

Community Mourns Loss of 'Superman'

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

Countless mourners filled the Galilean House of Worship on Tuesday morning to remember a real-life Superman -- a policeman who could outrun any criminal; a devoted husband, father, and friend; and an upstanding man of God.

The community's response to Seth Kanode's sudden loss at age 56 is a testament to how many lives he touched, his friends and colleagues said.

An outpouring of support for the family of the fallen police officer raised more than \$30,000 in a matter of days.

Kanode died unexpectedly of an acute brain hemorrhage on Thursday, Sept. 19. He was an avid outdoorsman and a "health

nut" who everyone "thought was going to live to be 100," said friend and former Martinsville police colleague Mark Gilbert. "That's what is so shocking about all this."

Gilbert organized a Facebook fundraiser for Kanode's widow, Cindy, that as of Tuesday night had received donations from more than 500 people. The problem, he said, is that Kanode was "severely underinsured" in terms of life insurance. His family received maybe enough to bury him, Gilbert said, and "with Seth being the predominant breadwinner, his loss will have a lasting effect on Cindy."

Donations for the family's expenses are still being accepted on Facebook by searching "Superman is gone! His family needs some help!" However, Gilbert

warned that online scammers have targeted some donors, using his name to send messages that the donation was not completed, or seeking Amazon gift cards. He cautioned that the only real fundraiser is through the official Facebook page.

In addition to his wife, Kanode is survived by their three adult children: sons Solomon and Samuel, and daughter Kirstie Shelton, as well as a young granddaughter, River Shelton.

Kanode began his career with the city of Martinsville's Public Works department before joining the police department, where he became a well-respected officer. He was a member of the SWAT team, SCUBA team, Honor Guard, and was a firearms in-

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Seth Kanode



Debbie H. Bell of the Virginia Attorney General's office gives a presentation on recognizing abuse of older or disabled adults in a seminar at King's Grant.

Elder abuse undetected, unreported

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

Abuse of older adults is on the rise as the population ages, a speaker from the Virginia Attorney General's office said during a talk last week.

However, the statistics do not tell the full story, because elder abuse often goes unreported to authorities.

Debbie H. Bell, outreach coordinator for the state Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the Virginia Attorney General's office, shared information about different types of abuse and how victims can get help in a presentation on Sept. 18 to an audience of about 50 senior citizens and those who work with seniors. The MHC TRIAD S.A.L.T. Council sponsored the talk, called "Hidden in Plain Sight: Shining a Light

on Elder Abuse," held at King's Grant.

"Elder abuse often goes undetected, untreated, and unreported," Bell said. "With a growing population of older adults in the United States, it's no surprise that abuse is on the increase. A lot of people are trying to take advantage of seniors."

Elderly or disabled adults are vulnerable to abuse because they

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PCS expands housing facilities in move to 'patient-centered' care

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

By Kim Barto Meeks
A new group home for adults with developmental disabilities will help Piedmont Community Services expand its capacity in Martinsville as state facilities close.

PCS received a \$1.6-million state grant in 2018 to purchase land and build two new housing facilities, each with four beds. Officials held a ribbon-cutting and tours Tuesday for the first home, located on Independence Drive. The second is being constructed and will be finished by January or February 2020.

The new housing is needed as Virginia moves away from institutions and towards "person-centered and community-oriented care," officials said. PCS Executive Director Greg Preston estimated there are about 250 people on a waiting list for various services in the agency's service area, which includes Martinsville as well as Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. Not all of these require residential services, however.

In the past, Preston said, there were five regional training centers serving developmentally disabled adults throughout the state. Central Virginia, located in Lynchburg, formerly housed 3,000 clients in an institutional setting. Now, as it is in the process of closing, there are 43 individuals remaining, and clients "are encouraged to come back to their communities," Preston said. As a result, community services boards such as Piedmont are being asked to expand

their capacity.

The "person-centered" approach gives people with disabilities more freedom of choice and the chance to live "like you or I would want to live," said Shannon Clark, PCS Community Support Director.

In a centralized facility, for example, clients would be limited to using doctors on the facility's campus. "They should be able to access any doctor they wish and other services out in the community, just like anyone else," Clark said. "That's what they deserve."

The other advantage of living in a local group home is that "they will be closer to their loved ones and able to

connect with them in a way they otherwise couldn't in Lynchburg," she said.

Clients will move into the new home as early as next week, officials said. Services they receive depend on the person's needs, "their capabilities and what they choose to do," Preston said. This may include a job or participating in a day program, for example. The home also provides some structured daytime activities.

Clark said they encourage people with disabilities and their families to plan ahead and work with agencies such as PCS "so we can match them

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Piedmont Community Services Executive Director Greg Preston speaks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new group home for adults with developmental disabilities in Martinsville.

Interim director of NCI at halfway point

Corey Thompson
Contributing writer

Karen R. Jackson may be halfway through her six-month contract as the interim director of the New College Institute, but she isn't about to slow down.

Since being named to the position in June, Jackson has secured a partnership between NCI and Nationwide Homes. She also re-signed a partnership with Newport News Shipbuilding.

But, she says there is more to come.

"Getting partnerships is very important to us. Students get to learn great new information. We can shine light on certain areas we may see are growing or have lots of potential for future graduates," Jackson said.

During her tenure, Jackson also plans to implement courses in cyber security and data analytics, strengthen community relationships, and build partnerships with other schools and programs. She says the most important thing she can do is "be an advocate [for NCI] and propel it forward."

A native of Poquoson, Jackson is president of Apogee Strategic Partners, LLC, which provides technology consulting and advisory services to companies, universities, governmental entities and nonprofits specializing in technology and business strategy, government relations, public policy, business development and program management.

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

She has also served as Virginia's deputy secretary of technology and as director of Virginia's Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance. Jackson was vice president for broadband programs and regional director for that center for Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology in Newport News.

Jackson has a bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport University and a master of business administration degree from the College of William and Mary, has held several

positions with Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, received numerous awards and served on several boards and commissions.

Even with her myriad accomplishments, she said she wasn't always interested in being a civil servant or improving education.

Before college, Jackson attended high school in her home town, and spent her time as a traditional student with interests in band and intramural softball.

"Can't" was not a word in my home," she said, "I was always encouraged to follow my own ideas and walk through an open door if it presented itself."

That is exactly what she has been doing her whole career, taking every opportunity she can get.

Out of college, she went into the banking sector. After some time, she decided to pursue a master's degree in business from the College of William and Mary. From there, she spent some time doing contract work, owned a small business, and began government work in 1995.

Jackson started at CNU as a computer programming major.

"My mom worked at NASA my entire life, it really made me interested in technology, but then I realized I was more of a people person," Jackson said, adding that she soon switched to business classes, and later became the first college graduate in her family.

She brought the knowledge she gained about technology with her when her focus shifted to business, and she said she began the process of marrying the two early on because technology is also important. The experience in both fields impacted her career, and she has spent her life learning about how technology improves lives.

Jackson said she wants to inspire more people to find the importance of technology in life and in career; however, while she is a huge advocate for the furthering and education of technology, she also understands the dangers. She herself is weary of her privacy and time spent using when it comes to technology.

"I don't own an Alexa or a Nest. The can be very

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Bargains galore on tap at annual Charity League fundraiser



Bargain Fair co-organizers and twins Katie Elliott and Keri Elliott Adkins pose with some of the items that will be for sale at the event Oct. 5.



Bargain Fair co-organizers and twins Katie Elliott and Keri Elliott Adkins organize the children's section of the large annual rummage sale, which includes gently-used toys, books, and clothing.

Kim Barto Meeks Contributing writer

Do you love hunting for a bargain? The Charity League of Martinsville & Henry County will have a warehouse full of them at its big annual fundraiser on the first Saturday in October.

The 51st annual Bargain Fair will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at 242 Franklin St., which is a warehouse near the Clocktower Building. The location is somewhat new and is the first time the organization has rented a building for the rummage sale on a long-term basis.

For many years, Bargain Fair was held at the National Guard Armory on Commonwealth Blvd. When that location was no longer available, the event

hopped between different buildings throughout the county from year to year. The problem? Not only did the League have to publicize a new location for the popular sale each year, the volunteer-run organization had to truck everything in and out during the same week - a huge undertaking that included large, bulky furniture items and wooden clothing racks.

After a successful sale at the Franklin St. location in 2018, Charity League members voted to continue the lease on a long-term basis. According to organizers, more time to prepare means a bigger and better event for 2019.

"Having the warehouse allowed us to collect and sort donations throughout the year. Monthly public drop-

offs were utilized by Charity League members and the community," said 2018-19 Charity League President Melanie Eggleston. She also praised the city of Martinsville "for working with us on waste management to clean out the warehouse."

Charity League has been collecting donations of secondhand items from past League members and the public, including appliances, furniture, kitchen items, books, linens, clothing, children's toys, sporting goods, exercise equipment, and holiday decor. This year, the holiday section includes numerous brand new artificial Christmas trees with lights, still in boxes. The sale features a large selection of clothing and shoes for all sizes and seasons, with name brands such as North Face,

Uggs, American Eagle, Nordstrom, and Alfred Dunner.

Bargain Fair volunteers scour the donations for rare, valuable, and antique items that are set aside in the "Treasures" section. These include designer clothes and accessories, art, and collector's items. One of the donations this year was a full dinner set of fine china.

