

## Harvest and partners study childcare needs

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

How does a lack of available childcare hurt the workforce, and what can be done to address the issue?

Those are some of the questions The Harvest Foundation, city and county governments, and their business and community partners are exploring as part of a planning grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The city of Martinsville served as the lead on the grant application.

Before the partners can find solutions, first they have to learn more about the problem. The process started with conversations between Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, Smart Beginnings, the Virginia Department of Social Services, Henry County and Martinsville City schools, Patrick Henry Community College, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, SOVAH Health-Martinsville and Eastman Chemical

Company. Harvest then convened a series of public meetings in August to share their findings and is currently gathering feedback from local parents and childcare providers about the barriers and gaps in this area.

“The response so far has been phenomenal,” said Sheryl Agee, impact officer for The Harvest Foundation, who is coordinating the effort. “The power of coming together makes all things possible. We’re building a new system; what does it need to look like?”

Increasing access to childcare is important not only for the parents and children themselves, but for the region’s economic development, Agee said. “If we want to attract and retain high-quality employers, we need to remove barriers to parents participating in the workforce,” she said.

Locally, lack of childcare is one of those barriers. With that in mind, “How do we build the best childcare system for our youth? We want all children to have equitable access to a safe, quality learning environment,” she said.

However, there are many com-

plex factors standing in the way of this goal. At the public meetings, Agee said, they heard feedback like “I need care outside of the ‘6 to 6’” (6 a.m. to 6 p.m., when day cares are typically open) and “I need infant care” from parents.

Childcare providers want to provide more infant care, “but it’s really expensive” and comes with many regulations, she said. For example, any room housing infants must have a direct exit to the outside in case of an emergency, meaning that many facilities are not set up to meet this requirement without making renovations.

Harvest is asking providers “What do they see that parents are struggling with?” Agee said. “We already have many excellent childcare providers in our community. How can we support them and help them increase capacity?”

Lack of capacity is one issue affecting the availability of care in this area. The Department of Social Services has a search tool for childcare providers by ZIP code on their website at [www.dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/cc2.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/cc2.cgi). A search of



The Harvest Foundation building

PHOTO BY KIM BARTO MEEKS

24112 shows only 18 providers, a mix of centers and home-based care. Many of these are limited to certain age groups, as well, such as the Boys & Girls Club sites at elementary schools that serve only children in those grades.

“We need more early childhood

educators,” Agee said. Like all employers, low unemployment rates mean it’s harder to find childcare staff. Furthermore, she said, “it’s not an industry that pays a great deal.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows

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A crowd dances in front of the stage as the funk band Pimps of Joytime plays at the Rives Theatre in April 2011. This was one of the early shows planned by the nonprofit Arts of the Rives Theatre as they worked to turn the historic theater into a live music venue, and “one of the first that started attracting a younger crowd,” said Johnny Buck, one of the organizers.

## Memories remain in wake of blaze

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

A destructive fire at the Rives Theatre could not erase a decade of musical memories.

Musicians who had played at the former movie theater since its rebirth as a live concert venue agreed it was a special place, not only for the building’s acoustic quality, but also due to the enthusiasm and support of music fans in uptown Martinsville, organizers said.

Before the fire on Sept. 8, the lobby walls were covered in posters from past concerts, signed by the artists. One poster from country/bluegrass musician John Cowan read, “This Theatre is Amazing - 2013.”

That was a common sentiment from musicians, said Rooster Walk Executive Director Johnny Buck. Cowan played at the Rives twice, the second time on tour with one of the Doobie Brothers. “I just remember he was really impressed

with not only the theater itself, but the vibe and the love he felt from the fans,” Buck said. “He was struck by the fact that this was in a smaller town, and yet everybody he dealt with, from the production side to the crowd, was extremely engaged.”

Nashville songwriters and musicians Doug and Telisha Williams, who now perform as the Wild Ponies, grew up in Martinsville and were instrumental in launching the

See **Memories**, page 7

## PHCC appeals decision on PTA program

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

Patrick Henry Community College is not giving up on establishing a new physical therapist assistant (PTA) program after approval was denied in May.

During its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, the PHCC board learned more about the competitive and complicated process of earning accreditation in a presentation by Amy Webster, the college’s director of nursing and allied health.

The new associate degree program had already been approved at three levels by local, state, and regional bodies, but was turned down at the national and final level by CAPTE, the Commis-

sion on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. PHCC is appealing the decision, and CAPTE will reconsider the college’s application at a hearing in Alexandria on Oct. 25.

PHCC’s president, Dr. Angeline Godwin, told the board that she hoped their biggest takeaway was that “you can see the level of complexity required to pursue accreditation.”

At the hearing, college representatives will have 90 minutes to present and defend their proposal. If approved, PTA students could begin classes at PHCC as soon as January 2020. The program takes five semesters, or two years, to complete.

“I believe we’ll be suc-

See **PTA Program**, page 3

## Live music venue sought after fire destroys theater

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

The organizers of live music at the Rives Theatre are still searching for a temporary home after a fire on Sept. 8 rendered the historic building a total loss.

Investigators have ruled the blaze accidental. According to a statement from Martinsville Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ted Anderson, “the origin is believed to be in an upstairs room in the left front corner, in the vicinity of a surge protector that the two refrigerators were plugged into.”

Rooster Walk, Inc., the nonprofit organization that rented and managed the Rives Theatre for concerts and other events, had to relocate a show planned for the night of Friday, Sept. 13 to the Black Box Theatre on Franklin Street in uptown Martinsville. However, the space is not big enough to house future shows, according to Rooster Walk Executive Director Johnny Buck.

“First off, we’d like to thank Black Box for stepping up and offering use of their venue on such short notice for the Forever Doo Wop show on Friday, which was sponsored by King’s Grant. It was a sellout and a really great event,” Buck said.

“The only snag with Black Box, for us, is that their 118-person capacity isn’t big enough for some of our shows, so we’re still looking for a venue in Martinsville-Henry County that can hold around 250 to 350 concert goers,” he added.

The first venue Rooster Walk reached out to was the New College Institute, due to its size and nearby location. Rentals of the lecture halls and banquet spaces are managed by the New College Foundation, which is a separate entity from the college itself. However, the foundation’s board of directors turned down the request on Monday for reasons that are not clear to Rooster Walk organizers.

“The lecture hall at New College Institute was our top choice, but unfortunately we just learned that space isn’t available to us,” even on dates where the space has not been reserved, Buck said. “It was very disappointing to us because it would’ve kept the shows in uptown Martinsville, which was the ideal situation.”

The next major event is a concert by bluegrass band Town Mountain and the instrumental, genre-defying Jon Stickley Trio planned for Saturday, Nov. 2.

See **Venue Wanted**, page 4



## Centenarian lives by ‘no problem’ motto

**Debbie Hall**  
[dhall@theenterprise.com](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.com)

Edna Turner has seen it all, done as much of it as she desired, and the 104-year-old has no plans to stop anytime soon.

As she works on her 105th trip around the sun, she lives life by a simple catchphrase: “That’s no problem,” or a variation thereof is her mantra, she said.

