

## Forestry firm to invest \$21 million in Henry County



From left, Harvest Foundation Board President David Stone, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, Teal-Jones Group CEO and President Dick Jones, and Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry Bettina Ring pose with a \$600,000 incentive check offered to the company by Harvest in return for its expansion in Henry County.

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

A Canadian forestry firm with facilities in Virginia recently announced a \$21 million investment in Henry County.

Gov. Ralph Northam and other state officials visited the Henry County Administration Building on Sept. 25 to announce the expansion of Teal-Jones Group's pine processing operations in the county, which the company purchased in 2018. This will result in 67 new manufacturing jobs pay-

ing an average salary of \$35,000, county officials said.

The move was driven in part by a major economic downturn in the timber industry across the Canadian province of British Columbia, where Teal-Jones is headquartered, a company spokesman said. Multiple forestry firms have had to cut back their operations this year in response to the shrinking supply of trees and other factors.

"There is a lot of uncertainty around both the ability to access logs

as well as costs," said Kiel Miller, of Teal-Jones.

Miller said the industry is facing reductions in harvest quotas imposed by the government due to the impact of a years-long mountain pine beetle infestation. Severe forest fire seasons in 2017 and 2018, and the creation of environmental protection areas where harvesting is off-limits have further reduced the timber supply available to loggers, according to Canadian news reports. Miller also pointed to "high log costs, which are underpinned



Gov. Ralph Northam announces a \$21 million investment and 67 new manufacturing jobs in Henry County in an economic development announcement on Sept. 25.

by a very high government tax." Loggers pay a fee known as stumpage in order to harvest trees from public lands. High export costs from tariffs in the U.S. and China also play a role, he said.

The expansion of Teal-Jones in Virginia also includes a \$10.75 million investment and 59 new jobs at its sawmill in Westmoreland County. This and the facility in Henry County manufacture dimensional Southern yellow pine lumber for use in a wide range of construction and project applica-

tions, according to a news release from the governor's office.

Both sites will undergo building upgrades and the purchase of state-of-the-art sawmills, dry kilns, and other manufacturing equipment, the news release said. In addition, the company plans to buy all of its net new timber purchases from Virginia, worth an estimated \$100 million over the next four years.

Speaking at the economic development announcement, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture

& Forestry Bettina Ring called it the "largest new investment in sawmill and kiln capacity in Virginia in decades. The impacts of this investment can be felt across the Commonwealth, providing economic vitality as well as all the environmental benefits that we receive from sustainably managed forests."

Meanwhile, on Canada's western coast, numerous articles in the Vancouver Sun newspaper describe a worsening crisis this summer in the region's timber industry. Dozens of recent news reports of sawmill shutdowns, mass layoffs, work stoppages, and reduced shifts at forestry firms across British Columbia seem to echo the erosion of Martinsville and Henry County's manufacturing base over the past two decades.

After the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the mid-1990s, the textile and furniture industries that made up the backbone of Southside Virginia's economy began moving production

See **Investment**, page 3

## County, city schools among 92 percent to earn 'Accredited' rating

School division accreditation ratings recently released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) show that all Henry County and Martinsville schools will be designated as Accredited.

For Accreditation, a school must achieve an adjusted pass rate of 75 percent in English (includes reading and writing) and 70 percent in mathematics, science, and history/social science.

"Student success can be measured in multiple ways. The VA Standards of Learning Assessments are one way to measure success. I am so happy for the students, teachers, staff, and administrators at all of our schools. It took the hard work of everyone to accomplish this goal," said Lisa Millner, HCPS Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Student growth is based on the previous years tested subject score and the corresponding

year's score. A student that does not pass their SOL but show significant improvement from year 1 to year 2 is considered a pass for the school due to growth. This growth model is only used in Elementary and Middle School in the contents of Math and English (Reading). The EL growth is based on the students WIDA: Access 2.0 growth and if a student shows significant growth on their scale then that student is considered a pass for the school and counted as a passing score in the content area of English (Reading).

"Our students work diligently each day to exceed the learning goals set before them. This demonstration of their growth and success is one of the many ways they are showing that they are ready for a successful future," said Superintendent Sandy Strayer, adding, "We are grateful to the members of the school community who have supported each

Henry County student in reaching his/her individual goals."

Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane recently announced that 92 percent of Virginia's public schools are meeting the state Board of Education's expectations for achievement and improving student outcomes, and are accredited for the 2019-2020 school year.

All four schools in Martinsville are Accredited with no conditions, with gains in mathematics across the division, a release from the city school division stated.

"We saw a slight drop in reading scores across the division, which reflects the drop seen in the state reading scores. We are extremely proud of Patrick Henry Elementary, which was Accredited with Conditions last year and is now Accredited with all School Quality indicators at Level 1. Patrick Henry saw a

See **Accredited**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC THEOLOGY

Farmer and author Bill Guarrant, pictured with his wife, Cherie, will present on "Faith and Ecology" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Mountain Valley Brewing as part of the PUBLIC Theology monthly discussion series.

## Connection between faith, ecology to be explored

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Contributing writer*

What does religious faith have to say about ecology? That will be the topic of the next gathering of PUBLIC Theology, a monthly discussion group started by two local church leaders that meets at Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton.

"Faith and Ecology," a talk by author and local farmer Bill Guarrant, will be held the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Mountain Valley Brewing. The event is free and open to all,

including families with children.

Guarrant and his wife, Cherie, own and operate White Flint Farm in Keeling. According to the event page on Facebook, "Bill met his wife in Florida while practicing law for over 25 years. Bill now describes himself as 'a homesteader, a goat-herder and small-scale farmer.'

"Eventually homesickness, and a yearning for authenticity, caused Bill and Cherie to come back home to Virginia, where they now live on the

See **Connection**, page 10

## Gains in chronic absenteeism, declines on state reading tests reported by VDOE

The accreditation ratings reported by the Virginia Department of Education also show that schools are making progress in reducing chronic absenteeism, but that declines in performance on state reading tests — especially among black and economically disadvantaged students — have resulted in an increase in the number of schools that will receive state assistance to address achievement gaps in English.

"This is the second year that schools have been evaluated under the 2017 Board of Education-approved accreditation standards, and this new system for measuring the progress and needs of schools is doing exactly what it was designed to do," said Superintendent of Public Education Dr. James Lane. "Last year's ratings compelled school divisions to focus on the need to reduce chronic absenteeism, and their success in improving student attendance is reflected in the ratings for

2019-2020. These latest ratings will help VDOE target its efforts toward increasing student literacy and furthering progress toward eliminating achievement gaps in the schools that are most in need of the department's support and expertise."

The number of schools meeting the state board's goal for reducing chronic absenteeism increased 4%, from 1,600 to 1,663. Twenty-three schools are identified as in need of state support to reduce chronic absenteeism, 21 fewer schools than last year. The number of schools identified as in need of state assistance to address achievement gaps in English increased by 13, to 125, compared with 112 last year.

"The Board of Education is focused on ensuring that every child has an opportunity to reach his or her potential," Board of Education President Daniel Gecker said. "The 2017 accreditation standards focus local decision-making

and resources on the board's goal of reducing — and ultimately eliminating — achievement gaps while maintaining high standards for all students. This work, along with the work the board is currently doing on the Standards of Quality, advances the board's equity agenda, as set forth in our adopted comprehensive plan."

Under the revised accreditation system, schools are evaluated on school quality indicators grouped in three categories: academic achievement, achievement gaps, and student engagement and outcomes. Performance on each indicator is rated at one of the following levels:

Level One: Meets or exceeds state standard or sufficient improvement

Level Two: Near state standard or sufficient improvement

Level Three: Below state standard

See **Gains**, page 5

## Canadian company acquires, partners with Ten Oaks LLC

### Enterprise Staff Report

The Boa-Franc manufacturing family announced it acquired Ten Oaks, LLC in partnership with the Williams and Birkett families.

The partnership marks the Canadian company's first foray into the United States, according to Wren Williams, a spokesperson for Ten Oaks. He estimated there are 150 employees between the company's facilities on Progress Drive and Dobyns Road. The workforce is mainly from Patrick County, but also includes those from Martins-

ville, Henry County and Lawsonville, N.C., Williams said.

Boa-Franc was established in St-Georges, Canada in 1983 and with this partnership will grow their employment to more than 700 people.

"Some years ago, we decided we wanted to expand to the U.S.

See **Ten Oaks LLC**, page 6





# Suspended Bear Fence for Honeybees A Solution for the Small-scale Hobbyist

Joseph A. May  
DVM

With the increase in the bear populations, bear sightings are on the increase even in suburban and metropolitan areas. This in turn puts many small backyard apiaries at risk for bear predation. It's hard for a bear to resist the smell of honey and bee larvae and they can destroy an entire apiary in a single night. This fact became clearly evident to me when my neighbor posted a video of two large bears on Facebook less than a hundred yards from my back yard, followed by five additional neighborhood sightings in less than a week. More recently, my dentist shared the above trail camera photo with me from about five miles away; sadly, the hive is no more.

I knew I needed to do something to protect the four hives that reside in

my back yard, so I hastily constructed an electric fence to surround the hives the same night I saw the video. However, I was not looking forward to the mowing and weed eating needed for maintenance and sought another option.

A friend who is a Conservation Officer with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries saw the video and sent me a link for "Electrified Beehives a.k.a. The Hanger Hive Guard," which is available on the VDGIF website along with videos demonstrating the effectiveness of an electric fence in deterring bears. It is basically an open-ended cage constructed out of hardware cloth that hangs over the hive on an insulated mat. I could see its merit, especially for hives on individual stands, but I wanted a simpler solution that I could construct from salvaged materials I

already had on hand. I decided to attach the fence to my hive stand rather than to the hives themselves.

