

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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FREE

New Enterprise makes its debut in Henry County

This newspaper marks the inaugural edition of the Henry County Enterprise, a publication dedicated to telling the stories of the communities it serves.

"We believe in community journalism," said Michael Showell, publisher. "The Enterprise in Patrick County does a really good job of providing that to the communities it serves, and we know there are a lot of stories to tell in Henry County and Martinsville."

"We want to be a part of sharing those stories as well," Showell said. "After all, we're neighbors."

The Henry County Enterprise and The Enterprise in Patrick County both are owned by Vir-

ginia Media Inc., a subsidiary of Mountain Media LLC, in Lewisburg, W.Va. The company owns and publishes newspapers in both states.

Debbie Hall, editor of the Enterprise in Patrick County, worked in journalism in Henry County for many years and is familiar with its people, places and issues.

"This project has been a labor of love, undertaken at the request of many in Henry County who know our reputation for providing fair, accurate and balanced coverage," she said.

"We appreciate the tremendous encouragement and support we

(See Debut p. 3A)

Brewery plans expansion



From left; Bettina Ring, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Herb Atwell and Peggy Donivan, owners of Mountain Valley Brewing receive a Virginia Flag from Secretary Ring.

(See Brewery p. 3A)

Recipe for Hope

Local man sells his homemade foods to finance his long-awaited kidney transplant

By Ginny Wray

Special to The Enterprise
The cakes, cookies and other goodies that come out of James Helms' kitchen do more than satisfy someone's sweet tooth. They feed Helms' hopes for his future.

Helms owns Heavenly Baker, selling the baked goods, chili, baked beans and other foods he prepares to raise money for a kidney transplant. His business card calls it "Baked Goods for a Cause."

A transplant, he said, is his best hope for a future untethered from dialysis machines.

Helms, of Martinsville, was diagnosed with end stage renal disease and has been on dialysis since November 2016.

"There really is no cure," he said recently. "The treatment is a transplant or dialysis."

So to raise at least the \$20,000 down payment for a transplant, Helms takes to his kitchen and turns out pies, French pastries, cakes, gourmet cupcakes and cookies, breads, chili and other foods. He sells his creations at the Farmers Market in uptown Martinsville on Saturdays and Wednesdays when his health permits and also through advanced orders by phone and email.

Business has been good, he said, and most of the time he sells out at the market.



James Helms mans his booth at the Martinsville Farmers Market.

"Baking and cooking still are a passion of mine," he said, explaining that he once had a career in the restaurant industry. "I'm not trying to make a profit. I only sell (food) for what I put into it."

DIVERSE BACKGROUND

Helms, 48, grew up in Charlotte, N.C. When he was 16, he started working in the restaurant industry at night while at-

tending school during the day. He retired from that industry in 2014 after working as both a chef and in restaurant management in Charlotte and Tennessee.

At age 18, Helms also began training to be a professional wrestler, training at night while working in restaurants during the day. Charlotte was a hotbed of professional wrestling at the time, he said, adding that

(See Hope p. 2A)



Jim Woods recently was appointed to serve on the Martinsville City Council. (Contributed photo)

Woods brings new voice to city council

By Debbie Hall

In his new role as a Martinsville City Council member, Jim Woods hopes to use the lessons he's learned as a husband and father to better the community.

Woods, 46, first sought a position on the council in 2012.

He recently was appointed to serve the unexpired term of Sharon Brooks Hodge, which runs through 2020. Hodge stepped down on July 31.

When he interviewed for the post, Woods said he explained that he does not have an agenda.

"I don't have anything to have a burr under my saddle about," he said, adding he decided to seek the vacancy because he wants to help build the community. He said he feels other council members, including Gene Teague, Mayor; Chad Martin, vice mayor; Jennifer Bowles and Kathy Lawson, share that common goal.

Plus, he said, the members represent "a good mix," with experienced members such as Teague and Lawson and

more youthful members such as Bowles and Martin, as the city looks at complex issues.

"We need to look at the reversion issue," Woods said of continued discussions about whether Martinsville should revert to town status. He said he has not made his mind up on that issue, and prefers to first do his homework.

"I've got to read the studies that were done in 2002, but I will say after looking at our fund balances, they are where they need to be," Woods said.

He also hopes to address other issues, partly by doing away with a moratorium on annexation.

"The moratorium was put in place in the 1980s, but it has landlocked the city," Woods said. "We can't expand, but we need revenue."

He explained it was similar to managing finances at home. For instance, if a youngster wanted high speed Internet, and the family could not afford it, either the family's income would need to increase,

(See Woods p. 3A)

Local businessman had key role in bringing Press Glass to CCBC



The CCAT training center takes shape at CCBC. The 25,500-square-foot building is expected to be open by next June. It will feature advanced manufacturing training facilities. (Contributed photo)

By Ginny Wray

A Polish company's decision to build a glass processing operation in Henry County began when a local businessman saw a company's

need and suggested a local solution.

Bobby Lankford sparked the effort that culminated in July with the announcement that Press Glass

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Family friendly festival set for Saturday in Bassett

The Bassett Heritage Festival is set to kick off Saturday in Downtown Bassett, with the traditional something for everyone anticipated at the family friendly event.

Held near the Historic Train Depot, the fest begins with an unlimited pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. by the Stanleytown Ruritan Club. Plates are \$6 each.

Opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m., with the Bassett High School JROTC "doing the honors" of presenting colors and raising the flag, said Tony Wright, chairman of the festival and member of the Stanleytown Ruritan Club.

At least 40 vendors have signed up to participate, Wright said. They are scheduled to open at 8:30 a.m., with products that range from food and goodies like popcorn and snowcones, jewelry, flowers, gifts, arts, crafts, baked

goods, T-shirts, and more. A Henry County Health Bus also will be on-hand, offering blood pressure checks and screenings, Wright said, adding some political candidates or their representatives also will man booths at the festival.

New this year, The Rouges, of Collinsville, will take the stage at 10:30 a.m. for a three-hour concert, Wright said.

Group members that include Jimmy Stone, Mark Barnard, Pat Haley, Wayne Lovell and Nelson Edwards, perform 1960s classic rock. The self contained stage will be set up beside the Bassett Furniture office, he added.

An ever popular children's area also opens at 8:30 a.m., with a variety of games, inflatables and other activities that will capture the interest and imagination of youngsters.

The Bassett Historical



The Rouges, of Collinsville, will take the stage at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Bassett Heritage Festival.

Center will be open for visitors from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The annual parade begins at 2 p.m., said Paul Kennedy of Bassett Funeral Services, which co-sponsors the parade, along with Shirley Amos of Riverview

Flowers.

"The parade grows each year," Kennedy said, adding the Bassett High School Band, Teresa's School of Dance, area churches and others will participate, whether marching or riding

on a float.

There is no cost to ride in the parade, and entries are taken up to the time it begins, Kennedy said. "Just show up," if interested in participating in the parade, he added.

Hope

(cont. from page 1A)



One of the cakes James Helms offers for sale at the Martinsville Farmers Market

when he retired from wrestling in 2011 he was the world heavyweight champion of the National Wrestling Alliance — Total Wrestling Explosion (NWA-TWE). A video of him challenging a contender can be seen on You Tube.

Despite his success at both wrestling and the restaurant business, he said he started "feeling a little sick" but continued working. When he opened a restaurant with a steakhouse chain in Kingsport, Tenn., in 2011, he lost 60 pounds in six weeks.

"I was working seven days a week but it didn't seem right" to lose so much weight, he said. He had Type 2 diabetes since he was 30, managing it with diet and medicine, "but this felt different," he said.

He went to the doctor and was told he had pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas.

"They found two stones in my pancreas," he said, but complications arose after he underwent a procedure to break up the stones. What was supposed to have been a brief procedure resulted in a two-week in the intensive care unit.

"From that, things started getting worse," Helms said.

He went back to work, but problems arose. He said he developed high blood pressure and was tired and frequently sick. In 2014, he stopped working and went on disability. His only income is from Social Security, he said.

After that, Helms took jobs for a magazine, and he had an agent, Beverly Brock of the Brock Agency in North Carolina, who helped him find work in commercials, television shows and movies.

But he started feeling worse and was diagnosed with anemia.

Brock said Helms "was a natural" at acting who worked in the Charlotte, Tennessee and Atlanta areas. But he finally told her he had to stop because "he was really sick," she said.

In 2015, Helms said he experienced some kidney failures, and the following year his condition worsened.

"Besides anemia, my kidneys were not doing so well," Helms said, and he started getting staph infections that developed into abscesses. He was hospitalized frequently and spent

a summer bedridden in a nursing home.

"Had it not been for my faith in God, I'm not sure I would have made it through that," he said.

Through physical therapy, Helms regained some strength and the ability to walk on his own. Recovery was slow, but he improved.

In the meantime, his wife Michelle left to take a job for friends in Meadows of Dan in Patrick County. After a delay due to more problems, Helms eventually joined her.

In 2016, he was diagnosed with end stage renal disease and began dialysis.

Dialysis removes waste, salt and extra water as normally is done by healthy kidneys, according to the National Kidney Foundation. If those things are not removed, patients can die, Helms said. But he said dialysis is hard for him. It requires him to sit without moving for 4-5 hours, three days a week.

After six months, Helms said he asked about the prospect of a kidney transplant. "I wanted to get better," he added.

He was put in touch with Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, where "they said, 'What took you so long? You're a perfect candidate (for a transplant),'"

Helms said. Last year, he began testing at both the medical center and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He has been placed on the kidney waiting list at Baptist and hopes to hear about U.Va. this fall. That would double his chances for a donated kidney because their donor registries are different, he said.

WAITING FOR HELP

The National Kidney Foundation's website states that the kidney is the organ most commonly given by a living donor. People usually have two kidneys, and one is all that is needed for a normal life, it states.

The website states that having a living donor is the fastest way to get a transplant.

Kidneys also may be donated when people die, but it can take two to three years to get such a kidney because the list of potential recipients is long, Helms said. The Liv-

ing Kidney Donors Network website states there are more than 93,000 people on the kidney transplant waiting list, and the wait could be five years or longer.

The National Kidney Foundation's website also states that advantages of living donations include the possibility of a better genetic match among family members; a kidney from a living donor usually functions immediately so monitoring is easier and more dialysis may not be needed; and testing for compatibility can be done and the transplant scheduled at convenient times.

Helms said his sister was tested and considered his perfect match for a donation this spring. But at the last minute, the donation was ruled out for health reasons, he said.

So Helms began looking for a donor and donations to help fund the procedure.

A donor could be a family member, neighbor or someone who learns of

the need and matches the blood of a recipient, and there are organizations that work to match donors and recipients, Helms said. "A lot of times it's a matter of just getting the word out," he added.

Donors and recipients have to be a blood match as well as meet other markers, he said. Helms' blood is O positive, so he can get a kidney from someone with O positive or O negative blood, he said.

Living donors' expenses are mostly covered, and they usually are out of work for one or two weeks, he said. He added that he knows of no instances when problems arose for a donor.

The kidney foundation website states that while "transplantation is highly successful, and success rates continue to improve, sometimes the kidney is lost to rejection, surgical complications or the original disease that caused the recipient's kid-

(See Hope p. 3A)



thank you!

The Harvest Foundation Family is greatly appreciative of the support and encouragement we have received from the community during our major renovation and relocation project.

We are excited to begin this new chapter and continue our mission of serving Martinsville-Henry County.



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Brewery

(cont. from page 1A)

By Ginny Wray

After only 17 months in business, Henry County's first craft brewery is expanding, thanks to growing demand and a state grant.

Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton announced Wednesday that it will invest \$174,000 over three years and create five jobs to more than double production, sourcing more than 65 percent of its agricultural inputs from Virginia farmers. That will amount to \$11,000 in hops, honey and fruit used in its 24 beer recipes, some of which are seasonal.

Currently, Mountain Valley can produce about 100 barrels of beer a year, according to Peggy Donovan, who owns the brewery with her husband, Herb Atwell. A barrel holds about 30 gallons, Donovan added.

In addition, Mountain Valley will add an event space/tasting room by enclosing an existing entertainment pavilion with roll-up doors, and it will add restrooms so it can hosts larger events, Donovan said. For instance, she added that weddings have been held at the brewery but larger facilities are needed for larger weddings.

To help fund the brewery's expansion, Henry County was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund. Henry County will match the grant with local funds, according to a release from Gov. Ralph Northam's office.

The grant was announced by Northam on Wednesday and presented by Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring. She also gave Atwell and Donovan a Virginia flag for their business.

"Investments like this brew new jobs, tourism opportunities and tap new markets for Virginia's

farmers, as craft breweries source products like grain, hops, fruit, herbs, and other agricultural products," said Northam in a release. "The success of farm-based craft breweries like Mountain Valley Brewing demonstrate the key role that agriculture and tourism can have in bringing prosperity to every corner of our Commonwealth."

"Craft beverages are serious business for the commonwealth and an important part of our agribusiness economy. Virginia's beer industry alone has a \$9 billion annual economic impact," Ring said. "I am pleased we could partner with Henry County through the AFID Program to support this local business in a quickly growing industry."

After establishing a hop farm in 2014, Atwell and Donovan opened Henry County's first craft brewery in spring 2017. The resulting surge in demand from locals and visitors alike prompted the expansion announced Wednesday, according to the release.

Donovan noted that in August, Mountain Valley entertained 350 customers, and 70 percent of them were new to the business.

"We are very grateful for the support of Gov. Northam, the commonwealth of Virginia, and the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.," Atwell and Donovan said in the release. "Our local partners, local residents and fellow business owners have welcomed our farm brewery into the community and we are looking forward to giving back through this expansion. The improvements to our facility and venue will give us the opportunity to help benefit local contractors, vendors, artisans, and farmers and help to create additional jobs to

support the local economy. We look forward to helping grow and work with Henry County to make a better place for all."

Ring noted that while Mountain Valley is the first craft brewery in Henry County, it is a growing business and tourist attraction in the state. Virginia has 300 wineries and ciders, 250 craft breweries and 70 distilleries—and room for growth.

She called Mountain Valley a "true Virginia craft beer success story" that started as a hop farm and developed into a nano brewery and now a full brewery. When Mountain Valley wanted to expand, Henry County officials reached out to the state Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development for possible help, according to Stephen Versen, manager of the office who attended Wednesday's announcement. The result was the AFID grant.

Previous AFID grants were awarded locally to Performance Livestock and Blue Ridge Aquaculture, according to Versen and Mark Heath, president/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

The brewery also offers entertainment most weekends, increasing its value for tourism.

"Since it opened its taproom doors, Mountain Valley Brewing has continued to grow as a tourism hotspot for Martinsville-Henry County, and we couldn't be more proud of our community's first brewery," said Sarah Hodges, director of tourism for Martinsville-Henry County EDC. "With the popularity of craft beer and breweries on the rise throughout the commonwealth, Mountain Valley Brewing is helping to attract new visitation to Martinsville-Henry County and en-

hancing visitor experience."

Valerie Harper, small business director for the EDC, added: "Mountain Valley is a great example of a business being invested in its community. The company is expanding with new jobs and capital investment, and they love to partner with other local businesses. It has created a wonderful venue for the public to enjoy. This a win for the business and the Henry County area."

As a result of the grant and expansion project, Versen said in the future, visitors to Mountain Valley Brewing will find two times the amount of beer produced now, two times the amount of Virginia-grown products used in making that beer and "two times the number of people enjoying" the beer and amenities of the brewery.

In addition to operating the brewery, Donovan works full-time at Eastman. Atwell is retired from Triangle

Electric and also previously worked at Berry-Elliott Real Estate.

At Berry-Elliott, Atwell worked with David Martin, now the Iriswood District representative on the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Martin spoke at Wednesday's event and recalled how Atwell was eager to share the development and growth of the hop farm.

Martin called Atwell "truly an entrepreneurial spirit" who had the "vision to make all this happen. Thank you for a job well done," Martin said, adding that he looks forward to seeing the brewery's growth in Henry County.

"What has been accomplished at Mountain Valley Brewery since its April 2017 opening is remarkable," Henry County Administrator Tim Hall said in the governor's office's release. "We are proud of the company's success and we are confident more good news will come in the future."

Seminar to aid trade show vendors

A seminar on the question of "Are You Trade Show Ready" will be held Friday, Oct. 12, in Collinsville.

The seminar will be followed by a Virginia Artisan Market on Saturday, Oct. 13. A meet and greet Artisan Market preview will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, and the market will start with a VIP coffee hour from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Oct. 13. The market will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Diane Sulg, a nationally renowned speaker and co-founder of American Craft Week, will speak at the seminar to be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 12 at the

Dutch Inn.

Sulg will show participants how to hone their trade show skills by presenting critical details and tips.

Topics will include: Why Wholesale (And Why Not?); business readiness; Your Story and Your Brand; production; pricing; inventory control; shipping; trade show budgeting; show materials you need; booth etiquette; and planning a booth/display.

The event is free for participating Artisan Market Vendors. The fee for non-vendor Artisans Center of Virginia and Round the Mountain members will be \$15; other businesses will be (See Vendors p. 5A)

Debut

(cont. from page 1A)

have received while working on this and future editions," Hall said. "We hope you enjoy this, YOUR Henry County Enterprise."

Wendi Craig, marketing and advertising manager, is a familiar face in Henry County.

"It's been wonderful to see old friends and make new ones while working on this project," she said. "I've lived in Henry County all my life. There truly is no place like home."

The Enterprise in Patrick County is based in Stuart and covers the communities in and around Patrick County. Its first edition was printed in 1876, making it among the oldest

continuously operating businesses in that county.

In addition to The Enterprise in Patrick County and now Henry County, the company's newspapers in Virginia include The Salem Times Register, The Radford News Journal, The News Messenger in Blacksburg, The Fincastle Herald and The New Castle Record.

For more information about the Enterprise or to suggest story topics, call Hall at (276) 694-3101 or email dhall@theenterprise.net.

The next edition of the Henry County Enterprise will be available on Dec. 7.

Woods

(cont. from page 1A)

expenses would have to be cut in other areas, or the request for high speed Internet would be delayed.

The city is putting some of those practices in place, cutting expenses where feasible and looking at other options to increase revenues, he said.

Recently, the council approved a Memo of Understanding with the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA in which the YMCA will administer the city's parks and recreation program.

"We will be in control of getting the venues ready for games that will be played, but the YMCA will take over administration of the parks and recreation program," Woods said, adding one of the stipulations was ensuring program fees remain competitive to the fees charged by the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department.

This change, Woods said, will result in a savings of \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said "it is a win/win situation. It saves the city money and we continue to do our part to make sure it succeeds," Woods said.

The contract will run through June 30, 2019, and "then we will decide if it's something we want to continue," he said.

Woods said he hears "a couple of voices talking about AMP/Ohio," the electric provider. "We're in year 10 of a 40-year contract we have with them."

Woods said that while he can't speak for all city residents, his family's electric costs decreased about \$50 last month.

"Maybe it's because I'm using LED lights, or raising the thermostat from 74 to 76, but we

are doing things as a family to reduce electric costs, he said.

Regardless, the decrease is remarkable, considering "we do eight to nine loads of laundry per week, what with two teens and a wife that works at the hospital," Woods said, adding the city works with customers who struggle to pay their electric bills.

When faced with making decision, Woods said he will rely on a four-rule test: "Is it the truth, is it fair, is it building the community, will it benefit" the community, he said.

Even with the wide range of issues facing the council, "I am so excited to see all the positive things happening in Martinsville and Henry County both," Woods said. "I really want to be a part of lending my voice to the chorus of citizens saying 'our best days are still ahead.'"

Hope

(cont. from page 2A)

neys to fail."

Helms said he has Medicare, which covers 80 percent of the transplant cost. He is trying to raise \$20,000 for testing and both surgeries. He also owes about \$40,000 in medical bills out of the millions of dollars he estimated he has spent, through insurance, on treatments and doctors.

Between Heavenly Baker and a GoFundMe page, Helms said he has raised just more than \$4,000 toward the \$20,000 down payment for the transplant. Because he has no kidney donor now, there is no

looming deadline to raise the funds.

"I'll do Heavenly Baker though the winter" and if he has not had a transplant by then, he may be back at the Farmers Market next summer, he said.

"I won't do it all through baking," he said of fundraising, but "I don't want a hand-out. I would rather bake and work to get what I want."

He attends Hillcrest Baptist Church in Henry County where his Sunday school class held a meal in August to raise funds for him, according to Bob Wilson, chairman of the

deacons at Hillcrest.

THE FUTURE

"I go to church and live by faith," Helms said to explain how he keeps his spirits up even when emergencies arise. "The folks at church are great. They want to help any way they can."

He also has support from his wife, who works full-time at a cake factory in Rocky Mount, and his son, Nicholas, 20. Michelle also helps her husband with his baking and sells gift baskets she makes, and Helms also sells photographs he takes.

his days would be freer and he would have more energy.

Helms and Heavenly Baker can be reached at (662) 306-0289 or sheikster1969@gmail.com.

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The columnists' views appearing on this page do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of *The Henry County Enterprise*.

Vision, fortitude paid off at business park

By Ginny Wray

The vision to look at a vacant tract of land and see it bustling with industry and the fortitude to see that vision become a reality paid off with Press Glass's recent decision to locate a 280,000-square-foot manufacturing operation in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) Henry County.

"If Henry County hadn't had this vision 10 years ago we would not have had this discussion. The only reason (Press Glass) looked at Henry County is that we had a park and graded land. We had the product they wanted, we knew how to handle it when they came, we had a team in place" to close the deal, said Mark Heath, president/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

"We are reaping the rewards of 10 years of work," he added.

But that work does not end with Press Glass' announcement in July. In fact, Heath and County Administrator Tim Hall, who also is an EDC board member, left town immediately after that announcement on more EDC business.

"Our team is doing things that will be played out when we're gone," Heath said. "It's a 10-, 20-, 30-year plan that we're on. That's what differentiates Henry County" from other localities and means it now has sites available at Commonwealth Crossing and the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek industrial park as well as other locations in the area.

"There was negative momentum for a long time; now it's positive. We've got to keep working," Hall said.

THE VISION BEGAN

In 2007 Henry County acquired 720 acres along the county's southern border with North Carolina for Commonwealth Crossing to develop an industrial park for mega or large-scale industries. That came a decade after the local economy began a tailspin of industry closings and job losses and one year before the nation's economy slid into a recession.

For several years, plans for Commonwealth Crossing were stymied by a battle with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over an environmental permit for the industrial park. The stalemate finally was resolved in 2014 when, with the aid of the area's congressional delegation and others, the permit was granted and development of the park actively started.

When the business center was declared open for business in 2017, Hall estimated that between \$25 million and \$30 million had been spent on its development.

Nearly \$6 million of that was in the form of Harvest Foundation grants. Harvest provided \$691,862 for a water and sewer infrastructure project and \$5 million for grading and infrastructure improvements at Commonwealth Crossing. It also gave a \$5 million grant to the EDC for the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT) facility for a total of \$10,691,862 in grants for the business park and training center.

