine Tasting at Hamlet Vineyards: Every Sunday from 1- 5 p.m., Hamlet Vineyards on 404 Riverside Dr. Bassett. Wine tasting of eight wines for \$9. Call (276) 629-2121 for more information.

Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails: Every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Located 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, call Bob Norris at (276) 340-9144 or Tommy at (276) 618-0343 for more information.

Monday, September 16

Adult Health Care: Application assistance for FREE or Low cost New Adult Health Care Coverage for adults ages 19 to 64 years old. Virginia Career Works 233 W. Commonwealth Blvd. Martinsville 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call (276) 732-0509 for more information.

Tuesday, September 17

CBD Oil: The Facts & The Benefits Workshop: Martinsville Library on 310 E Church St. Martinsville. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call (276) 403-

5430 for more information.

Boot Camp: Computers for Beginners: Patrick Henry Community College 645 Patriot Ave. Martinsville. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday and Thursday from Sept 17 to Oct 1. Pre-register on ph.augusoft.net or (276) 656-0260.

Artspiration: Senior Studio: Located at Piedmont Studios on 215 Starling Ave. Martinsville, from 10 a.m. -noon. Call (276) 632-3221 for more information.

Wednesday, September 18

Hidden in Plain Sight: Shining A Light on Elder Abuse: King's Grant Chapel, 350 King's Way Road, Martinsville from 2-3 p.m. Call Southern Area Agency on Aging at (276) 632-6442 for more information.

Adult Health Care: Medicaid Expansion FREE or Low cost New Adult Health Coverage for adults 19 to 64 years old ,not enrolled in or eligible for Medicare, Bassett Family Practice 324 T B Stanley Hwy. Bassett 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Call (276) 732-0509 for more information.

Thursday, September 19

Book Bingo: Martinsville Library on 310 E Church St. Martinsville 2:30 p.m. Call (276) 403-5430 for more information.

Friday, September 20

Martinsville Library's Singles Meet and Greet: Located at the Daily Grind on 303 E Church St. Martinsville, start time is from 6-7 p.m. Call (276) 403-5430 for more information.

Bassett Music Jamboree: Located at the HJDB Event Center on 3289 Riverside Dr, Bassett, from 6 - 9 p.m. Admission is \$5 donation. Call (276) 629-1369 for more information.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Sign Up For Your Subscription Today!

Only \$52 Per Year

3 Ways to subscribe! Choose from.....

1. Visit us online at HenryCountyEnterprise.com
2. Call us at (304)647-5724 or (276)694-3101
3. Fill out the form below and mail it in

The Choice Is Yours!

Your Name: _____ Name on Credit Card: _____
 Your Mailing Address: _____ Credit Card Number: _____
 Email Address: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I am authorizing my credit card be charged \$52.00

I have enclosed a check for \$52.00

Thank you for caring about what happens in your community and supporting community journalism. We could not make it happen without your support!

New Art Classes set at Piedmont Arts

Explore new art forms, mediums and techniques with a fresh slate of art classes at Piedmont Arts. The museum offers art classes year-round for seniors, adults and families, led by popular instructors like Ed Gowen, Alisha Bennett and artists from Studio 107.

To register for an art class, visit PiedmontArts.org or call 276.632.3221. Advanced registration is required.

Barn Quilt Painting
 Tuesday, November 19, 2019
 1 – 3 pm • Piedmont Arts
 \$35 Members • \$40 Non-members
 Paint a 12 in. x 12 in. Barn quilt with instructor Lisa Martin. Participants choose from six design options prior to class. All supplies provided.

Drizzle + Drink Burn + Blow
 Friday, October 11, 2019 • 6 – 9 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Adult Class
 \$35 Members • \$40 Non-members
 Not an artist? That's okay. No skill is required for acrylic paint pouring with instructor Alisha Bennett. Just be ready to have fun. Drizzle + Drink: Burn + Blow will focus on Funnel Drag along with use of a straw and a blowtorch. Smocks or old clothes encouraged. Guests may bring drinks, snacks or dinner to enjoy during class. Registration closes 48 hours prior to class.

Strainer Things
 Friday, November 8, 2019 • 6 – 9 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Adult Class
 \$35 Members • \$40 Non-members
 Not an artist? That's okay. No skill is required for acrylic paint pouring with instructor Alisha Bennett. Just be ready to have fun. Drizzle + Drink: Strainer Things will focus on how to pour through a variety of "holey" items. Smocks or old clothes encouraged. Guests may bring drinks, snacks or dinner to enjoy during class. Registration closes 48 hours prior to class.

Holiday Mixology
 Friday, December 13, 2019 • 6 – 9 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Adult Class

\$35 Members • \$40 Non-members
 Not an artist? That's okay. No skill is required for acrylic paint pouring with instructor Alisha Bennett. Just be ready to have fun. Drizzle + Drink: Holiday Mixology will offer a mix of previously taught techniques. Smocks or old clothes encouraged. Guests may bring drinks, snacks or dinner to enjoy during class. Registration closes 48 hours prior to class.