When her doctor told

her he did not want her navigating the steps to the basement, “I told him ‘that’s no problem.’ Shoot, I do laundry down there,” she said.

Turner also noted that “most people my age are in the nursing home. There’s not many walking around on two feet, but I don’t have a problem.”

Turner was born on April 3, 1915 in the Goblintown community of Patrick County to

John and Rosa Shelton. At the time, Woodrow Wilson was serving his second year as president, the Gallipoli Campaign of WWI was underway, and Babe Ruth hit his first career home run.

The family then moved to West Virginia,

See **Centenarian**, page 2





# Wholesale store now open for business



**Corey Thompson**  
*Contributing writer*

Howell's Wholesale in Martinsville is officially open for business, with a ribbon cutting held at the store on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

Richard and Patricia Howell own and operate the wholesale store, which is located at 617 Liberty Street.

The Howells said they decided to open the store because they understand small businesses. They also noted that individuals need an affordable alternative, and their customers will find a wide range of items for sale at low prices.

There are no membership fees or restrictions on who may shop in the store, according to Richard Howell.

"If you have American money you can shop here," Richard Howell said, adding that individuals are among those most attracted to the wholesale prices.

A wholesale house offers merchandise at a small mark-up of around 10 to 30 percent. A retail store can often charge a mark-up of over 60 percent on its items. Howell's Wholesale offers more than 500 different items for sale.

Merchandise in the new store ranges from household cleaning products to take-out trays. Shoppers can peruse the aisles and select

the products they need.

Currently, the shelves are stocked with various products, from toilet paper, dish and hand soap to air fresheners, plastic cutlery, cake boxes, paper bags, motor oil and antifreeze. Additional merchandise is expected to arrive in the coming days.

A walk-in freezer corrals frozen items such as fries, hot dogs, chili, fish, chicken, barbecue, and more.

The store is housed in a 16,000 square foot warehouse the Howell's leased from Lester Properties. A large loading bay door on the left side of the building serves as the main entrance. In colder months, a rear entrance may be used. However, the owners plan to use the side entrance as often as possible.

They said using it makes things easier for handicapped visitors. They also plan to allow customers to pull their cars in through the large entrance so items can be loaded out of any harsh weather.

"We are in the service industry, we realize that and then do something extra," Richard Howell said.

Overall, the wholesale store is not concerned with "flash" or "pizzazz" when it comes to its image. The store exists as a cheap and affordable place for anyone to find what they need.

Del. Les Adams, R- Chatham,

was among those to attend the event. Adams said it is a privilege to help small business. His belief in the importance of supporting local, home grown businesses prompted his visit.

Martinsville City Council member Danny Turner said he helped the Howells navigate the permitting and other processes required to enable the business to locate in the city after the Howells saw the need for the store to locate there.

Turner said he believes it is incumbent on the city to make the process as easy as possible to make sure businesses want to locate there and he is willing to help any business locating and investing in the City of Martinsville.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Several attended a ribbon cutting Tuesday to celebrate the opening of Howell's Wholesale, a new local business that is located on Liberty Street in Martinsville. (Left to right): Paul Farrar; Andrew Palmer; W.C. Fowlkes; Del. Les Adams; Martinsville City Council member Danny Turner; owners Patricia and Richard Howell; Jerry Lawson; Dixie Darby; Earnest Darby; Hank DeHart.

# Centenarian

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and spent 10 years there before Turner moved back to Virginia.

She settled in the Bassett area of Henry County, and was 17 when she married Austin Turner.

"She got married on the train tracks near Stanley Furniture," Turner's granddaughter, Krista Beeson, explained.

"It was a side track" used to move furniture, according to Turner, who explained that she and Austin planned to take their vows at the preacher's home. However, the preacher was at work, so they went to the factory in hopes of getting him to perform the ceremony.

From the rumble seat of their vehicle, Turner's sister and a cousin served as witnesses for the ceremony, as did John D. Bassett, who took time away from his work to attend the marriage.

Bassett formed the Bassett Furniture Company in 1902 and remained its president until 1930, according to online reports.

Turner chuckled, and said, "he didn't even give us a bedroom suit" for their wedding gift.

The Turners were married for 78-years until Austin Turner's death.

Comment that that is a long time, Turner doesn't hesitate before responding simply, "yeah." Almost as an afterthought, she adds "I've been married most all my life."

Her son, Donald W. Turner, is 82 and served as the treasurer of Henry County; her daughter, Nancy Turner Beeson is 80, Edna Turner said, adding that her daughter was Bassett's secretary.

The family was among the first to have a TV, and often attracted a crowd -- "children, really," to enjoy the novelty, Turner said.

She also was among the first in the area to hire a housekeeper to help in the four-room house that was built in 1939, according to her granddaughter. The house was later moved, according to Krista Beeson, who added that

she now lives in "the old family home."

While she has enjoyed her later years, Turner said not all memories are good.

She worked outside the home, first at Bassett Furniture Company and later at Pannill Knitting Company, where she remained for 46 years. "The last 15 years, there, I was floor lady supervisor. I've seen a lot of hard times. I've seen the time when I didn't have 50-cents. I made \$8 a week for working 40-hours. They call that the good ole days, but I didn't see anything good about it. Times are better now, but I've been through hard times."

She was 15-years-old when she started driving. Just last year - when she was 103, Turner renewed her license. She drives to Stanleytown United Methodist Church, arriving on time for church, albeit sometimes late for Sunday School.

She said she also drives to the Hardee's in Stanleytown regularly "to meet with the bunch. Anything to be with people."

Each week, she attends the Historic John D. Bassett (HJDB) event center for the Friday morning get-togethers. While there, she often joins the band to sing a song or two and dances when the fast tunes are played. (Video online at [www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com))

"I like to dance. It's good exercise," Turner said. While watching a video of her dancing with a friend, Turner's granddaughter asked Turner if she enjoyed watching herself dance.

"I'm looking to see how much better the other one is than I am," Turner quipped, and added that she is surprised as anyone at her age.

"Our parents died when they were in their 70s, and we thought that was old," she said.

The secrets to her longevity are simple.

"Being with people and enjoying life, that keeps me going," she said. As for her motto, "it keeps me. I've enjoyed life."



# Volunteers help nonprofits for United Way campaign kick-off



Volunteers from Horace Mann insurance and Blue Ridge Bank painting handrails leading to the school playground at Axton Elementary School.

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

Friday the 13th was a lucky day for several local nonprofit organizations who benefited from service projects as part of the United Way's Day of Action.

The annual event kicked off the 2019 fundraising campaign for the United Way of Henry County & Martinsville. This year, 138 volunteers worked on 14 projects at non-

profits and schools throughout the community, logging more than 422 hours of service in one day.

"This is a great way to showcase the passion and generosity of the community," said United Way Executive Director Philip Wenkstern. "The United Way is a volunteer-led and volunteer-driven organization, and having so many volunteers work on different projects throughout the area really helps demonstrate that mentality."

Day of Action projects included cleaning up and repainting playground equipment at elementary schools, collecting supplies for residents of local group homes, nature trail maintenance, and doing yard work for senior citizens.