My four hives reside on a pair of stands constructed out of salvaged two-by-sixes mounted to galvanized posts. The open and elevated design along with screened bottom boards helps control varroa and other pests. I use a nontoxic herbicide to control weeds and apply diatomaceous earth beneath the stands to help control ants, beetle larvae, and other pests.

The fence was constructed using scrap two-by-fours and ripped two by-sixes I already had on hand to create two panels that were screwed to the ends of my hive stands. The horizontal supports were 36 inches and were added to two vertical members 38 inches long, attached so they hung 8 inches below the hive landing boards to give



The electrified bear fence, suspended from the existing hive stand. The galvanized posts are supports for the hive stand.



The back side is equipped with spring-loaded gate latches for easy access.

protection from skunks and smaller predators. The dimensions are not that critical but I wanted about 12 inches of clearance on the front of the hive and about 8 inches on the rear. Two pieces of one by four board were attached to the horizontal and vertical members to brace them and give extra support. The white pieces behind the insulators were made from a vinyl post surround scrap I salvaged and cut lengthwise. The vinyl reduces the number of insulators needed and prevents the wire from shorting out by keeping it off the frame where it goes around the corners. The same effect could be accomplished by attaching a piece of PVC pipe to the corners of the frames. The insulators are nail on insulators for wooden posts attached through pre drilled holes with screws instead. The electrified bear fence, suspended from the existing hive stand. The galvanized posts are supports for the hive stand.

A second screw was added to give extra support and to keep the insulators from twisting. The frames were attached to the ends of the hive stands

with screws in both the horizontal support and the brace board. Wire was strung between the insulators on the fronts and the sides. I ended up with six strands of wire protecting the front and sides of my hives. On the back side, I added two stands of wire with spring-loaded gate latches so the wire can be easily removed when working the hives. This could easily be increased to four strands by making the wire longer and doubling it through parallel pairs of insulators.

The fence is powered from an outdoor outlet 40 feet away, with an underground wire run from the charger to a distribution point and then to the two hives. In drier climates, a ground wire may need to be added between the hot wires to ensure that the intruder is grounded and gets a good dose of electricity. The charger may also be placed on a dusk to dawn timer so the fence is only on at night in low risk areas. I like this design because I can easily access my hives and mow around them with no obstructions. If no power is available, a solar powered charger and a battery can be

used to power the fence.

The artwork on the end panel is courtesy of my grandchildren after providing them with some stencils, a pack of colored permanent markers, and a piece of corrugated plastic board commonly used as sticky boards for mite counts. It was easier and safer for them to decorate the board and attach it to the end panels than to decorate the occupied hives. The panel also has the added benefit of shading the hive on the west side from the hot afternoon sun.

The back side is equipped with spring-loaded gate latches for easy access. Here is my fence charger with my "bee fountain" in the foreground. Rocks in the lower fountain keep the bees from drowning and the bees love it.

(Reprinted with permission from May and the American Bee Journal, www.americanbeejournal.com. Donations to the Honey Bee Health Coalition may be mailed to the Keystone Policy Center, c/o Julie Shapiro, 1628 Sts. John Road, Keystone, CO 80435.)



# Save the date

October 10, 2019 5:30 pm

# Empty Place at the Table

## Fundraising Gala and Silent Auction

Join us as we honor those who have lost their lives due to domestic violence and left an "empty place at the table."

For more information, please contact Warren Rodgers at (276) 403-4084 or [director@ssrcenter.org](mailto:director@ssrcenter.org)

SSRCenter.org

# Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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	61							62							
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Superhigh frequency

4. Sinatra's ex-wife

7. Unity

12. Not useful

15. One who mocks

16. Teachers

18. "Pollock" actor Harris

19. Fifth note of a major scale

20. A type of coalition

21. Aircraft transmitters

24. Where golfers begin

27. We all have them

30. Monetary unit

31. Calendar month

33. Pouch-like structure

34. Winter sport tool

35. Minneapolis suburb

37. \_\_\_ student, learns healing

39. Keyboard key

41. Brief proposal

42. Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two

44. Lunatic

47. Cool!

48. Japanese musician

49. Successor to League of Nations

50. Actor Diesel

52. The Constitution State

53. Go back over

56. One long or stressed syllable followed by unstressed syllable

61. All of it

63. Seriousness

64. Adds color

65. \_\_\_ kosh, near Lake Winnebago

CLUES DOWN

1. Turfs

2. Handle

3. Floating ice

4. Railways

5. Breathe in

6. Neutralizes alkalis

7. Coenzyme A

8. Make a mistake

9. Tin

10. Parts of a machine

11. Midway between northeast and east

12. Prizes for victory

13. Great amount

14. Goodwill (archaic)

17. Suspicion of having committed a crime

22. Signed one's name

23. Quake

24. Exercise system \_\_\_-bo

25. Round Dutch cheese

26. Ready to go

28. Khoikhoi peoples

29. Opera scene

32. Husband of Sita (Hindu)

36. A sign of assent

38. Cut a rug

40. An army unit mounted on horseback

43. Satisfies

44. Austrian river

45. In a more positive way

46. Religious creed

51. Brazilian NBA star

54. One and only

55. Street

56. Explosive

57. Gambling town

58. Public crier calls

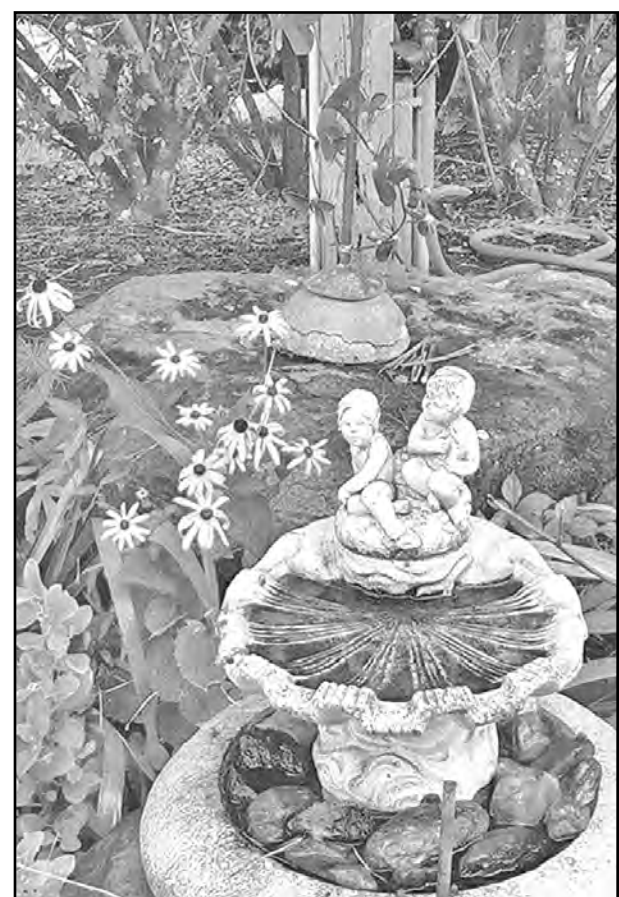
59. Hard money

60. Time units (abbr.)

62. Exists



May is a semiretired Veterinarian (he practices two days a week in Collinsville). He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1976, and became interested in honey bees about four years ago when the VFD regulations went into effect. He is a member of the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium, the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association, and two local beekeeping clubs. May is licensed and accredited in both Virginia and North Carolina and is certified to write Veterinary Feed Directives when needed. He recently visited an apiary and started treatment for 86 hives infected with European Foul Brood.



Here is my fence charger with my "bee fountain" in the foreground. Rocks in the lower fountain keep the bees from drowning and the bees love it.

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# Explosion prompted two arrests



Jonathan Wayne Hubbard



James Marvin Hundley

Two Martinsville men were charged following an incident that involved what authorities identified as an improvised explosive device, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

The Martinsville-Henry County 911 Communications Center received a call at 9:49 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27 in reference to a fire cracker that had exploded in an individual's face at 124 Konya Dr., Martinsville.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office, Henry County Public Safety and Ridgeway Rescue responded to the scene. The victim, James Marvin Hundley, was assessed by EMS workers and subsequently air lifted to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Through the course of the investigation, authorities determined the device that exploded was not a firecracker but an alleged small improvised explosive device. Authorities also determined the victim of the explosion and a second individual allegedly manufactured and possessed the improvised

explosive device before detonation.

Virginia State Police bomb technicians were consulted during the preliminary investigation.

Hundley, 37, of Martinsville, was charged with two felonies: possess materials to manufacture explosive device and possess explosive device. He was held in the Roanoke City Jail with a \$1,500 secured bond.

Jonathan Wayne Hubbard, 52, also of Martinsville, was charged with one count each possess materials to manufacture explosive device and possess explosive device, both felonies.

Hubbard is currently being held in the Martinsville City Jail with no bond.

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

## Investment

from page 1

overseas in order to reduce costs and remain competitive. As a result, the city of Martinsville held the highest or second-highest unemployment rate in Virginia throughout the latter half of the 2000s. Martinsville's jobless rate hit a peak of 22.1 percent in July 2009, according to the Virginia Employment Commission.

The local economy has since rebounded, with unemployment back in the low single digits. Henry County's rate hovers around 3.5 percent, while Martinsville's is 4.5 percent, according to the VEC.

In a Sept. 10 Vancouver Sun article, Teal-Jones cited a weak lumber market and high business costs in its decision to shut down coastal logging operations in British Columbia. Close to 300 loggers were immediately laid off. The future of several hundred mill workers is unknown for now, but the company's chief financial officer told the Sun to "expect additional curtailments" once the current inventory of wood has run out.

Just two weeks later, on Sept. 25, Teal-Jones Group CEO and President Dick Jones joined Gov. Northam to announce the company's largest U.S. investment to date.

On the same day that state government and economic development officials gathered in Henry County to celebrate the announcement, Canadian news outlets reported that about 200 logging truck drivers formed a convoy in the streets of downtown Vancouver to protest the loss of forestry jobs there.