Not only does the sale offer good deals, the proceeds go to charity. Bargain Fair is the Charity League's largest fundraiser, with funds supporting scholarships and other local causes, all centered around children. Eggleston encouraged the community to come out Oct. 5 in support of this cause.

"Since we are a non-profit organization, every dollar we make goes to funding children's programs or goes

directly back to children in the form of scholarships," she said. "Our mission is to support our area children, and when you support us, you support them as well."

The Charity League's largest charitable venture is its scholarship program, which awarded 30 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to local high school graduates and college students for the 2019-2020 academic year. They also make direct donations to local charities that serve youth. Other causes include:

Bringing Missoula Children's Theatre organization to town every year for a week-long residency and performance, giving hundreds of children the chance to act onstage.

Touch-a-Truck, held at

Martinsville Speedway, gives children a chance to see and touch a variety of construction equipment, emergency vehicles, helicopters, and other vehicles up close.

Brighter Christmas benefits local teens whose families cannot afford holiday gifts. Because of their age, they tend to fall through the cracks of other gift programs which are centered around younger children.

The Charity League, established in 1931, strives to promote growth and development of children throughout Martinsville and Henry County through education and health programs. For more information, or to make a donation, visit CharityLeague.org or their Facebook page at Charity League - Martinsville Henry County.



Charity League members Julie Brown, left, and Michelle Hamdy sort through household donations, including new Vera Bradley mugs still in their original packages, for the upcoming Bargain Fair.



Charity League members Nicole Deshon Nelson, left, and Julie Brown organize donations in the household section of the upcoming Bargain Fair sale.



Holiday decor items that will be for sale at the upcoming Bargain Fair.



Furniture for sale at the upcoming Bargain Fair includes dining sets, beds, sofas, entertainment centers, shelving, and more.



Home decor and household items that will be for sale at the upcoming Bargain Fair, benefitting the Charity League of Martinsville & Henry County.

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The Bargain Fair moved to this warehouse at 242 Franklin St. in 2018 after moving between various locations throughout the county.

NCI Director from page 1

helpful devices, but it's odd to have a device that's always listening. Information about you can be taken from lots of places. Your Google search history is just as easily accessible to everyone. But there is something strange about having a device that is constantly listening and relaying information," Jackson said.

While encouraging students to find the importance of technology, she also wants to make sure they are aware of the dangers. She enjoys her privacy, and feels the need to instill a cautious passion for the field.

Jackson is currently splitting her time between Martinsville and her home. Her schedule has her spending several days in one location before traveling by car to see her family and friends or back to work. She said she enjoys the time traveling, though. "There is just such great scenery on 58, just some really beautiful and scenic spots."

Aside from admiring the natural beauty, Jackson generally works during her four-hour com-

muter. "When there's good signal I'm on the phone," said Jackson, "or thinking about what I have going on. There really isn't any downtime."

When she is in Martinsville, Jackson stays in Kings Grant. "They welcomed me and my giant dog with such open arms. It's been very nice."

When she has the opportunity, she loves to walk and play with her German Shepherd. Also, she tries to keep up with current information on the field of technology or stay current on knowledge. When there is downtime, she has been exploring the Martinsville area.

As for whether or not Jackson will remain in her position after her six month contract expires is undecided.

"That's a discussion we [herself and the NCI board] will have to have," Jackson said. "Between then and now, there will hopefully be a lot happening, and I'll focus on that. It would be a great opportunity but it's just a discussion that will come later down the road."

Paving work on new trail segment prompts county to issue request

Henry County is asking visitors to stay out of the construction zone while paving work is underway on a new segment of the Dick & Willie Trail.

"There is much excitement about the construction," a release stated. "So much, in fact, that it has been hard to keep people out."

County officials are asking folks to stay away from this segment of the trail for a few more weeks so the paving can take place.

Paving of the new segment known as 6B, was scheduled to begin Monday, Sept. 23. Section 6B of the trail will be 2.5 miles long and will link the new Spruce Street trailhead to the Smith River Sports Complex.

"There has been a lot of excitement and interest

in the new trail, and we've had some folks getting a jump on things by walking and riding their bikes on it already," said County Administrator Tim Hall. "This section is going to be a wonderful place to enjoy a nice stroll along the Smith River, but for the short term we need folks to be patient and let us finish the work. The last thing we want to happen is have someone get hurt in the work zone."

Paving is expected to take a few weeks and county officials are hoping for a fall opening. "It would be great to have this open in time for residents to use it before it gets cold this winter," said Hall.

The Dick & Willie Trail is a public recreation amenity owned by Henry County. It currently includes 4.5 miles of paved trail.

Back-To-School Time Brings VCU Dental Students to Martinsville



VCU dental students Tonya Spangler, Sebastian Viski and Natalie West (left to right) take a break from treating a patient at the Community Dental Clinic in Uptown Martinsville.

While students and their families and teachers are returning to school, the dental students at the Community Dental Clinic are working toward the completion of their education.

Four fourth-year dental students from VCU are treating patients at the Clinic in Uptown Martinsville. The students spend several weeks in the Clinic to gain valuable practical experience and to provide quality care to underserved patients in the community.

It's the beginning of the 14th year of the clinic, which has provided for more than \$11.5 million in services to the community, experiencing more than 51,000 patient visits. In the last year, the clinic handled 4,661 patient visits and provided dental services valued at \$990,000.

Three VCU students shared their thoughts after treating patients at the clinic. Tonya Spangler from Richmond, Sebastian Viski from Romania, and Natalie West from Rockport, IL are delighted with their experiences at the clinic.

"The Dental Clinic is well-organized and efficiently managed," said Spangler. "We're grateful to be here. It's a heartwarming experience which has a high level of learning for us."

Spangler said the experience in Martinsville is a "tremendous value" to her and her fellow students. "We're learning to put dental care in a real-life setting, and the patients appreciate it." She plans to continue her dental education in orthodontics.

Viski says his dream was to come to the United States

for "better work and life opportunities on my own." He completed his undergraduate degree at VCU, so he has lived in Richmond for eight years.

"Taking care of the underserved population gives me a good feeling," he said. "Patients leave with their confidence and smiles back after treatment. While we're serving the patient, we are growing in our knowledge and skill levels."

Viski plans to continue his dental education with a residency in prosthodontics, a subspecialty in which dentists replace a patient's total mouth of teeth.

West will become a general dentist and is considering public health in a smaller community.

"I love the hometown feel of Martinsville," said West. "The fast-paced environment of the clinic has allowed us to grow our skills and demonstrated the quality of care we provide. Here, we're not stuck in the bubble that we are in school."

The students credit the staff of the clinic for giving

them a positive experience. Dr. Jim Hartigan is the dentist, Lilly Dominguez, dental assistant, and Teresa White, manager "have made this a wonderful time for us," said West. "The clinic is well-organized and quite efficient."

The clinic is operated by the Dental Health Foundation, led by Dr. Mark Crabtree and Dr. Edward (Chopper) Snyder.

"As we enter our 14th year, we are continually grateful for the support of the community," Crabtree said. "Hundreds of individuals, groups, businesses and foundations provide the financial support for us to operate the clinic, but we would not exist without the strong financial support of the Harvest Foundation."

Private dentists in the community volunteer their time to help supervise care provided by the VCU dental students. The Foundation also supports students studying dental hygiene and dental assisting to complete a wide range of training in the Martinsville-Henry County community.

Rodgers, Parker among new appointments

Warren Rodgers, of Patrick Springs, and executive director of the Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc. was among those Gov. Ralph Northam recently appointed to the Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Barbara Parker, of Collinsville, and director of the For Alison

Foundation, was appointed to the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Northam also appointed Dr. Tiffany M. Franks, of Danville, and president of Averett University, to the Board of Trustees of the A.L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Genedge Alliance).

Local author explores Martinsville, Henry County history through a new lens

Author and photographer Stephen H. Provost examines the history of Martinsville, Virginia, a town with a larger-than-life story, in his latest release, Martinsville Memories.

Martinsville has been the plug tobacco capital of the world and the sweatshirt capital of the world. A town of fewer than 15,000 people, it hosts two stock-car races each year at a speedway that holds four times that many people — the oldest on the NASCAR circuit.

It's a place of verdant beauty and blue skies a few miles north of the North Carolina state line, in the Goldilocks zone: seldom too hot in summer or too cold in winter. It has thrived as the town with the nation's most millionaires per capita and struggled through factory closures during the era of globalization.

Packed with some 300 historical and modern images, Martinsville Memories is a look a diverse town built on tobacco, textiles and furniture that occupies a unique place in the nation's fabric and history. From the

town's historic beginnings through its 20th century heyday, this volume offers a nostalgic trek through time, with stops at drive-ins, old hotels and iconic storefronts along the way. Chapters on the city center, its heritage, industry, leisure activities, community pursuits and transportation fill more than 200 pages.

Martinsville Memories doesn't stop at the city limits, but gives the reader a tour of surrounding communities such as Collinsville, Ridgeway, Bassett, Axton, and Spencer as well.

Martinsville Memories captures the triumphs and struggles of a city at the heart of the South and the soul of America.

The book features a foreword by native son Stephen Mark Rainey, acclaimed author of the novels Dark Shadows: Dreams of the Dark (with Elizabeth Massie), Lair of the Mothman, The Dragon of Lake Superior and many others.