Wenkstern praised participants for going "above and beyond, showcasing what it truly means to LIVE UNITED. There were several orga-

See **United Way**, page 6



Boxley and BGCBR Volunteers resurface and smooth out pathways at Lee Ford Camp.



BHS Beta Student Volunteers landscape at the Spencer-Penn Center.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNITED WAY OF HCM

Submit your community  
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**Boaters prepare to launch at Mayo Lake near Roxboro, N.C., site of the Dan River Basin Association's October 5 paddle, suitable for novices. The public is invited free of charge.**

# DRBA's First Saturday outing set

Come and join the Dan River Basin Association's 4-mile paddle along the Mayo Lake shoreline on October 5, guided by staff from Mayo Park, 1013 Neal's Store Rd, Roxboro, N.C. Jeremy Royster, the park superintendent, said, "Mayo Lake is about 2,800 acres and has about 85 miles of shoreline. Since the shoreline is mostly undisturbed, it is great for viewing all kinds of wildlife and birds. It is an important recreation and fishing lake for the region and sees many visitors annually."

Upon arrival, participants should drive to the very end of Neal's Store Road and park in the gravel parking lot. Boats will be launched from the Mayo Lake Park Boat Landing, which has restrooms. The group may conclude the outing at lunchtime in the nearby picnic shelter.

The park has a few kayaks and canoes available at no cost. Participants must reserve them in advance by calling (336) 597-7806. Additional boats and shuttle can be rented from Three Rivers Outfitters, 336-627-6215, [www.3-r-o.com](http://www.3-r-o.com).

Located 10-miles from Roxboro, N.C. and three miles from the Virginia line, Mayo Reservoir was constructed in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Carolina Power and Light Company for power generation. It is named after its main tributary, Mayo Creek, which is named (as is the Mayo River), for Major William Mayo, a member of William Byrd's 1728 survey party. He is described as "a Virginia official, land speculator and surveyor."

According to The Dan River Book, the name is spelled "Maho" on the sign where NC 49 crosses the Mayo Creek. It is still pronounced "Maho" by many locals.

Mayo Park began in 1996 and has continued to develop, maintaining more than six miles of trails, along with boat landings, cabins, tent sites, boat rentals, rest rooms, and other amenities.

Outing participants are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the Mayo Lake Park Boat Landing. It is suggested they dress in synthetic clothing, be prepared to get wet, supply boat, paddles, life jacket for each boater, lunch, and water, and to sign a waiver form upon arrival.

The outing is suitable for novice paddlers.

For more information, contact Jeremy Royster, [jroyster@personcountync.gov](mailto:jroyster@personcountync.gov), (336) 597-7806

For membership and other information about the Dan River Basin Association visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

## Venue Wanted

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"There were some shows in the works that we had hoped to get scheduled before Nov. 2, but when the fire happened, we hit the pause button," Buck said. While they are still searching for a suitable location, he added, "We feel confident that we will hold that show."

Organizers have been "actively looking" and have a "short list" of potential venues in mind, Buck said, but they encourage community members to reach out with ideas at [roosterwalk@gmail.com](mailto:roosterwalk@gmail.com).

"We're still confident that, when it's all said and done, we will be able to find a home in Henry County for our music. It could be a situation where our shows in the coming months are all held in different places," he said.

Hundreds of community members have reached out directly or on social media to express support for the Rives Theatre. Some have called for the building to be rebuilt or have asked how they can help.

The Rives was owned by the Brown/Coleman family and rented by Rooster Walk, so it is beyond Rooster Walk's control whether or not the building itself is rebuilt on the exact spot, Buck said. The organization is "not ruling out that we could one day decide to make an effort to renovate an existing building or build a new venue from scratch," he said. At this point, it is too early to tell.

However, for those wanting to help the cause of live music in Martinsville-Henry County, he said, "We absolutely anticipate added costs during this transition over the next year or two while we hold concerts in various new spaces. Donations made now would be used for that purpose - to cover any extra costs incurred by not holding concerts not at the Rives."

For more information on live music and other events planned by Rooster Walk, Inc., visit [www.roosterwalk.com](http://www.roosterwalk.com) or the Rives Theatre page on Facebook.



## Heritage celebrated in Bassett

Bassett's heritage was celebrated Saturday at the annual Bassett Heritage Festival, which is sponsored by the Stanleytown Ruritan Club.

Held along Main Street in Bassett, the event attracted hundreds, even under somewhat overcast skies.

Vendors with food, jewelry, flowers, gifts, crafts, baked goods, and much more lined the street. Lines formed for the legendary hot dogs offered for sale at the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department. The

Southern Gentlemen performed from 10:30 am until 1 pm. The event included a Classic Car Show, free rides for children, sponsored by Bassett Industries, and a parade that included several fire trucks and rescue vehicles, the Bassett High School Marching Band, Bassett High School ROTC, classic cars, and a variety of other entries. The Historic Train Depot also was open during the festival.

- Martha Bowman



## New project created to combat domestic violence

The Virginia Legal Aid Society has created a six-person Domestic Violence Project dedicated to meeting the civil legal needs of domestic violence victims in Central, Southside and Western Tidewater Virginia.

"In our last strategic planning process in 2017, we learned that domestic violence is especially common in the 26 cities and counties that we serve in Central, Southside and Western Tidewater, Virginia. These cities and counties issue 47 percent more protective orders than the statewide average by population" said David Neumeyer, Executive Director of VLAS. "Victims particularly

need an attorney when asking for a permanent protective order because abusers who control the family money often show up with an attorney, and victims cannot afford one. We have been working for the last eighteen months to create this unit, and are excited that we now have the team in place."

VLAS expects to help more than 1,300 domestic violence victims and their family members with the help of a two-year grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. VLAS staff will help many of these victims obtain permanent protective orders against their abusers. The project also covers a full

range of civil legal services, as long as the client is a domestic violence victim. Victims who need help, for example, obtaining a divorce, defending themselves in an eviction proceeding, receiving government benefits for which they are entitled or many other services can receive help.

VLAS's Domestic Violence Project team consists of six positions, four of which are new. They include four attorneys, one in each of VLAS's four offices; a Community Outreach Coordinator; and a paralegal. The attorneys and their offices are: Pamela DeCamp, Managing Attorney for the Domestic Violence Project

and also Managing Attorney of VLAS's Farmville office; Lindsay Horne (Lynchburg); Dana Sanford (Suffolk); Michael Simmons (Danville).

Mary Buchanan is the project's Community Outreach Coordinator. In that role, she will work with VLAS's partners to encourage client referrals and also help educate the public directly through public presentations and informational brochures and videos. Susan Crawley, the new paralegal, will work with domestic violence victims and assist project attorneys.

"We are grateful to DCJS for its confidence in this effort. The grant will allow VLAS to

play a pivotal role in helping hundreds of victims receive protection from their abusers and work toward rebuilding their lives" said DeCamp said.

Over the past year, VLAS signed agreements with 18 agencies that work with domestic violence victims. VLAS will accept client referrals from these partners, build relationships with new partners, and help domestic violence clients who apply directly through VLAS's LawLine (1-866-LEGLAID, or 1-866-534-5243).

For more information, to get involved, or to donate, visit [www.vlas.org](http://www.vlas.org).

