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Oktoberfest attracts thousands to Martinsville

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

An estimated 8,000 people filled the streets of uptown Martinsville on Saturday, October 5 for Oktoberfest.

It was the 40th anniversary of the free street festival, and “one of our best,” said Kimberly Keller, Uptown Entrepreneurial Development Manager for the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

“We have heard many, many great comments about the large number of individuals who attended the festival, and the wide

variety of things to do at the event,” she said.

Oktoberfest takes its name from a two-week-long beer and folk festival celebrated in southern Germany, so the Martinsville event featured some food and music with a German theme. One DJ played authentic Oktoberfest music, Keller said, along with more modern music in the beer garden set up in the Bridge Street parking lot. The B99.9 country music station also played near the kids’ activities on Broad Street.

“Attendees commented about having the best of both worlds,” Keller said.

Festival-goers competed in lip sync and dancing contests, where they could win Uptown Bonus Bucks to spend at shops in uptown Martinsville. The event also featured kids’ activities, a mime artist, and numerous vendors selling art, crafts, holiday decorations, jewelry and more. Food for sale ranged from German specialties to traditional festival fare like funnel cakes, BBQ, hamburgers, hotdogs, ice cream, snow cones, fish, chicken, and coffee.

“Oktoberfest is always

See **Oktoberfest**, page 7



The face painting booth run by New Life Community Church was a popular spot for kids during Oktoberfest on Saturday.



Tenzi Chacha poses with clothing and accessories from her fashion line, TENZI Design, which she started to empower women in rural Tanzania. These items will be showcased in a fashion show as part of the Festival of Hope fundraiser on Oct. 19.

Festival of Hope to be held at PHCC, proceeds to benefit City of Hope

By Kim Barto Meeks
Martinsville native Tenzi Chacha is using her love of fashion to empower African women.

Chacha’s TENZI brand features clothing and accessories made out of authentic East African fabric and sewn by women from remote villages in Tanzania. The project provides vocational training to the women as well as much-needed income to support their families, she said.

Her designs of colorful dresses, blouses, scarves, purses, and bow ties will be showcased and sold at an upcoming fundraiser for the City of Hope. The Festival of Hope will be held 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Walker Theater on the campus of Patrick Henry Community College.

In addition to the fashion show, the event will include African dancing, singing, and

See **Hope**, page 6

Retired animal control officer to lead SPCA

Kim Barto Meeks
Contributing writer

As the city of Martinsville’s Animal Control Officer for the past nine years, E.C. Stone has been a “champion for the voiceless animals of our community,” he said. Now, he will continue working on behalf of animals in his new role as Executive Director of the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA.

Stone is retiring this month after 20 years with the Martinsville Police Department and will begin his duties at the SPCA effective Oct. 21. He succeeds Leslie Hervey, who has filled the position on an interim basis since the beginning of the summer.

The search committee selected Stone out of 20 qualified local and national applicants, said SPCA Board

President Tiffany Smart.

“We are elated to announce that E.C. has accepted this position,” Smart said. “E.C.’s community outreach and interpersonal skills, along with a clear passion he demonstrated for our mission, were key strengths. His experience in humane animal care and his strong ties to the public will undoubtedly provide us with important insight into the challenges faced in our area and how we can better assist families in need.”

Stone comes to the SPCA with extensive experience in animal welfare, shelter operations, and budget management. His work has garnered numerous awards, including the Virginia Humane Society Humanitarian of the Year, SPCA Director’s Award, SPCA Above and Beyond Award, No-Kill MHC Collaboration Award, Kiwanis