Artspiration: Studio with Karen Despot
 Thursdays • 1:30 – 4:30 pm • Piedmont Arts
 \$30 Members • \$35 Non-members

Already an artist but would love a little guidance? Spend studio time working in acrylic, oil or colored pencil with artist Karen Despot and fellow students. All supplies provided.

Artspiration: Senior Studio
 Tuesdays • 10 am – 12 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Free to Members • \$5 for Non-members

During Artspiration: Senior Studio, seniors are invited to paint together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space for seniors to socialize while creating artwork. Bring your own supplies. Non-members pay at the door.

Artspiration: Kids Fundamentals of Painting
 Saturday, September 7, 2019 • 1 – 3 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Ages 10 – 12
 \$30 Member • \$35 Non-member
 Practice the basic painting techniques, brush use, color and composition development with instructor Charles Hill. All supplies provided.

Fundamentals of Drawing
 Saturday, September 14, 2019 • 1 – 3 pm • Piedmont Arts
 Ages 10 – 12
 \$30 Member • \$35 Non-member
 Practice the basics of drawing people and animals with instructor Charles Hill. All supplies provided.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

**CALL (276) 694-3101
TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD**

SERVICES

MASTER CARPENTER HOME RE-MODELER
40-years' experience. No job too small. Log splitting, repairs, decks, gutter cleaning, light hauling, trim work, sheet rock, power washing, tree cutting and demolition. Call Joe at (276) 229-1029.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Bush Hogging/ Driveway grading. Reasonable rates. Call (276) 358-1650.

DODSON MEAT PROCESSING
Processing Lamb, Cattle, Hogs, Goats. For more information please call 276-288-4838

PAINTING
House Painting, Interior and exterior, deck staining. Call George Scott (276) 229-9712.

CLEANING
House Cleaning Service Available. Please call (276) 251-1147

HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE WORKER
Apt/House Experience Preferred TR Properties. Please call (276) 666-1527 trproperties@mail.com

STORE/RESTAURANT
Help wanted at busy convenience store and restaurant. Start immediately. Must be able to work evenings weekends, and work with the public. Apply in person at Roberts Market & Lighthouse Grill, 3918 Fairystone Park HWY Stuart. Interviews will be Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. Ask for David.

EXPERIENCED MECHANIC
Experienced Mechanic wanted 5 days a week. Pay according to experience. Please call (276) 694-4133

HELP WANTED

MASSAGE THERAPIST
Primland Resort is currently interviewing for Massage Therapist. Apply online @ www.primland.com/come-work-with-us Primland LTD is an E/O/E

CARPENTERS/ CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
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.

PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Coordinator Community Development Programs, Hybrid Faculty- Information Technology/Industry 4.0, Welding Associate Instructor, Fast Forward Career Coach, MHC After 3 High School Director, Patrick County Site Specialist, Patrick County Site Lab Assistant, After School Site Director, MHC After 3 Program Leader, and Adjunct Faculty in Allied Health, Biology, Certified Professional Coder, Construction Trades, Electrical Continuing Education, Nursing, and Registered Medication Aide (RMA). For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

LOGGING
Experienced logging crew looking for help. Hourly pay with benefits.

HELP WANTED

Apply in person only at 14747 Jeb Stuart Highway, Stuart. Hourly Pay and Benefits. Apply in person Wilderness-Stuart Inc. 14747 Jeb Stuart Hwy. Stuart, VA 24171

MAINTENANCE WORKER
Looking for experience Maintenance Worker and Cleaning Lady in Stuart. Please call (276)-952-7856

COMPANION
My elderly mother in Stuart is looking for a housemate who can assist with food preparation, light housekeeping, and mostly companionship. She would like a fulltime housemate but is willing to consider a few hours a day. If you are interested or if you know someone please call (650)-269-5709.

PRIMLAND
Primland Resort has part-time positions for a hostess for Elements and facilities maintenance technician. Please apply on property or our website www.primland.com. Primland is an E/O/E

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT
3 bedroom/ 2 baths Stuart, VA \$650 a month. Please call 276-666-1527

HOUSE FOR RENT
3 bedroom/ 2 baths Bassett, VA \$650 a month. Please call 276-666-1527

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT
Claudville, VA 2 bedrooms, 2 bath mobile home. Approx. 10 miles from Mt. Airy. \$475 month. Deposit and application fee required. Please call 336-325-8761

HOUSE FOR RENT
Two story, two bedrooms, one bathroom house for rent. Critz area, gas heat. Damage deposit upfront. \$400 a month. More information call 276-957-4904

FOR SALE

TRACTOR
John Deer Tractor for sale. 32 horsepower, 4-wheel drive with a 3 point hitch and 6 ft. mower deck. Less than 20 hours, \$22,000. Call (276) 229-9373.

HOUSE FOR SALE
Refurbished Starter Home located in Patrick Springs. Updated Kitchen and Bathroom with new flooring refinished original hardwood floors, in LR, DR and BR. Pantry / Laundry with washer/dryer hookup. Enclosed rear porch. Updated electrical and plumbing. Fresh paint throughout. Stove, refrigerator and washing machine included. Approx. 1/2 acre. \$69,900. Call (276) 694-3866 for appointment.