# Employee charged after alleged threat

A Hanes Brands Inc. employee was charged in connection with a bomb threat at the Martinsville facility.

Alvin Donnell Hunt, 22, of 1004 Smith Lake Road, Martinsville, was charged with one count threat to bomb, a felony, in connection with an incident that began on September 10, 2019, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

The incident began at approximately 5:33 p.m. when a threatening message was allegedly discovered inside Hanes Brands Inc., located at 380 Beaver Creek Drive, Martinsville.

The message allegedly indicated that an explosive device had been placed inside the facility.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office Explosives Detection Canine and his handler, along with other deputies, conducted a systematic search of the building. Nothing suspicious was

located, according to authorities.

The Henry County Department of Public Safety and local volunteer fire and rescue units were on scene as a precaution. The Henry County Sheriff's Office and company officials worked together to ensure the safety of the employees.

A male employee was developed as a suspect through the course of the investigation.

Hunt was later charged. He was released on a \$3,500 unsecured bond.

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

# Fieldale man died in single vehicle crash

A Fieldale man died in a single vehicle crash that occurred Friday, Sept. 13, according to a release from the Virginia State Police.

The crash occurred at 10:50 a.m. on Virginia 609, just west of Virginia 1000 in Henry County.

A 1996 Chevrolet S-10 was traveling east on Virginia 609 when the allegedly vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Jeffrey Ray Bowman, 53, of Fieldale.

Bowman was transported to SOVAH Health Medical Center in Martinsville, where he later died.

He was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the incident, according to the release.

The crash remains under investigation by Virginia State Trooper D.A. Fulcher.

# Tractor accident resulted in fatality

A 19-year-old Stuart man died following a tractor accident that occurred Saturday, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. Brandon Lee France, 19, was injured while working on a farm tractor at his home on Big A School Road. First responders were dispatched to the scene at 3:59 p.m., Smith said in a release. France was airlifted

to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C., where he later succumbed to his injuries. "This is a very sad day for our county," Smith said in a Sunday release. "Please keep Brandon and his family in your prayers." Deputy Sheriff Jacob Hubbard investigated the incident, according to the release.

# Health department issues update about severe hypoglycemia cases

In mid-August, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received a report from the Virginia Poison Center of a cluster of patients in the Central Virginia area with severe hypoglycemia (very low blood sugar levels) requiring hospitalization, following use of an over-the-counter pill promoted for male sexual enhancement. The pills are commonly sold at convenience stores and/or gas stations in Virginia. Following the initial report, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) issued a press release advising consumers not to purchase or use that type of product sold under the name "V8."

There are reports of similar illnesses across Virginia, in individuals who have reported taking the pills. As of Sept. 16, VDH has received additional

reports of illness associated with V8 in the Eastern Region (one case), Central Region (four cases) and Southwest Region (six cases). Of those, VDH has confirmed seven cases; four remain under investigation.

Symptoms of severe hypoglycemia include sweating, a racing heartbeat, irritability, anxiety, shakiness and altered mental status. Individuals experiencing symptoms of severe hypoglycemia should seek immediate medical attention. Previously reported cases have recovered with timely medical treatment.

Individuals and healthcare professionals are encouraged to contact one of Virginia's three Poison Control Centers at (800) 222-1222 about adverse events and side effects of products.

# Martinsville woman charged Monday in connection with unattended infant

Francis Cabiness Kisse, 62, of Martinsville, was charged Sept. 16 with one misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry said the Code of Virginia includes abandonment as one part of the charge.

The charge was issued in connection with an incident that occurred at Walmart, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

A 911 call was received on Sept. 16 at 11:33 a.m. alerting authorities that an infant was unattended in a car parked at Walmart, which is located at 976 Commonwealth Blvd.

The call was dispatched at 11:34 a.m. and deputies arrived on scene at 11:37 a.m. to find a resident had already broken the window out of the vehicle and removed the infant

from the car. The infant was taken inside the store, and responding EMS crews checked the child.

The child did not suffer any injuries.

Deputies obtained surveillance video from the store security cameras. After reviewing the video, it was determined the child was left in the motor vehicle with the engine off for less than 10 minutes. During the course of the investigation all evidence was reviewed with the Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney and Child Protective Services.

Kisse was released on a \$1,500 unsecured bond.

Authorities are continuing to evaluate the incident to determine if additional charges may be appropriate, Perry said.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office



at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

# First two classes to launch in PHCC's new Patrick County facility

In the next few weeks, students will begin using Patrick Henry Community College's new facility in Patrick County. The college is about to launch the first two programs to be fully located in the newly opened space. The first class will be an Electrical Groundsman course starting on September 30. The second class is the Mechatronics Bootcamp which will start on October 3.

"These programs and many others that we will be able to hold in this facility provide students a direct pipeline to employment," says PHCC's Vice President of Workforce, Economic, and Community Development, Rhonda Hodges. "We are so grateful to the Patrick County Education Foundation, Town of Stuart, the Tobacco Commission, and the many others who have made this new training facility possible. We are excited to see how access to a state-of-the-art training facility may change the lives of many Patrick County residents."

The Electrical Groundsman course is a four-week program that will help aspiring groundsmen earn the multiple certifications required to work in the field. After one month, graduates of the program will be eligible to work for electrical contractors at utility companies. Moreover, a groundsman licensure is the first step in a career that could lead to a lineman position and eventually to a journeyman lineman position which typically pays \$27 or more an

hour.

PHCC's Electrical Groundsman graduates looking to advance their career will find their courses can seamlessly transfer into Wytheville Community College's Electrical Linesman Course.

Groundsman training does not require a high school diploma or GED. Groundsman workers do not work more than four feet off the ground. Students only need to have a valid driver's license. The classes meet Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Mechatronics Bootcamp is a four-course series of short-term classes where students will learn the basics of mechatronics like hydraulics and

electrical engineering. By the end of the four courses, students will be prepared to earn a Siemens SMSCP Level 1 Certification. With this certification, graduates are eligible for a wide variety of well-paying jobs that are in high demand locally and nationally. This semester, the Mechatronic Bootcamp meets every Tues-

day and Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. through December 12.

Students in either course may be eligible to receive state funding to help cover the cost of tuition. To find out more about these courses and the available funding, contact PHCC's Workforce Systems Specialists Tanya Sprinkle at (276) 656-0260.



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# Patrick Co. board member weighs options after legal issues surface



**Debbie Adams**  
*[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)*

The vice chairman of the Patrick County School Board is weighing his options and considering a path forward after legal issues recently arose.

Ronnie Terry, 56, of Meadows of Dan, was indicted on one count each election fraud and forging a public record in connection with documents submitted to the Patrick County Registrar's Office while seeking a fourth term as the Blue Ridge District representative. "I should have done better. It's all my fault. I got lazy and tried to

take a shortcut," he said. "I hate this happened, and I'm trying to stand up and do what's right."

But until he meets with an attorney, Terry said he is hesitant to continue discussions.

Terry said he turned himself in at the Patrick County Sheriff's Office on Friday, Sept. 13, signed the necessary paperwork and posted his \$3,000 bond.