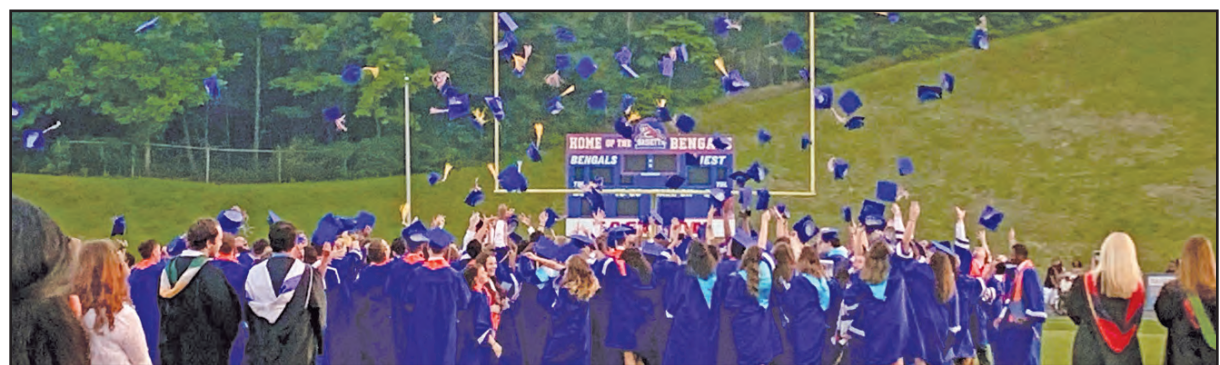


Club Officer of the Year, and Martinsville Police Officer of the Year. He has also served on the Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) Board for five

years.

Stone describes himself as “a pretty big dog person.” Even before he moved from the patrol division to animal

See **SPCA**, page 5



Improved Graduation Rates for Class of 2019

Data recently released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) shows Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) on-time graduation rate for 2019 at 89.8 percent. A notable improvement in achievement was made by African American students.

More than eight out of every 10 students who started at Bassett and Magna Vista high schools in the fall of 2015 earned a diploma in 2019, with 40 percent of HCPS graduates earning an Advanced Studies diploma.

African American students experienced increases in graduation rates, from 84 percent in 2018 to 92.8 percent in 2019, data showed.

“We are so proud of each of our graduates and the great things they are going out into the world to do,” said Superintendent Sandy Strayer. “Our goal is to continue to facilitate the most appropriate path to a successful future for each student based on his/her needs so that every student who leaves Henry County Public Schools is college, career and citizenship ready.”

Martinsville City School officials could not immediately be reached for comment, but across Virginia, more than nine out of ten students who entered the ninth grade in 2015 earned a diploma within four years, the VDOE reported. More than half — 51.5 percent — of the students in the class of 2019 graduated with an advanced diploma.

Of the 98,413 students in the class of 2019, 91.5 percent earned a Board of Education-approved di-

See **Graduation**, page 5

Harvest partners on new training simulator for local law enforcement



Debbie Kaczor (left), executive director of the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, is pictured with DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation. The training academy received a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! grant to purchase a new training simulator program for local law enforcement agencies.

The Harvest Foundation is partnering with the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy to bring a MILO Range M-SATS Interactive Mobile Situational Awareness Training Simulator system to the region.

The MILO Range M-SATS Interactive Mobile Situational Awareness Training Simulator is a training simulator that is a comprehensive solution designed to allow trainers the ability to give presentations and classes, conduct interactive testing and assessment and provide immersive hands-on scenario-based exercises with detailed debriefing and after-action review. The Harvest Foundation provided \$10,000 through a Pick Up the Pace Grant! to help purchase the system.

“This is an additional tool in the toolbox for our local law enforcement to use in training and retaining the very best talent possible for our community,” said DeWitt House, senior

program officer at The Harvest Foundation. “It’s also an effective resource in educating the community about the tough decisions our local officers face every day on the job. We’re eager to see this new training tool be put to use in Martinsville-Henry County.”

The training simulator is designed to increase trainee knowledge, skills and confidence in a safe, challenging environment that is highly interactive and engaging, according to Debbie Kaczor, executive director of the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy.

“This system in its entirety will provide multiple avenues of training with

See **Harvest**, page 2



Local Marijuana Grow Operation Has Florida Ties, Authorities Said

An ongoing investigation into the manufacturing and distribution of marijuana netted substantial results recently, when authorities executed a narcotics search warrant at 8030 Virginia Ave., Bassett on Oct. 4.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office VICE and Street Crimes Units found an alleged indoor marijuana growing operation capable of producing millions of dollars' worth of marijuana. The unoccupied home allegedly is solely used for the illegal cultivation of marijuana, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

The home allegedly had been converted into a greenhouse environment, complete with elaborate, sophisticated grow light systems, heating and cooling systems, hydroponic fertilization systems, carbon dioxide enhancers and ventilation systems. The home also is alleged to contained equipment used in the harvesting and processing of marijuana.

Authorities seized 409 marijuana plants in varying growth stages, from seedling to recently harvested, along with approximately 20 pounds of marijuana buds that were ready for distribution, a release stated.

The approximate street value of the seized narcotics is more than \$1.3 million, the release stated.

Authorities also found the home belongs to an individual who is believed to live in Miami, Fla. The Sheriff's Office is working to locate the owner and the matter remains under investigation.