Henry County Administrator Tim Hall and Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Develop-

ment Corp. said discussions with company officials did not include references to the crisis in Canada.

"They had a couple of domestic options and they chose this one. They purchased Pine Products more than a year ago. They did not cite this to us" as a reason for expanding into Henry County, Heath said.

In his remarks, Northam praised the "team effort" of local and state partners to secure the Teal-Jones expansion for Virginia.

"Economic development is competitive," Northam said, adding that Teal-Jones Group selected Virginia over Washington state and Oklahoma. "We're competing with other states and other countries. It's good that Virginia came out as number one."

Heath called Sept. 25 "truly a great day" for the area. He said this announcement is the latest in a series of economic development successes, with seven projects bringing more than 600 new jobs over the past year. When completed, the expansion of Teal-Jones will add \$296,000 to the local tax base, Heath said.

Local economic development officials, the governor's office, and various state agencies collaborated to offer Teal-Jones an incentive package of tax benefits and more than \$1 million in state and private grant funds.

David Stone, Board Chairman of The Harvest Foundation, presented Jones with a ceremonial check for \$600,000 on behalf of the foundation. "We created an incentive grant to be used for attracting new business and business expansion in this area," Stone said during the presentation. "This is right in line with

what we're all about: Jobs."

In addition, Northam approved grants of \$200,000 each from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund (COF) and the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund to assist Henry County in securing the project. He approved grants of \$125,000 each to help Westmoreland County.

"Henry County is thrilled that Teal-Jones chose to become a part of our community and now will expand operations here," said Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors. "The company is a great fit for our workers, and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come."

After accepting a Virginia flag from Gov. Northam, Jones thanked everyone for being "so accommodating and so helpful. We're going to do our best here."

He added, "We never get support like this from British Columbia."

According to the company's website, Teal-Jones Group is the largest privately held forest products company operating on Canada's West Coast. However, the family-owned business started from humble beginnings, Jones said during the announcement.

His father, Jack Jones, "built a little shingle mill in the back of a truck in the backyard" in 1946 after coming home from serving in the army in World War II. In 1960, he had the opportunity to buy a defunct sawmill for \$100 down and turned it into a shingle mill, Jones said, adding "That's where the name 'Teal' comes from - the shingles shed water like a duck's back. So, there's no Mr. Teal. It's a duck."

# Health Department Confirms First Vaping Death in Virginia

**Georgia Geen**  
*Capital News Service*

One person has died in Virginia from a lung injury associated with vaping, as the number of illnesses linked to e-cigarette use increases in the state and across the country, the Virginia Department of Health announced Tuesday.

The death was reported by Cone Health in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Thursday, and the Department of Health said the patient was an adult residing in Southwest Virginia. Citing patient privacy, the department did not release additional details.

"I am deeply saddened to announce the

first death of a Virginia resident related to this outbreak," said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver. "Our thoughts are with the family during this difficult time."

As of Monday, there have been 31 lung injury cases, including the patient who died, in Virginia. The cases include 15 in Northern Virginia, seven in Eastern Virginia, five in Northwest Virginia, three in Southwest Virginia and one in Central Virginia.

The number of cases has grown since Sept. 20, when the Department of Health had confirmed 16 cases of lung illnesses linked to vaping and seven suspected cases.

Nationwide, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last week that there have been 805 cases across 46 states and one U.S. territory. The CDC said there had been 12 deaths; that number did not include the one in Virginia.

While the cause of the outbreak is still unknown, officials have flagged the vitamin E found in many tested samples containing THC, marijuana's main psychoactive compound. The Virginia Department of Health advises people not to use e-cigarettes, and those who do should not buy products off the street or modify them in a way not intended by

the manufacturer.

Health officials recommend e-cigarette products should never be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. In addition to other potentially harmful chemicals, most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm brain development. People who do use e-cigarette products should monitor themselves for symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever) and promptly seek medical attention or call a poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 if symptoms develop.

## Accredited

from page 1

seven-point gain in reading to go from 77% to 84%. They had a nineteen-point gain in mathematics to go from 72% to 91%. Patrick Henry also had a four-point increase in science pass rates to move from 71% passing to 75%, and all of their performance rates exceeded the state benchmarks," the release stated.

Albert Harris Elementary continued its three-year trend of being Accredited. While they saw a drop in reading from 79% to 72%, they saw an increase in both mathematics from 78%

to 81% and science from 68% to 79%. Martinsville Middle School maintained Accredited status for the second year and was recognized by the Virginia Department of Education as an Exemplar Performance School for Continuous Improvement. They maintained steady performance in reading at 77% and increased their math performance from 84% to 88%. Although they saw a slight drop in science from 76% to 73%, they still exceeded the state benchmark of 70%, according to the re-

lease.

Martinsville High School continued its three-year trend of Accredited status. "While they saw a drop in science from 75% to 67% and the Graduation Index from 90 to 87, they maintained a steady performance in reading at 87% and a slight increase in math from 84% to 87%. Martinsville High School was recognized by the Virginia Department of Education as an Exemplar Performance School for Continuous Improvement," the release stated.

"We are so proud of our

students and staff, and it is through their hard work that we are able to continue seeing success in our schools. It is through our culture of teamwork, respect, and high expectations that we are able to accomplish all that we have," Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Angilee Downing said in the release.

Martinsville Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley expressed great excitement with the testing outcomes.

"While I realize that standardized tests are only partially an indicator of stu-

dent success, I am pleased that the exceptional progress that our school division has made during the past three years. This success is largely due to the team work performed by students, parents, teachers, administrators, central office staff, community leaders, and community supporters. In addition, our support staff has played

an important role in making these three years very successful. Finally, our goal is to develop students who exhibit great citizenship and who contribute to our wonderful community and society. We have a school division that our entire community and business world can be very proud of," Talley said in the release.

## Patrick Springs man held without bail

A Patrick Springs man was arrested following an investigation by the Patrick County Sheriff's Office, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

Roger Ramon Villarreal, 69, of Dogwood Road, was arrested Thursday evening on one count each sexual battery of a minor and solicitation of child pornography, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

Smith said the arrest was prompted by an alleged inappropriate rela-

tionship with a female minor beginning when she was 14-years-old.

"Evidence suggests that the relationship had continued until the present," Smith said, adding the alleged victim now is 16-years-old.

Villarreal is being held without bail in the Patrick County Jail.

The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information pertaining to this case is asked to contact Investigator Tennille Jessup at (276) 692-5885.

37th ANNUAL CRAIG COUNTY FALL FESTIVAL



Saturday, Oct. 12  
9:00am to 5:00pm  
New Castle

Street fair, petting zoo, face painting, 3 restored log cabins and Marshall Reynolds Antique Car Show

Breakfast and Lunch served in Old Brick Hotel

**Schedule:**

9:00	Opening Ceremonies
9:30	Marjorie Price
10:30	Eastern Divide
11:45	Blue Connection
1:00	Phat Boyz Band
3:30	The Guard with Stevie Carper
4:30	Drawings

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Martinsville

UP TOWN

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 5

11 AM-4 PM

Streets Of Uptown Martinsville



FREE ADMISSION

• Music

• Beer Garden

• Kids' Activities

• Carnival Treats & Food of all Nationalities

Over 200 Vendors - Arts & Crafts, Home Accessories, Holiday Decorations & More!



Martinsville

HENRY COUNTY VIRGINIA



BUD LIGHT

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

Danville Distributing Company



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The Showroom



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Community Federal Credit Union

For more information, call (276) 632-6401.



B99.9

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA'S COUNTRY STATION



# OPINION

## Creating a plague in your own backyard

I've always loved bugs.

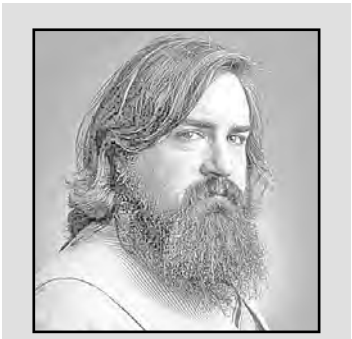
When I was a little kid, I would wander around my grandparents' farm in Patrick County, flipping over rocks and wandering through tall grass hunting for interesting specimens. I carried a dog-eared copy of a field guide to North American insects and spiders wherever I went. In second grade, just for fun, I provided my classmates with a no doubt fascinating presentation on the life cycle of cicadas. I don't remember what I talked about, but I do remember that I brought a visual aid: A dead cicada I had pinned to a piece of cardboard. It smelled like a manure truck had crashed into a paper mill and it was gone from the classroom the following day, allegedly because my teacher had "misplaced" it.

I never lost my fascination with insects, but I drifted away from it a bit over the years. However, since starting my new job with the Virginia Museum of Natural History back in December, all that has changed. I've learned a tremendous amount about insects over the last few months (along with all aspects of the Commonwealth's natural history). I've gone hunting for unusual bugs with my coworkers. Any time I feel like it, I can wander over to VMNH entomology curator Dr. Kal Ivanov's office, interrupt him in the middle of whatever important work he's doing, and ask him about click beetles. It's a great system, for me at least.

One of my favorite hobbies has become collecting unusual insects to add to the museum's collections, which is the gradually approaching point of this column.

I live out in the woods in Patrick County and there is no shortage of interesting critters hanging around the property. I recently decided that rather than going out to look for these insects, I would simply bring them to me.

You see, many insects are attracted to black lights. In addition to making your Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers poster look awesome, the UV light emitted by black lights provides a giant flashing neon arrow for many kinds of bugs that fly around at night. If you have an outdoor



Ben R. Williams

bug zapper, you have seen this same effect in action (I don't recommend using outdoor bug zappers, though; they aren't good at attracting biting insects, only beneficial insects).

With this in mind, I recently purchased a cheap black light and put it in my kitchen window. All I would have to do is switch on my black light before going to bed, and then in the morning, I could go out onto my back porch and inspect the insects that came to hang out on my window screen during the night.