SERVICES

GUITAR LESSONS
Teacher with over 30 years experience, taking on new students. Call Jamie Walker 276-403-0744 or 352-870-2540 (Also teaches banjo and bass.)

CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING
Gravel hauling and spreading/grading, paving and seal coating. 35 years' experience in spreading gravel and paving. Reasonable rates. Call (276) 694-7786 or (276) 340-8786 (cell).

CARPENTER
- Interior/Exterior. Fencing, decks, porches, barns, sheds, demolitions, tree work. Reasonable rates. Call Nick Morris at (276) 582-2089 or (757) 621-5219.

"HONEYDO" HANDYMAN SERVICES, LLC
Carpentry, plumbing, repairs, painting, maintenance. Visit www.prohoneydo.com. Call (276) 952-8531 for pro handyman service. Let's tackle that "honeydo" list.

HOMETOWN COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS REPAIR
For onsite computer, electronics, laptop, & mobile device, service and support for all operating systems. Pickup and delivery available if needed. Reasonable flat fee.

SERVICES

25 years experience. Call Don at (276) 694-4252.

HYDRO AIR SYSTEMS
Heating, Cooling & Electrical Contractors, Sales & Services, Licensed in VA & NC (276) 694-7308.

HELMS SEPTIC SERVICE
Systems pumped, repaired and installed, Roto Rooter, Sewer line jetting, Portable restroom rental. Scott Pike, Owner. Call (276) 694-7093.

HAZELWOOD TRUCKING, INC.
Gravel, sand, dirt, contact Danny or Mike (276) 694-7718. Over 60 years of experience. Serving Patrick County and surrounding areas. **MARTIN'S SEPTIC SERVICE** Pumping, Repair and Installation, Trenching and Excavating. Experienced, Qualified and Reasonable. Call (276) 694-2777 Cell (276) 692-4328

STEVE'S MOWER REPAIR
Service and repair for all makes of lawn mowers. Pick-up and delivery for a reasonable charge based on your location. We offer disposal of old mowers with free pick up. Call 276-694-3748. If no answer, leave your name and number. We'll call you back.

Attention

Subscriptions Now Being Accepted!!!!

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area
HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Sign up for your subscription today!

We want you to hear and see local stories about your community.
Your Community, Your Voice!

3 Ways to subscribe! Choose from....

1. Visit us online at HenryCountyEnterprise.com

2. Call us at (304)647-5724 or (276)694-3101

3. Fill out the form below and mail it in
The Choice Is Yours!



Mail Forms To:
Virginia Media, LLC
P.O. Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901

Your Name: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

I am authorizing my credit card be charged \$52.00

I have enclosed a check for \$52.00

Thank you for caring about what happens in your community and supporting community journalism. We could not make it happen without your support!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Church completes community service project

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Martinsville recently completed a Thrivent Action Team project as part of the national Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's "God's Work. Our Hands." community service. Members of Holy Trinity assembled 180 packages, each con-

taining non-perishable food for two days, which were donated to The Community Storehouse for the Food for Kids: School Backpack Program. Support for the project was provided, in part, by Thrivent Financial to encourage members to "Live Generously."



Front Row (L-R): Emmie Guebert, Tracy Guebert, Natalie Jacobson, Saun Mateer, Debbie Youngman. Back Row: Erich Guebert, Jane Pilson, Rev. Ron Mateer, Willis Hubbard, Nan Hubbard.

Rives Theatre Fire

from page 1



events and enjoyed them immensely."

One tradition in recent years was showing "The Polar Express" on the big screen for local elementary students each December.

"Seeing the kindergarten classes come in their pajamas, so excited to see the Polar Express, that always made me happy. There were kids who had never been to a movie theater before," Coleman said. "To be an affordable outlet for families to experience this - it meant a lot, in my opinion. Those are the little things I love."

The theater was built as a playhouse in 1928, then turned into a movie theater. It continued to show movies for decades, until the 2000s,

when the economic downturn threatened to close its doors. Community members joined forces to try and save the theater by turning it into a live music venue. A group of volunteers formed the nonprofit Arts at the Rives Theatre (ART) and held concerts monthly, eventually raising enough money to keep the theater going. ART and Rooster Walk merged into a single nonprofit organization in 2016 with the goal of continuing to support the arts and music in the community.

"Our family has been very, very happy with the direction that things have gone, that the name lives on, that we're making magic," Coleman said.

The Rives stage launched

many local musicians and also brought in nationally touring bands, including Leftover Salmon and Billy Strings. Signed posters and memorabilia from years of Rives shows and Rooster Walk festivals hung on the walls of the theater's lobby, including two large original paintings by artist Jonathan Blake that he painted live in front of the stage during the first Rooster Walk in 2009.

Fortunately, Anderson said, "quite a few of the pictures are still salvageable. Obviously, they're going to smell like smoke, and the frames and such are soot-stained, but the lobby is mostly intact."