About the author— A former veteran editor, reporter and columnist with more than 30 years of experience at

daily newspapers, Stephen H. Provost moved to the Martinsville area to write novels and nonfiction full time. He is the author of more than 20 books.

His works of historical nonfiction include A Whole Different League, The Legend of Molly Bolin, Fresno Growing Up, The Great American Shopping Experience (forthcoming in 2020) and histories of Highway 99 and Highway 101 in California. Fictional releases include Memoriality and its sequel, Paracidity; Identity Break; The Only Dragon and a short-story collection, Nightmare's Eve. Other works explore the realms of mythology, fable and ancient history.

Public signings The author will be available to sign copies of his book at the following events:

40th Annual Martinsville Uptown Oktoberfest, on the south side of Church Street, just west of Broad Street, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2019 Dragon Festival at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Avenue, Mar-

tinsville, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bassett Band Fall Craft Show at Bassett High School, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Nov. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m.

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Annual Golf Tournament returns October 7th

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) will host its annual fall golf tournament and fundraiser on Monday, Oct. 7. The funds raised during the golf tournament will support student-athletes at PHCC by providing the equipment and up-to-date facilities required for a safe and successful athletic program.

The 18-hole captains choice tournament will be held at the Chatmoss Country Club and will include a luncheon, longest drive and hole-in-one contests, and an awards ceremony. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Tee-off is at 1 p.m.

The Lester Building Supply, a full-service building materials supplier serving the needs of professional builders, contractors, remodelers and homeowners in the Martinsville and surrounding areas, will be the title sponsor. Hole sponsorship opportunities are still available.

"We are excited and thankful to have Lester Building Supply and all of our sponsors this year offering their support to the many student-athletes of PHCC Athletics," says Brian Henderson, PHCC Athletic Director.

According to officials, the fall golf tournament is a major fundraiser for the department. This year, PHCC's athletic department has over 200 student-athletes competing in 13 different sports. Every year PHCC's student-athletes earn national recognitions – being named to all-American teams or earning spots in national championships. Students who are ready to transfer are regularly offered scholarships by recruiters to sign to four-year universities.

"We aim to give student-athletes opportunities to use their athletic skills to reach their academic goals," says Henderson. "With the support from those in the community, like Lester Building Supply, that believe in our mission, PHCC athletics is able to provide opportunities our students may not get otherwise. We are so grateful to all our sponsors for their continued support of our Patriots."

To become a hole sponsor and join Lester Building Supply in making a difference in the lives of PHCC students, contact Brian Henderson at (276) 656-0313 or email bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.



Jim Hatten (left) and Doug Riddle (right) enjoying PHCC's 2018 golf tournament at Chatmoss.

Bi-monthly event set at Reynolds Homestead

The Reynolds Homestead and the Patrick County Historical Society will present their bi-monthly History Around Us event on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at noon.

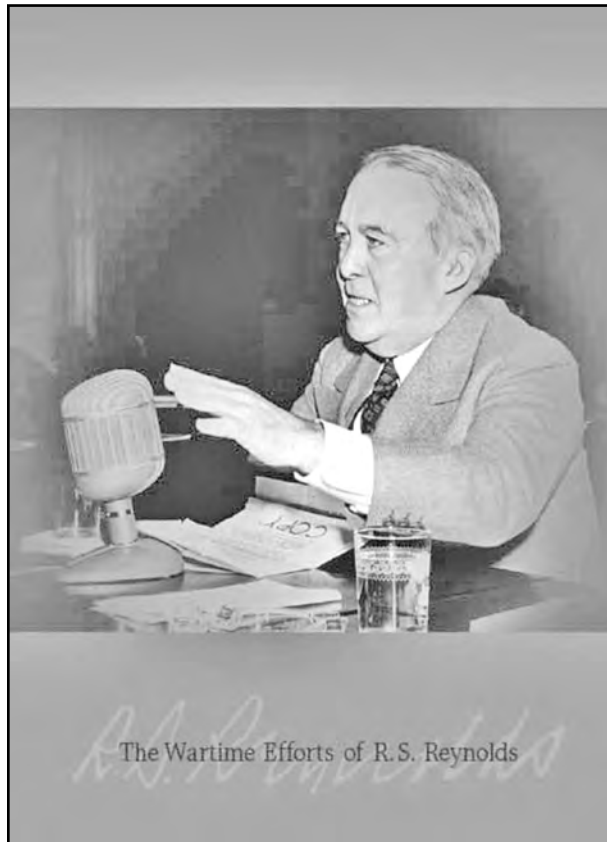
This month's program, 'The WWII Wartime Efforts of R.S. Reynolds,' is presented in collaboration with the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society as part of the American Evolution project which celebrates 400 years of significant historic events.

R. S. Reynolds, the son of A.D. Reynolds who was born on Rock Spring Plantation and the nephew of R.J. Reynolds, founded Reynolds Metals. He grew up in Bristol, attended Columbia University School of Law, and contributed significantly to RJR Tobacco, all prior to starting his own metals company. His greatest contribution to American history happened just prior to and throughout WWII. He

alone recognized the tremendous need for strong aluminum necessary in the country's defense during this highly mechanized war - and quickly built the factories to provide it.

Reynolds was a man of great moral convictions, deeply religious, naturally independent and egalitarian. Join the Homestead's historical services assistant Beth Almond Ford for a look at this descendant of the Rock Spring Plantation and his contributions to the war effort.

The program is free and open to the public. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy this hour-long program. Immediately following is the monthly Volunteer Meeting for those interested in being a part of the Reynolds Homestead's commitment to providing impactful programming to the public. Everyone is invited.



The War Efforts of R.S. Reynolds



Jill Jensen, Sister Death

New exhibits to open at Piedmont Arts

New exhibits featuring quilted works by Jill Jensen and ceramic and found object sculptures by Barbara Kobylinska will be on display Oct. 19, 2019 through January 4, 2020 at Piedmont Arts.

In Hands, Head, Heart, Jill Jensen combines woodblock prints, found objects and bits of nature with color and texture to create bold and powerful quilts. Living in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Jensen uses the region's beautiful vistas, striking sunsets and ever changing flora and fauna as inspiration for her work. Jensen also uses drawings or photographs taken on her travels as the basis for many of her pieces. The written word, mythology, works of literature and prayers have all found their way into her quilts. Jensen's work is part of the collections of museums and universities across the country, including Taubman Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, Pennsylvania State University and Sweetbriar College. She is a member of Studio Art Quilt Associates, FT: Fiber Transformed, the Artisan Center of Virginia and is State Representative for Virginia and West Virginia for the Surface Design Association. In 2017, Jensen received an artist fellowship from the Virginia

Center for the Creative Arts in France, Moulin a Nef Studio Center, Auvillar, France.

The Wild and Wonderful World of Barbara Kobylinska approaches art with both a studied sense of design and an unapologetic intention. Kobylinska's large indoor/outdoor sculptures are adventurous and inventive. With humor and a sophisticated, playful intelligence, she invites the viewer to share her delight in the unexpected. Kobylinska's work has been exhibited in shows across the country and is part of many private collections. She is a member of International Sculpture Center, Washington Sculptors Group, Potter's Council and Ceramic Designers Association.

Working Men will be on display in the Lynwood Artists Gallery.

Join Piedmont Arts for an Opening Reception in honor of these exhibits on Friday, Oct. 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the museum. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. The reception is sponsored by Fran Gale and Tee Freeman, Libby Kormos, Susan and David Morris, Barbara and Guy Stanley and Lynwood Artists. RSVP attendance to (276) 632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Welding facility to be unveiled in Patrick

Patrick Henry Community College is opening its new welding lab in Patrick County to the public on Wednesday, Oct. 2. With a long legacy of successfully training welders in Martinsville, PHCC is now bringing that same welding training to Patrick County. The new welding lab, located inside Patrick County High School, will be open to the public from 3 to 6 p.m. for an open house. Interested students can meet the instructors, tour the fa-

cility, and learn more about the available classes.

Enrollment will begin soon for the next session of welding classes in Patrick County. With the new facility, welding courses will now be a convenient option for working adults in Patrick County.

"Our welding program has long been one of our most successful programs at the college, and it has maintained a 100 percent certification pass rate for decades," said Dr. Colin Fergu-

son, PHCC's Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Health, and Applied Programs. "We are thrilled to be expanding into Patrick County. To say you can earn good wages as a certified welder would be an understatement. Over the years we've had many Patrick County residents willing to make the daily drive to PHCC for our welding classes. With this new facility, we offer these students the same classes much closer to home."



Absentee Voting underway for the General Election

Absentee voting for the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election started statewide on Sept. 20, 2019. Qualified Virginia voters may vote absentee in-person at their local voter registration office or by mail.

To vote absentee, registered voters must meet one of 20 eligibility requirements listed on the Virginia Absentee Ballot Application and at elections.virginia.gov/absentee.

"If you can't make it to the polls on Election Day, casting an absentee ballot is a great option,"

said Department of Elections Commissioner Christopher Piper. Voters can request an absentee ballot online at elections.virginia.gov/absentee.

Important dates to remember if voting in the November 5 General Election:

- The deadline to register to vote for the November General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

- The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019.

- In-person ab-

sentee voting is available Monday through Friday during regular voting registration office hours, and on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019 and Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019. To find information about your local voter registration office, visit elections.virginia.gov/vro

- The deadline to vote absentee in-person is Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019.

- The deadline for voter registration offices to receive absentee ballots is 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 5, 2019.