After installing my black light, I switched it on to make

sure it worked, and then I decided to grab a cold beverage. On a weekend night, one of my favorite activities is to take a cold beverage onto my back porch, sit down in a rickety lawn chair, and stare into the woods thinking about as little as possible. I took my drink, opened the back door, and stepped out onto the porch.

It was at this moment that I learned two things. First, I learned that I had forgotten to turn the black light off after testing it. Two, I learned that it was the night of a nuptial flight.

Here's some fun insect trivia to know and share: When an ant colony reaches maturity, the queen will lay hundreds of eggs, some of which become females and some of which become males. These ants grow wings, and on a warm, damp summer evening, they all take flight at once. Amazingly, they are able to synchronize themselves with other ant colonies in the area, allowing the flying females from one colony to meet up with the flying males from another colony and vice versa, thus reducing the risk of inbreeding. The winged

females who find a mate then drop to the ground, lose their wings, and become queen ants that start colonies of their own.

What all this meant for me was that I had stepped out my back door and into the middle of a plague.

Ants. Ants everywhere. Thousands of them, flying through the air and collecting on my window screen. The ants on the screen formed a solid writhing mass, chunks comprised of several dozen ants dripping off occasionally like drops of tar. They flew into my hair, my drink and my mouth, which was unfortunately open with surprise at seeing a writhing black mass forming on my kitchen window.

"Gack!" I said, swatting flying ants away from eyes, spilling my drink everywhere. I stumbled back inside, watching ants fly off of me like I was a cartoon hobo. I snapped the black light off in disgust.

That is the story of how I accidentally recreated one of the calamities of Exodus on my own back porch. If I'd been holding any Israelites prisoner, I assuredly would have let them go.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Tuesday, Oct. 15

**Bassett Historical Center:** author David Joyce will visit the Bassett Historical Center to present a program on his new book entitled "Pioneers of Colonial Virginia." The narratives portrayed in this book represent the life stories of various pioneers from eighteenth century Virginia. This program is free, open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room at 10:30 a.m.

**Virginia Organizing:** will meet at 6 p.m. in the Frith Building (Exhibit Hall), at Patrick Henry Community College. New members welcome. For more information visit, [www.virginia-organizing.org](http://www.virginia-organizing.org).

**24th Annual Coat Drive For Kids:** Anyone wishing to donate a new or gently used coat may call (276) 957-1394 or drop them off at the Hollywood Cinema/ One- Hour Martinizing on Rives Rd.

**Deadline for donations is Nov. 30.**

**Hamlet Vineyards:** is offering wine tastings every Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. from Sept. 22 - December 29. Taste eight wines for \$9, with fresh bread and gourmet spreads with the tasting. For more information call, (276) 629-2121.

**Karaoke Night:** Take to the stage every Thursday at 9 p.m., Sept. 19 - Dec. 19, at the Ten Pin Cafe, 10 Koehler Rd, Martinsville. For more information call (276) 632-6060.

**Creative Corral:** Creative projects every Thursday at 6 p.m., Sept. 19 -Dec. 19, at the Mountain Valley Artisan Barn, 1215 Collins Rd, Axton. For more information call (276) 220-6591.

**Ride 'N Dine:** bicycle the Dick and Willie Trail and have lunch with your fellow cyclists every Friday through Feb. 29, at 699 Liberty St, Martinsville. For up to date

times and information, call (276) 358-1312.

**Rock-It-Bowling:** lights, music and good time from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday through Dec. 28 at Sportslanes, 10 Koehler Rd, Martinsville.

**Mountain Laurel Trails Bike Ride:** The Henry County Bike Club will meet and ride the trail every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, through Dec. 30. For more information call (276) 618-0343.

**Papa's Trivia Night:** every other Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. through Oct. 22 at Papa's Pizzeria, 4288 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett. For more information call, (276) 629-6992.

**Monday, Oct. 21**

**PHCC-OSHA 10 Training:** a 10-hour program targeted to entry level workers and covers general industry safety and health hazards. A

certification card is awarded upon successful completion. 5:45 to 9:30 p.m. October 21 - 29. \$80 and a pre-registration is required. For more information and to register call, (276) 656-0260.

**Martinsville Library:**

**Line Dancing:** Every Wednesday and Friday, the Martinsville Library will hold a line dancing class at 10 am. This event is free and open to the public.

**Tai Chi:** continues on Tuesdays, from 11:15 to 12 pm. All are welcome.

**Saturday, Oct. 5**

**Board Game Day** The Martinsville Library will host a Board Game Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your favorite game or try one the library has on hand.

**Saturday Afternoon Movie** also restarts Oct. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. Popcorn will be pro-

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

**Tuesday, Oct. 8**

**The Second Tuesday Book Club** will be meeting at the Martinsville Library at noon; "CBD Oil: The Facts & The Benefits" workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public but space is limited. Call 403-5430 to register.

**Thursday, Oct. 10**

**"Top Shelf STEAM"** activity will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 403-5430. All are welcome;

**"Paranormal Hunters"** talk will be held after hours at 5:30 p.m. Buster Williams from Franklin County Paranormal will discuss his investigations and share evidence of ghosts. This event is free and open to the public but space is limited. Call 403-5430 to sign up.

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Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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

## Griffith to host USDA grant workshops, one set to be held at HJDB Event Center

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R- Salem, will host two workshops with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in October on the process of applying for grants from the agency.

The first workshop will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. It will focus on Rural Development's Broadband ReConnect Program, which offers loans and grants to help fund broadband service in rural areas.

A second workshop will be held on Friday, Oct. 11, at 9:30 a.m. at the Historic John D. Bassett Event Center in Bassett. It will address the broader array of opportunities funded by Rural Development.

"Federal resources are available to support rural areas with economic development needs, including

broadband and infrastructure. Rural Development has been an important partner in our area, and I hope that these workshops will increase awareness of the support it can provide, as well as enlighten on the process of applying for funding," Griffith said.

Economic development professionals interested in attending may RSVP to John Bebbler, Griffith's district director, at [john.bebbler@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.bebbler@mail.house.gov).

## Congressional staff to visit, help residents with issues

Staff from 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's office will be available at the following locations on Oct. 23:

Patrick County: from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in a conference room in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Martinsville: from 2:30 to 4 p.m., City of Martinsville Municipal Building, Conference Room #32, Lower Level, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

Contact the Christians-

burg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Hairston completes basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Taina J. Hairston graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airman who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Hairston is the daughter of Lasandra Hairston of Martinsville, and Enoch Hairston of Fieldale. She is the sister of Nakieya Hairston and Charelle Fuller, both of Martinsville.

The airman is a 2019 graduate of Bassett High School in Bassett.

# Terry steps down from post, Harrell appointed to fill unexpired term

**Debbie Hall and Cory Higgs**  
*Enterprise Staff Reports*

The vice chairman of the Patrick County School Board resigned, effective Sept. 30, and his opponent in the November election was appointed to fill the slot.

In his resignation letter to the school board, Ronnie Terry, of the Blue Ridge District, said he made the decision to step down after “careful consideration in order to give the board the opportunity to move forward with the schools business without any interruptions on my part.”

Terry, 56, of Meadows of Dan, did not attend the special called school board meeting Friday.

He said in a telephone interview after the meeting that he believes “stepping down is the best thing for the board at this time.”

He was indicted on one count each election fraud and forging a public record in connection with documents submitted to the Patrick County Registrar’s

Office while seeking a fourth term to the post.

When interviewed about those allegations, Terry said “I should have done better. It’s all my fault. I got lazy and tried to take a shortcut. I hate this happened, and I’m trying to stand up and do what’s right.”

Terry was not mandated to resign, nor could the board have forced him to step down.

“I want to do the best I can for the board and the best I can for the county,” Terry has said. “That’s what I’ve always tried to do.”

In his resignation letter, dated Sept. 25, Terry wrote that “working with the Patrick County School Board has been a wonderful experience that has afforded me many valuable opportunities to learn and grow, and I am very grateful to have been part of this board.”

He turned himself in at the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office on Friday, Sept. 13 and posted



**Ronnie Terry, vice chairman of the Patrick County School Board, resigned from his post, effective Sept. 30. He has not yet decided if he will withdraw from his reelection bid.**

his \$3,000 bond.

When announcing his reelection bid in March, Terry, who served on the board nearly 12 years, said he served five years as chairman

and spent several years as vice chairman during his tenure.

In a separate action, the board appointed Shannon Harrell, who was opposing Terry in



**Shannon Harrell was appointed by the Patrick County School Board to fill the unexpired term in the Blue Ridge District. She is challenging Ronnie Terry for the post in the November election.**

the November election, to fill the slot.

Terry said he has not yet decided whether he will abandon his reelection bid.

Harrell’s appoint-

ment is “until the voters fill the vacancy at the general election to be held in November and the person so elected has qualified for the office,” a resolution stated.

## Gains from page 1

The following tables summarize how Virginia schools performed on each applicable indicator:

### Academic Achievement Summary

Indicator	Schools at Level One	Schools at Level Two	Schools at Level Three
English	1,689	81	49
Mathematics	1,769	23	27
Science	1,649	51	60

### Academic Gaps Summary

Indicator	Schools at Level One	Schools at Level Two	Schools at Level Three
English	975	719	125
Mathematics	1,406	352	61

### Student Engagement and Outcomes Summary

Indicator	Schools at Level One	Schools at Level Two	Schools at Level Three
Chronic Absenteeism	1,663	133	23
Dropout Rate (High Schools)	256	43	31
Graduation & Completion (High Schools)	302	17	9

As a consequence of the school quality indicator ratings, 252 schools will undergo academic reviews.

Schools earn one of the following three accreditation ratings based on performance on school quality indicators, as follows:

Accredited – Schools with all school quality indicators at either Level One or Level Two. In addition, high-performing schools with waivers from annual accreditation authorized by the General Assembly are rated as Accredited.