Many musicians said they enjoyed playing the Rives Theatre because of its excel-

lent acoustics, Buck said. This was due to the soundproof carpeting, walls, and ceiling tiles that were installed for the movie theater when it was renovated in the 1990s.

"When we were getting ready to put on the first couple of shows in there, we had no idea how it would sound," he said. "We were pleasantly surprised that, from the very beginning, musicians were very complimentary of the sound. They would tell us, 'Man, this sounds really good. I can hear myself, hear every note.' Several remarked that it was like performing in a professional studio with a live audience."

Buck said Monday that many musicians who had played the Rives had already

contacted him to express their sadness about the fire. In addition, "hundreds and hundreds of local people have reached out directly or on social media. Everyone's been so supportive and asking how they can help."

After the fire, Facebook was filled with Martinsville residents sharing memories of the movie theater and past concerts. Some called for the Rives to rebuild and offered to make donations.

Buck said the future of the building remains to be seen. "It's far too early to predict where the shows will take place in the next year or two," he said. "But we do know we're going to keep bringing great live music to Martinsville-Henry County."

Art Classes

from page 8

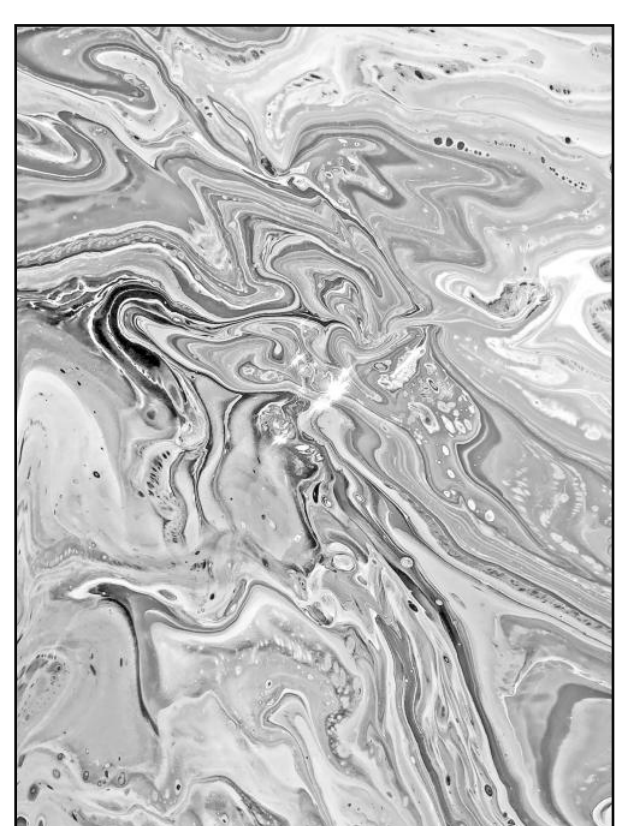
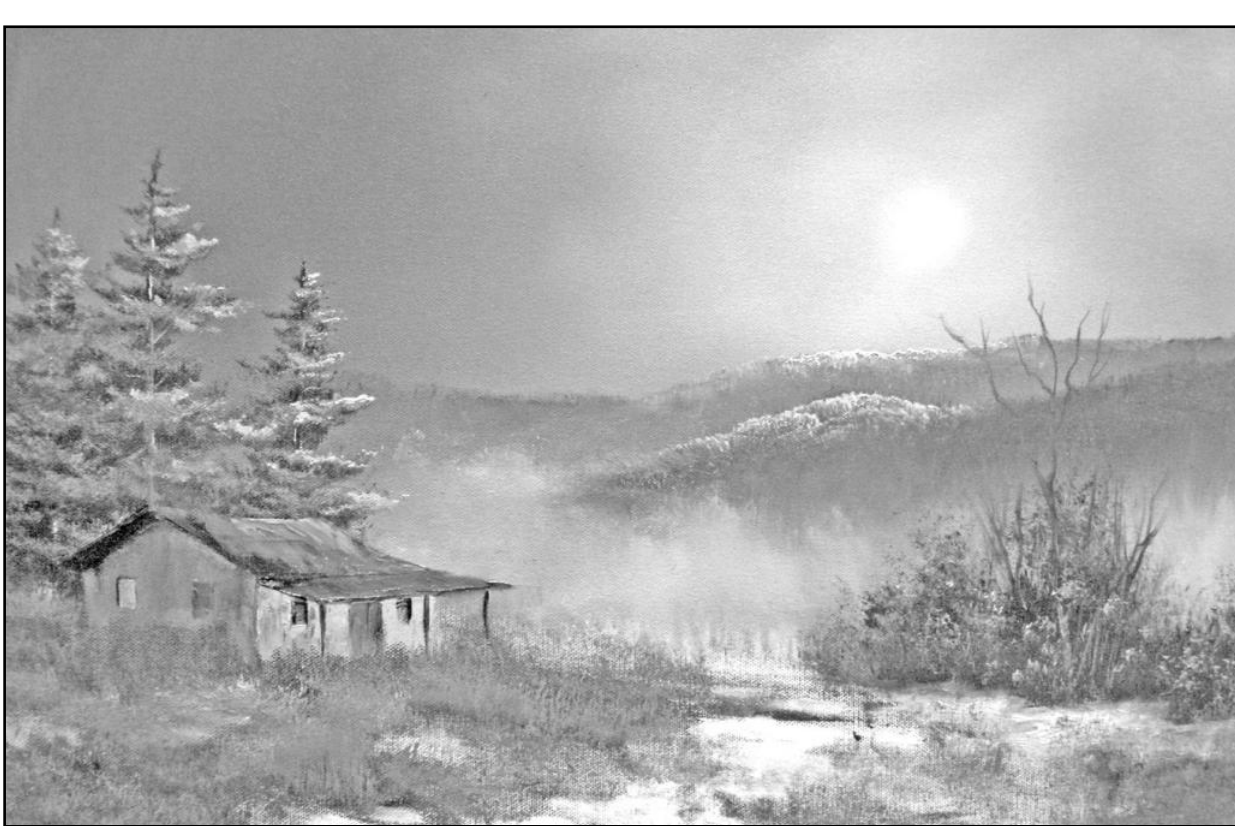
Painting with Ed Gowen
Warm Day in the Hills
Thursday, October 3, 2019 • 9 am - 3:30 pm • Piedmont Arts Adult Class
\$75 Member • \$85 Non-member
Learn to paint an original oil painting with instructor Ed Gowen. All supplies provided.