- If requesting an ab-

sentee ballot by mail, the Department of Elections advises applying as early as possible to account for any potential delays in mail delivery.

Virginia law requires voters to present an acceptable photo ID when voting in-person. For a list of acceptable forms of photo identification, or to find out how to obtain a free Virginia Voter Photo ID Card, please visit elections.virginia.gov/voterid

To find more about the November General Election, visit vote.virginia.gov.



Barbara Kobylinska, Ballerina



National Public Lands Day marked with free parking

Across the state, Virginia State Parks will join the celebration of National Public Lands Day on Sept. 28 with free parking, special programs and volunteer events. Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The theme of National Public Lands Day is Connecting to Nature Through Service, and volunteer opportunities at nearly all Virginia State Parks will allow the public to help improve the environment while connecting with the outdoors.

Projects include invasive species removal, shoreline cleanup, trail maintenance, habitat restoration and environmental education activities. Follow the link for a complete list of the programs.

Volunteers should dress for the weather, and bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Virginia State Parks is partnering with the National Environmental Education Foundation, which has selected Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore as a National Public Lands Day Highlighted Site. Kiptopeke will have live animal presentations, a live butterfly tent, wagon rides and programs about the unique culture of the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Sept. 28 is also Bike Your Park Day, and visitors are encouraged to bring their bikes to Virginia State Parks.

PHCC included in expansion of Cloud Computing Degree Programs

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) was among those in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) to be included in a new collaboration between Amazon Web Services (AWS), according to a release from Gov. Ralph Northam.

Select K-12 school divisions and leading four-year universities also are part of the collaboration that will create opportunities and build pathways to high-skilled and high-wage cloud computing careers for students in all regions of the Commonwealth.

As part of the collaboration, participating academic institutions will use AWS Educate, an initiative to support cloud technology learning for students and faculty. AWS Educate will allow schools to incorporate cloud skills into high school STEM curriculum as well as associate and bachelor degree programs. This collaboration will also help employers throughout Virginia who have a growing need for workers with cloud computing skills.

"The field of cloud computing is growing and dynamic, and we know that for our Commonwealth to reach new heights and remain a national leader in tech talent, we must build

seamless pathways from classrooms to careers at all education levels," said Northam. "This initiative represents exactly the kind of cooperation we need to ensure that Virginians have access to the skills they need for 21st-century jobs, while also helping employers find Virginia workers with the right training to fill those jobs."

"The growing demand for these skills is clear," said Chief Workforce Development Advisor Megan Healy. "Since September 2016, job postings requiring these skills in Virginia have increased from approximately 5,000 per month to 20,000 per month."

Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University are two of the first higher education institutions in the country to offer cloud computing degrees. As a result of this new collaboration, these successful programs will be replicated at other community colleges and four-year institutions, and high school students will have the opportunity to receive college credit in cloud computing courses through dual enrollment and early college models.

"This new degree program marks an exciting first step in a much broader

plan to bring cloud computing education throughout the state, as the degree seeks to bridge into high schools and four-year institutions," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni.

"The need for these skills extend well beyond Amazon as a company, or even what we consider the technology industry. Practically every field is growing more reliant on this technology and need people who can make it work," said VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois. "This collaboration means our students will be at the forefront of a degree program that will help prepare them for high-demand 21st-century jobs."

"By embedding the AWS Educate program to create a statewide cloud degree program, Virginia is providing students with an on-ramp to innovation and careers in the cloud," said Teresa Carlson, Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector, Amazon Web Services, Inc. "We applaud Governor Northam and Virginia's educational leaders for providing this workforce development opportunity for students in all corners of the Commonwealth, from K-12 to community colleges to four-year institutions and on into the workforce."

16 Cases of Vaping-related Illnesses Confirmed in Virginia

Georgia Geen
Capital News Service

The number of confirmed cases of severe vaping-related lung illness in Virginia has increased to 16, in addition to seven suspected cases, the Virginia Department of Health announced Friday.

Seventeen of the 23 patients were male, and all were between the ages of 18 and 38. According to 2017 data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 6% of men and 4% of women in Virginia used e-cigarettes.

The state Health Department recommended "that people consider not

using any e-cigarette products" as investigations into the exact cause of the lung illness continue. The agency said it expects the number of cases to rise.

Nationwide, the CDC has reported 530 confirmed or probable cases of lung illness associated with vaping. The CDC has confirmed seven deaths — in California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota and Oregon.

As in Virginia, about three-fourths of those afflicted nationwide have been male.

Officials have noted the presence of vitamin E acetate as a commonality among many samples tested containing THC, the main psychoactive com-

pound in marijuana.

The Health Department said that people who continue to use e-cigarettes should not modify the products, buy products off the street or add any substances not intended by manufacturers. E-cigarette users also should watch for these symptoms: Coughing, shortness of breath, nausea, fever, abdominal pain, chest pain, vomiting.

"Promptly seek medical attention or call a poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 if symptoms develop," the Health Department said. More information about vaping is available at www.vdh.virginia.gov/vdhlivewell/vaping/

Superman from page 1

structor and Field Training Officer, among other roles.

"It's not often you meet a person who literally has no enemies," Gilbert said. "Seth walked the walk. He was very religious, but he didn't have to tell you -- you just knew it by his actions. He was as good a person as I've ever worked with."

Gilbert supervised Kanode in the Martinsville Police patrol division for several years.

"I remember one time we had a staff meeting where the chief called out all the lieutenants and made us share who our best officer was. I said, Seth. No question," he said. "He was a really solid police officer that anyone would be proud to have in their department."

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith, who was Kanode's sergeant when both worked for the Martinsville Police Department, called him "one of the very best to ever wear a badge" and praised his "unconditional bravery as a police officer."

"He was a moral fortress. You just wanted to be better when you were around him," Smith said.

Working the same shift for seven years, he said, "I've been in more life or death situations with him than I have with anyone else in my entire career. I couldn't think of a better person to be with in those situations."

Asked what inspired Kanode to join the police, Smith said, "I think Seth recognized that the profession needed him. He was born to be of service to man."

Before working together at Martinsville Police Department, Ricky Walker grew up with Kanode from the time they were 6 or 7 years old. They gradu-

ated together from Laurel Park High School in 1981. He recalled Kanode as "an outstanding person, a very strong Christian man."

"Seth was THE best police officer I have ever worked with," Walker said. "Just an amazing guy, really conscientious and caring. He cared about the people he worked with and the people he served."

As an officer, Kanode's calm demeanor was an asset in tough situations.

"He was one of the bravest and steadiest officers I knew, always on an even keel," Walker said. "I never saw Seth upset. You could only tell he was upset by the expression on his face, and even then it was rare."

Smith recalled one night having to confront a man in a car who had a gun. "I was by myself, and I was so focused on the suspect with the gun that I didn't even realize Seth had showed up. He helped me cover the guy, and we were ultimately able to get him in handcuffs without anybody getting hurt."

The situation could have gone badly, he said. "If he hadn't showed up, I think the guy would've tried me, and I probably would've had to shoot him."

When engaged in a foot chase, Kanode's speed was legendary among his colleagues and suspected criminals alike.

"Seth had a reputation on the street that you didn't run from him, or you just went to jail tired," Walker said.

Gilbert recalled that while Kanode was hired later in life than some officers, he was incredibly fit. In the fitness test, "he shattered the run. ...He was like a machine."

Smith confirmed, "He was one of the fastest guys I've ever known.

He could fly. Someone would have a 50-yard head start on him, and he would run them down."

He once caught the same suspect 11 different times, Smith said. "The guy kept trying to run from him, and Seth kept catching him. It became kind of a joke."

After retiring from the city as a Master Police Officer in 2013, Kanode ran his own business, Foremost Tree and Power Service. He served as a deacon and worship leader at Hope Presbyterian Church as well as a volunteer fireman.

A master rappeller, Kanode also instructed several hundred local youth on the ropes course at Camp Lee Ford, Walker said.

Walker said he will especially miss their conversations. "If I hadn't seen him in two days or two months, when I saw him again, it was like we'd just seen each other the day before," he said. "He loved telling stories - some were on me, some were on himself. He was a really good listener. I'm really going to miss all the times we talked, especially in the last few years."

On the fundraiser page, Gilbert noted that Kanode was an organ donor. "Even in death, Seth was giving of his organs to help save someone else! Not at all surprised!"

The community's response to Kanode's death and their support of Gilbert's fundraiser show "how special he was to everybody," Smith said. "A lot of people loved him."

"I think it's just a testament to the type of man that Seth was and the profound effect he had on people," Walker said. "A man is not truly rich unless he has friends. Seth was the richest man I know."



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SSRCenter.org

IALR to host annual industrial hemp summit

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) is pleased to host the 2020 Industrial Hemp Summit February 24-25. Huber USA Inc., the technology leader for high precision thermoregulation, will serve as presenting sponsor of this sell-out event. Registration is now open at www.industrialhempsummit.info.

"In our mission to drive economic transformation, we continue to pursue ways to lead the reemerging industrial hemp industry, a potentially robust agribusiness opportunity for our Commonwealth and nation," said Mark Gignac, Executive Director of IALR. "A vital strategy includes the Industrial Hemp Summit, which encourages collaboration, discussion and networking among top experts. We are delighted to share this experience with our presenting sponsor, Huber USA Inc., and recognize the critical role they play in precise temperature control."