Accredited with Conditions – Schools with one or more school quality indicators at Level Three

Accreditation Denied – Schools that fail to adopt or fully implement required corrective actions to address Level Three school-quality indicators.

The following table summarizes overall school accreditation ratings for 2019-2020.

### State School Accreditation Summary

Accreditation Rating	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Accredited	1,682	92%
Accredited Pending Review of Alternative Plan	5	<1%
Accredited With Conditions	132	7%
New School	6	<1%
Total	1,825	100%

The 1,682 schools with an overall rating of Accredited include 61 schools with waivers from annual accreditation based on previous high performance that otherwise would have been rated as Accredited with Conditions.

Every school under the 2017 accreditation regulations — regardless of performance — must develop a multi-year plan to support continuous improvement on each school quality indicator. The revised accreditation standards require the following specific local and state actions to improve performance on each indicator:

Level One – School and division continue to monitor the indicator and the school’s multi-year plan for continuous improvement.

Level Two – School and division implement essential actions and research-based

strategies to improve performance on the indicator to Level One. If at Level Two for overall performance in English, mathematics or science, school must also undergo an academic review conducted by VDOE or under department guidance.

Level Three – School undergoes an academic review conducted by VDOE or under its guidance. School and school division – in consultation with VDOE – develop and implement a corrective action plan.

School divisions that do not demonstrate evidence of progress in adopting or implementing corrective action plans for a school or schools with indicators at Level Three will be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the local school board and the state Board of Education defining responsibilities and essential actions to improve performance.

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# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

## Saturday October 12, 2019

### 9:00 am-12:00 Noon

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- Automobile Fluids (motor oil, transmission fluids, antifreeze, etc).
- Lead acid Batteries, Computer Equipment, cell phones, printer cartridges

**ITEMS NOT TO BRING**

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# Grants awarded to develop a Regional Entrepreneur & Innovation Investment Strategy

The team of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) and the Longwood University Office of Community and Economic Development (LOCED) have been awarded a \$100,000 grant from GO Virginia to develop the Region 3 Entrepreneur & Innovation Investment Strategy (EII). By Spring 2020 this team will present a formal recommendation to the Region 3 Council on ways it can support and utilize its resources to invest in projects that improve business formation in the Region.

As early as July 2017, the Region 3 Council identified a number of innovation partners in its footprint and utilized these partners as part of its stakeholder group for input into the original Growth & Diversification Plan that was completed in 2017. In 2018 and in concert with the State GO Virginia Board and its technology consulting firm TEconomy, the Council created a standing Innovation Com-

mittee to lead stakeholder sessions on the TEconomy report, which resulted in an assessment of the status of innovation and business formation in the Region 3 footprint.

MBC and LOCED bring exceptional strengths to lead this effort. Each organization includes individuals with direct entrepreneurial experience. From Mid-Atlantic Broadband, this experience includes its deep connectivity with Microsoft and the Microsoft TechSpark Program and its staff engagement with innovation and entrepreneurship organizations outside the Region 3 footprint including Startup VA, Lighthouse Labs and RVA Works. For the Longwood Office of Economic and Community Development, its experience includes its leadership across the Region in supporting Community Business Launches, its deep and recognized business planning expertise through its Small Business Development Center, and its ex-

isting geographic coverage of the entire Region 3 footprint with staffing and programs. These two entities also bring a level of technical skills that are unique, including business research, mapping capabilities, and demonstrated use of electronic communication platforms to engage broad stakeholder audiences.

“It is exciting to see the breadth and depth of regional collaboration from these two experienced partners,” Region 3 GO Virginia Council Chairman Randy Lail said. “We are even more pleased that the State GO Virginia Board concurred with our recommendation to use the knowledge gained from the TEconomy report and advance it into a thoughtful strategy. We know that the lead partners will be engaging as many stakeholders as possible and will create a viable strategy for business formation that will also help us with talent retention and attraction, two areas of focus for our Regional Council.”

The MBC/LOCED team brings strong skillsets in project management, stakeholder engagement, event planning, research, business analysis, and entrepreneurial program management. Specifically, LOCED skillsets include a track record of successfully supporting Community Business Launches, analyzing business formation plans and scale-up plans, connecting entrepreneurs to diverse resources, and offering training and mentoring as part of its core competencies. Four of its team members are active entrepreneurs, bringing practical experience into this project. MBC’s team also includes individual entrepreneurs as well as a founding member of the Danville/Pittsylvania IDEA Fest pitch competition. MBC is also directly connected to a significant corporate partner, Microsoft, through its TechSpark program and through the SOVA Innovation Hub.

“The Regional Council has

high hopes that this project team will involve as many of our regional innovation partners as possible in developing this strategy,” said Region 3 Vice-Chairman Charley Majors. “Creative thinking, and building impactful partnerships is the way that rural Virginia can successfully create sustainable economies, and this is an example of rural leadership in action.”

“We are excited to be partnering with the Longwood team,” said Lauren Mathena, Project Manager for the EII Project. “And we are eager to use our resources to complement the knowledge that MBC brings to this effort,” said Sheri McGuire, Associate Vice-President for Longwood’s Office of Community & Economic Development. She continued “We believe that the deep resources of Region 3, and the partners who will help us with this planning effort, will result in a well-designed strategy for this Council to use.”

## Ten Oaks LLC

from page 1

platform,” Pierre Thabet, president of Boa-Franc, said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Company officials determined a successful candidate for that venture must meet several criteria, in part, it must be a good cultural fit, have a skilled workforce

and a good reputation, Thabet said. “We visited many locations. When we visited Ten Oaks, we found all the key elements,” he said.

The partnership will bring Ten Oaks into the same stable of brands as Mirage, among Boa-Franc’s best known products and widely recognized as the North American industry leader in prefinished engineered and solid hardwood flooring.

Ten Oaks, which manufactures solid wood flooring, will remain a viable entity, according to Williams and Adam Birkett, sales manager.

Boa-Franc’s products, while diverse, are “all focused on wood flooring so-

lutions,” Birkett said, adding that company’s products include solid prefinished flooring, engineered flooring and truck flooring that is installed in vans.

The partnership will provide the individual companies with an opportunity to learn new processes, officials said.

“We will be learning and finding opportunities to do things” together, Birkett said. “They bring a coordinating and complimentary knowledge to our own. I think they’re really going to bring a ton of expertise we’ve kind of had to spend time developing for ourselves, and bring a lot of knowledge for our operation.”

Thabet said he also does not anticipate initial changes.

He explained there is a two-year transitional period, and Boa-Franc will invest its time to “learn the people inside” of the local facility. He said he met local employees on Monday and all seem to be good people. “People are a very important part of our philosophy,” he added.

Also during that time, Thabet said upgrades to the company’s Information Technology (IT) and production systems are expected. “Then, we will decide to go forward. There is a learning curve.”

A release from Ten Oaks on Monday stated the company looks forward “to the many opportunities and synergies that will come along with this partnership. Ten Oaks and its employees will continue to

uphold the proud local tradition of turning our majestic Appalachian hardwoods into the world’s finest hardwood flooring.”

The Ten Oaks brand “is not getting absorbed or anything. We are still selling our products to our same customers” and working with the same suppliers, Birkett said, and stressed that change is not imminent.

A team from Boa-Franc was in Stuart for the closing on Monday, Birkett said. “They’re all flying back to Canada this (Monday) afternoon. There is no set time when they may be back here. Since Ten Oaks is a profitable situation, it will continue.”

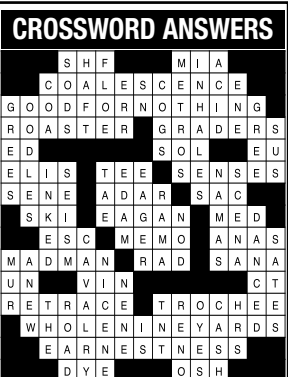
At some point in the future, Boa-Franc “will be sending down some new faces on investigative missions as we take steps forward and learn how we work

together on the back end of things, but on the front end, there are no changes,” Birkett said. He described ‘back end’ items as basically housekeeping issues.

Thabet said via telephone that Boa-Franc has been in business for 36 years. The Ten Oaks acquisition is marks the third acquisition in 22 years. Both of the others were successful ventures, and Thabet said he anticipates this one will be as well.

Spirit, respect, integrity, commitment and innovation are included among Boa-Franc’s values.

“It really is a good organization,” Birkett said. “My personal belief is that they have plan to see more things happening in Stuart, not less. They will be deliberate and take prudent steps, but I think the long-term goal is growth here in Patrick County.”



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**The Enterprise,**  
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Collinsville

## Economic initiative to meet

The Southern Virginia GO Region 3 Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 11:30 a.m., followed by a meeting of the full council starting at 1 p.m. The meetings will be held in the large first floor conference room of the Halifax County IDA, 1100 Confroy Drive in South Boston.

The meetings are public and for the purpose of conducting the regular business of the council, receiving reports from committees, hearing remarks from the Deputy Director of GO Virginia, and other routine matters of business. The Executive Committee and Council may elect to go into Executive Session for discussion about the Project Pipeline and personnel matters.

GO Virginia is the Commonwealth’s business-led economic development initiative. The mission of GO Virginia is to encourage collaboration among business, education, and government in each region, on activities that will enhance private sector growth and opportunity, economic competitiveness, and alignment of workforce development programs with the needs of the employers in the regions. GO Virginia is managed within nine regions of Virginia.

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

## STEP discusses continued funding with Griffith

Representatives with Solutions That Empower People, Inc. (STEP) recently met with US Congressman Morgan Griffith in his Christiansburg and Washington, D.C. offices to discuss continued funding for Head Start. STEP Director of Marketing and Communications Kris Landrum (l), along with Director of Early Childhood Education Shirley Wells (second from right) and Family Health Advocate Lori Pruitt (r) shared success stories about children and their families in STEP’s Stuart Head Start program. STEP’s Head Start program offers early childhood education and family services in its Stuart and Rocky Mount offices. Griffith represents the 9th Congressional District, which includes Patrick County.