Christmas Candle
Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 9 am - 3:30 pm • Piedmont Arts Adult Class
\$75 Member • \$85 Non-member
Learn to paint an original oil painting with instructor Ed Gowen. All supplies provided.
Twilight Beauty

Thursday, December 5, 2019 • 9 am - 3:30 pm • Piedmont Arts Adult Class
\$75 Member • \$85 Non-member
Learn to paint an original oil painting with instructor Ed Gowen. All supplies provided.
Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art

museum in Martinsville, Virginia that inspires and engages the diverse Martinsville-Henry County community and surrounding areas through visual arts, performing arts and arts education. Piedmont Arts is a statewide partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Piedmont Arts

programming is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Piedmont Arts is located at 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday - Friday from 10 am - 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.



SPORTS

Bengals' Road Woes Continue at Pulaski

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(DUBLIN, Va.) – Bassett's first football game featured a bus ride to Rustburg before kickoff and a long ride home with thoughts of what could have been. On Friday, the destination was Pulaski County, but the result was the same as the Bengals fell 42-0.

Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson said that the score was not necessarily indicative of how his team played, but admitted that costly mistakes kept the Bengals from staying in the game

after halftime.

"We were in the red zone early and could have made it 7-7, but we stalled out," Johnson explained. "Then, they got a late score in the first half to make it 21-0 going into halftime instead of 14-0. There were too many things that didn't go our way. Then the score got inflate with a blocked punt and a fumble for a touch-down against us."

The Bengals did not struggle to move the ball, but instead struggled to finish drives and score. Bassett was able to gain 176 yards against Pulaski's 235, but they were

unable to convert those yards into points thanks to a tough Pulaski front-seven defensively.

"They were very good up front and in the box defensively," Johnson said. "We had drives where we moved the ball then stalled out with penalties or missed assignments. We're still learning. When you play Pulaski, you can't make mistakes. We made mistakes they didn't and it cost us on the scoreboard."

Despite two tough losses to start the year, Johnson was not discouraged with the direction or mentality of

his team. The head coach exudes positivity and he is hoping it will rub off on his players ahead of two consecutive home contests.

"We're coming in and we're going to show the guys the negative plays and the positive plays and preach positivity into them," Johnson said. "Our biggest struggle is a lack of confidence... Our season isn't over after two weeks. We just have to figure it out. We have some things that we're going to do differently moving forward."

With William Byrd (1-1) coming to Bassett (0-2) on September 13 to open the

Bengals' home season, Johnson said that Byrd presents a physical challenge the Bengals will have to answer.

"They're a very physical football team, but they throw the ball a little more than in the past," Johnson said. "It's a great matchup for us against a 3A school we could see in the playoffs. The kids are excited to get off the road and come home. We have to match their physicality and I feel like it should be a good game."

"I trust my staff and my players, we're going to figure it out."

NASCAR Playoff Field Chock Full of Martinsville Winners

Eight of 2019 championship hopefuls have visited Victory Lane at legendary speedway

MARTINSVILLE – There is a common thread that runs through this year's 16-team playoff field in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series – many of the teams and drivers have tasted victory at Martinsville Speedway, site of the Oct. 27 First Data 500.

Defending series champion Joey Logano used a victory on the legendary .526-mile layout last fall to catapult his No. 22 Team Penske entry into the championship round where he went on to capture the series title.

Teammate Brad Keselowski, meanwhile, dominated the 2019 spring stop at Martinsville.

Kyle Busch, the 2019 regular-season winner and 2015 series champion, is a two-time winner at Martinsville (2016, '17) while Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin has five career victories here, tops among those in this year's playoff field.