Despite the controversy with the Corps of Engineers and criticism from some area residents, the Henry

County Board of Supervisors and the EDC board never wavered from their commitment to the park, Hall and Heath said.

"It goes to the vision of Benny (the late County Administrator Benny Summerlin) and Mark. They were willing to stand up and take the criticism," Hall said, recalling how one media outlet once described Commonwealth Crossing as a barren landscape.

"Our boards had the fortitude to go forward" with plans for Commonwealth Crossing, Hall said. "They had to have patience. I can't give our elected guys enough credit. They trusted us. It's good for them to be able to say, 'We trusted them and it worked.'"

"Even with turnover (among board of supervisors members), they stayed with the vision. They asked questions; we had to earn our credibility on this project. But they stuck with us. Press Glass bore the first fruit; I think there will be more," he added.

Harvest Foundation President Allyson Rothrock said the foundation board also remained committed to Commonwealth Crossing for the long haul.

"Our focus for the last 17 years has been on initiatives and opportunities that don't forge opportunities overnight. Those that forge change over time usually are the ones that stick and work," she said. "We never thought this (Commonwealth Crossing) would have a huge impact overnight."

"Everyone is anxious to get people back to work, but we knew all along this was a process and it was going to take time. It's paying off now. Everything that has worked has taken time," Rothrock added.

THE VISION TAKES SHAPE

The Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training facility is being constructed next to the Press Glass operation.

The 25,500-square-foot, \$6.5 million building will feature advanced manufacturing training facilities as well as office space which Press Glass and other Commonwealth Crossing tenants can use for pre-employment services and other work while their operations are being built.

Construction began in May and is expected to be completed next June.

Heath said the training facility should help recruit industries to the business park, and the construction of both that and Press Glass "gives clients confidence" that the area can deliver on its promises.

"It gives the community credibility. Success breeds success," he added.

Rothrock agreed, noting that having a building where Press Glass can interview prospective employees and train those who are hired is a tremendous incentive and gives the EDC an important tool for recruiting companies to the area.

"If you're just like everybody else I'm not sure you've got a leg up" in recruiting businesses, she said.

Harvest's investment in CCAT also reflected the foundation's commitment to education and skills, Rothrock said. Patrick Henry Community College will tailor training at CCAT for the companies using



Mark Heath (above left), president/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. and Henry County Administrator Tim Hall (above right) discuss the Press Glass deal. Press Glass is the first industry to locate in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. Below, the Commonwealth Crossing name is visible for miles. It is atop a new water tower there.



the facility, she said, adding that she believes that is unique.

One goal in developing Commonwealth Crossing was to attract companies that paid higher wages.

"We don't want to be the poster child for the poor and pitiful," Heath said, adding that the area no longer needs \$10 an hour jobs. When he recruits companies, he is honest that an entry-level wage of \$15 an hour is required to successfully recruit labor. "You've got to progress or you stagnate."

"We went years just trying to put people to work," Hall said, referring to efforts to put people back to work when textile and furniture companies closed. "Now we need more lucrative opportunities, and we have a plan that is working."

That means companies provide advanced opportunities to people who are willing to train, he said. If they fill the company's needs, the employees are paid more. "That's how the economy flows, and it's fun to see it work," he added.

However, Heath said one change they see is that each new plant is more automated than the last, between robots, artificial intelligence and other means.

"There is a global shortage of workers. ... They are automated more so they need fewer people. Good workers are really in good demand," he said, and Hall added that the same situation exists in Europe.

THE FUTURE

Press Glass and CCAT will use 42 of the 175 graded acres at Commonwealth Crossing. The area also has land available at the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek industrial park and other locations, so there are no plans to slow or stop recruiting efforts, Heath said.

"There is a tendency at full employment to back off on recruiting," he said, calling that the worst thing

a locality could do because it takes a long time to restart economic development efforts. "You can't sit for two years" and then flip a switch to resume activity.

Also, companies close, sometimes through no fault of anyone, and economies move in cycles, he said. "That's another reason you can't turn this on and off. You have to keep positive and moving forward. At the end of the day somebody has got to make something somewhere, and you have to be the place to do that. You have to have better options — buildings, sites — than others."

The team that worked on the Press Glass project will continue to work on the next home run. Heath and Hall said they are in contact probably 20 times a week, including nights and weekends. County Engineer Tim Pace often is included in discussions. "Tim Pace works his guts out. ... He wants this place to succeed," Hall said.

Heath added that in his 40-year career in economic development in multiple communities, "we never had engineering talent at this level at our disposal. We could buy it; here it's on staff."

As the experience with Press Glass shows, area officials are committed to working with companies worldwide.

This area has companies from Israel, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Canada and now Poland. "There is a lot of foreign interest in the U.S.," Heath said, adding that about 70 percent of the EDC's prospects in the past two years have been international companies.

There are challenges in dealing with international companies, they said, citing the language, laws, distance and more. "They have to be educated in how we do business and we have to be educated in how they do business," Heath said.

Sometimes there are unintended

(See Vision p. 5A)



Patrick County Music Association

Fall Shows October 20

Rotary Building
420 Woodland Dr., Stuart, VA, 24171

Saturday Nite Opry Show

Sponsored by the Lowe Vintage Instrument Company, the event includes an instrument show that begins at 1 p.m., in the Rotary Building on Woodland Drive in Stuart.

Vendors will be set up inside the same building as the show, and instruments of particular interest are vintage Martin or Gibson guitars.

Concessions Available (No open mic event)

Performances begin at 5:30 pm with **The Goodfellas** — and members **Ralph McGee, Rex McGee, Tex Barneycastle and Hersie McMillan** — serving as the house band of the evening.

The line up of performers includes **Roger Handy, Johnny Joyce, Tommy Nichols, Beth Smith, Melanie Bodehammer, Junior Cassidy and Denny Alley.**

Additional performers may be announced -lineup is subject to change

November 17

Roger Handy and Friends take the stage, along with the **Route 8 Ramblers** (Open Mic Event will be held)

December 8

PCMA's special Christmas show ~ **Southern Prophets** will headline
Also Performing will be **The Country Boys and the Chords of Faith**

The PCMA is a 501 © (3) nonprofit agency that offers local talent, as well as famous, at free monthly shows at Rotary Field the fourth Saturday of every month. The PCMA started as a small gathering of pickers, singers and fans of bluegrass/gospel music in the early 1990s at the Coffee Break on Main Street in Stuart.

For additional information, visit www.patrickcountymusicassociation.org.

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The Jeb Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust is an all volunteer non-profit organization and all proceeds go to the preservation of Laurel Hill

Press Glass

(cont. from page 1A)

would spend \$43.55 million to build a 280,000-square-foot manufacturing operation and create 212 jobs in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. Press Glass will be the first industry to locate in Commonwealth Crossing, which has been in the making for more than a decade.

"I knew it would be a good marriage for Press Glass and Martinsville and Henry County," Lankford said in a recent interview. That marriage will be good both now and in the future, he added.

Lankford is among the founders of Glass Dynamics in 1985 in Eden and then Stoneville, N.C., and Stone Dynamics in 2000 in Henry County. He said he wanted to open Glass Dynamics in Henry County but "it didn't seem the development people were that interested," while North Carolina officials actively courted the company that now employs 200 people, he said.

That situation changed. Lankford later launched Stone Dynamics in the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek industrial park in Henry County and when it needed to expand, Lankford said Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) officials "helped with grants and made it possible for us to be successful a lot sooner," Lankford said, adding that the EDC staff now is friendly, helpful and welcoming.

Stone Dynamics moved into the former Coca Cola plant on Memorial Boulevard, and its approximately 28-person staff grew to 80 employees in three years, Lankford added.

A year ago, Press Glass of Poczesna, Poland, bought Glass Dynamics and began planning a new plant to make jumbo insulated glass units for large buildings in New York, Atlanta and other areas, he said. The new plant was being designed for land Glass Dynamics owned in Stoneville, but that site had no room for future expansion, Lankford said.

So he suggested to his son, Michael, a vice president of Press Glass North America, that the company look at the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre in Henry County. The new plant did not need to be near Glass Dynamics' operation in Stoneville, and Commonwealth Crossing offered a world-class industrial park that is close to major highways, Bobby Lankford said.

"We all come from Henry County so it's nice for them to land there. They'll be set for the next 25-30 years," he added.

Last December, Bobby Lankford called Mark Heath, president/CEO

of the EDC, and asked to meet with him. At their first conversation in January in Stoneville, Heath said he found that Press Glass already had an engineering firm, Dewberry, and was working with New Atlantic Construction to design a factory for the Stoneville property.

"It wasn't hard to take the engineering work to Henry County and (County Engineer) Tim Pace. Commonwealth Crossing made more sense" because of the expansion capabilities, Heath said. "It was no small thing that Henry County already had a graded site, pad ready."

As a result, Press Glass could spend its money on equipment and other aspects of the new operation rather than site development, he said.

"It was a good business decision, saving money they could allocate to other things" and speeding up the project, he added.

Henry County Administrator Tim Hall, who also is a member of the EDC board, said at his first face-to-face meeting with Press Glass President Maciej Migalski, "(Maciej) said, 'We want to come to Henry County.' It's unusual to hear it that directly," Hall said. "The company had studied us" and essentially said, "We want to come here. How can we make that happen?"

Heath said there were many details to work out and local officials knew the North Carolina site was always in play. But, Hall said, "we had a common goal. Once we knew the common goal, it accelerated the whole thing."

Heath, Hall and Pace traveled to Poland in May. They spent a week visiting the plant, learning about its operations and building credibility with Press Glass, Heath and Hall said.

Among other things, they saw how Press Glass transports its large pieces of glass by special trucks, Heath said. Now, officials here will determine if road improvements will be needed at Commonwealth Crossing to accommodate those vehicles, he said.

The company will not use the rail line that is a key feature of the business park, Heath said. For that reason, its operation will be constructed on the southern end of Lot 1, leaving rail access available for a future park tenant. Press Glass' facility will be adjacent to the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAT), which is already under construction.

CCAT is expected to be completed by next June, Heath said. The 25,500-square-foot building will feature advanced manufacturing training facilities as well as office space which Press Glass can use

for pre-employment services and other work while its operation is being built. CCAT is to be used only by Commonwealth Crossing tenants.

A total of 175 of the 720 acres at Commonwealth Crossing are graded. Press Glass and CCAT will use a total of 42 of those acres, leaving 133 available for other companies, according to Heath.

The company's architects and engineers now are working with Pace on the building plans and with Hall on the needed agreements, Heath said. The company hopes to be operating in the new site by the end of 2019.

Hiring has not begun, he said. When it does, the company first will hire key personnel who will go to Poland for extended training to learn Press Glass' processes, Heath added.

Press Glass fits the EDC's targeted recruiting area of advanced manufacturing, Heath said, though he added that he and his staff "will talk to anybody ... quality companies with quality jobs."

In addition to advanced manufacturing skills, Hall said employees will need so-called "soft skills" such as being receptive to training, promptness, being drug-free and working as a team.

"They call them soft (skills) but

they are not soft," he said. "They are essential."

Press Glass is not releasing its pay scales, but Hall said, "it is safe to say it will be above average for the area."

Heath said he has advised the company that it will have two labor pools from which to draw: the 11,000 people who commute to jobs outside Henry County each day and those working now who want new opportunities.

Since Press Glass announced its Henry County plans in July, the EDC has been in contact with the company almost daily, Heath said.

"We don't make the announcement and walk away," he said. "We want them to do what Bobby Lankford did — be successful here and bring others" to the area as well.

Lankford said other business people also can help recruit companies to the area.