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Second Annual Blues, Brews & Stews Set for Oct. 25

PIEDMONT ARTS

Blues  
Brews  
&  
Stews

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Friday, October 25, 2019

6 - 9 pm • Gravely-Lester Art Garden  
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Music by JoJo Stockton

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Piedmont Arts' second  
annual Blues, Brews &  
Stews brings live music, craft  
beer and homemade Bruns-  
wick stew to the museum's  
Gravely-Lester Art Garden  
on Friday, October 25, 2019  
from 6 – 9 pm.

"We're excited to bring  
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and Programs Coordinator  
Holly Burton. "We had such  
a great turnout last year, and  
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crowd at this event."

Blues guitarist and singer  
JoJo Stockton will perform  
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tive, today Stockton is one of  
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and state – including a re-  
cent opening gig for Delbert  
McClinton at Harvester Per-  
formance Center in Rocky  
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Guests can enjoy Bruns-  
wick stew, cornbread and  
water or tea, all included in

the ticket price. Please bring  
a lawn chair or blanket. No  
outside food or drinks. In  
case of rain, Blues, Brews &  
Stews will be held at Pied-  
mont Arts.

Admission to Blues,  
Brews & Stews is \$20 gen-  
eral admission and \$5 for  
ages 12 and under. Tickets  
are on sale now at Piedmont  
Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

Blues, Brews & Stews  
is sponsored by Burton &  
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Piedmont Arts is a  
nonprofit art museum in  
Martinsville that inspires  
and engages the diverse  
Martinsville-Henry County  
community and surround-  
ing areas through visual arts,  
performing arts and arts edu-  
cation. Piedmont Arts is lo-  
cated at 215 Starling Avenue,  
Martinsville. Museum hours  
are Tuesday – Friday from 10  
a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday  
from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ad-  
mission is free. Learn more  
at www.PiedmontArts.org.

Be mindful of deer on roadways

Fall ushers in more than a change of  
seasons—it's also the time when drivers  
encounter additional deer on roadways.

The deer migration and mating sea-  
son runs from October through De-  
cember, causing an increase in move-  
ment among Virginia's deer population  
and resulting in more collisions, with  
the heaviest amount in November.

In 2018 Virginia Farm Bureau Mut-  
ual Insurance Co. received 2,923 auto  
insurance claims related to collisions  
with deer, out of 105,203 personal,  
commercial and fleet auto policies. This  
is an increase from 2017, when there  
were 2,749 claims related to collisions  
with deer.

The claims led to more than \$9.4  
million in losses, with an average loss of  
\$3,245 per claim. There were \$8.1 mil-  
lion in losses in 2017.

"In the insurance industry, we con-

tinue to see more claims related to col-  
lisions with deer each year, especially  
during the fall and early winter," said  
Rick Mattox, senior vice president of  
claims for VFBMIC. "But it's impor-  
tant to remember that deer are a year-  
round problem and to stay watchful all  
year long."

VFBMIC claims data matches the  
October-through-December pattern,  
with the highest number of deer col-  
lision claims occurring in November.  
In 2018 there were 373 collisions with  
deer in October, 515 in November and  
367 in December, totaling 1,255 claims  
for the final quarter—almost half of all  
deer collisions claims for the year.

Drivers should travel slowly and be  
aware of their surroundings. When  
driving, keep your peripheral vision  
focused on the shoulders of the road  
for movement that might indicate the

presence of deer.

Deer are most likely to be seen at  
dusk and dawn near tree-lined road-  
ways or areas that transition from open  
fields to forest or water. Drivers must  
remember that deer are wild animals  
and often exhibit unpredictable behav-  
iors when on or near roadways.

Always slow down if you see a deer  
run across the road in front of you; it's  
likely that there are others following  
behind.

Deer crossing signs are posted to  
warn drivers that certain stretches of  
road are commonly populated with  
deer.

When driving after dark, use high-  
beam headlights to increase your range  
of vision. If you see a deer on or near the  
road, slow down immediately and do  
not swerve. Brake firmly, but keep the  
vehicle headed in a straight line.

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# SPORTS

## Bengals' Big Second Quarter Earns 'Gritty' Road Win



**Bassett Wide Receiver Demetrius Gill (1) breaks a tackle during Friday's 25-16 win over Patrick County in Stuart.**

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(STUART, Va.) – Bassett's football team had every intention of crashing the Homecoming Party in Stuart on Friday night, and a dominant second quarter allowed them to do just that in a 25-16 road win over Patrick County.

After a scoreless first quarter that saw both teams finding their footing, Kevon Smith ran the ball, Jaricous Hairston threw it, and Demetrius Gill caught it at a high level over 12 minutes, leaving the Cougars stunned and the Bengals full of swagger heading into halftime.

"We saw some things they were doing defensively and were able to take advantage of it," Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson said. "I feel like if we don't make mistakes, self-inflicted wounds, we are able to produce offensively. Those three drives in the second quarter were huge for us."

Smith finished the night with 119 yards, a touchdown and a two-point conversion on the ground, while Hairston added 37 yards rushing and a touchdown rushing to his 121 yards passing and one passing touchdown to Gill.

The trio of Smith, Hairston and Gill were supported by Simeon Walker-Muse and Elijah Stokes on the ground to create an offensive attack that was just too much for the Cougars over the course of the second quarter, which saw Bassett

outscore Patrick County 22-7.

The play of Hairston, a freshman, was particularly impressive in Stuart. Hairston scored on a 10-yard run and found Gill on a 69-yard pass for a score in the second quarter before engineering a crucial drive in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

"We have a young quarterback, a freshman, and we're expecting him to make plays that freshmen usually don't have to make at this point in their career. He's doing it," Johnson said. "We have confidence in our whole offense right now. What we're doing, guys are starting to really get it and buy in. They're starting to get confidence in themselves and that's a huge thing for us. We're confident in our O-line and our backs right now. Younger players are stepping in when they're called on and everyone is buying into their role."

The game wasn't all gravy for the Bengals, as the Cougars were able to mount a substantial challenge after the halftime break.

Bassett surrendered a long run for a touchdown and a field goal, cutting their lead to one score at 22-16 with eight minutes remaining.

"When we gave up that big long drive we could've given up a touchdown and we didn't," Johnson said. "We were able to hold them to a field goal and that was huge for us late in the game."

Keeping it on the ground over the next four minutes, Hair-

ston marched the Bengals into field goal position, where Freddi Lopez all but sealed the win with a perfect kick with just four minutes remaining in the game.

"We haven't attempted a field goal in my three years until that drive. We have a sophomore kicker, Freddi, who has a boot," Johnson said. "He does it every day in practice, that's what he works out for. If we got those three points, we felt like it was the game. It was a no-brainer and he put it right through the uprights. It was a gritty win for us."

The physicality shown in the final drive for Bassett left an impression on Patrick County head coach David Morrison.

"They've got some big, tough kids and they are a physical bunch. That was a great game," Morrison said. "I can't take anything away from Bassett, that is a great team and they played a well-fought game."

Now the Bengals (3-2), who sit above .500 for the first time under Johnson, must prepare for another run-heavy team in Halifax County (3-1) on Friday night.

"That is a hard-nosed, wing-T football team that is going to run the ball, run the ball, run the ball," Johnson said of Halifax County. "We have to be ready to come play. They have athletes along the lines and touching the ball. It's a really solid 4A football team and we're excited to get the chance to play them."



**Bassett quarterback Jaricous Hairston (6) throws a pass during Friday's 25-16 win over Patrick County in Stuart.**

### Bassett High School 25, Patrick County High School 16

BHS – 0 22 0 3 - 25

PCHS – 0 7 6 3 - 16

#### SCORING SUMMARY

##### SECOND QUARTER

9:49 – BHS – Kevon Smith 20 rush

(Kevon Smith 2 pt. rush)

6:49 – PCHS – Carson Merriman 1 rush

(Martin Morse PAT good)

4:38 – BHS – Jaricous Hairston 10 rush

(Freddi Lopez PAT good)

1:24 – BHS – Demetrius Gill 69 pass from Jaricous

Hairston (Freddi Lopez PAT good)

##### THIRD QUARTER

7:22 – PCHS - Will Sprowl 52 rush (2 pt. fail)

##### FOURTH QUARTER

8:23 – PCHS – Martin Morse 33 field goal good

4:13 – BHS – Freddi Lopez 28 field goal good

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

##### BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL

###### RUSHING

Kevon Smith 19 for 119, TD, 2pt.; Simeon Walker

Muse 7 for 70; Jaricous Hairston 7 for 37, TD; Elijah

Stokes 4 for 20; Armahn Walker-Muse 1 for 4. TOTAL:

38 for 250, 2 TD, 2pt.

###### PASSING

Jaricous Hairston 5/8 for 121, TD, INT.

###### RECEIVING

Demetrius Gill 5 for 121, TD.

##### PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

###### RUSHING

Dae'Shawn Penn 20 for 108; Will Sprowl 6 for 57, TD;

Jonny Crowell 6 for 31; Carson Merriman 10 for 18,

TD; John Williams 1 for 3. TOTAL: 43 for 217, 2TD.

###### PASSING

Will Sprowl 1/8 for 29.

###### RECEIVING

Dae'Shawn Penn 1 for 29.



**Bassett running back Simeon Walker-Muse (24) runs during Friday's 25-16 win over Patrick County in Stuart.**



**Bassett running back Kevon Smith (9) looks for an opening during Friday's 25-16 win over Patrick County in Stuart.**

PHOTOS BY HARRISON HAMLET

## Billy Martin Racing Fastest In Speedway Test

### Enterprise Staff Report

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) – When he won the 2016 ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway driving for Stuart-based Billy Martin Racing (BMR), 20-year Late Model Stock Car veteran Mike Looney said the race was a dream come true.