"I just want to figure out how to fix it. It is a bad situation and I messed up," he said. "I want to do the best I can for the board and the best I can for the county. That's what I've always tried to do."

Brandon Simmons, board chair-

man, said he was "very surprised" when he learned about the charges. "Ronnie is a good guy and he will do what he thinks is right for himself and the board."

"I think it will all work out," Simmons said, adding he does not "believe this will be a blemish on the board because it was not a board action."

Terry said he will appear in court on Oct. 7 for a counsel hearing.

When announcing his reelection bid in March, Terry said he served five years as chairman and spent several years as vice chairman during his tenure.

# Second stage of technology complex renovations to proceed



**Patrick Henry Community College's Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology (MET) complex in the Patriot Centre industrial park. Renovations on the first building have been completed, and a second building on the former Arrington Manufacturing property is set to be renovated soon.**

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

Patrick Henry Community College is entering the second stage of renovations to its advanced manufacturing facilities in the Patriot Centre, the PHCC board learned Monday.

Jack Hanbury, the college's vice president for finance and administration, said he is in the final stages of fee negotiations with a vendor for architectural and engineering services to what PHCC is calling the "MET III" project.

MET, which stands for Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology complex, refers to two former

Arrington Manufacturing buildings in the industrial park that PHCC bought in 2013. The back building has already been "completely renovated" into a high-tech educational space for advanced manufacturing, precision instruments, mechatronics, and motorsports. It also includes two "flex spaces, where a manufacturer can drop a piece of equipment and use the space to train employees," Hanbury said.

The second stage of the project will focus on the front building visible from Kings Mountain Road. This will more than double the welding program's capacity, from 16 to 35 stations, Hanbury said.

A request for proposals netted applications from six firms, and RRMM architects out of Roanoke was selected. After the price is finalized, Hanbury said design work could begin in early October, with construction completed by summer 2021.

MET will host an open house for employers, community leaders, and the public to learn more about the "talent development pipeline" and available industry certifications at PHCC, said Rhonda Hodges, PHCC's vice president for workforce, economic, and community development. It will be held 1-3:30 p.m. on Oct. 2.

# Henry County company among five to exhibit at VietnamWood in Ho Chi Minh City

JL Gardner Hardwoods, with operations in Axton, was among the five Virginia companies to exhibit at VietnamWood, in the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center in Ho Chi Minh City.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of International Marketing supported the businesses at the show by helping them meet and network with potential buyers of lumber, logs and other forest products.

Vietnam is the fifth largest export destination for U.S. forest products. In 2018, U.S. forestry product exports to Vietnam increased by nearly 18 percent. Vietnam was Virginia's third largest market for forest products in

2018, with shipments totaling more than \$46 million.

Other Virginia companies to exhibit were:

- Blue Ridge Lumber Co., LLC in Fishersville
- BOSS Lumber in Galax
- Meherrin River Forest Products in Alberta
- The Turman Group in Arrington

VDACS staff and its Southeast Asia trade office also attended the show to promote Virginia grown and processed wood to furniture manufacturers and other types of buyers from the region.

"Virginia forest products are already well-positioned in Vietnam. Some of our exporters have been selling to customers in the market for years. In fact, Virgin-

ia is the second largest supplier of forest products to Vietnam among U.S. states," said VDACS Director of Marketing Stephanie Agee. "Due to disruption in global forest product markets over the last year, our competitors are looking to Vietnam for new buyers to help them make up export sales lost in other markets. It's important that we show our commitment and appreciation to our existing Vietnamese customers and that we continue to work to maintain our market share in the region."

VietnamWood is Southeast Asia's leading woodworking machinery and manufacturing show. More than 380 companies and 12,000 visitors attended the four-day event.

## United Way

from page 2

nizations that provided not only volunteers, but also the tools necessary to do that work," he said.

For example, Boxley provided a Bobcat to help move the gravel at the Lee Ford Camp project where their volunteers were working, and the Community Dream Center provided the lawn equipment that Carter Bank & Trust used to do yard work for a local senior in need.

Many local businesses and agencies supplied volunteers, including American National Bank, Bassett High School Beta Club and JROTC, Blue Ridge Bank, Boxley, The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, Carter Bank & Trust, Eastman, Henry County, Hooker Furniture, Horace Mann Insurance, the city of Martinsville, New College Institute, Patrick Henry Community College, Piedmont Community Services, and Southern Area Agency on Aging.

"We truly saw a community joining together to fight for the financial stability, education, and health of every person here," Wenkster said.

Before going out into the community on Friday, the United Way rallied supporters at a campaign kick-off breakfast held at the Heritage Conference and Events Center. Beverly Pitzer, 2019-2020 Campaign Chairman for the United Way, announced a fundraising goal of \$600,000.

Pitzer noted that pacesetter donors have already raised \$232,693, or 39 percent of the 2019 goal. Pacesetter companies this year are American National Bank, Bassett Furniture Industries, Blue Ridge Bank, Carter Bank & Trust, Eastman Chemical, Henry

County, Hooker Furniture, and Piedmont Community Services.

Funds raised by the United Way are awarded to local nonprofits through a competitive grant process for programs in its focus areas of education, financial stability and healthy living. A panel of volunteers from the community review the grant applications and make award recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors.

"Our organization strongly feels that since we are raising money from the community, for the community, that the community itself should have a role in determining how those funds are allocated," said Community Engagement Coordinator Julia Hollandsworth.

This year, 27 local programs received United Way funding through this process.

Many local employers participate in the annual campaign by encouraging employees to donate through payroll contributions. Donors can designate a specific area or program for their donations if they so choose.

Another fundraising avenue is the Leadership Circle, chaired by Jerri and Joe Devault. This is a group of dedicated United Way donors who each pledge at least \$600 to the annual United Way campaign.

"In a typical year, the United Way has more than 180 donors in the Leadership Circle, and with the Devaults' leadership, this year's campaign is off to a fantastic start," Wenkster said.

For more information on the United Way, or to donate, visit [www.united-wayofhcm.org](http://www.united-wayofhcm.org).



**Hooker furniture volunteers completing a beautification project for the Anchor Commission Transition Day Program.**



**Carter Bank and Trust Volunteers refurbishing a canoe trailer donated for use by the local scouts units. Front right of photo is Dan Cross with the Blue Ridge Mtn. Council - Boy Scouts of America.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNITED WAY OF HCM M

**arlena Jessee (left) with the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge receives items donated for their United Way Day of Action Drive from Mandy Folman with Southern Area Agency on Aging.**



# SOVA Career Choice Youth Expo to Attract 4,500 Students

For the sixth year, organizers of the Sept. 25-26 SOVA Career ChoICE Youth Expo are preparing for an estimated 4,500 middle and high school students to visit. Participants will be introduced to local careers and be better equipped for work expectations. The community may preview the career exploration event at Expo in the Evening, a free Sept. 24 event full of activities, resources and prize drawings. Expo events will be held at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex, located at 19783 U.S. Highway 29 South in Chatham.

“Every year, I am amazed at how our Southern Virginia employers, volunteers and school systems collaborate to produce a high-quality career exploration experience for our students, and this year is no different,” said Dr. Julie Brown of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR). “All under one roof, students from 31 schools will be exposed to 78 hands-on activities led by 55 employers representing all 16 Virginia Department of

Education career clusters. This is their chance to learn the businesses and job opportunities available throughout our region.”