Presenting sponsor Huber USA manufactures products to ensure precise temperature control in laboratories, pilot plants and production processes throughout the world – from -125 °C to +425 °C. In addition to dynamic temperature control systems, Huber develops and produces chillers as well as classic heating and cooling circulators.

Said Georg Kiefer, Huber CEO, "We are proud to support the hemp movement in the South and beyond. Since 2014, beautiful Raleigh, North Carolina, has been home to our U.S.

headquarters."

The Industrial Hemp Summit is a multi-stakeholder collaboration focused on building the industrial hemp industry in the United States. A specific focus of the summit will be creating the supply chain and market-making for industrial hemp food, fiber and flower. The Summit will highlight current innovation in the industry, as well as explore what resources and infrastructure are needed to move the industry forward. Industrial hemp is used to make a variety of commercial and industrial products, including health and natural food products, supplements, skin products, clothing, bioplastics, insulation, biofuel and more. Thanks to December's federal legislation, U.S. growers, processors and others may now consider entering this versatile market as an opportunity for diversification.

The 2019 summit sold out at more than 350 attendees with more than 200 on the waiting list. Stakeholders from 18 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and the U.S. attended, including investors, economic developers, tobacco companies, entrepreneurs, medical companies and others interested in advancing the U.S. industrial hemp market. Maximum attendance will be increased for the 2020 summit. Interested attendees are encouraged to purchase their tickets early to ensure a seat.

The 2020 agenda is in development and will feature speakers and topics of the same caliber as the 2019 event. Panelists

for the 2019 summit included a multitude of bioscience experts, including:

Dr. Michael Timko, Professor and Lewis & Clark Chair of Biology at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Volker Bornemann, CEO of Avazyme (a Durham, N.C.-based laboratory offering field and laboratory testing, product development and consulting services to agricultural and food industries).

Erin Williams, program manager of the Virginia Industrial Hemp Research Program for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

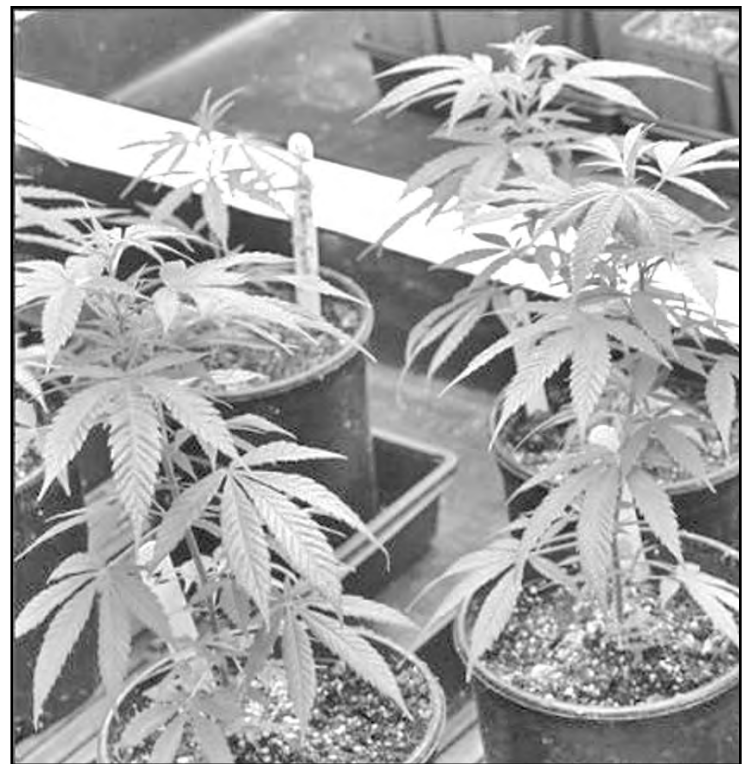
Dr. Chad Ulven, Professor at North Dakota State University and CEO of c2renew (a biocomposite material designer and custom compounder).

Kristin Adams, Founder and CEO of Afterglow Cosmetics.

Dhruv Agarwal, Director of Materials Innovation at VF Global Innovation Center (the parent corporation for such brands as The North Face and Vans).

Discussion topics ranged from cultivation, extraction and testing to genetics, hybridization and tissue culture cloning. Other panels addressed the state of the industry, market making technical fibers, consumer goods and textiles. This year's speakers are expected to once again invite discussions on how to build and scale a hemp business as well as the future of the hemp industry.

To register, visit www.industrialhempsummit.info. Tickets are \$225 through Oct. 31, the early bird discount deadline. Be-



ginning Nov. 1, tickets are \$250. Monday night reception admission is \$50. For questions or more information, please contact (434) 766-6605 or info@industrialhempsummit.info.

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

mation, visit www.ialr.org.

Huber USA Inc. is the technology leader for high precision thermoregulation solutions in research and industry. Their products ensure precise temperature control in laboratories, pilot plants and production processes throughout the world – from -125 °C to +425 °C. In addition to dynamic temperature control systems, Huber develops and produces chillers as well as classic heating and cooling circulators. Typical applications can be found in the automotive industry, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, aerospace engineering and medical industry. For more information, visit www.huber-usa.com.

Virginia's Unemployment Rate Drops to 2.8%, remains higher than average in some localities

Andrew Riddler
Capital News Service

Virginia continues to have one of the nation's lowest unemployment rates,

state and federal officials said on Sept. 20.

The commonwealth's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 2.9 percent in July to 2.8 per-

cent in August.

Virginia was tied with Utah and Colorado for the sixth-lowest unemployment rate last month. In July, Virginia and Colorado were

tied for the seventh-lowest rate.

Virginia's jobless rate continues to be much lower than the national average of 3.7 percent. Virginia has the third-lowest rate among states east of the Mississippi River, behind Vermont (2.1 percent) and New Hampshire (2.5 percent).

"The drop in Virginia's unemployment rate is yet another sign that our economy remains strong and our efforts to create opportunity in every corner of the commonwealth are paying real dividends," Gov. Ralph Northam said.

Timothy Aylor, an economist with the Virginia Employment Commission, also sees the falling rate as a strength for the state.

"Overall, as more people are able to find jobs and as people become more encouraged about the job market and re-enter it, I think that's a good thing," Aylor said. "It helps the state, and it helps the economy."

Among the 18 states with the lowest unemployment rates in the country, Virginia has the largest labor force. Most of the 18 states have

less than half of the labor force Virginia does. Aylor said this was a testament to the state's economy.

"We have a highly skilled labor force. This is especially the case in some of the metro areas — Northern Virginia primarily," Aylor said. "And this creates competition among employers as more employers take note of the quality of the workforce in the state."

In Northern Virginia, unemployment is especially low — below the state average.

"For one reason or another, you can have a lower rate of people looking — you can have a lower rate of labor force participation — and that will kind of drive down the unemployment rate," Aylor said.

"But that is not the case in an area like Alexandria or Arlington County in particular, where labor force participation rates are high and people are looking and finding work, and there is a lot of competition for it."

Despite Virginia's overall low rate, state officials reaffirmed their commitment to helping communities where

unemployment is higher than average.

Those communities include Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville, according to the Virginia Employment Commission.

The City of Martinsville's unemployment rate is 4.5 percent, according to the July data — the most recent available from the VEC. Martinsville's labor force is 5,531, with 5,283 employed and 248 unemployed, data showed.

The unemployment rate in Henry and Patrick counties is 3.5 percent, according to the VEC. Of Henry County's 23,845 labor force, 23,016 are employed with 829 jobless. In Patrick, 265 of its 7,477 labor force are jobless and 7,212 are employed, the data showed.

"We're proud of this statewide unemployment rate," said Brian Ball, Virginia's secretary of commerce and trade. "But as some localities continue to struggle with a higher rate, the governor remains focused on bringing new investment and jobs to all regions of the commonwealth."

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Circle K Store #107 Greensboro Road Ridgeway	Martinsville – Henry County Chamber of Commerce Broad Street Martinsville
Eastwood General Store Irisburg Road Axton	Old Country Store AL Philpott Hwy. Ridgeway
Daily Grind East Church Street Suite A Martinsville	

VMNH receives \$20,000 grant for upcoming festivals

The Virginia Museum of Natural History was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr., Charitable Foundation Trust for the 2019-2020 "Science Festivals Initiative." This program includes a series of themed family festivals in the coming year, building on the original Educational Festival Initiative launched in 2017. Each festival will include hands-on, educational experiences for students, families and visitors of all ages.

"We are grateful to the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr., Charitable Foundation Trust for their generous support of the museum's science festivals," said Ryan L. Barber, deputy director of VMNH. "Thanks to this grant, along with the support of our many members and donors, we will be able to reach thousands of students and families across the region through these one-of-a-kind programs."

Festivals that will be part of this initiative include the Dragon Festival on Oct. 19, 2019, the Ice Age Festival on January 25, 2020, the Reptile Festival June 12 and 13, 2020, and the Dino Festival July 24 and 25, 2020.

In addition to these public events, the museum will host school groups on the Fridays before the Dragon Festival and Ice Age Festival, providing 300 area K-5 students with STEM-based educational experiences at each festival.

"The museum's science festivals have be-

come a staple of our public programming in recent years and have allowed us to reach thousands of people with immersive learning experiences that are truly unique," said Dr. Joe Keiper, executive director of the museum. "The high quality level of these events wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners, such as the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr., Charitable Foundation Trust."