Busch, this year's points leader following the playoffs reset, and Hamlin, No. 2 in the standings, aren't the only title-contending drivers with multiple Martinsville victories – Kurt Busch, older brother of Kyle, has also sped away with two of the track's popular and highly-prized grandfather clocks that are presented to race winners.

The First Data 500 headlines a racing weekend that includes the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 Gander Outdoors Truck Series race.

It is the opening race of this year's third playoff round for the Cup Series and a victory on the deceptively difficult Martinsville layout would once again guarantee the victor a clear path to Homestead-Miami Speedway and a shot at the

series' championship.

Other former Martinsville winners in this year's playoff field are Stewart-Haas Racing's Kevin Harvick, a winner here in 2011, teammate Clint Bowyer (the 2018 spring race winner) and Ryan Newman. The Roush Fenway Racing competitor scored his lone Martinsville victory in the spring of 2012.

Both Bowyer and Newman secured their playoff spots with solid top-10 finishes in Sunday's MENCOS race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

There are other playoff participants hoping for their first Martinsville win and the guaranteed ticket into the championship round that would come with it.

Martin Truex Jr. and Erik Jones, JGR teammates along with Busch and Hamlin, have yet to see the inside of the winner's circle at Martinsville. But Truex, with four wins this season, has been solid in recent Martinsville outings with three top-five finishes in his last four starts.

Jones, meanwhile, is coming off an impressive victory in the Bojangles' Southern 500.

Chase Elliott, twice a winner this season, nearly put his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet in Victory Lane at Martinsville in this year's spring event, eventually finished second to Keselowski.

Alex Bowman and William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports, Kyle Larson (Chip Ganassi Racing), Ryan Blaney (Team Penske) and Aric Almirola (Stewart-Haas Racing) complete this year's playoff field.

Tickets to the First Data 500 and all Martinsville Speedway events can be purchased online at www.martinsvillespeedway.com or by calling 877.RACE.TIX.

Warriors Ride Key Plays to Victory Over Dan River

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(RINGGOLD, Va.) – After Magna Vista's explosive road win in Week One, Dan River's athletic squad and a trip to Ringgold loomed in Week Two. The Warriors were able to handle the challenge, bringing a 20-6 win home thanks to a few key plays against the Wildcats.

Mirroring the start to their Week One win, Magna Vista was able to score defensively in the opening moments of Friday's contest against Dan River. Freddie Roberts intercepted a Dan River pass, taking it back for a score to give the Warriors an early advantage.

Then, after forcing another Dan River turnover, Dryus Hairston and Isaac Ellison connected on a fade pass to give Magna Vista a 13-0 lead after the first quarter.

"We had a huge play to start the game on the road, just like the week before, then got another score off a turnover," Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero said. "It was a great start, but things got a little sloppy and we struggled offensively until the third quarter."

After halftime, a long drive

positioned the Warriors' offense near the Wildcats' goal line, but Dan River's defense forced a turnover on downs. Magna Vista responded on their next drive, taking a 20-0 lead.

It was then that the Wildcats made their push to get back into contention for the win, scoring to make the score 20-6 before what Joe Favero described as a key play in the game.

As the third quarter clock wound down, Dan River broke a long run and it appeared they would make it a one-score game. Just before the runner crossed the goal line, however, Rion Martin chased him down from behind and stripped the ball loose. Martin's Magna Vista defensive teammates streamed in after him, and the Warriors recovered the ball to keep their 14-point lead intact.

"That was a little dicey, but a great hustle play," Favero said. "I was proud of the kids, when the ball came out we had about five guys chasing him. Great hustle for our defense and a heads-up play by Rion Martin."

The Magna Vista defense sealed the win from there, holding

Dan River scoreless until the end of the game.

"If we continue to play the way we are defensively we have a chance to be pretty good on that side of the ball," Favero said. "We are being physical at the point of attack and tackling well in space. We have caused a lot of turnovers through two games."

Offensively, Louis Taylor rushed for 99 yards on 18 carries and Dryus Hairston went 6-for-13 passing for 125 yards and a score to lead the charge for Magna Vista.

With their home opener on September 13, Magna Vista (2-0) is already preparing for William Fleming (2-0) and their potent offensive attack, which Favero said will challenge his secondary.

"It's important to win at home, we played really well on both sides in Week One, then took a step back offensively this week," Favero said. "Hopefully focus improves in practice ahead of the game against Fleming. The kids understood it right away, they said 'a lot of this was the way we practiced this week.' The seniors own the team and what's going on. We've got some great leaders in place."

Perennial Power Galax Hands Bulldogs a Loss

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(GALAX, Va.) – Martinsville first year head coach Bobby Martin is clear when discussing his football team: There is work to be done to improve. That was his message after a home loss to open the season, and again on Friday night after a 51-25 road loss at Galax.

"We have a lot of work to do in all three phases of the game," Martin said. "Blocking, tackling, routes, passing, running - we have a lot to improve on and every week we try to get better."

Travel wasn't the issue, Martin said, but rather the strength of Galax's program, which makes annual trips deep into the VHSL Playoffs.