"Everybody's job is to do that, whether you're in business for yourself or not. Things change. You need to freshen yourself and diversify," he said. The area "can always use new businesses. That's what brings people in. That's what will happen here when they (Press Glass) locate in Commonwealth Crossing. They will have opportunities to offer people and they'll come here."

Vendors

(cont. from page 3A)

charged \$25. Artisan Market Vendors also will receive a booth critique from Sulg.

Lunch is included in the fee.

According to a release, Sulg was the founding director of Quad City Arts, an arts council serving 34 communities along the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. She was instrumental in establishing one of the nation's first arts districts in Rock Island, Ill., and led several public art and community revitalization projects including restoring a long-vacant, three story department store which became the Quad City ArtsCenter.

She founded and directed numerous arts festivals including the Quad City Festival of Trees, which has raised millions of dollars for community arts.

After moving to North Carolina, she and her husband Madis opened the award-winning Maddi's Gallery in Charlotte and Huntersville. The gallery specialized in fine craft and folk art. In 2009, Niche Magazine named Maddi's the Top Retailer of American Craft in the country.

Currently Sulg is the executive director of CRAFT (Craft Retailers and Artists for Tomorrow) and is a frequent speaker and lecturer at wholesale trade shows across the country, the release states. She is founder and co-chairman of American Craft Week, the largest nationwide celebration of handmade craft in the country.

Most recently, Sulg

and her daughter Michaella Dalton became the ArtShowGirls. They produce juried art, craft and folk art events in the upper southeast region.

According to the release, supporters of the event include the Artisans Center of Virginia, Round the Mountain artisan network, ARC, Virginia

is for Lovers, the city of Martinsville, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp., West Piedmont Planning District Commission, American Craft Week and Virginia DHDC.

For more information on the event, contact the Artisans Center of Virginia at (540) 886-1684.

Vision

(cont. from page 4A)

consequences of their travel. Heath said he, Hall and Pace spent a night in Munich on the way back from Poland and met with Virginia's new European marketing director based there. They told her about Henry County's sites and other assets, and since then she has put them in contact with a European prospect.

Hall acknowledged that some people may not understand why local officials often have to travel to connect with EDC prospects. But, he said, "we never give money to a company we haven't seen and touched. Many communities have written checks to companies without fully vetting that company. We don't do that and we never will."

As Heath put it, "We want to know they are who they say

they are. They do the same thing with us."

The travel money comes out of the EDC's budget, much of which comes from a Harvest Foundation grant.


"Harvest funding allows us to do things other groups can't do," Heath said. "We take advantage of it, (but) we are mindful of it. We take care of our people, our clients. We want them to know we are professional."

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Anchor youth are meeting 'Challenges'

"Bob" believes that if he had not gone through the Seven Challenges program with counselor Kevin Ratliff at the ANCHOR group home, he would be facing a far different future.

"If it weren't for Kevin and the (ANCHOR) staff, I probably would be in jail," the teenager said

"Bob" is not his real name. The 17-year-old youth agreed to an interview without using his real name to talk about his experience with the Seven Challenges program at the ANCHOR Commission group home in Martinsville. He was interviewed last spring and could not be reached for a recent update.

ANCHOR helps troubled youth and keeps them in the community, close to their families and support systems. In addition to its group home, ANCHOR provides GPS and outreach services.

Its Seven Challenges counseling program was developed specifically for adolescents and addresses substance abuse and co-occurring mental health issues. It helps them become more aware of their problems and how to change their lives.

The ANCHOR Commission launched the Seven Challenges program in February 2017, thanks in part to a \$10,000 PUP! (Pick Up the Pace) grant from The Harvest Foundation. Since then, the program enrolled 60 young people and expanded to serve both the 21st and 22nd Court Service Units. Those units include Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania and Franklin counties as well as Martinsville and Danville.

Ricky Walker, director of operations for the ANCHOR Commission, said of the 60 participants, 49 completed the program. Thirty of the 49 clients completed it successfully or satisfactorily, and five completed it without success, Walker said. Fourteen were released from the program for reasons that could include transfers to other areas or removal from probation, he said.

"I'm very pleased with the feedback and all from participants, even the ones who aren't able to complete it for one reason or another," he said.

Youths complete the program when they meet their treatment goals and objectives such as keeping journals, attendance and other objective and subjective areas, Walker and Kevin Ratliff have said. That process can take 4-5 months or longer, they said.

Ratliff added that there also are other ways to measure success. "In my mind, success would be any of the ways in which an individual has been able to take more responsibility for their lives, their choices, and be able to make decisions to improve their lives," he said.

In some cases, that could mean quitting or cutting back drug use, earning a GED or getting a job, Ratliff said.

Bob is among those who have completed the program. He said he used marijuana, pills and "once in a while" methamphetamines and cocaine.

"I used to be a straight 'F' student" who would not go to school, he said.

He landed in the ANCHOR group home where he met Ratliff, a counselor and Seven Challenges leader. Bob attended group and private counseling sessions in which participants are challenged to talk honestly about themselves and their problems, look at their responsibilities and those of others for their problems, and where

they are headed, among other challenges.

The program is developed specifically for adolescents and addresses substance abuse and co-occurring mental health issues.

The challenges that guide the program are:

1. We decided to open up and talk honestly about ourselves and alcohol and other drugs.
2. We looked at what we like about alcohol and other drugs and why we were using them.
3. We looked at our use of alcohol and other drugs to see if it has caused harm or could cause harm.
4. We looked at our responsibility and the responsibility of others for our problems.
5. We thought about where we seemed to be headed, where we wanted to go and what we wanted to accomplish.
6. We made thoughtful decisions about our lives and about our use of alcohol and other drugs.
7. We followed through on our decisions about our lives and drug use. If we saw problems, we went back to earlier challenges and mastered them."

In the Seven Challenges program, Bob and the other teens talked about the influence of drugs, how drugs affect someone's life and how counselors cannot force the participants to stop using drugs, among other things, he said.

"Instead of coming in saying 'You've got to quit, you've got to quit, you've got to quit'" and "preaching abstinence," Seven Challenges counselors work to build trust with the clients, Walker said. "Then they (youths) will open up and talk about issues and a lot of times other things causing their drug use. A lot of times they work on that and it will affect their drug use."

Participants also keep journals of their feelings and thoughts about the Seven Challenges.

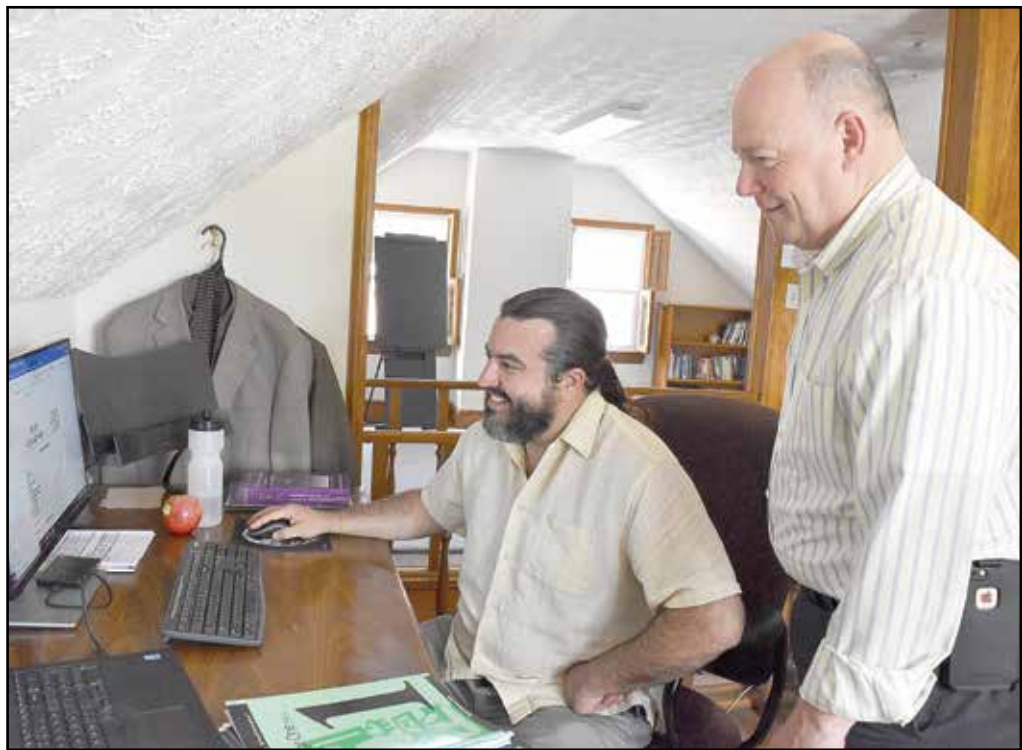
"The books (journals) helped me a lot. They help you express how you feel. I didn't feel comfortable talking (about his problems)," Bob said, but writing was easier for him.

Bob had been to counselors before he was in the ANCHOR program but none helped him like Ratliff, he said. He had trouble opening up with the counselors about his drug use and expressing how he felt, he said. But once he felt comfortable with Ratliff, Bob said he started following the counselor's advice.

The program "made me realize drugs ain't that good. You can live life without them and make something of your life instead of blowing your money and not doing anything with your life," he said. "Drugs will ruin your life."

Bob said he "stopped using drugs. My grades went up, I never missed a day (of school) and was on time. I got nothing lower than C."

He has graduated from high school and said he has been drug-free for almost two years.



Ricky Walker (right) and Kevin Ratliff discuss the Seven Challenges program. (Contributed photo)

But it has not always been easy. After his first stay with ANCHOR ended, he began to return to his old habits.

"I started in a bad spot in school and I didn't want to mess up so I volunteered to go back (to ANCHOR). They'll help you out a lot; they did for me," he said.

He did not go through the Seven Challenges program again, but he continued to meet with Ratliff weekly "to check in, see how I'm doing and if anything's changed. ... We've gotten pretty close."

Bob also consults the journals he kept during the program and rereads them. He said he feels comfortable that he will not repeat his past behavior.

"I feel confident in myself," he said. "I don't hang out with the people I used to any more."

His family is proud of him. "They say I've changed a lot. They tell me to keep doing what I'm doing ... to keep my head up," he said.

Bob said he would advise other teenagers with problems to give the Seven Challenges program a try.

"If it helped me, and I used to be pretty bad, I think it would help


other peers get through hard spots in life," he said.

In May, the Anchor Commission implemented the Brief Challenges program. It is based on Seven Challenges but it offers a more in-depth assessment of a person's situation, works on an individual basis rather than as a group, and helps determine if the client would be best served by the Seven Challenges program or some other resource, Walker and Ratliff said.

Since it began, Brief Challenges has served six clients. Five of them have been discharged from the program, and only one of those was an unsuccessful discharge.

The program lasts only four sessions and is designed for people who may be only occasional drug users, Walker said. If clients have more serious problems and need a more in-depth program, they are referred to another program, he said.

For now, the only change Walker envisions in the Seven Challenges program at Anchor is possibly holding two sessions a week rather than the current one so more clients can be served.



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Fountain of Youth

Volunteering keeps 92-year-old active and involved

By Ginny Wray

At 92 years of age, Eugene Wagoner has found the secret to a long, full life — Grace Network. It is not the food or financial assistance that Grace Network distributes to area residents in crisis situations. It is his volunteer service at the agency.