The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr., Charitable Foundation Trust was established in 1997 through the generosity of the late Charles G. Patterson, Jr. and his wife, Helen S. Patterson.

For more information about the museum and its research, education and exhibits programs, visit www.vmnh.net or email information@vmnh.virginia.gov.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, the museum is open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The museum is closed all other Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$7 for ages 19-59; \$5 for children and youth ages 3-18, seniors 60+ and college students; members and children under 3 receive free admission.



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PCS from page 1



Staff and officials cheer as Piedmont Community Services Executive Director Greg Preston cuts a ribbon for the new group home on Independence Drive in Martinsville.

with services they may qualify for." Needs are increasing as the population ages, including clients and their caretakers, she said.

"Part of our mission is simply to help," Preston said.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, PCS staff and City Manager Leon Towarnicki spoke about the project. Towarnicki noted that 15 years ago, Independence Drive dead-ended before reaching the PCS property, which

backs up to the city's shop. He also praised Piedmont for "proving to be an outstanding partner in the city and meeting a wide array of needs."

PCS Operations Director Kippy Cassell described the process of searching for a suitable location for the project. When he first saw the property, he admitted he was skeptical, as the land was covered in trees and included an embankment. However, the architect said "We can build here," he said. A

groundbreaking was held in December 2018, and Daniel Builders out of Danville completed the construction "on time and on schedule," he said.

Piedmont board members, staff, officials from the city, representatives from the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, and relatives of the home's clients gathered to cut a symbolic red ribbon before touring the new facility.



The exterior and interior of the new PCS group home on Independence Drive.



Piedmont Community Services Director of Community Support Shannon Clark, center, gives a tour of the new group home for adults with developmental disabilities on Tuesday.



The new group home features a bathroom accessible for adults with disabilities.

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**Thank you for caring about what happens in your community and supporting community journalism.
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The Ballad of Ortolan Kramdar

About ten years ago, I took to eBay and bought a Vectrex, the single most advanced video game system of 1982, featuring a state-of-the-art vector graphics monitor.

The system I got from eBay had a very minor graphical issue that was bugging me. I knew theoretically how to fix it, but I lacked the tools to do it, so I figured I would look online and find a local electronics repair company.

This was easier said than done. Back in the day when your TV broke, you could simply take it to The Guy Who Fixes TVs, and he would fix it, and then you would bring it home. It was an elegant system. Now everything is designed to such a level of complexity that fixing any piece of consumer electronics requires access to a hermetically sealed microchip lab and a scanning electron microscope. Most of The Guys Who Fix TVs have gone out of business.

Still, I searched online to see if there were any electronics repair companies in Roanoke, which was where I was living at the time. After a lot of dead-ends, I found my best bet. According to the brief description I found on Google, there was a place in Roanoke that had been repairing electronics for 30 years. It

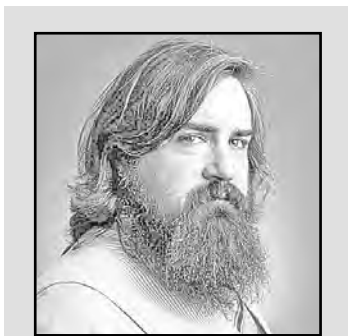
had a generic name, something like Virginia Home Electronics Repair.

As soon as I saw the listing, I knew this was the place. I imagined the business was located in some dusty, long-forgotten strip mall, the owner a delightful old codger who would know immediately what I needed. I imagined that he would fix my Vectrex while I waited, humming merrily to himself while I sat in the waiting room drinking bad instant coffee and watching an old episode of The Andy Griffith Show on some ancient monolithic Magnavox with a six-inch black and white screen.

I tried calling the number for the business, but no one ever picked up. I figured I would just swing by. I plugged the address for Virginia Home Electronics Repair into my GPS and set off down the road.

Before long, I was convinced my GPS wasn't working, because it was clearly taking me into a residential area. The imagined dusty strip mall was nowhere in sight, simply row after row of modest homes. When I got to the end of a cul-de-sac, my GPS announced that I had arrived.

I stepped out of my car and looked around. Sure enough, there was a sign hanging in the window of one of the homes: Virginia Home



Ben R. Williams

Electronics Repair. There was a name beneath the company logo: Ortolan Kramdar (please note that I have changed the name, but not as much as you'd think).

I knocked on the screen door. Before I'd connected the second knock, I heard a blood-chilling snarling sound, and within seconds, three massive rottweilers were heaving themselves at the screen door, barking and growling, desperate to eat my face. Just before I could sprint back to my car, Ortolan Kramdar appeared.

Imagine, if you will, Jay Leno. Now imagine that Jay Leno had a rough couple of years and took to living in a ditch on the side of a freeway. Now imagine that this parallel

universe version of Jay Leno was standing before you in sweatpants and a sweatshirt that were now more dog hair than cotton, picking up three vicious rottweilers one at a time and heaving them into what appeared to be a broom closet.

He stepped onto the porch, staring into my soul with the craziest eyes I have ever seen.

"Graw," he said. "Helpo there. Ortolan Kramdar."

I shook his hand. "Hi," I said, "Is this Virginia Home Electronics Repair?"

"Shnure is," he said, staring at me intently. "Kramdar."

I told him about the Vectrex, that it featured a vector graphics monitor and needed a slight adjustment to the Y-axis. I was about two words in when it was clear to me that Ortolan Kramdar was not listening to a word I said, simply staring crazily into the middle distance as my words washed over him and his rottweilers went insane in the closet behind him.

"Anyway," I said, "do you think that's something you can fix?"

"Barg," he said. "Needs cleaning. Proggagly got dust. HEY, LOOK AT THAT!"

Kramdar went wide-eyed and pointed at something in the sky. I

turned to see an airplane flying in low. This was not a surprise to me since he lived about half a mile from the airport, but apparently the novelty had never worn off for Ortolan Kramdar.

"Welp," I said, "I should probably roll out. I'll, uh, take care."

In preparation for this column, I looked Kramdar up on Facebook, and while I'm sorry to say that his business appears to have closed, I was comforted to find that his Facebook page remains the single most jaw-droppingly insane thing I have ever seen, featuring pictures he has created of himself Photoshopped into a variety of situations, such as serving as the keyboardist for the late 1960s costumed animal band The Banana Splits.

As for the Vectrex, I bought the tools and fixed it myself, a road that has ultimately led to my mildly lucrative hobby of pinball machine repair.

As the old saying goes, if you fix a man's Vectrex, he plays it for a day, but if you frighten off that man by acting like a deranged weirdo, he'll teach himself home electronics repair.

I owe you a debt, Ortolan. Tell the hellhounds I said hi.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Take More Real Pictures"

No one takes pictures anymore. They only snap selfies. I recently attended the funeral of a great Aunt back home while visiting in Kentucky. On a table, plastered to a black cardboard, they had pictures of her life. Pictures of life in the kitchen, shucking corn at a picnic table in the back yard, her youngest daughter and herself leaning over to sniff a

flower that had grown from a plant, and many more of her holding her first child, dating her future husband and many Christmas celebrations.

I walked away from that display moved to tears more than the words of any eulogy or preacher could have ever done. I was walking out of the funeral home thinking, "what a dear, old sweet

lady" she was to my early childhood years. Hillary Clinton wrote a book called, "It Takes a Village" to raise a child. And it really does. My Aunt was the first person to get me to eat home cooking and my obvious waistline testifies to the fact that she introduced me to the delights of various pies and cakes! You get a sense of history with old pic-

tures, you get a 'feel' for a time and a place and you are taken back in time as you recall your roots.

Ours is a fast-paced, self-indulgent age and what we want we tend to get right away whether we can pay for it or pay on it for an amount of time or purchase it on credit, without regard to waiting for it. No wonder the selfie is so popu-

lar because it indulges our most basic need; to be seen and to be loved. But I doubt I would have been so moved to tears if my relative only had her face in those pictures. The very fact that someone thought enough of her, enough of the moment to capture her love for her family, her love of nature and garden-

ing summed up who she was. Funny. I don't think I get in a modern selfie. It would be truly sad to collect a lifetime of self-portraits with no one to mourn them one day. May all your pictures include others and may you take many more of them.

James Pence
Pleasant Grove
Community

Elder Abuse

from page 1

depend on caretakers for various needs. "There's more opportunity for other people to have more control over us as we age," she said.

Abuse may go unreported for many reasons, such as fear of retaliation, or because the adult has no one else to take care of them. Older adults may be afraid people won't listen or won't believe them, especially if they suffer from dementia or other impairments. Victims may also blame themselves for the abuse. The situation becomes more complicated when the abuser is a relative.

"When abuse occurs in families, there is great hesitancy to report it," Bell said. For example, victims may not want to get a loved one in trouble or embarrass the family.

Warning the audience that "elder abuse is ugly," she played some news videos and a 911 call from real incidents. One victim called 911 and kept repeating that "a maniac" in her house had attacked her. It turned out to be her grandson, who raped and beat her. However, the woman did not want to identify him to the dispatcher.

Statistics from the Adult Protective Services Division at the state Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, which investigates elder abuse reports, show the numbers are on the

rise. Total APS reports across Virginia increased 15.9 percent from 2017 to 2018, or 27,105 to 31,436 reports. This mirrors the previous year's 15.6-percent growth from 2016 to 2017. In 2018, APS received 577 reports in Henry County and Martinsville alone.