The student Career Expo will expose seventh graders and high school students from Danville and Martinsville and the counties of Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Patrick and Pittsylvania to career opportunities within Southern Virginia. Employers will lead students through hands-on activities to showcase the wide variety of careers so that students will have an option to stay in the region. Each student is provided a booklet with career cluster information, necessary skills and education, and potential salaries, allowing a more informed career decision. The event is an intentional effort to build a pipeline of students in strategic sectors aligned with economic development interests.

“I sincerely hope the community will join us for Expo in the Evening, so they can see first-hand all of the interactive activities, employers and career clusters students will experience during



the student days,” said Brown. “This event is absolutely free, open to the public and includes the opportunity to win prize drawings. Plus, local colleges, schools and organizations will be on site to share helpful resources for attaining the education necessary for career choices.”

Expo in the Evening, held Sept. 24 from 4-7 p.m., will allow the

community to experience the same hands-on career sector activities as the students. They may also interact with regional employers, learn about school divisions’ Career & Technical Education programs, and talk to area colleges about academic programs and financial aid. There will be drawings for \$50 Amazon gift cards from 6:15-6:45

p.m. Plus, the school with the highest percentage of faculty attending will receive catered refreshments at an upcoming teacher workday. Faculty should bring their school ID and sign in at the event. Platinum sponsors of the event include Averett University, Goodyear, IALR, J.T. - Minnie Maude Charitable Trust, Microsoft,

New College Institute, the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, and Walbridge. Gold sponsors include Centra, Eastman, Med-Express, Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS) and Sovah Health. For more information, please visit [www.sovacareerchoice.org](http://www.sovacareerchoice.org) or contact Brown at [julie.brown@ialr.org](mailto:julie.brown@ialr.org).

## Memories

from page 1



**A crowd dances in front of the stage as the funk band Pimps of Joytime plays at the Rives Theatre in April 2011. This was one of the early shows planned by the nonprofit Arts of the Rives Theatre as they worked to turn the historic theater into a live music venue, and "one of the first that started attracting a younger crowd," said Johnny Buck, one of the organizers.**



local music scene before they moved.

Before holding shows at the Rives Theatre, the Williamses and a small group of friends and family formed the Artisan Cafe nonprofit to bring Americana performers to Martinsville. The first show was held in the basement of the home of Doug (Sr.) and Annelle Williams, Doug Jr.'s parents and grew from there.

When the historic Rives Theatre, which was built in 1928 as a playhouse, was in danger of closing during the recession of the 2000s, the Artisan Cafe joined forces with other interested music fans to try and save the building. The cause attracted the organizers of the Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, and the combined group of volunteers began holding larger concerts at the theater to raise money.

Even after the duo moved to Nashville to pursue their musical careers, Doug Jr. said, “Telisha and I always loved getting back to play the Rives. We’ve played everywhere - all 50 states and all around the world, but there’s nothing like stepping out onto that stage and feeling the hometown love. We’re really going to miss it.”

One of the earlier concerts in the Rives Theatre’s history was Yarn, now a beloved band that

sells large numbers of tickets whenever they come through Martinsville and Henry County. However, their first concert at the Rives only sold 19 tickets in a space that held 250 to 300 people, Buck recalled.

“We joke with them about that first show,” he said, adding that “they caught on really quickly” and developed a devoted local fanbase.

After the Rives fire, Yarn posted the following statement on Facebook: “Many of our greatest friends and fans came from this very place. The love and loyalty the town of Martinsville has shown since our first show here is unparalleled. This place brought us our first of many collaborations with Josh Shilling, it brought us Rooster Walk, Brewster Walk, Will Pannill’s parties up on The Gap, Jay Frith and Pop’s Farm, Johnny Buck, William Baptist, Tom Berry and his killer B3, just so many great times and memories. Too many to list. Those great times and memories will most certainly continue and I’d imagine a new Rives Theatre is already being planned. If there’s anything I’ve learned about the fine folks of Martinsville, is they stand together. As adopted members of this amazing community, we too stand with them and will help in any way we can.”

Grammy-winning musician Josh Shilling, who is originally from Bassett, was still in town on the night of the fire after his performance at Brewster Walk on Sept. 7. He watched from the sidewalk that night as fire crews worked to contain the blaze.

“I hate this. It’s just so sad for so many people,” Shilling said. “Just 24 hours ago, we were inside looking at all the memorabilia from all the shows.”

He estimated he had played the venue eight or 10 times. Growing up in the area, he also had fond memories of the building when it was a movie theater.

“I used to come here as a little boy with my grandparents and watch movies. I remember the lights leading down the hallway to the theater. It felt like getting on a spaceship,” he recalled.

Shilling praised the volunteers and staff who worked to turn the theater into a music venue. “In the past five years alone, the talent they’ve had come through here is amazing,” he said.

Rachel Blankenship-Tucker, a multi-talented instrumentalist, singer and songwriter with the After Jack trio, also shared memories of playing the Rives stage.

“I’ve walked across that stage and stood behind the microphones many times in my life.

Every single time, it felt like coming home to a family reunion,” she said. “Even if there were new fans in the audience that you had never met before, they’d leave as family. It was that kind of environment, that intimate.”

The day after the fire, Blankenship-Tucker said, “Much of After Jack’s beginning is tied to the Rives, and tonight we’re reminiscing about the shows we’ve played there, the kindness of the folks who invited us to play, and those who bought tickets to see us there time and again. We’re sad with you, and we love you.”

She said she sees the tragic event as a reminder “to support one another, celebrate with one another, and offer each other our very best.”

Drummer and Martinsville native Camry Harris said the Rives played a formative role in his musical career as well as his personal life. “The Rives Theatre definitely was home. It held my roots tightly here in Martinsville and kept them watered,” he said.

For the past five years, Harris has played music full-time, mostly touring with Marvalous Funkshun and Travis Griggs & Friends. He credited the Rives with “many wonderful memories and great relationships you have helped me build through-

out my musical career,” as well as giving him “the push I needed to stretch further than Martinsville and look at the world with no limits.”

Before launching his career, however, Harris remembered the theater for different reasons.

“Not many know, but when my mother passed away, we did a memorial concert here,” he said.

His mother, Trina Harris died on June 14, 2014. In September of that year, the Rives Theatre hosted a benefit show to help him cover the cost of her hospital bills. Harris played with hisd band at the time, which include Riggs Roberson, Griffin Haley, Wenn Harold, and Austin Janey.

“I remember playing on this stage feeling more broken than I ever felt in my life,” Harris said. “I remember crying my eyes out on this stage, but what grew from that pain was even more amazing than anything in this world.”

While organizers of music at the Rives have said it is too early to tell what will become of the venue, many musicians and fans from past shows have expressed their support.

As Doug Williams of the Wild Ponies said after the fire, “Let’s be ready to give back. I have no doubt that the music and community will continue.”