"I think Grace is keeping me alive," said Wagoner, of Martinsville. It does that by "giving me something to do and helping people." Grace Network is a faith-based, first-stop center for resources — generally food and/or financial help with housing and utility bills — for families in crisis in Martinsville and Henry County, according to its website. In the 2017-18 fiscal year that ended June 31, Grace Network provided \$121,432 worth of food to 3,444 individuals and \$234,071 in housing and utility assistance to 1,616 clients, according to Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director of Grace Network. Some people, but not all, receive both food and financial assistance, she added. That totaled \$355,000 in assistance provided in the year. That cost is covered by donations from 105 area churches, more than 65 other organizations and businesses, individuals and local foundation grants, Hinchcliff said. The organization receives no government money. Grace Network is in a good financial



Eugene Wagoner, 92, straightens shelves in the food pantry and helps out wherever else he can at Grace Network.

position, she said. It is financially independent, pays only two salaries (Hinchcliff's and that of part-time bookkeeper Pat Wilhite) and has minimal operating costs, Hinchcliff said.

"We use our money very wisely," and it has a reputation in the community for that, she added. Still, she said, "the need never stops."

Volunteers are the backbone of the organization. A total of 138 area residents donate their time to open and staff Grace Network five mornings and one afternoon (Thursday) each week. They also collect food

donations, update computer records and perform other responsibilities, including the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser, helping with Christmas toy drive at the Martinsville Speedway, collecting food at the July 4 celebration and others.

"We couldn't survive without them," Hinchcliff said of the volunteers.

A majority of the volunteers are retirees, and many were professionals in fields such as social services and teachers. Retirees have the time to work specific shifts each week or month, and many of them bring professional skills and manners to the

agency and its clients, Hinchcliff said.

"There is a friendly environment that exudes to the clients. Everyone appreciates the stress level of the clients. ... We just have a way around us that is loving and not judging, and we want to help," she added. Eugene Wagoner exemplifies that.

"He's so endeared to us and us to him," Hinchcliff said. "Grace (Network) is his family. He truly believes that. We feel the same way about him." "Everyone looks after him, especially those who have been around for a while," she said. So if Wagoner isn't at Grace when he is expected, someone will call and check on him, she said, adding that Wilhite is especially diligent about that.

Wagoner usually works Thursday afternoons at Grace Network, located on Liberty Street in Martinsville. But he often shows up for an hour or so several mornings each week to straighten the shelves in the food pantry, take care of the agency's recycling, fill in for any volunteers who are absent and help with other tasks. He has worked in the food pantry since the first day he walked into Grace Network when it was located on Fairy

(See Fountain of Youth p. 3B)

Cruise-in to feature racing legends

Iconic names in the sport of racing will be in Bassett on Sept. 15 for the Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In.

The "Race Night" Cruise-In will include appearances by drivers Donald "Satch" Worley, Paul Radford and Monk Tate; engine builders Lou Larosa and Danny Glad; and master mechanics Wayne "Speedy" Thomas, Talmadge Thomas and Harold Smith. A complete list of those scheduled to appear is on the cruise-in website at www.bassettcruisein.com or its Facebook page.

The local and regional racing legends will appear in the "Race Pa-

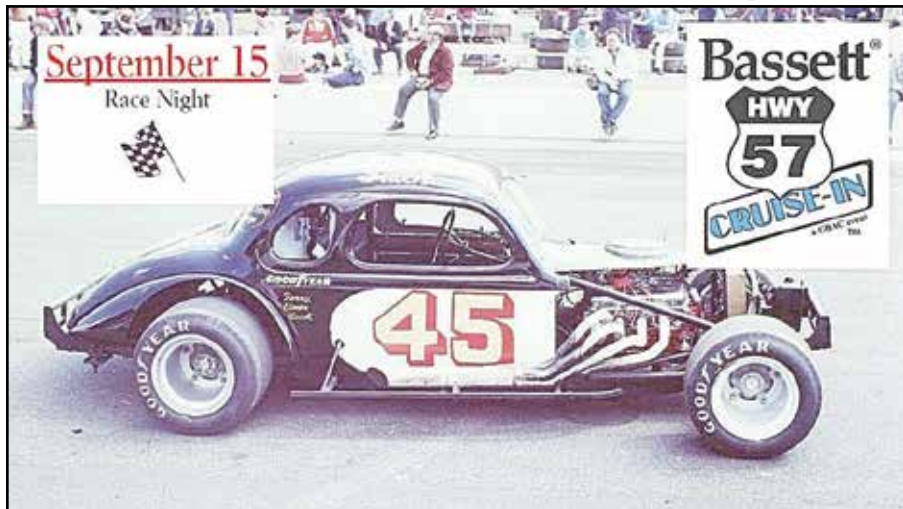
vilion" in downtown Bassett from 4 to 8 p.m.

"We have pretty big expectations" for the crowds on Race Night, said Tim Stone, sponsor representative for the cruise-ins.

In addition to the local racing legends who will meet and greet cruise-in crowds, there will be rare vintage modified cars, he said. Crafts and food also will be sold — including the crowd favorite fried apple pies, according to Stone — in a food court set up beside a shelter.

Admission is free and the public is welcome. Pets, tents and burnouts are not.

The event is held



The Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In will be in Bassett on Sept. 15. (Contributed photo)

from the Bassett Furniture parking lot at 3525 Fairystone Park Highway to the Bassett Funeral Home lot. "Everything along the river on both sides will be

full," Stone said. "It's a great time to relax and get away and remember the past a little bit."

If the weather is good, the Bassett Cruise-ins attract 1,000 to

1,500 people, including those who bring cars to share with the public, Stone said. Typically about 300 cars are on display at the events, although last October

there were more than 400 vehicles. Even on a day when bad weather is forecast, Stone said about 100 vehicles will be featured.

"We will average 30 to 40 new registers (car exhibitors) every month," he said. They have come from Lynchburg and Wilmington, Burlington and Greensboro in North Carolina and other areas.

Organizers never know exactly how many vehicles will be on display because there is no advance registration. Stone said car owners register when they show

(See Cruise-In p. 6B)

Thousands likely for annual area Oktoberfest

Over the past 38 years, thousands of people have streamed into uptown Martinsville for a celebration of autumn, German food, beer and more, and that tradition will continue this year.

The 2018 Oktoberfest International Arts and Culture Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

"This is one of the largest community events" in Martinsville and Henry County, with the exception of the Martinsville Speedway races and Rooster Walk music festival, said Liz Secrest, executive director of Martinsville Uptown, which presents Oktoberfest.

Crowds estimated at 8,000 people attend the event each year, she said. "It started as a small crafts (event) and multiplied" with 230 booths, including 200 vendors, expected for this year's 39th Oktoberfest, Secrest said, "and it's still free."

Vendors will line Church and Main streets, offering everything from free balloons to fine art, holiday decorations and household accessories, jewelry and more. Children will be entertained at activities including inflatable bounce houses and rides.

There will be a beer garden selling craft beer. Vendors will sell tra-

ditional German foods such as bratwurst as well as everything from hot dogs to snow cones. Food trucks will offer southern and international foods, Secrest said, which are new this year.

The Rogues will perform from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Bridge Street Parking Lot. Band members Jimmy Stone, Mark Barnard, Pat Haley, Wayne Lovell and Nelson Edwards perform classic rock music from the early 1960s. Fill-in drummers are Johnny Bryant and Oscar Bowman.

Church and Main streets will be closed to traffic, as will the connecting streets — Walnut, Bridge and Lester, Secrest said.

This year, organizers limited the number of informational booths at Oktoberfest in response to people's requests for more booths featuring crafts and artwork, Secrest said. Rather than booths which solely distribute information, they now have been asked to have something interactive, such as drawings or giveaways. "As long as it's some



Funnel cakes are a popular treat at the Oktoberfest in Martinsville. (2013 photo contributed by Martinsville Uptown)

type of activity" it is allowed, she added.

Planning for this year's Oktoberfest began last November. Typically it starts in February, but the early start helped organizers distribute information about Oktoberfest to crafters at holiday events elsewhere, Secrest said. As a result, "we picked up a number of new crafters," she said.

All the vendors that were signed up by mid-August were from Virginia and North Carolina. Those from outside this area are from Christiansburg and Rustburg in Virginia and Wake Forest and Rougemont in North Carolina. Secrest added that there

typically is a rush of vendors signing up in the month before the event.

The premier sponsor for the 2018 Oktoberfest is the Martinsville Speedway. Other event sponsors are Martin Plaza Furniture Outlet, Food Lion, Danville Distributing and Arconic. Vendors seeking more information about Oktoberfest should call 632-5688. For more information on the event, call that number or the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce at 632-6401.

More information also is available by emailing liz@martinsvilleuptown.net or visiting the website martinsvilleuptown.net.

PCMA unveils fall show lineup

The Patrick County Music Association is gearing up for its fall season, which will start Oct. 20 with the Saturday Nite Opry.

Performers are guaranteed to pack the house this fall, according to Denny Alley, organizer of the PCMA.

Sponsored by the Lowe Vintage Instrument Co., the event will include an instrument show that will begin at 1 p.m. in the Rotary Building on Woodland Drive in Stuart.

Vendors will be set up in the same building as the show, and instruments of particular interest are vintage Martin or Gibson guitars, Alley said.

Concessions also will be available, but the open mic event will not be held.

Performances will begin at 5:30 p.m. with The Goodfellas — and members Ralph McGee, Rex McGee, Tex Barneycastle and Hersie McMillan — serving as the house band of the evening.

The lineup of performers includes Roger Handy, Johnny Joyce, Tommy Nichols, Beth Smith, Melanie Bodehammer, Junior Cassidy and Alley.

Additional performers may be announced, Alley said, and noted the lineup is subject to change.

The rock solid lineup of performers continues on Nov. 17 when Roger Handy and Friends take the stage, along with the Route 8 Ramblers, Alley said, adding an open mic event will be held, starting at 4:45 p.m.

The Southern Prophets will headline The PCMA's special Christmas show on Dec. 8, Alley said, adding this will be the group's first performance following the 2015 death of founding member Denny Archer.

The Country Boys and the Chords of Faith also will perform in December.

Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. in November and December.

Alley added that the association is taking September off to prepare for the events in the last quarter of the year.

The PCMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that offers talent from the local area and beyond at free monthly shows at Rotary Field the fourth Saturday of every month. The PCMA started as a small gathering of pickers, singers and fans of bluegrass/gospel music in the early 1990s at the Coffee Break on Main Street in Stuart.

For additional information, visit www.patrickcountymusicassociation.org.

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Starting over



Cleanup continues at the fire scene.



A billboard on Church Street thanks the community for their support.

Most residents displaced by fire get new housing, assistance

Nearly all of the 35 people who were displaced by an apartment building fire in June now have new housing.

Thirty-three of the building's 35 residents have been placed in apartments and homes in Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County, said staff members at Piedmont Community Services (PCS), which owns the building at 303 E. Church St. that burned on June 30.

The cause of the fire was determined to be unattended cooking, according to Greg Preston, executive director of PCS. All of the 33 units in the building incurred some damage from fire, smoke and/or water, said Katie Whitlow, who works with individual and community relations with PCS.

No one was hurt in the fire, and PCS officials are thankful for that.

Preston and Kippy Cassell, director of operations with PCS, said no firm damage estimate has been determined although early published reports put the estimate at more than \$600,000. PCS's insurance company is working to determine the actual damage. After that, plans to rebuild the facility will proceed, Preston said.

He estimated rebuilding will take 9 to 12 months.

All of the residents will be offered the option of returning to the building when it is reconstructed, Preston said. PCS also has heard from some people who want to be on a waiting list for apartments.

And some of the displaced residents "may get into their new apartment and love it" and not want to return to their

former homes, said Carolyn Whiting, facilities manager with Piedmont Community Services.

SHOCK TURNS TO ACTION

The PCS officials reflected on the night of June 30 and the days that followed recently. The scene remains fresh in their memories.

Preston, who was notified of the fire by Cassell, said he could see smoke from the blaze as he drove to the scene from his home in Horsepasture.