Statewide, about 55 percent of cases are substantiated by APS, meaning they find evidence to confirm the abuse.

The adult's own home or apartment was by far the most common location of abuse, neglect or exploitation in substantiated APS reports, with 8,435 cases in 2018. The next most common place was another person's home, with 1,058 cases. Nursing and assisted living facilities were the sites of 688 and 342 cases, respectively.

Of particular concern for seniors, substantiated cases of financial abuse in Virginia rose 30 percent from 2017 to 2018. Financial abuse may take the form of scams, investment schemes, forgeries, or other means of stealing money. Elderly adults can be coerced into signing documents or giving out personal information that is then used to steal their identity. Caregivers may misuse power of attorney, or new lodgers and roommates may take advantage of them.

Bell described one incident she witnessed just the other

day where she passed an elderly woman in the gift card section of a drugstore. The woman seemed very confused, and a man with a foreign accent on speaker phone was trying to get her to take some kind of action involving the gift cards. With the woman's permission, Bell borrowed the phone and asked the caller what was going on. She believes the caller was trying to scam the woman, and when he was prevented from doing so, he "used a lot of colorful adjectives to describe me," Bell said.

Martinsville Police Officer Coretha Gravely urged the audience to be wary of strange calls and to not give out any financial information over the phone.

Signs of financial abuse can include unexplained purchases or withdrawals and other names appearing on the person's bank card. Or, the person may be receiving "substandard care despite having financial resources," Bell said.

Other types of abuse include physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, abandonment, and health care fraud.

Physical abuse of seniors does not always involve hitting; it can mean improper drug use, such as overmedicating an adult so that they are sedated and easy to control. Or, an abuser may deny medication or a medical device the adult needs and wants to

use. Bell emphasized that the exception is when "a competent adult has expressed the desire to go without such care."

Some signs of physical or sexual abuse include bruises, welts, unexplained bleeding or diseases. The person's eyeglasses may be broken. Friends and family should also watch for changes in behavior.

Bell described emotional abuse as "bullying." It can include name-calling, intimidation, and threats -- not only to the person, but to people they love and/or pets. Signs include avoiding eye contact, acting more shy than usual, having mood swings, or acting depressed or hopeless. The person may start harming themselves or others.

Neglect refers to a lack of safety, comfort, or hygiene. The person may be kept in unsanitary conditions, or deprived of food, water, and medication.

Confinement or isolation is when the abuser keeps the victim away from friends, family, and social interactions. "This is a big one," Bell said.

In order to prevent abuse, Bell encouraged friends and family of older and disabled adults to "call and visit often." This enables others to watch for changes in behavior and other signs of abuse. She also suggested monitoring the person's

medications, if possible; providing respite care for the primary caregiver; and making sure the adult gets plenty of social activity.

Caregiving is stressful, and "stress is a major factor in elder abuse," while this does not excuse it, Bell said. "Rest and respite care are absolutely necessary for the caregiver."

Caregivers should seek help for depression or substance abuse, which can be coping mechanisms, she said.

Bell listed several ways to report suspected cases of elder abuse. First, if you think someone is in urgent danger, call 911 or the local police to get help right away. Adult Protective Services can be reached at 800-83-ADULT. The National Center on Elder Abuse has a toll-free hotline at 855-500-3537 and information online at <https://ncea.acl.gov>.

The Southern Area Agency on Aging is a local nonprofit with resources and services for older adults and caregivers. More information is available at 276-632-6442 or www.southernaaa.org.

The next MHC TRIAD S.A.L.T. seminar will be held from 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Henry County Administration Building. The topic will be "Social Isolation."



Martinsville Police Officer Coretha Gravely introduces a seminar on elder abuse held recently at King's Grant by the MHC TRIAD S.A.L.T. Council. S.A.L.T. stands for "Seniors and Law Enforcement Together."



Stephanie LaPrade of the Southern Area Agency on Aging, who is president of the MHC TRIAD S.A.L.T. Council, introduces a speaker on elder abuse at a seminar.

SPORTS

Bengals Ride Running Game to Home Win

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(BASSETT, Va.) – Bassett head football coach Brandon Johnson described him as a horse. A fan walking through the parking lot described him as a locomotive. Against a Dan River team that had given local schools Magna Vista and Martinsville fits in the opening weeks of the season, Kevon Smith was simply brilliant.

The senior running back toted the ball 34 times for 208 yards and three second-half touchdowns in Ed Bassett Stadium on Friday night, leading the Bengals to a 28-19 Homecoming win and lifting their record to .500 for the first time in Johnson's tenure at the helm of the Bassett program.

After a sloppy first half that saw both Bassett and Dan River turn the ball over multiple times, Johnson knew Smith and the offensive line in front of him were the key to victory.

"We gave it to Kevon and I told the O-line 'we're going to do it over and over and get the win,'" Johnson said. "He's a senior and has been through a lot. He has had pretty much a season and half's worth of injuries and hasn't been able to play at full strength. If number nine gets rolling, he is a football player. I think we saw that tonight."

Freshman quarterback Jaricous Hairston got the Bengals on the board early with a pass to Kashaun Valentine, but the second half saw Bassett move away from traditional shotgun passing formations and towards a power-Wildcat with Smith behind the wheel of an offense that ate clock and ate yards after the break.

"At halftime, I've never seen my O-line coach get fired up. He's a real calm guy. He's the yin to my yang because I'm always fired up. But, he got fired up at halftime and challenged those guys," Johnson said. "We came out of halftime and put the game on their back and on that horse number nine's (Smith's) back and said 'let's go win this football game.'"

Dan River's passing game was limited by a Bassett secondary that was vocal on the field, and the

Wildcats gained only 123 yards of total offense on the night. They did take advantage of some holes in Bassett's kick coverage when Jordan Price scored on an 82-yard return to open the second half, but Smith took over from there.

"Conditioning had a lot to do with that win. We worked out a lot and ran a lot over the summer, sometimes both in one day. It played a big role," Smith said. "The coaches didn't tell me I was going to be the workhorse in the second half, but, being a senior, I expect that. When the opportunities were there we took it."

Smith was the tip of the spear on scoring drives of 45, 70 and 36 yards, taking advantage of field position created by a Bassett defense that sacked Dan River quarterbacks a dozen times on the night, forced a pair of fumbles, and created multiple turnovers on downs throughout the game.

"We've worked our tails off in coverage because we knew they would come out and sling the ball," Johnson said of his defense's impressive statistical effort. "We just said 'let's put some pressure on them and cover and keep them behind the chains.' If we can do that, our defense stacks up against the best in the district."

With Patrick County (2-2) next on the horizon, Bassett (2-2) will have to "stick to their guns" to continue their success, according to Johnson.

"We were pressing some things in the first half, not sticking to our guns. We made some mental mistakes," Johnson said. "But, the players keep proving to everybody what I already know they can do. When they get their backs against the wall, they play and they keep playing."

GAME NOTE: After the final Bassett touchdown on Friday night, Lacey Flanagan converted the point-after, earning her first point of the season. According to Bassett Athletic Director Jay Gilbert, it was the first point in school history scored by a female player. After the play, Johnson lifted Flanagan into the air in celebration as her teammates jumped for joy around them.



Bassett senior running back Kevon Smith (left) stiff-arms a defender during Friday night's 28-19 home win over Dan River.



Bassett junior wide receiver Kashaun Valentine (3) catches a touchdown pass thrown by Jaricous Hairston during Friday night's 28-19 home win over Dan River. (Enterprise photo by Harrison Hamlet)



Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson speaks to his team after Friday night's 28-19 home win over Dan River. (Enterprise photo by Harrison Hamlet)

Bassett High School 28, Dan River High School 19

BHS – 0 7 14 7 – 28
DRHS – 7 0 6 6 – 19

SCORING SUMMARY

FIRST QUARTER

10:48 – DRHS – Robert Carter 12 pass from Tracy Glass (Ethan Lewis PAT good)

SECOND QUARTER

7:00 – BHS – Kashaun Valentine 15 pass from Jaricous Hairston (Freddie Lopez PAT good)

THIRD QUARTER

11:52 – DRHS – Jordan Price 82 kick return (Ethan Lewis PAT miss)
9:12 – BHS – Kevon Smith 4 run (Kevon Smith 2 pt. run)
0:00 – BHS – Kevon Smith 1 run (Freddie Lopez PAT miss)

FOURTH QUARTER

0:30 – BHS – Kevon Smith 3 run (Lacey Flanagan PAT good)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Kevon Smith 34 for 208, 3TD, 2pt.; Demetrius Gill 1 for 34; Simeon Walter-Muse 3 for 11; Dylan Hairfield 3 for 8, fum.; Jaricous Hairston 5 for 3, fum. TOTAL: 46 for 264, 3TD, 2pt., 2fum.

PASSING

Jaricous Hairston 9-for-12 for 87, TD

RECEIVING

Elijah Stokes 5 for 44; Kashaun Valentine 1 for 15, TD; Demetrius Gill 1 for 12; Colby Hairfield 1 for 9, fum.; Kevon Smith 1 for 7.

DAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Jordan Richardson 3 for 12; Isaac Farmer 4 for 8; Nasir Coles 3 for 0; Tracy Glass 5 for 0, 2fum.; Jonathan Hairston 5 for -4; Ethan Lewis 1 for -7. TOTAL: 21 for 9, 2fum.