For Looney and BMR, 2019 has been a dream come true across an entire season.

The 87Va won 12 times at Motor Mile Speedway in Pulaski County this season, claiming the track championship for their efforts. Looney and his team also travelled enough across Virginia and North Carolina, with enough success, to finish runner-up in the 2019 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national points.

Now, the team has their eyes set firmly on a second grandfather clock trophy from Martinsville Speedway. Looney stood tall after a six-hour test session at Martinsville

Speedway on Thursday evening, setting up a run at the race win on October 5.

Looney toured the half-mile track in 20.088 seconds during the night portion of the test session under the lights and his time would be fast enough to break the track record set last year in qualifying by Stacy Puryear at a 20.100.

Looney spent most of the day in the top five on the speed charts and ended the night in the number one position but he and his team had to work hard to find the speed he was looking for.

"We played it too conservative the last couple of years," Looney said after testing. "We were really trying to stick to our old setup that we won with and we thought maybe it was a fluke that the following year we weren't that good at night. We come back last year and struggled again after the sun went down and we made our mind up last year when we left that we got to get our work gloves on and get busy."

Looney said he knew he was good during the day but knew he didn't have the right feel in the car to give his team the confidence they needed.

"We thrashed on that car today and we were good but we knew it just didn't have that feel I was looking for, that feel that I remember when we won," Looney said. "I think we changed every spring but the right rear, sway bar, track bar, bump stops, shocks, we threw everything in the trailer at it. My buddy Forrest Reynolds was floating me some tips from down at Concord. He was home building chassis today and this is a new car he built us and we've got 11 wins on it."

Craig Moore, a regular on the CARS Tour, found himself sitting second on the speed charts.

Behind Looney and Moore were a host of formidable challengers including defending Vir-

See The Fastest, page 9



PHOTO BY KEN CHILDS

**Mike Looney speaks to the media during Thursday night's test session at Martinsville Speedway.**



# Chief Favero: Magna Vista’s Head Coach Earns 100th Win

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(RIDGEWAY, Va.) – Magna Vista’s football program is not an old one. It is not loaded with a tradition or history other programs lean on.

For the last 12 seasons, however, head coach Joe Favero has established a new tradition for the Warriors, a tradition of consistency in winning and consistency in character.

On Friday night, with a 62-0 win over Martinsville, Favero was rewarded for his efforts on the practice field, in the film room, and on the sideline with his 100th win as the Chief of his tribe.

“I’m just proud of the way we’ve been able to put things together. We have had highs all the way to the top and our lows have not been very low,” Favero said. “I have to credit the dedication of the players and coaches. Every year we put out a quality product. I’ve been fortunate to have a great group of kids that have come through and they have worked as hard as we have pushed them.”

In those 12 years, Favero’s 100 wins have spanned six Piedmont District titles and two VISAA State Championships, won in back-to-back fashion in 2014 and 2015.

Favero recalled the state championship years as being de-

finied by selfless players willing to play their role in the brilliant physical theatre that was watching those teams.

When pressed for his favorite memory or game, it wasn’t a play or a win or a trophy that Favero pointed to, but rather the relationships he has formed with his players as they have grown into men with careers and families of their own.

“I’d say it’s all about the kids. The winning is a bonus,” Favero said. “I’ve been very fortunate to win a lot of games. There are kids that still reach out as they grow up and you keep up with them and their families. That is special. Then, there are relationships with assistant coaches and the community in trying to put out a good football team every year. We try to help develop quality kids that understand that dedication and hard work can take you a long way in life.”

Favero said that he learned a lot from his father John, who was head coach at Bassett from 1974 to 1981, but also from the coaches he played for and coached with along the way, pointing to Richard Savage as a big influence.

Now, as a head coach influencing up-and-comers in the coaching ranks, Favero has one key message for his assistants: Be yourself.

“Whenever I hire young



PHOTO BY HARRISON HAMLET

**Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero has created a culture of winning in Ridgeway, where players wear the Warrior logo on their helmet (pictured) with pride.**

guys the first thing I tell them is ‘be yourself.’ You can’t go and coach like somebody, you have to coach like you,” Favero said. “If you’re an in your face, intense coach, you can’t pretend to be a calm guy. Be yourself, you’ll find out what your philosophy is. The kids will see that and know who you are. I’ve tried to be who I am and have a good relationship with the kids. We’re all going to do this together, so let’s do things the right way and push ourselves.”

Favero noted that three of his assistant coaches have been

on the sideline with him for all 12 of his seasons at Magna Vista: Joe Fielder, who coaches defense, John Schlueter, who is an offensive assistant, and Drew Lowery, who brings intensity to the sideline while coaching special teams and linemen.

“Having the same coaches and everybody knowing their role and knowing what we’re trying to do has helped tremendously,” Favero said.

With the talent currently on the field for the Warriors (4-1) it is likely Favero will keep piling on the wins, and keep passing

the credit along to his players and assistants along the way.

Whenever there is a new face on the sideline at Magna Vista, they won’t be taking over a program short on tradition. They will be taking the clipboard from a head man driven to have success in the face of his own intense humility. They will be following in the footsteps of a man who has done more than put his stamp on the record books. They will be taking over from a legend in the Henry County community first, and on the field second.

## Warriors Too Much For Bulldogs

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(RIDGEWAY, Va.) – Martinsville head football coach Bobby Martin said last week he knew his team was in for a tough challenge when they visited Henry County to play Magna Vista on Friday night.

The Warriors lived up to their opponent’s billing, exploding for 42 first-half points in a 62-0 win over their rivals from the City of Martinsville.

Quarterback Dryus Hairston guided the Warriors’ early explosion, completing 12 of his 14 passes for 211 yards and four touchdowns to four different receivers.

“I thought we came out and played the way we needed to from the get go

The defense played great and tackled well,” Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero said. “Offensively, Dryus was in control the whole game and efficient in what we were doing. We were clicking early and that’s what you want.”

Hairston’s top targets included Ty Grant (two catches for 79 yards and a touchdown), Tyler Johnson (four catches for 44 yards), and Drew Sautoemma (four catches for 45 yards and a touchdown).

Magna Vista tailback Louis Taylor made the most of his eight carries, rushing for 74 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while catching one, as well.

“We never have a hard time pointing Louis towards the endzone,” Fa-

vero said. “He has a nose for scoring even when he doesn’t touch the ball a bunch.”

Despite the lopsided score, Martin felt his team has improved through his first five games as the head Bulldog.

“When you watch the tape, it wasn’t as bad as the scoreboard said,” Martin said. “We’ve made so many improvements in so many areas, but if you make one mistake against them, it all blows up.”

Martin pointed towards two plays in particular when describing how quickly things can turn against Magna Vista. First, a Tavion Gravely fumble recovery for a touchdown, then a Dekavis Preston punt return touchdown.

Martin felt his Bulldogs were in the right spot to recover the fumble and make the tackle on Preston, but couldn’t execute either play, expanding the Martinsville deficit.

“We’ve made progress, but it’s hard to measure on the scoreboard,” Martin said. “One mistake and a talented team like Magna Vista takes advantage of that.”

For Favero, the performance of his Warriors was a return to form after a loss to Franklin County. But, the 12th year head coach is looking for consistency from his team, which has manufactured dominant performances in Weeks One, Three, and Five, but has struggled in Weeks Two and Four.

“We need to fig-

ure out how to be great next week,” Favero said. “We’ve had running clocks against some good teams, but we need to improve consistency, our focus, and being ready to play.”

The win moves Magna Vista to 4-1 on the season as they prepare for a trip to Tunstall (0-4) this week.

“They play well at times and have good players they just make some mistakes that have hurt them,” Favero said of Tunstall. “They move the football and play good defense. I’m sure they’re looking for consistency and to improve. For us, it’s about continued focus and trying to get better. We still have a lot of things to work on need to stay focused and get better every week.”

Martinsville (0-5) will host Patrick County (2-3) this week as the Bulldogs search for their first win of the year against a Cougars running game that is firing on all cylinders.

“They’re fun to watch on film, they pound that rock,” Martin said of Patrick County. “It’s pretty to watch on film. That big boy (Dae’Shawn Penn) runs with authority and likes contact. He’s going to be a handful. Hopefully we can use our speed to put them in a bind. You can’t run from them, they’re going to line up and run at you. They’re going to challenge your manhood.”

MHS – 0 0 0 0 – 0  
MVHS – 21 21 13 7 – 62



## Like Looking in a Mirror

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(STUART, Va.) – At first glance, it might seem an odd comparison.

Bassett’s football team, coached by Brandon Johnson, runs a spread offense and an aggressive, blitzing defense.

Patrick County’s football team, coached by David Morrison, prefers to ground-and-pound their way to victory behind a beefy offensive line and fundamental defense.

The two schools have sparked up a rivalry of late, one born on the softball diamond and basketball court that has moved onto the football field.

With both coaches in their third season, Morrison and Johnson noted that looking across the field on Friday night in Stuart was a bit “like looking in the mirror” as Bassett won the game 25-16, spoiling the 50th Homecoming celebration for Patrick County.

“Patrick County is hungry, they’re in the same spot as us,” Johnson said. “Coach Morrison took over the same time I did, and we both took over the same kind of program, trying to build a culture. His guys fought hard on homecoming.”

Both teams feature underclassmen at quarterback. Both programs feature a brutally impressive running back. Both programs want more success than they’ve had in recent years. Both seem on the road to that success already and Morrison echoed the sentiment of his counterpart.

“To some extent, it is like looking in the mirror,” Morrison said. “He’s doing an excellent job up there. I’d love to have the same amount of success he’s had up to this point, but I understand the parallels between the programs. He’s a great coach and is doing things the right way.”

Johnson and Morrison both commented after the game that they felt like both teams were winners after a beautifully played game that saw just two turnovers between the teams.