"I was in shock," Preston said. "Immediately I was nervous and wanted to get here as quickly as possible.

Cassell said when he arrived at the scene, it was evident that routine fire drills and safety classes Whitling had held paid off. Residents knew what to do and where to go when the fire broke out, Preston and Cassell agreed.

Piedmont Community Services' building on Clay Street adjacent to the apartment building was opened that night and PCS officials made sure everyone was accounted for. The Red Cross also was at the scene to help, Preston said.

About 25-30 PCS staff members also came to the fire scene and by 4 a.m. Sunday, July 1, temporary housing in a local hotel had been arranged for all 35 residents. Preston noted that some of those employees do not work with the housing service but they all pitched in to help.

"The night of the fire, Piedmont (staff-ers) sat around and

did an assessment of immediate needs," such as safety, housing and medical care, he said. "The next day (July 1) we went into action to figure out what were the immediate needs to make sure individuals who lost their housing were safe."

About 15 of the residents lost almost everything; others were able to salvage some belongings. But they all had needs, and efforts began immediately to make sure residents had food, clothing, water and medicines they had to leave behind in the burned building.

Residents of the apartment building are close, Whiting said, so they were concerned for each other's safety when the building was burning.

That spirit "hum-bled me the night of the fire," Preston said, adding that residents also were thankful for the help of PCS and then the community. "They are most appreciative of every article of clothing" and assistance provided, Cassell added.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Organizations and individuals stepped up to help the residents after the fire and in the weeks that followed, the PCS officials said.

One challenge was providing three meals a day for the 35 displaced people for eight weeks, Whitlow said. The hotel where the residents were staying provided breakfasts, a pallet of water was provided by one organization and others provided lunches on weekdays, Whitlow said.

PCS officials were reluctant to name the groups for fear of leaving some out.

The community's meal calendar was coordinated with churches that filled in with dinners when needed. Also, churches, restaurants and individuals brought food and donated funds to help.

Transportation to meal sites was another issue. "We weren't able to transport 35 people to different churches and it would have identified them as clients, so they brought the food to the clients" with vans, Whitlow said.

"We had enormous support from churches all over the county," she added.

The residents stayed in the hotel until more permanent housing was found. That and other help was arranged by a team from Piedmont Community Services that worked with the Danville Redevelopment Authority and other churches and organizations.

Housing was "hard to find. Most of the people needed a one-bedroom (apartment) and they were difficult to find. Some had to go to two bedrooms. We worked it out with Housing (the Danville Redevelopment Authority) and landlords," Whiting said.

Some residents of the building have developmental disabilities, Preston said. Some are PCS clients; others are not. They pay rent and PCS provides help and support services so the residents can live as independently as possible.

The agency provides a "host of wraparound

services to make sure the individual remains independent in the community," Preston said. "And enhance their quality of life," Whiting added.

Preston said the fire made him appreciate that he lives in a community that cares as evidenced by the immediate actions of people with the fire and police departments, first responders, Red Cross, Piedmont staff and others.

Whitlow added that those people's concerns have continued long after the fire was out. Often, agencies tried to make it easier on the displaced residents, sometimes simplifying things to help those without paperwork because of the fire.

Whiting noted that many community agencies sent staff members to the hotel to help the displaced residents rather than the residents having to get transportation to them.

"We have had enormous donations of clothing from different areas" and have given residents a chance to "shop" — without charge — for household items that have been donated, Whitlow said. "We have worked hard with people offering furniture so as they (residents) are moving into new housing, they have pretty much everything they need."

But needs remain, such as beds, couches, kitchen supplies and other items, she said. Monetary donations may be made to Grace Network, which is the fiscal agent for financial contributions. It can be reached at 638-8500 and is located

at 16 Liberty St., Martinsville. Household and other items may be donated by contacting Whitlow at 632-7128, ext. 1335.

GOING FORWARD

Today, a lot of the residents have mixed emotions, especially those who lived in the building when a small fire occurred there eight years ago, Whiting said.

Many also are anxious now because they are separated from other residents. "They consider themselves a family," Whiting added.

The fire also was traumatic for her because her office was in the apartment building, Whiting said.

"Fire is like a death," she said, adding that it also brought back memories of when her parents' home burned. "I also went through some anxiety."

Preston said a safety committee is working on how to make improvements when people move back into the apartments. For instance, Cassell and Whiting have found a device that can be placed above a stove to stop a fire. Fire safety programs will continue and will include cooking safety, and residents have been given information on renters insurance, they said.

Preston said PCS also has wondered "how to say thank you to the community, staff and first responders. We do want to say thank you. Without them it would have been much harder."

To help do that, PCS has erected three billboards in the area thanking people for their support.

Fountain of Youth

(cont. from page 1B)

Street in Martinsville, and offered to volunteer. That was in 2006, a few months after Grace opened its doors.

"Wayne Eanes showed me around (the food pantry), showed me what we had. He said, 'You're trained now,'" Wagoner recalled, and he has been pitching in ever since.

At the time, Wagoner had retired from DuPont and needed something to do, he said. He wishes other senior citizens would do the same. In the pantry, he and other volunteers help clients select canned food, boxes and bags of cereal and pasta and more from rows of shelves. They also choose fruits, vegetables, meat, bread and toiletries that have been donated or purchased with donated funds. Grace volunteers keep track of every item that is given out, Hinch-

cliff said.

"It just makes me (feel good to) know I've helped somebody and whatever they do with the food I've given them is up to them," he said. "Most people thank me and other people, I guess." While he enjoys helping those in need, Wagoner said it is sad to see some clients return to Grace Network to get help. With some others, he said, "I wonder whether they need the help or not," even though they are screened and interviewed to make sure they need assistance.

Hinchcliff acknowledged that despite Grace's best efforts, "it's not all rainbows and Skittles. There are some people whose job is to take advantage of what exists. We try to do what we can to combat fraud," especially through the Charity Tracker

computer program that logs assistance given by numerous local agencies. Hinchcliff credited the United Way with bringing the agencies together to help clients, she said.

Grace Network is not the only place where Wagoner volunteers. He helps in the finance department at Chatham Heights Baptist Church and with the Raceway Ministries at Martinsville Speedway. On race weekends, he goes into the campgrounds to talk with visitors, he said. He has two grown sons, one in Georgia and one in South Carolina.

"They think sooner or later I'm going to have to quit" volunteering, Wagoner said. "I say, 'I ain't quit yet.'" "I think I'm going to have to give it up sooner or later," added Wagoner, who still drives. But, he added, "I'll keep

coming as long as I'm able. The way I feel now I will keep coming." And that is just fine with Hinchcliff. Grace Network's ranks of volunteers has slipped recently, and new volunteers sometimes do not realize the commitment it requires and they don't stay. So whenever she speaks about Grace Network in the community, she makes a pitch for volunteers.

Those who do volunteer have helped create an agency that has earned the community's trust and a reputation for using donations wisely, Hinchcliff said, adding that comes back to the quality of the network's volunteers. "Everybody just cares about people," she said. "And that leads me back to Eugene (Wagoner). He cares more than anybody."

Governor Northam taps two to board of New College Institute

Stowe named to SOL Innovation Committee

RICHMOND— Three area residents have been appointed to education-related groups by Gov. Ralph Northam.

Richard Hall of Martinsville, managing director of Orion Capital, and Naomi Hodge-Muse of Martinsville, president of the Martinsville-Henry County NAACP, were named to the board of the New College Institute, Northam announced Friday.

Hodge-Muse was re-appointed to the board.

NCI, in Martinsville, is a state-funded educational entity that provides access to higher education through partnerships with colleges and universities. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees as well as other academic programs.

Sen. William M. Stanley Jr., chairman of the NCI board, congratulated Hall and Hodge-Muse on their ap-

pointments at a recent board meeting in Martinsville.

Also on Friday, the Northam Administration announced the addition of 10 new members to Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) Innovation Committee, including Melany Stowe of Martinsville.

Stowe is the assistant director of academics and communications at the New College Institute in Martinsville. She has worked at several levels of education, including as administrative leader at a higher education center, instructor at Patrick Henry Community College, and teacher and administrator in K-12.

Stowe served as a program reviewer for multiple national programs facilitated by the U.S. Department of Education. She also serves as an evaluator for the Virginia Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learn-

ing Centers program and has been instrumental in bringing funding and programs to Southern Virginia, according to the NCI website.

Stowe received her undergraduate degree from Radford University and master's degree in administration from the University of Virginia. She is as president of the Southern Piedmont Technology Council and on the boards of Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (VASCD) and Henry County/Martinsville Social Services, and is an alumnae of LEAD Virginia.

The SOL Innovation Committee provides the Board of Education and General Assembly with recommendations on changes to the SOL assessments, authentic individual student growth measures, alignment between the Standards of Learning

and assessment, and ways to encourage innovative teaching in the classroom. New committee members were selected by Secretary of Education Atif Qarni.

In recent years, committee proposals which have been approved and adopted include the Profile of a Graduate, a new Virginia Assessment System Framework and performance-based assessments.

"The SOL Innovation Committee has done tremendous work over the years to make recommendations which have modernized Virginia's education system," said Northam. "... We need systems in place to best measure the progress of our students and to ensure accountability, and I know this talented group will continue to find ways to provide every student in the commonwealth with a great shot at success in

life. I look forward to working with them as they chart out the next phase of their work."

Several SOL Innovation Committee recommendations were adopted by the state Board of Education last year when the board revised the commonwealth's accreditation standards. These include awarding school credit for students making progress toward grade-level proficiency and increasing the focus in high school on skills referred to as the "Five C's": critical thinking, collaboration, communications, citizenship and creativity.

The committee includes teachers, principals, school board members, curriculum and development officials and others as well as state legislators.

It will hold its first meeting of the Northam administration Oct. 9 in Richmond.

City PD works to build ties

The Martinsville Police Department is using community policing to improve the quality of life for city residents, according to a release.

The concept of Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) was developed in 2015. Under the program, officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods throughout the city, the release from the Martinsville Police Department states. The city is divided into 22 sections which cover all the neighborhoods and business districts of the city.

The officers go door-to-door to help residents with any issues they face, such as crime, property maintenance

and other city services.

The officers attempt to improve the quality of life for city residents. The officers give citizens their business cards with their department-issued cellular phone number so that citizens can contacting the police about any issue.

"Each officer having a department issued cell phone allows the citizens and officers the ability to relate on a more personal level and helps remove obstacles that might prevent a citizen from contacting the police," said Martinsville Police Chief Eddy Cassidy.

This summer, the officers have been taking a door-to-door

survey of the citizens in an attempt to address concerns. The issues addressed on the survey included traditional law enforcement topics as well as other city services. The surveys are nearly completed and are being analyzed.

The department has also established a Business Watch Program modeled after the Neighborhood Watch Program. Business Watch is managed by the criminal investigations division and has monthly meetings at the police department to talk about specific issues such as counterfeit money, shoplifting and organized crime theft rings.



Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy

Craft fair slated

A craft fair will be held in the Historic JD Bassett (HJDB) event center on Saturday, September 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., located at 3289 Riverside Drive in Bassett.

Space includes an eight foot table with two chairs for \$10. For reservations, call (276) 629-1369. Set up will begin at 7 a.m.