**Caution tape surrounds the Rives Theatre in uptown Martinsville after a fire originating with a surge protector burned the building on Sept. 8.**

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# SPORTS

## Warriors Roll in Home Opener



**Magna Vista senior wide receiver Ty Grant (13) catches a touchdown pass during Friday's 55-14 win over William Fleming in Ridgeway.**

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(RIDGEWAY, Va.) – It didn't take long for Magna Vista's football team to impose their will on visiting William Fleming on Friday night.

The Warriors scored on their first offensive play and didn't let up until halftime, tallying seven first-half touchdowns en route to a 55-14 shellacking of Fleming after a pair of road wins to start the season.

Magna Vista quarterback Dryus Hairston was efficient through the air, tossing a pair of touchdown passes, and running back Louis Taylor got the game started with an emphatic 47-yard score on the way to three touchdowns in just six touches.

"I just saw green grass created by the offensive-line, so I went and got that money," Taylor said of the first-play score. "When we execute and we play hard and all play together, good things happen."

Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero said Taylor's opening onslaught, which included a short score on the Warriors' second drive, as well, was key to the explosive victory.

"I thought they were a good team, we just struck early. We got a

quick stop, went straight down the field and never let off the gas," Favero said. "When you score on the first play of the game, that helps set the tone early. When Taylor gets in the open field, he's a handful."

Sophomore wide receiver and rising star Tyler Johnson acted as a change of pace and got in on the scoring action on a 25-yard end-around.

Hairston, not to be outdone by his backfield-mate Taylor, dropped two perfect passes to Ty Grant for scores that gave the Warriors a 35-0 lead before the Colonels could catch their breath.

Hairston added a score on the ground just before the halftime buzzer to give the Warriors an unsailable 48-7 lead at the break.

"Hairston looks in control back there, he understands what we're trying to do offensively," Favero said. "We've got four or five wide receivers, when the ball is in the air, they feel like it's theirs every time."

Kylan Brown rounded out the scoring for Magna Vista with a 27-yard run after halftime that secured the win.

The defense, however, held the Colonels down until the final whis-

tle.

"I think we played pretty good on defense," Taylor, who also plays defensively as a cornerback, said. "We got a little slow towards the end of the game but we picked it back up to close them out."

An unsung factor in the victory, according to Favero, was the Warriors' field position. Magna Vista started just one of their first-half drives inside their own 40 yard line.

"It starts on special teams. When you're able to kick the ball high and are able to make teams start on their own 20, that's a huge weapon. It makes the field really long for them," Favero said. "Then, the defense played great and got some quick stops. That gives our offense the ball on a short field, that's a great way to start. Field position really matters."

With the annual showdown against Franklin County (1-2) up next, Magna Vista (3-0) isn't losing focus after their early success.

When asked about the upcoming contest, Taylor's game-face returned quickly.

"I know it's going to be a hard fought game," he said.

### Magna Vista 55, William Fleming 14

MV – 28 20 7 0 - 55

WF – 0 7 0 7 – 14

#### SCORING SUMMARY

##### FIRST QUARTER

MV – 9:19 – Louis Taylor 47 run (Cory Osborne PAT good)

MV – 3:04 – Louis Taylor 3 run (Cory Osborne PAT good)

MV – 1:56 – Ty Grant 29 pass from Dryus Hairston (Cory Osborne PAT good)

MV – 1:07 – Tyler Johnson 25 run (Cory Osborne PAT good)

##### SECOND QUARTER

MV – 10:04 – Ty Grant 27 pass from Dryus Hairston (Cory Osborne PAT good)

WF – 8:57 – Sae'quan Bannister 88 pass from Dashawn Lewis (TeiTu Lian PAT good)

MV – 4:04 – Louis Taylor 4 run (Cory Osborne PAT good)

MV – 0:07 – Dryus Hairston 6 run (PAT blocked)

##### THIRD QUARTER

MV – 6:35 – Kylan Brown 27 run (Cory Osborne PAT good)

##### FOURTH QUARTER

WF – 1:56 – Dekavis Preston 1 run (TeiTu Lian PAT good)

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

##### MAGNA VISTA

###### RUSHING

Kylan Brown 8 for 76, TD; Louis Taylor 6 for 64, 3TD; Tyler Johnson 4 for 55, TD; Dekavis Preston 8 for 53; Dryus Hairston 5 for 20, TD; Johnathan Moxley 4 for 14; Jacob Kerrick 1 for 10; Joshua Foster 1 for 5; Isaiah Neal 1 for 4; Trever Martin 2 for 3; Andrew Santoemma 1 for -2. TOTAL: 40 for 297.

###### PASSING

Dryus Hairston 8-13 for 104, 2TD.

###### RECEIVING

Ty Grant 2 for 56, 2TD; Freddie Roberts 1 for 25; Tyler Johnson 2 for 14, Andrew Santoemma 2 for 11; Christopher Ellison 1 for -2.

##### WILLIAM FLEMING

###### RUSHING

Dashawn Lewis 9 for 74, Fum.; Deaquan Nichols 2 for 14; Nahshon Bonds 8 for 9; Shareef Anderson 7 for 6; Ziyen Graham 1 for 1, TD; Sae'quan Bannister 1 for 0; Nickolas Andrews 1 for -6. TOTAL: 29 for 98, TD, Fum.

###### PASSING

Dashawn Lewis 5-10 for 172, TD, INT; Daequan Nichols 1-5 for 2. TOTAL: 6 for 15, 174, TD, INT.

###### RECEIVING

Sae'quan Bannister 1 for 88, TD; Jajuan Webb 1 for 45; Deaquan Nichols 1 for 7; Dmontra Kasey 1 for 6; Nickolas Andrews 1 for 2.



**Magna Vista senior running back Louis Taylor (left) looks for space during Friday's 55-14 win over William Fleming in Ridgeway.**



**Magna Vista junior quarterback Dryus Hairston throws a pass during Friday's 55-14 win over William Fleming in Ridgeway.**



**Magna Vista's football team huddles ahead of Friday's 55-14 win over William Fleming in Ridgeway.**

PHOTOS BY HARRISON HAMLET



# ‘Home, Sweet Home’ for Bengals on Gridiron

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(BASSETT, Va.) – Bassett head football coach Brandon Johnson was not discouraged after two road losses to open the season. He said he saw the potential in his team and was excited to play a home game on Friday night against William Byrd. His Bengals backed up that sentiment, scoring on the opening drive of the game on the way to a 23-12 win. “We had a great week of practice offensively and we knew if we won the toss we wanted the ball,” Johnson said. “To get us jump-started our offense needed to be on the field first. We got the ball and

on the third play of the game, we hit a deep pass for a touchdown.” An unusual sequence in the second quarter gave the Bengals a 21-0 lead. After scoring to make it 14-0, Bassett benefited from three personal foul penalties by the Terriers. This gave the Bengals a kickoff from their opponent’s 20 yard-line. “I kidded with our kicker all week about getting a touchback,” Johnson said with a smile. “After those penalties, he looked at me and told me ‘Coach, I can get a touchback from here.’ Instead, I asked him to place an onside-kick, and we recovered it.” Two plays after the onside recovery, Kevon Smith found the