"I think it's good to play good competition so you can see where you are compared to a program as good as them," Martin said. "We keep talking about how we need to keep fighting, get better every day. A few little things got better this week, but there are so many things that need to improve."

Martin's team is young, small in number and dealing with a number of injuries, making the learning process even more difficult for the Bulldogs this season.

"We have a lot of injuries, I think we have 14 guys injured. We were already short-handed. It's tough, but I'm going to keep working," Martin said. "We started with 38, and a bunch of the guys who were hurt were two-way starters so when they get

hurt it's like losing two players at once."

Now, the Bulldogs (0-2) must face an athletic Dan River (1-1) team, one that gave Magna Vista fits, at Dan Greene Memorial Stadium in Martinsville on September 13.

"Dan River has speed everywhere and their defense is really good. They played really well against Magna Vista, I mean really good," Martin said. "The guys are trying, they're trying to become better men and better football players and I'm working with them to help them with that every day."

"We've got a lot of issues we need to work on to get better. Eventually we'll find one thing we can hang our hat on and get better from there."

Wood Brothers Racing announced DiBenedetto to replace Menard

Holly Cain

NASCAR Wire Service
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

– In what many consider a surprise announcement only five days before NASCAR's Monster Energy Cup Series Playoffs begin in Las Vegas, one of the sport's most iconic teams, Wood Brothers Racing, announced Tuesday that driver Paul Menard will be stepping out of the driver's seat and Matt DiBenedetto will replace him in the famed No. 21 Ford beginning in the 2020 season.

Wood Brothers team principles conceded in a conference call with the national media Tuesday that the team didn't necessarily intend to make the news a "surprise" turn of events. Menard said he had been considering stepping out of a fulltime driving role for months. Ultimately, the father of two young children decided, "I love my family more."

According to those involved, Menard informed the Wood Brothers team of his intentions to stop racing fulltime three weeks ago and

then immediately suggested that DiBenedetto, who currently drives the No. 95 Toyota for Leavine Family Racing, would be a good driver to take over the No. 21 Ford for them. The Wood Brothers car is in a technical alliance with Team Penske, and Penske team principals were also involved in securing the deal with DiBenedetto.

The whole process from Menard telling the team he wanted to leave the fulltime ride to the team securing DiBenedetto took only about three weeks, they said.

"First thing out of Paul's mouth was 'Get Matt,'" team owner Eddie Wood acknowledged. "So right away, we started a conversation with Matt and that's the only direction we went. And I'd like to thank Paul for putting us in that direction."

"It all came together really quick and it's amazing how fast things turn," DiBenedetto said, acknowledging the uncertainty about his future had created some tough emotional moments for him and his family.

"My whole path and career

has been pretty unorthodox and crazy for sure," DiBenedetto said. "I believe strongly in fate and that everything happens for a reason. I've had to trust in that throughout this whole journey because if I had control of everything throughout my career, I would have messed it up many, many times."

"I've just had to work as hard as I can. I live for this day and night and have had to let the things out of my control fall as they may. I've

See **Wood Brothers**, page 12

Martinsville Speedway names new director of communications

MARTINSVILLE – Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell added a new staff member. Tim Southers joined the Martinsville Speedway staff as the Director of Communications.

Southers joins the speedway staff from Motorsport Network and 704Games, where he served as NASCAR Public Relations Manager for almost three years. Previously, he worked at NASCAR in the Public Relations and Integrated Marketing Communication Departments for all of NASCAR's touring series.

"I'm very excited that we are able to bring Tim on our team," Campbell said. "His experience and knowledge in the industry brings a new energy to our staff."

"I've known Tim for quite some time now and his passion for the sport is unparalleled. I know that he is going to carry that passion in continuing to grow and build Martinsville for many years to come."

Southers, originally

from Hickory, North Carolina, will be relocating to Martinsville with his wife, Amy, and daughter, Kadee.

On October 5, the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series will be in action with NASCAR's biggest, richest and most prestigious Late Model Stock Car race, the ValleyStar Credit Union 300. The race pays \$32,000 to the winner and will be the final race for the Virginia Triple Crown.

On the weekend of October 25-27, the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will both be in action for the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 and the First Data 500, respectively. Both races are part of NASCAR's Playoffs, where the winners can lock in a spot for the Championship races at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 877.RACE.TIX or online at www.martinsvillespeedway.com.

STELLA'S DAY TRIPS



Uptown Pinball, a video arcade located in Martinsville, features skeeball, pool, air hockey, multiple arcade machines and modern game consoles, virtual reality, and old school pinball.

Laser tag tops every hour, and two entire buildings unlock their doors for gamers and their friends. Guests travel from game to game, to win or lose, and repeat and repeat for as long as the arcade is open.

The atmosphere is alive and energetic. Innocent eyes widen when seeing the video arcade for the very first time, and older patrons recall evenings and Saturdays enjoyed with their favorite pinball machine, competing for the high score.

Uptown Pinball provides hours of excitement for children of all ages. And what's also great is that all parents and grandparents have to do

is simply be there. The view from a café table is better than TV and just as relaxing. Watching one's children—live and in person—having one of the best afternoons of their childhood is time well.