HJDB Event Center (Old Bassett High School)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

(The following information comes from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.'s Tourism website, visitmartinsville.com. Events are listed only for nonprofit groups and organizations. For more information on these and other activities in September and future months, visit the tourism website.)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7

- Fast Friday at Martinsville Speedway. For \$20, fans driving their own cars (no motorcycles allowed) get a dozen laps around the track behind a pace car at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour. Call 956-7200 for more information.
- Motorcycle Basic Rider Course by WECD. This three-day course provides classroom and actual motorcycle operator training in controlled range conditions. Student Handbook and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Motorcycle Operator Manual are provided. Motorcycles are provided or participants can use their own. Friday, 6-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$100. This course also will be offered Sept. 21-23. Time subject to change due to weather and temperature conditions. Call 656-5461 for more information.
- Ride 'N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail, sponsored by the Henry County Bike Club. Each week cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the trail to ride and have lunch at a local eatery. A different lunch locality is chosen each week. Call Marti at 358-1312 for more information. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it's raining.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

- Bassett Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Stanleytown Ruritan Club in downtown Bassett near the Historic Train Depot on Fairystone Park Highway. There will be vendors with food, snowcones, popcorn, jewelry, flowers, gifts, crafts, baked goods, T-shirts, and more. "Red Pole" Stone's hot dog sales will benefit the Bassett Fire Department. The event also includes a pancake breakfast, classic car show, music, free rides for children sponsored by Bassett Industries, a parade and history exhibits in the depot. The festival is held rain or shine. Admission is free.
- Brewster Walk Craft Beer Festival and Concerts, featuring 50 craft beers and performances by three bands, on Church Street in front of the Rives Theatre in Martinsville; 2-7 p.m. General admission tickets include the Brewster Walk sampling glass, 20 3-oz. samples of beer and the concerts. VIP tickets also include unlimited samples of beer and earlier admission at 1 p.m. For more information, call 403-0872, 403-0872 or 650-1583.
- Bass Series Fishing Tournament at Beaver Creek Reservoir, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost to enter will be \$40 per boat with the payout being \$30 per boat that is entered. Payout will be based on the number of boats (one payout per five registered boats). This is one of seven tournaments in the series. For more information, call David Johnston at 252-7680 or
- Parks & Recreation at 403-5379.
- Beginners crochet at the Spencer Penn Centre with instructor Amy Register; 9 a.m. to noon. Projects will vary. Cost: \$10/member, \$15/non-member. All supplies furnished. For more information, call 957-5757.
- Paint the Town 5K to benefit CHILL, a teen group that promotes healthy lifestyle choices. Runners will be showered with different colors of corn starch at four points on the route. 9 a.m. Times will be called out for 5K. Swag bags and post run food and drink will be offered to participants. Plain white t-shirt must be worn the day of the race; bring a towel. Early bird registration is \$70 for a team/family of four or \$30 for individuals. For more information, call 340-9186.
- Pickers and Fiddlers Bluegrass Gospel and Mountain Music Songfest at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. This is held on the second Saturday of each month.
- Fab Lab Family Days: 3D Doodler Pens that let you draw sculptures and create 3D designs, 10 a.m. to noon at the Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette St., Martinsville. Fee: \$15. Pre-registration required at ph.augusoft.net or call 656-5461.
- Folk Tales Family Day at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville, with tales by The Jack Tale Players, themed crafts and snacks. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free. Call 632-3221 for more information.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11

- Annual Senior Fall Golf Tournament sponsored by Martinsville Senior Center, Beaver Hills Golf Course and Henry County Parks and Recreation. Contact Beaver Hills Golf Club to sign up. For more information, call 632-1526, Henry County Parks and Recreation at 634-4640 or Martinsville Parks and Recreation at 403-5140.
- Genealogy 1-4, a series of classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in September. Cindy Hubbard Headen, genealogy assistant at the center, will teach the classes. Limited to 12 people; call the historical center at 629-9191 to register.
- Learn to use the Roland Mini-Mill, including basic steps of CNC production and computer design software, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette St., Martinsville. Classes run through Oct. 16; cost is \$104. Pre-registration is required at ph.augusoft.net or 656-5461.
- Zumba at the Spencer Penn Centre with Julie Brown as instructor. Cost: \$5 per class; 6-7 p.m. For more information, call 957-5757 or 734-2098.
- Introduction to Photography at Patrick Henry Community College with certified professional photographer Rick Dawson; 6-8 p.m. Fee: \$60. Pre-registration is required at 656-5461 or ph.augusoft.net.
- Ballroom dancing at Patrick Henry Community College, 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 18. Students will learn the basic steps of the waltz, fox trot, swing, rumba, cha-cha and tango. Cost: \$89; instructor is Mary Beth Jordan. Pre-registration is required at 656-5461 or ph.augusoft.net.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12

- Henry County Bike Club variety ride on the Fieldale Trail. Mountain bikes are recommended but road bikes can be used; lights needed. Call 618-0343 for ride locations and times.
- Food Truck Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Jack Dalton Park behind the Henry County Administration Building. For more information, call the county park and recreation office, 634-4640.
- "Man's Best Helper" program by Saint Francis Service Dogs of Roanoke, Saint Francis dog trainer Jenny Cole will discuss what it takes to train the dogs, and will present a demonstration. Noon to 1 p.m. at New College Institute, 191 Fayette St. Call 403-5610 for more information.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13

- Chair aerobics at Spencer Penn Centre, sponsored by the MHC Coalition for Health & Wellness and taught by Paula Battle. All exercises will be done while sitting on a chair or holding onto a chair. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 957-5757 or 734-2098 for more information.
- Fab Lab Craft Night to make wooden jewelry, 6-9 p.m. at the Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette St., Martinsville. Cost: \$30. Pre-registration is required at 656-5461 or ph.augusoft.net.
- Aerobic exercise class at Spencer Penn Centre, sponsored through the MHC Coalition for Health & Wellness. The class will use steps, balls, bands and weights to get a complete work out. Instructor is Anita Hooker; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 957-5757 or 734-2098 for more information.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

- Music Night at Spencer Penn Centre. Doors open at 5 p.m.; open mic begins at 5:30 p.m. Skyline Drive will take the stage at 6:20; Marshall Brothers & High Road will perform at 7:40.
- Starry Night in Martinsville at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., taught by Alisha Bennett for participants age 18 and older; 6-9 p.m. In conjunction with Piedmont Arts' and Rives Theatre's presentation of Loving Vincent, this paint night will include paint and other supplies. Guests may bring drinks, snacks or dinner. Advanced registration required online or call 632.3221. Registration closes at noon Sept. 13.
- Ride 'N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail. See the Sept. 7 listing above for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15

- Advanced Survival Shelter Weekend at the Sustainable Homestead Institute, 190 Eastridge Road, Ridgeway. Survival shelter building skills will be taught; 8 a.m. Cost: \$95. Call 226-9104 for more information.
- Annual Spencer Community Fair & Craft Fair at the Spencer Penn Centre, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brunswick stew and other food will be available; live music in the afternoon; action at 6 p.m. Craft vendors may pre-register by calling the center for more information, including fees. Call 957-5757 or 734-2098 for more information.
- Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In in downtown Bassett, 4-8 p.m.; free admission. Food available; music; door prizes. For more information, call 365-4252.
- Fieldale Village Street Dance at the Fieldale Recreation Center, 6-10

p.m. Admission is free but donations are accepted; proceeds will benefit the recreation center and pools. Remedy will perform. Call 806-9216 for more information.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

- "Loving Vincent" showing at the Rives Theatre, Martinsville. Arts at the Rives Theatre and Piedmont Arts are exploring the works of Vincent Van Gogh. This event includes a social hour in the lobby, a talk by Patrick Henry Community College art professor Gerry Bannan and the movie. Doors open at 2 p.m. and the movie will begin at 3. Cost: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (7 and under are free). For more information, call 403-0872.
- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails at 2 p.m. every Sunday. See the listing under Sept. 9 above for more information.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 18

- Martinsville Parks and Recreation Home Run Derby, 7 p.m. at Southside Park. Fee: \$10 per contestant. Each contestant must provide a pitcher and his/her own ball. Any core compression ball and bat are welcomed. Derby will be held in playoff style with three rounds. For more information, call 403-5140.
- Genealogy 1-4, a series of classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in September. See the Sept. 11 listing above for more information.
- Zumba at the Spencer Penn Centre; 6-7 p.m. See the Sept. 11 listing above for more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19

- Henry County Bike Club variety ride. See the Sept. 12 listing above for more information.
- Food Truck Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. See the Sept. 12 listing above for more information.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20

- Jazz Cabaret at the Black Box Theatre, 44 Franklin St., sponsored by TheatreWorks Community Players. It will feature Five Brothers with special guests. Tickets are \$10. Call 632-2800 for more information.
- Healthy Aging: Mini Health Fair at the New College Institute, 191 Fayette St., delivered by SOVAH Health. The fair is for "speed networking" among local organizations serving seniors and supporting healthy living. Call 403-5610 for more information.
- Chair aerobics and aerobic exercise classes at Spencer Penn Centre. See the Sept. 13 listings above for more information on both classes.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21

- Savory September fundraiser at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., featuring dishes by local chefs, beer, wine and cocktails; 7-10 p.m. Admission: \$25 per ticket; cash bar. Call 632-3221 for more information.
- Harvest Moon Run 5K and 10K 2018 starting at the Depot Street parking lot and trailhead; 7-9 p.m. with music for the street dance starting at 6. Race registration includes swag, on-course aid station, finisher's awards for all, post-race food and drink ticket and the street dance. Cost: \$25-\$35 (see website for price point deadlines). For more information, call the YMCA 632-6427.
- Motorcycle Basic Rider Course by WECD. See the Sept. 7 listing above for more information.
- Ride 'N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail. See the Sept. 7 listing above for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22

- Weave-in at Spencer Penn Centre; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration fee of \$18 includes breakfast, snacks and lunch. There are morning and afternoon selections as well as all day baskets. Kits will be purchased from each instructor. No experience is necessary. Call 957-5757 or 734-2098 for more information.
- Philpott Lake 65th Anniversary Celebration beginning at 10 a.m. at the overlook. Games for children, tours of the dam, music, displays and more. Call 629-4512 for more information.
- Wine by the River Wine Festival, 3-7 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex. Food and artisan vendors, wineries and music will be featured. Call 638-5200 for more information. This is a benefit for the Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation, which promotes heart health.
- Hot Summer Nights Cruise-In at the Collinsville Shopping Center, 4-8 p.m. Admission is free; vendors and food will be available. For more information, call 618-4677 or 618-0034.
- Night catfishing at the Beaver Creek Reservoir, 6 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$10 per person per date and the prize will be a 50/50 cash payout for the largest fish. For more information, call 252-7680.
- "Rhythms by the River" will be held at the Bassett Historical Center, 6:30-9 p.m. This outdoor pro-

gram, co-sponsored by GBAC and Bassett Historical Center, is free. Call 252-1657 for information.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23

- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails at 2 p.m. every Sunday. See the listing under Sept. 9 above for more information.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 25

- Genealogy 1-4, a series of classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in September. See the Sept. 11 listing above for more information.
- Zumba at the Spencer Penn Centre; 6-7 p.m. See the Sept. 11 listing above for more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26

- Homeowners & Renters: Protect Yourself from Senior Scams will be delivered by the Martinsville City Building Inspections Department, offering tips on how to avoid home repair rip-offs and renters' rights. Noon to 1 p.m. at the New College Institute, 191 Fayette St. Call 403-5610 for more information.
- Henry County Bike Club variety ride. See the Sept. 12 listing above for more information.
- Chair aerobics and aerobic exercise classes at Spencer Penn Centre. See the Sept. 13 listings above for more information.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 27

- Yoga in the Galleries at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., taught by Piedmont Arts Education Coordinator Becki Williams Vasquez. Open to all levels of yoga practitioners; bring a mat. Free for members, \$10 for non-members; 9-10 a.m. Call 632-3221 for more information.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28