“I think you just saw a battle between two programs that are building a culture and trying to grind out victories right now,” Johnson said. “I’m just glad we came out on the right side of that tonight.”

With the Bengals sitting at 3-2 and the Cougars 2-3 after their clash on Friday, the future looks bright for both teams.

Both coaches also noted that one thing rose above football for them – training young men for the gridiron of life.

“That’s exactly what we’re both striving for – to rebuild these programs and do it the right way, basing it on integrity and character,” Morrison said. “The quality of kids we’re trying to produce is definitely more important than the X’s and the O’s, and I can see that on their sideline, as well.”

As the rivalry continues to grow in football, the seemingly innocuous connection of a 2017 hire date for two head coaches could lead to more comparisons down the road between two proud programs on the road to success.

## The Fastest

from page 8

ginia Triple Crown championship winner and current Virginia Triple Crown points leader Peyton Sellers.

Despite Sellers speed, he has an eye on weather changes for next weekend that could change the handling of the cars.

“I didn’t know what to think earlier today,” Sellers said. “The track was really green the first hour or two hours. It had decent grip but it was like it was real hazy. This temperature right here is going to be more comparable to what we’re going to see next week. To go from 90 to 70 is a big transition. I think we learned more the last two hours than we’re going to learn the whole night.”

Two-time race winner and current runner-up in the Virginia Triple Crown points standings, Lee

Pulliam was fourth fastest among the 80-cars that took to the track.

The most dominant driver in last year’s ValleyStar Credit Union 300, Jr. Motorsports ace Josh Berry, was fifth fastest on the day.

Other notables included last year’s winner CE Falk who was eighth fastest, former winner Jason York, who was ninth, and NAS-CAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series regular Brennan Poole, who was 11th.

Around 80 cars are expected to return next weekend for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 and with just the top 20 being locked in by qualifying on Friday, October 4th, many teams will be searching for a spot in the race in the two heat races on Saturday evening to finish setting the field for the 200-lap main event on Saturday night.



PHOTO BY KEN CHILDS

**Mike Looney drives his Billy Martin Racing 87Va during Thursday night’s test session at Martinsville Speedway.**



# Looney Stands Tall in Testing for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300

Craig Moore is second on the speed chart as 80 cars took the track for practice before next week's race

2016 ValleyStar Credit Union 300 winner and 2019 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series National points runner-up Mike Looney stood tall after a six-hour test session at Martinsville Speedway on Thursday evening.

Looney toured the half-mile track at a 20.088 seconds during the evening portion of the test session under the lights and his time would be fast enough to break the track record set last year in qualifying by Stacy Puryear at a 20.100. Looney spent most of the day in the top five on the speed charts and ended the night in the number one position but he and his team had to work hard to find the speed he was looking for.

"We played it too conservative the last couple of years," Looney said after testing. "We were really trying to stick to our old setup that we won with and we thought maybe it was a fluke that the following year we weren't that good at night. We come back last year and struggled again after the sun went down and we made our mind up last year when we left that we got to get our work gloves on and get busy."

Looney said he knew he was good during the day but knew he didn't have the right feel in the car to give his team the confidence they needed.

We thrashed on that car today and we were good but we knew it just didn't have that feel I was looking for, that feel that I remember when we won. I think we changed every spring but the right rear, sway bar, track bar, bump stops, shocks, we threw everything in the trailer at it. My buddy Forrest Reynolds was floating me some tips from down at Concord. He was home building chassis' today and this is a new car he built us and we've got 11 wins on it."

Craig Moore, a regular on the CARS Tour, found himself sitting second on the speed charts at the end of the night and he was thankful for how well the car ran especially given that it was destroyed in the most recent CARS Tour event at Orange County Speedway back in August.

"We're just blessed to be here," Moore said after testing. "I tore my car up pretty bad at Orange County in the last CARS Tour race. Just been blessed to get this thing back together and had some awesome help from some awesome sponsors. We made some really good gains on it today and we weren't really that good when we unloaded. I feel like we have a really good game plan to come back with for next week."

Despite the speed, Moore isn't getting

ahead of himself for next weekend. He says he just wants to make the top 20 in qualifying and keep the fenders on his car.

"As long as we can qualify in the top 20, keep the fenders and doors on it and be there at the end of the race, I feel like anybody's got a shot to win it," Moore explained. "I feel like that's what the goal needs to be and I think we got a car that's capable of doing it. Being second today proved that. I feel like hopefully we've got a shot at it."

Behind Looney and Moore were a host of formidable challengers including defending Virginia Triple Crown championship winner and current Virginia Triple Crown points leader Peyton Sellers. Despite Sellers speed, he has an eye on weather changes for next weekend that could change the handling of the cars.

"I didn't know what to think earlier today," Sellers said. "The track was really green the first hour or two hours. It had decent grip but it was like it was real hazy. This temperature right here is going to be more comparable to what we're going to see next week. To go from 90 to 70 is a big transition. I think we learned more the last two hours than we're going to learn the whole night. We made decent adjustments and I feel pretty comfortable with our program right now."

Two-time race winner and current runner-up in the Virginia Triple Crown points standings, Lee Pulliam was fourth fastest among the 80-cars that took to the track today. The most dominant driver in last year's ValleyStar Credit Union 300, Josh Berry, was fifth fastest on the day. Other notables included last year's winner CE Falk who was eighth fastest, former winner Jason York was ninth and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series driver Brennan Poole was 11th.

Around 80 cars are expected to return next weekend for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 and with just the top 20 being locked in by qualifying on Friday, October 4th, many teams will be searching for a spot in the race in the two heat races on Saturday evening to finish setting the field for the 200-lap main event on Saturday night. With all of the format changes from single-car qualifying returning, fewer heat races and stage breaks in the feature, it could very well be one of the best ValleyStar Credit Union 300 races yet.

Tickets to the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200, the First Data 500 as well as the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Night Race at Martinsville Speedway can be purchased online at [www.martinsvillespeedway.com](http://www.martinsvillespeedway.com) or by calling 877. RACE.TIX.

# Connection

from page 1

farm where Bill grew up. In addition to his work at White Flint Farm, Bill is also the author of the novel Jim Wrenn and Organic Wesley."

The monthly events start with food and informal fellowship at 6 p.m., and the discussion begins at 7 p.m. and usually lasts an hour. While the brewery does not serve food, they sometimes have a food truck on-site, and guests are allowed to bring their own snacks or dishes to share.

Public Theology celebrated its one-year anniversary in June. Fr. Nicholas Hull of Christ Episcopal Church and Rev. Kameron Wilds of Smith Memorial United Methodist Church in Collinsville originally started the group as a ministry "to show

that Christ's love is not confined to our buildings," Hull said.

Each month, 25 to 35 people gather over pints of beer to explore life's big questions around a particular theme. Past topics have covered the relationship of the church to modern culture; women in ministry; immigration; and a panel discussion of religion and the medical field led by several local doctors.

Organizers encourage attendees to approach the sometimes controversial topics with "an open mind and heart." The group's Facebook page describes the events as an "open, inclusive, come-as-you-are crowd," with the aim of creating "community, not conflict."

"What started as a dream between two pastors who barely knew one another has grown into a faith community for many," Hull said.

"Kameron provided the initial idea and push to get this ministry going, but for me the idea was compelling, because we need to find a way of engaging people that may not be interested in going to a traditional Church," he said. "We cannot expect for people to magically appear in our pews ready to create community, so it makes sense to go somewhere untraditional, and even unexpected."

Those interested in learning more can see upcoming events on Facebook by searching PUBLIC Theology at Mountain Valley Brewing.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PUBLIC THEOLOGY

Photos from the PUBLIC Theology Facebook page show past gatherings at Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton.

# DRBA sets First Saturday Outing

**T. Butler**  
*Contributing writer*

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) invites you to participate in its First Saturday Outing on November 2 in Rocky Mount, Virginia: a 4.2-mile hike through the rare woodland communities of Grassy Hill Natural Area Nature Preserve.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at Gereau Center, 150 Technology Drive in Rocky Mount.

Coordinator for the outing is former DRBA Board member and avid hiker Ellen Jessee, who grew up in Rocky Mount viewing Grassy Hill out of her kitchen window, so she is thrilled to have it preserved as a Virginia Natural Area.

"I always wondered why it was called Grassy Hill, since it has always had a forest on it ever since I can remember. Now I know it was once a meadowland, but that must have been a very long time ago," she said.

Jessee promises that the

hike will begin at a leisurely pace through moderately steep terrain on the Slope Trail. Robin Davis, coordinator of DRBA's 2014 outing at the site, comments, "It's a very peaceful trail, with just the right amount of challenge for good exercise. It's well paced out, with some incline and some level, winding back and forth with lots of switchbacks, so you're not going straight up the hill." Once at the summit, the group will walk the East Loop Trail.

Jessee is correct about Grassy Hill's name. It was once open meadowland, probably sustained by fire. Today, however, only small openings in the oak-hickory forest occur near the hill's summit. The three-mile-long ridge, a prominent landmark in western Rocky Mount, is now covered with a dense canopy of mainly hardwoods, dotted with rocky outcrops.

The thin, magnesium-rich soil on Grassy Hill supports rare plant com-

munities, which helped to spur the 1,300-acre site's preservation in 1999. Open areas in the forest hold remnants of these sun-loving wildflowers, such as grass-leaf blazing star and glade wild quinine. Prescribed burns, forest thinning, and invasive species control are among the stewardship activities employed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to maintain and restore the preserve.

Participants in the outing are asked to bring lunch, water, and hiking poles and wear hiking boots or walking shoes. They should dress in layers of synthetic fabric or wool, and be prepared for wind or rain. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver.

For more information, contact Jessee at 276-734-1317 or email [ejessee.pls@comcast.net](mailto:ejessee.pls@comcast.net)

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).



The Dan River Basin Association's Nov. 2 hike at Grassy Hill Nature Preserve in Rocky Mount is free and open to the public.

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