endzone to give Bassett a 21-0 lead, all the margin they needed to secure their first win of the season. With the senior, Smith, driving the ball on the ground and freshman quarterback Jaricous Hairston adding an air element to the offense, it was up to the defense to secure the win. Johnson said the Bengals’ defense did just that. “We played fast, assignment football. They had one real drive in the third quarter and they ran it down our throat a little bit. They spread us out and ran straight at us,” Johnson said. “We adjusted to it and they didn’t get anything else the rest of the game. We played smart and when things did get bad, we stepped up and played tough foot-

ball.” After two long road trips to open the season, Johnson noted that playing at home was just the medicine the doctor ordered for his young team. “It was huge for us to play at home. We’ve been going on the road for a month,” Johnson said. “Having the kids at school and doing pre-game stuff at home brought a new level of focus. It showed our guys what was needed for four quarters.” Bassett (1-2) will be looking to climb to .500 on the season when they host Dan River (2-1) for Homecoming on September 20. The Wildcats have earned victories two consecutive seasons

against the Bengals, something Johnson said he and his staff are looking to change in 2019. “They’ve beaten us the last two years. This year, we’re in charge of our own story,” Johnson said. “Chapter four is next week let’s make chapter four as great as it can be. I’m confident it will be a good game for us.”

**Bassett 23,  
William Byrd 12**

BHS – 7 14 0 2 – 23  
WB – 0 6 6 0 – 12

# Bulldogs Falter in Second Half at Home

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) – There was a moment in the second quarter of Saturday’s home game against Dan River that the Martinsville Bulldogs looked like they might return to their historic winning ways. After falling behind 14-0, the Bulldogs scored twice to make it 14-12. Despite an excellent effort from the defense in the second half, Martinsville was unable to maintain the

momentum in a 32-12 loss at Dan Greene Memorial Stadium. It was Delvin Roberts’ 51-yard score that got Martinsville in striking distance, but the first half saw the Bulldogs “fight” at a better level than they have all season, according to head coach Bobby Martin. “We’re just trying to get better, that’s all,” Martin said. “And they were fighting... When I say fight, I mean getting 11 guys every snap that are playing as hard as they can play. We

haven’t gotten there (for an entire game) yet on offense, defense or special teams.” The game, moved to Saturday afternoon after heavy rain in Martinsville on Friday left the field unplayable, saw Martinsville playing three new offensive line starters after injuries during practice throughout the week. “This week, we had a good game-plan,” Martin said. “Then on Wednesday we lost a lineman, on Thursday we lost a lineman, and Friday we lost a line-

man (due to injury). That’s tough. “You’ll hear me say the same thing a lot. We’re just trying to get better. We have a bunch of things we have to do differently... We have a bunch of injuries and we’re just trying to learn how to play football the right way and be fundamentally sound.” When asked to specify what the Bulldogs (0-3) need to improve on ahead of their next game in Chatham (3-0), health was the major concern for Martin.

“Staying healthy is the first thing, that’s a dog-fight every week,” Martin said. “We’re trying to get prepared and we don’t know who we have healthy. We’ll come back together this week and keep getting better.” As for Martinsville’s prospects in the remainder of the season, the first-year head coach made no bones about his position: He believes in the values he is instilling in his team as they look towards the future. “They’re trying. We

have so many deficiencies. I keep telling them that I’m not going to give up on them,” Martin said. “They’re used to people giving up on them. I’m not going to give up on them, we’re going to keep working”

**Dan River 32,  
Martinsville 12**

DR – 14 2 7 9 – 32  
MHS – 6 6 0 0 – 12

## Childcare Needs

from page 1

the mean hourly pay for childcare workers in Southside Virginia is less than \$10. Patrick Henry Community College is one partner in the study because the childcare issue affects them on multiple levels – first, their early childhood education program is a pipeline for training new workers. Also, lack of childcare is one of the top issues affecting the ability of PHCC students to complete their studies, PHCC President Dr. Angeline Godwin has said. Lack of a workforce credential or degree can then keep students out of the workforce, as well. Then, there are financial barriers for parents. “Virginia has one of the highest child-

care costs in the country,” Agee said. Between 2009 and 2017, the cost of childcare in Virginia grew more than seven times faster than the typical Virginia woman’s wage growth, according to a report from the National Women’s Law Center and Virginia Women’s Equality Coalition. The report estimated the cost of childcare for a typical full-time working woman in Virginia in 2017 would have consumed nearly one-third of her wages. Those numbers include northern Virginia, however, so they may not reflect the economic reality in Southside. “We don’t know what the gap is here between wages and childcare costs, and we hope

to find out,” Agee said. Lower-income parents may be eligible for childcare subsidies from the Department of Social Services to help with costs. Even then, Agee said, “the subsidies only cover 70 percent of the market rate.” She added that the application process is “complicated,” which may also deter eligible people from using this benefit. Middle-class working parents can feel the financial impact of childcare even more because they fall through the cracks. “You make too much to qualify for the subsidy, but it’s still a sizeable cost,” Agee said. Another challenge for parents is finding out information about local childcare, she said. “Parents need to have a mechanism for finding high-quality care. There’s not a really great communication system for parents to find out what’s available - it’s often word of mouth.” Harvest is conducting surveys of local parents to learn more about these and other issues. “We know there is a need, but we need to identify how broad is that need. We’re asking, what does an ideal childcare setting look like to you?” Agee said. Harvest will continue collecting data from stakeholders this fall, then evaluate what they’ve learned with help from the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center. Based on the community’s needs, they hope to identify some solutions and begin working on implementation by summer 2020. However,

“it’s not a quick fix,” Agee said. Some improvements are already in the works. For example, The Harvest Foundation recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge to help start their first afterschool site for preschool students in response to parent feedback. Parents of 3- and 4-year-old students at Clear-

view Early Childhood Center in Martinsville had reported problems finding afterschool care in the evenings. Martinsville already has a federal grant-funded Head Start preschool program, but not Early Head Start for ages 0 to 3. That could be another potential avenue for meeting local needs, Agee said. Early childhood educa-

tion is important because 95 percent of brain development happens from birth to age 5. “We’re building tomorrow’s workforce in those first five years,” Agee said. “If children enter kindergarten not ready for school, it affects their entire lives. Don’t we want the best and brightest to be leading our community tomorrow?”



From left, Ashton Wells, Sofia Jones, and Gabriella Gravely play together in the 4-year-old class at the new Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge site at Clearview Early Childhood Center. BGCBR started its first preschool program earlier this year when parents and teachers reported a lack of after-school care options for 3- and 4-year-olds.



Julio Gonzales plays in the 4-year-old class at the new Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge site at Clearview Early Childhood Center. BGCBR started its first preschool program earlier this year when parents and teachers reported a lack of after-school care options for 3- and 4-year-olds.



Jayce Thomas plays in the 4-year-old class at the new Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge site at Clearview Early Childhood Center. BGCBR started its first preschool program earlier this year when parents and teachers reported a lack of after-school care options for 3- and 4-year-olds.



Brooklyn Culverhouse, left, and Zion Hylton play with blocks in the 3-year-old class at the new Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge site at Clearview Early Childhood Center. BGCBR started its first preschool program earlier this year when parents and teachers reported a lack of after-school care options for 3- and 4-year-olds.

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