- Kat Wright at Pop's Farm, 675 Hobson Road, Martinsville, presented by Sovah Health; 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the gate or \$10 at the gate with a valid college ID. 2018 ART Season Passes will be accepted. Wright performed at Rooster Walk 10. Lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome. No outside alcohol. A food truck will be on-site, plus beer, wine and water for sale. Tent and RV camping available for the night of the show.
- Ride 'N Dine on the Dick & Willie Trail. See the Sept. 7 listing above for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29

- ValleyStar Credit Union 300 NAS-CAR Late Model Series race at the Martinsville Speedway. For more information, see www.MartinsvilleSpeedway.com or call 888-722-3849 or 956-7200.
- Essential Survival Skills — Fire, at The Sustainable Homestead Institute, 190 Eastridge Road, Ridgeway. This one-day class is a download of how to build a fire. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; classes begin at 9 a.m. and end around 5 p.m. Fee: \$95. Call 226-9104 for more information.
- Sewing classes at Spencer Penn Centre, taught by Vicki Wasoski, 9-11 a.m.. Fee \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. No experience needed; machines and supplies to make a tote are included; bring scissors. Call 957-5757 or 734-2098 for more information.
- Virginia Fusion Ultimate Tournament at the Smith River Sports Complex, featuring 19 USA Ultimate members; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to spectators. A free skills clinic will be held after the games. Call 638-5200 for more information.
- Bluejeans and Bling at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum (formerly the Henry County Courthouse) in Martinsville, featuring food, spirits and music from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Jewelry created for the event will be raffled. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$45 at the door. For more information, call 403-5361.
- Sunday, Sept. 30
- Essential Survival Skills — Food, at The Sustainable Homestead Institute, 190 Eastridge Road, Ridgeway. This class will explore plants, trapping animals and more. A rabbit stew dinner will be provided. Bring lunch, water bottle and enough clothing to spend the day outdoors. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; classes begin at 9 a.m. and end around 5 p.m. Fee: \$95. Call 226-9104 for more information.
- Barn quilt class at Spencer Penn Centre, taught by Lauren Byron and Mitzi Britt, for beginning or experienced quilters. Students must pre-register with Spencer-Penn and pay upon signing up for this class. They may choose from several quilt options. All supplies will be provided. Each student will choose a design and the size for their barn quilt and send it to the instructors who will then put the design on the board and prepare it for painting. Call 957-5757 to register, get fees and more information.
- Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails at 2 p.m. every Sunday. See the listing under Sept. 9 above for more information.

Miles in Martinsville fall season set to begin



These are scenes from previous races in the Miles in Martinsville series. The 2018 fall season of races will begin Sept. 21.

Miles in Martinsville, under the auspices of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, will kick off its fall race season Sept. 21. The Harvest Moon 10K & 5K will be run on Friday, September 21, starting at 7p.m. Participants may pick up their packets with race bibs from noon to

4 p.m. at the YMCA, 3 Starling Ave., and from 5 to 6:45 p.m. at the gazebo on Depot Street near the intersection of Franklin and Depot streets. Race day registration also is available at these times. Runners are encouraged to register online at www.milesinmartinsville.com.

The races start and finish at the gazebo. Runners will follow the Uptown Connection Trail to the Dick & Willie Passage Trail. They then run along the Dick & Willie Passage to a turn-around point before returning to the finish. A course map with details can be found at: www.milesinmartinsville.com/races/harvest-moon.

This event is known for its fun, family atmosphere, often with children carrying light sticks and runners wearing headlamps. The races will be followed with snacks, craft brews from Mountain Valley Brewing and dancing to the music of local performers.

This annual event is expected to attract a substantial crowd of runners and fans, according to a press release. Miles in Martinsville conducts eight races throughout the year, supported by numerous community sponsors. Title sponsors for the series include Friedrichs Family Eye Care Center, the Tourism Division of Henry County/Martinsville Economic Development Corp. and SOVAH Health of Martinsville.

Full details on the Harvest Moon 10K & 5K and other Miles in Martinsville events can be found at www.milesinmartinsville.com

Carter Bank & Trust's Customer Contact Center opens in Martinsville



Carter Bank & Trust's Customer Contact Center recently opened in Martinsville. Pictured are (left to right): Contact Center specialists Shaquetta Graham, Casey Thompson, Tyler Brooks, Sierra Law and Cynthia Hughes; Vice President and Center Manager Veronica Bocock; Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Jane Ann Davis; Board Chairman Jim Haskins; CEO Litz Van Dyke; President and Chief Banking Officer Phyllis Karavatakis; Contact Center team leads Jessica Gunnell, Takara Norman and Danielle Spencer; and Contact Center specialists Regina Harris and Stacey McNeely. (Contributed photo)

Carter Bank & Trust recently celebrated the opening of its new Customer Contact Center in Martinsville. This center is one of the bank's several strategies designed to enhance customer service.

Staffed with 10 customer contact specialists, the center will receive all inbound general banking and account-specific questions from customers across the bank's 106 branch locations in Virginia and North Carolina.

The bank receives on average 1,200 daily calls, Monday through Friday.

On the weekend of Nov. 9, Carter Bank will be converting to a more state-of-the-art core operating system. This will position the bank to offer more products and services, including online and mobile banking.

The roll out of these new offerings is planned for the first quarter of 2019.

According to CEO Litz Van Dyke, having the center opened before this conversion will enable the bank to be more responsive to customer inquiries.

"Customers will want to know what is happening and how this conversion will affect them. We now

have an enhanced delivery channel staffed with highly trained and knowledgeable associates who are prepared to answer inquiries and resolve any customer issues quickly," Van Dyke said.

President and Chief Banking Officer Phyllis Karavatakis agreed.

"Upgrading technology requires customers to take specific steps online. Since the majority of our customer

base is unaccustomed to online products and services, we thought it was imperative that we had knowledgeable, patient voices guiding them through the process," Karavatakis added.

"While our branch employees are the face of Carter Bank, the center will become our voice," she said.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Jim Haskins, Executive

Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Jane Ann Davis and Vice President and Center Manager Veronica Bocock spoke during the celebration.

Headquartered in Martinsville, Va., Carter Bank & Trust is a state-chartered community bank in Virginia with 106 branches and more than 1,000 employees in Virginia and North Carolina.

Annual Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan slated Sept. 8-9

DANBURY, N.C. – The sound of marching bands, dance groups and bluegrass music, the smell of kettle corn, hot dogs and barbecue, and the view of a mountain river through leaves beginning to change into their fall colors are all evidence that it's time for the Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan.

Music and dance artists will be featured in the Main Stage area and include The Allen Boys, Laurelyn Dossett, Ric Robertson Band, Hot Trail Mix, Molly McGinn and Wurlitzer Prize, Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs, None of the Above, Hunter Simpkins, the North, South and West Stokes Marching Bands, Miss Joyce's Dance, Yeehaw Ramblers, Dancing Daughters, The Amazing Varietones, CC Dance Company and the Old Dominion Cloggers.

Children's activities will include supervised kayak and tube floats on the Dan River by the Dan River Company and the Triad Paddlers Association, a free-standing 24-foot climbing wall, the Young Artist Tent and the Next Generation Stage with performances that will include One Fret Over, Miss Joyce's Dance, Hunter Simpkins, The Amazing Varietones, Old Dominion Cloggers, Hot Trail Mix, CC Dance, Django Burgess and an open mic from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The North Carolina WoodWorker Outreach Program also will offer free woodworking activities in the children's area over the weekend.

Saturday will feature a free hands-on arts demonstration using image transfer processes to create mixed media pieces from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. hosted by The Lilies Project. The Dan River Duck

Race will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday. The winner will receive the Rubber Ducky Trophy and a \$50 gift card to the Arts Place Market.

This year's Food Court will feature new food trucks such as Sliders and Goodtimes Bar B Cue and vendors offering Greek fare alongside longtime favorites Festival of India, Dewey's Ice Cream, Sidewalk Café and Smitty's. A large selection of home baked goods will be available.

The festivities will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday with Danbury's annual Stokes Stomp Parade. This year's theme is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Together Making A Difference."

YVEDDI will once again provide a shuttle service from the Stokes

County Government Center parking lot to the Stokes Stomp from 11a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday. All riders may stop at The Arts Place of Stokes along the way and register to win one of two \$25 gift cards to be given away during the festival.

The Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan is organized each year by the Stokes County Arts Council. Admission and parking are free due to sponsorship support by the Reynolds American Foundation, Duke Energy Foundation, Pepsi Bottling Ventures, Rivierstreet Networks, First National Bank, Deuterian Law Group, Edward Jones of Walnut Cove, NC Arts Council, Town of Danbury, Gen-

eral Dan Tubing, Artists Way Creations, Priddy's General Store, Burroughs Funeral Home, Dan River Company, Industrial Fire & Safety, Sam's Pizza, Tar Heel Paddlers Association and Stokes County Economic Development.

Safety, parking, medical, and maintenance support for the festival will be provided by the Danbury Volunteer Fire Department, Stokes Public Works, Stokes County District Resource Center, Stokes County Sheriff's Department and Stokes County Emergency Medical Services.

For more information on the festival, including the complete entertainment lineup, visit stokesarts.org.

Cruise-In

(cont. from page 1B)

up on the day of the cruise-in. Each one is given a ticket, and 18 local merchants sponsor three \$100 door prizes that are awarded to ticket holders.

Cruise-in fans "start coming in at noon to get a good spot in the shade" even though the event does not begin until 4p.m., Stone said.

the people attending the cruise-ins are from Henry, Patrick, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, Stone said they also draw people from Mount Airy and other locations. A family from Beckley, W.Va., attended each cruise-in in the first season of cruise-ins, he added.

While a majority of the people attending the cruise-ins are from Maryland, and a New York resident brought a 1937 Ford to the second cruise-in this season, Stone said.

The cruise-ins, now in their third year, have been held monthly since May. Their season will end Oct. 20 with music by the band Sunset Drive from Stuart,

which performed with singer Percy Sledge when he appeared locally, Stone said.

While attendance at the cruise-ins hinges on the weather, themes for each event were added this year in an effort to attract more people, Stone said. Themes earlier this season have included beer, wine and moon-

shine tasting and floatilla, in addition to the upcoming Race Day and Live Band.

The cruise-ins are organized by a committee of about 12 people and chaired by Allen Alderman, and nearly 20 volunteers help on "game day," Stone said.

After the season ends, organizers will

meet to determine if they "still have the energy to do it" in the future, Stone said, adding that he does not anticipate any changes being made in the future.

The Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In is a GBAC event presented by Bassett Funeral Service along with other area merchants.

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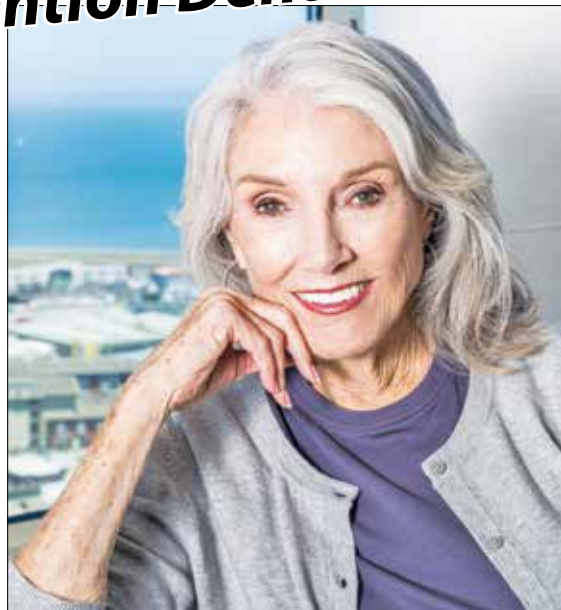
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