Uptown Pinball is the most amazing place to be entertained—full of glitz and a smorgasbord of continuous free-play games—at the cost of a small entrance fee. Birthday packages also are available, with group rates and outside food permitted.

There are plenty of seats and tables, a snack bar, and bathroom.

Address: Uptown Pinball, 35 East Church Street in Martinsville. Check the website for current costs and information at www.uptownpinball.business.site or call (276) 224-7139.

Email questions/suggestions to: Stella Lane at stellatripfordays@outlook.com.



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

Wood Brothers

just been really lucky and it's unreal how this path and opportunity worked out."

Following the mid-August announcement that he would not be returning to Leavine Family Racing for the 2020 season, DiBenedetto said he had received "a few phone calls" from teams expressing interest in him.

"But as soon as I got the phone call [from the Wood Brothers], that was a dream come-true phone call and I was basically all-in on the opportunity," he said.

"They could have

called me at two in the morning to meet with them and I would have been there immediately," he said, adding, "This is the best opportunity of my life and I think we can all build something great for years to come."

Team owner Len Wood said simply, "He was our first choice. I just think it was meant to be."

DiBenedetto, a 28-year-old Californian, is in the midst of a career year in the No. 95 LFR Toyota – leading a race-best 49 laps in the season-opening Daytona 500 before being collected in a wreck in the waning portion of the race.

He's scored the first

top fives of his five Cup seasons (at Sonoma, New Hampshire and Bristol) this year and already earned a career-high six top 10s in the car. Only three weeks ago he scored a dramatic and career best runner-up finish to Denny Hamlin at the famed Bristol night race.

The 39-year-old Wisconsin native Menard has competed fulltime in the Monster Energy Series for 13 seasons earning his lone victory at one of the sport's grandest races, the 2011 Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

His first fulltime Cup job was in 2007 driving Chevrolets for Dale Earnhardt Inc. He raced a season each

for both Yates Racing and Richard Petty Motorsports before settling in at Richard Childress Racing, where he competed from 2011-2017. He moved to the Wood Brothers No. 21 last season.

Menard has two Monster Energy Series pole positions to his credit in 2008 at the Daytona summer race and last year at Chicagoland. He has one win, 20 top-five and 69 top-10 finishes. His best season statistically was 2014 when he had five top fives and 13 top 10s.

He has three NASCAR Xfinity Series victories as well and said he still planned to compete in assorted Xfinity races in the upcoming seasons.

Menard is currently ranked 19th in the Monster Energy Series standings with four top 10s through the opening 26 Cup races.

"The way I look at it there's still 26 years before I can get my AARP card, so I'll stay pretty busy doing things," Menard joked, adding, "First and foremost, I need to be a good dad, good husband. Outside of that are a lot of opportunities. Obviously we have a great company up in Wisconsin [Menards] that's growing and vibrant."

"I'm not done racing yet, trying to figure out what the next step is for sure, but it's not going to be 38 races a year, I can tell you that."

Patrick HENRY Community College Training starts soon at our Patrick County Site!

ELECTRICAL GROUNDSMAN TRAINING
STARTS SEPTEMBER 30TH!
Complete in just 4 weeks!

MECHATRONICS BOOTCAMP
STARTS OCTOBER 3RD!
Just 4 short courses to a Siemens Certification!

PHCC has grant money that can pay for nearly ALL of your training right here in Patrick County! These certifications lead to HIGH-DEMAND and HIGH-PAYING JOBS here and most anywhere in the country!

WANT MORE INFORMATION? CALL NOW! 276-656-0260

We are GIVING AWAY over \$8,800 Every Weekend At LANCER HALL BINGO

Games Start Friday- 7:00 pm Saturday- 6:30 pm
Doors Open at 5:00pm
LAUREL PARK PLAZA, 6296 AL PHILPOTT HWY., MARTINSVILLE VA (RT 58 EAST OF MARTINSVILLE) • 276-638-3361
Sponsored By Laurel Park Community Boosters

| | | | | |
|----|----|------|----|----|
| 43 | 22 | 72 | 36 | 4 |
| 29 | 18 | 63 | 52 | |
| 70 | 8 | FREE | 24 | 3 |
| 6 | 27 | 16 | 30 | 4 |
| 31 | 12 | 39 | 57 | 26 |

Smoke Free Environment
No one under 18 allowed in bingo hall
Gift Certificates Available
Bingo Bags, Bingo Seat Cushions, Dabbers are Available
Use of game proceeds for charity, 18%

THE JEWELER'S EDGE

Custom Designed Jewelry
GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY & WATCH REPAIR

SALES
September 2 - 7: 10% Off Rings
September 9-14: 10% Off Chains
September 16-21: 10% Off Bracelets
September 23-28: 10% Off Earrings

* Does not include consignment or repairs.
* All sales final.

Cloverleaf Shopping Centre (Beside Subway) 2440B Greensboro Rd., Martinsville, VA
9:30 - 5:30 Weekday • 9:30 - 4:00 Saturday
Phone: 276-790-3621