PASSING

Tracy Glass 5-for-8 for 61, TD; Jonathan Hairston 5-for-6 for 41, TD. TOTAL: 10-for-14 for 102, 2TD.

RECEIVING

Robert Carter 4 for 61, TD; Jordan Price 3 for 26; Isaac Farmer 1 for 19, TD; Brian Averett 2 for -4.

Are You Stressed Out?

Dr. Glenn Mollette
Contributing writer

The American Psychological Association reports Americans are stressed about money.

Stress about money and finances appears to have a significant impact on Americans' lives according to the Association. Nearly three quarters (72 percent) of adults report feeling

stressed about money at least some of the time and nearly one-quarter say that they experience extreme stress about money (22 percent rate their stress about money during the past month as an 8,9, or 10 on a 10-point scale). In some cases, people are even putting their health care needs on hold because of financial concerns.

Nearly one in five Americans

say that they have either considered skipping or skipped going to the doctor in the past year when they needed health care because of financial concerns.

The United States is the world's richest country, with a gross domestic product nearly double that of the runner up, yet our economic inequality is among the highest in the world. The Great Recession

may have officially ended, but most American households face stagnant wages and increasing debt - many Americans are actually considered to be poorer than they were a decade ago.

Our worries over money are creating a more stressful nation. Americans are working for wages sometimes as low as \$7.50 an hour as one person recently

reported to me. Thus, many Americans are working longer hours and sometimes two jobs to just pay the rent and buy food. Many senior adults are working into their eighties so they can buy groceries and pay on their medical bills.

Our stress level is detrimental to

See **Stressed Out?**, page 10

Early Big Plays Haunt Magna Vista in Loss

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(Ridgeway, Va.) – After rock-eting through the first three weeks of the season, scoring early and often to earn three wins, Magna Vista's football team came back down to earth on Friday night in a 40-26 home loss to Franklin County.

The Warriors gave up two early big-play touchdowns on a kick-return and a long run, putting them in a hole they could not climb out of despite three touchdowns from running back Louis Taylor.

"We knew Franklin County is big and physical and a

good team. They lost to Salem and E.C. Glass, two very good teams," Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero said. "I don't think we played our best either. Our special teams had been very good up to that point in the season, but we gave up a kickoff, then a big run early in the game. We settled in and played pretty well after that, we just never fully regrouped."

Despite falling behind 14-7 after the first quarter, and 21-14 at halftime, Magna Vista did battle back within striking distance with two scores in the third quarter. The first play of the fourth quarter, however, would prove decisive, according

to Favero.

"We had a backward pass that they scooped up and ran in for a score," Favero recalled. "I thought we played hard the whole game, we battled back and had the ball down two at midfield. That backward pass was the first play of the fourth quarter and just killed our momentum."

Turnovers were not the crux of the problem for the Warriors in the loss, as junior quarterback Dryus Hairston maintained the ball-protection that has been a calling card of his through the first four games, despite the aggressive offense the Warriors utilize.

"Dryus didn't throw any touchdowns, but he didn't have any interceptions either," Favero said. "He took care of the ball and made good decisions in the passing game."

Star running back Taylor punched the ball into the endzone on three occasions, but only tallied 67 yards, as Favero noted the Warriors struggled with Franklin County's size.

"We struggled to run the ball right at them," Favero said. "They are a big, physical team and they made it tough for us to sustain success on the ground."

Next up for Magna Vista (3-1) is a Martinsville (0-4) team that is struggling with injuries

at the moment. Those struggles for the next opponent in recent weeks do not translate into a lack of focus for Magna Vista this week as they prepare to host the Bulldogs.

"I think coming off a loss, we'll have a focused group intent on improving what we did wrong," Favero said. "Martinsville has some good athletes and we'll have to tackle well. Offensively we'll have to play cleaner to have success. Ultimately, we have to do our job, play fast, and play hard to win."

FCHS - 14 7 7 12 - 40

MVHS - 7 7 12 0 - 26

Five drivers will highlight Pre-Race Experience at Martinsville Speedway during First Data 500 weekend

The Pre-Race Experience returns this fall ahead of the First Data 500 as part of an ongoing effort to improve the overall fan experience during event weekends at Martinsville Speedway.

Martinsville Speedway will feature Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series drivers Kurt Busch, Erik Jones, William Byron, Michael McDowell, and Corey LaJoie prior to the running of the First Data 500 on Oct. 27.

Busch is a two-time winner at Martinsville Speedway scoring his first series win at the track in the fall race in 2002 and scor-

ing his second win in the 2014 spring event.

"We're delighted to have these five drivers participate in our Pre-Race Experience prior to the First Data 500," said Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell. "While Kurt (Busch) has proven he knows how to get around Martinsville, all five drivers bring a unique perspective about competing at Martinsville that I'm sure our fans will enjoy hearing about before the race."

"We know fans come to watch a competitive race which Martinsville Speedway delivers,

but this is another affordable way for our fans to make the entire day a memorable experience interacting with some of the top names in our sport."

In addition to the emceed question-and-answer sessions, the Pre-Race Experience offers fans the opportunity to walk the frontstretch on race morning, sign the start/finish line, and enjoy music, games, and prizes.

The cost of the Pre-Race Experience is \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth 17-and-under.

The driver question-and-answer sessions will be held on the frontstretch beginning at 10:30

a.m. and fans can remain on the frontstretch until the conclusion of driver introductions.

Admission to the Pre-Race Experience does not include a ticket for the First Data 500.

The weekend starts with a practice day for the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series on Friday, followed by a truck series autograph session and the always popular Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Hauler Parade.

On Saturday, the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series is in action with the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 with quali-

fying for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series First Data 500 immediately following the truck race.

Advance ticket prices for the First Data 500 begin at \$47 with youth tickets for fans 17-and-under just \$25 regardless of location. Youth 17-and-under are admitted free to the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series NASCAR Hall of Fame 200-lap race on Saturday. Friday's practice day is free to everyone.

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

Fourth Quarter Woes Strike Bulldogs in Loss

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(CHATHAM, Va.) – Heading into the final 12 minutes of Friday night's contest in Chatham, Martinsville's football team was in position to claim their first win of the season, tied 21-21 on the road. Unfortunately for Bulldog fans,

it was the Cavaliers that made the most of late opportunities, leading to a 35-21 Chatham win.

Martinsville head coach Bobby Martin said fourth-quarter turnovers killed the momentum his team built in the second and third frames.

"We were down 14-0 after the first quar-

ter, then tied it up and got the ball at the 50 and we had momentum and we just couldn't do anything," Martin said. "We had three fumbles and an interception in the fourth quarter. It could have been a different game if a few mistakes, a few plays had gone a different way."

Martin went on to

explain that most of the turnovers occurred near midfield, giving Chatham's offense short fields, which they converted into the deciding points late in the game.

"All that was right around midfield and we could hold them but not on a short field that many times," Martin said. "The Dan River game was almost identical, one big play away from turning the game around. We make some mistakes, but the players are trying. When you try so hard, sometimes you make mistakes."

With injuries continuing to mount for the Bulldogs, struggles along

the offensive line are playing a big part in the difficulties for the offense, according to Martin.

"We're just having a hard time every week trying to block, we're not great up front," Martin said. "We have injuries everywhere. But, experience and numbers and injuries are combining along the offensive line to make it especially hard up front."

Offensively, freshman quarterback Rashaun Dickerson and senior receiver Jahil Martin provided the highlights, connecting on a pair of scoring passes.

The other Bulldog touchdown came courtesy

of a scoop-and-score following a sack.

With a trip to Magna Vista (3-1) up next for Martinsville (0-4), Martin joked that Magna Vista's loss was "probably the worst thing that could have happened to us."

"They're going to try to take it out on us," Martin said, laughing. "They're good; they've got speed, size and strength. They're really good. They have great coaches and a great team and are going to be really tough for us."

CHS - 14 7 0 14 - 35

MHS - 0 14 7 0 - 21

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Stressed Out?

from page 9

our health. Bad health does not make us feel like working more, leads to depression, inactivity and drug and alcohol dependency.

According to Dr. Robert Waldinger, a psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, stress causes anxiousness, nervousness, distraction, excessive worry, internal pressure and changes in sleep patterns. These emotional states can then begin to affect a person's outward appearance. Someone who is stressed out may appear unusually anxious, distracted, self-absorbed, irritable or angry. If stress lasts a long time the results are excessive fatigue, depression, thoughts of suicide, headaches, nausea and vomiting,

chest pain or pressure, heart racing, dizziness, restlessness, shortness of breath and more.

If you are chronically stressed, Waldinger, has some suggestions for one, exercise. Federal health officials recommend 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity every day.

Daily prayer or meditation can make a big difference. An old song says, "Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Waldinger also states the importance of breathing. "Watch your breathing; people who get upset a lot breathe very rapidly and shallowly and it creates more

anxiety. Breathing slowly from the abdomen helps slow the stress response," he says.

Waldinger said, "Don't overdo alcohol. An extra drink seems to relax you but will only disturb your sleep and will act as a depressant."

Since money is such an American issue be on the lookout for a better paying job and be willing to prepare, train, educate and even relocate in order to move up in the financial pay scale. Do not take your financial situation as being final. Many senior adults into their eighties work 10 to 30 hours a week to stay active and to keep food on the table.

Be aggressive and don't let stress rob you of a quality life.




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