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



When executing a search warrant at this home in Bassett, authorities seized marijuana with an estimated street value of \$1.3 million.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HENRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Authorities found an elaborate indoor marijuana grow operation at a home in Bassett while executing a search warrant. The owner of the home is believed to be in Miami, Fla., authorities said. Liquid chemicals/fertilizers, grow lights, irrigation and other systems were used in various parts of the house.

Students Harvest Produce for Brighter Future Carlisle School Celebrates New Tower Garden



Back L-R: Gracie Agnew (Head of School), Judy Epperly (Garden Study Club), Kim Snyder (Martinsville Garden Club), Abdull Alfahd, Ann Vaughn Martin, Lielle Hoyer, Elle Hoyer, Marie Hoyer, Ken Vickers, Sherry Mochler (STEAM Coordinator), David Good
Front L-R: Suri Holland, Harmon McClain, Lucy McClain, Grace Anderson, Will Anderson

predictions, collecting data, record keeping, and performing data analysis; all centered around the Tower Garden. Sherry Moschler, STEAM Coordinator for Carlisle School, said that the Tower Garden keeps young students more engaged in the learning process because aeroponic gardening is so efficient. "It grows produce 30% faster and also uses just 10% of the water that would be needed for traditional agriculture methods," she stated.

Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize donors, students helped kindergarten teacher Margaret Burkhardt test the pH of the tower's nutrient solution and then harvested the first crop of greens. In addition to using the Tower Garden as a learning tool, students are also able to enjoy the produce at the dining hall's cafeteria salad bar. Cafeteria Director, Sarah Marshall and several teachers all observed that students who usually shy away from the salad bar were eager to try out the freshly harvested greens today.

Carlisle's Tower Garden was made possible by donations from Ken Vickers and Ann Vaughn Martin, the Garden Study Club, and the Martinsville Garden Club. Vickers said, "Ann and I are delighted to be able to support the STEAM program at Carlisle School, which now includes the Tower Garden. We are also pleased to dedicate this endeavor in honor of our granddaughters Elle & Lielle Hoyer."

Kim Snyder, First Vice

President of the Martinsville Garden Club said, "It is our hope that the skills the children learn from caring for the Tower Garden will encourage them to grow gardens and appreciate the beauty of nature in the future."

According to Judy Epperly, President of the Garden Study Club, "It was truly exciting to see Carlisle students harvesting greens from the Garden Tower this morning and see their delight in delivering greens they had nurtured to be used in their lunches today."

The Martinsville Garden Club and the Garden Study Club are two of the 47 member clubs that make up the Garden Club of Virginia which celebrates its centennial year this year. The Garden Club of Virginia was actually Virginia's first environmental conservation organization. Snyder said, "We feel that it is vital for our organizations to educate future generations to learn to conserve and care for our environment. The Tower Garden achieves this purpose."

An informative video of the first harvest is available on the school website at carlisle-school.org/towergarden.

Carlisle School is an independent college preparatory school that provides a positive, safe environment for academic excellence and character development while embracing diversity and preparing our students to become leaders as citizens in a global society. Additional information can be found at www.CarlisleSchool.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
16				17					18		
19			20					21			
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25	26	27	28			29			30		
31			32		33		34			35	
36				37		38			39		40
	41				42			43		44	
		45				46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53		
54		55			56				57	58	59
60					61				62		
63					64				65		
66					67				68		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Fertile desert spots
 - 6. Married woman
 - 9. Some animals travel in one
 - 13. Fear
 - 14. Hawaiian island
 - 15. Fit to work
 - 16. Electronic counter-countermeasures
 - 17. Former Senator Specter
 - 18. Cambodian currency
 - 19. Dave Matthews Band hit
 - 21. Lists ingredients
 - 22. Endangered antelope
 - 23. Jerry's TV partner
 - 24. Blue grass state
 - 25. Obstruct
 - 28. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
 - 29. Fencing swords
 - 31. Oh, heavens!
 - 33. Insensitive to changes in price
 - 36. Hillsides
 - 38. Brew
 - 39. Gland secretion
 - 41. A typical example
 - 44. Get up
 - 45. You put it on your pasta
 - 46. Expresses surprise
 - 48. News organization
 - 49. Disorder of the lungs (abbr.)
 - 51. One millionth of a gram
 - 52. Some are of the "suit" variety
 - 54. Group of organisms
 - 56. Produces
 - 60. Passage into a mine
 - 61. ___ and cheeses
 - 62. Semitic fertility god
 - 63. Dry or withered
 - 64. Religious ceremony
 - 65. ___ Winger, actress
 - 66. German river
 - 67. Midway between northeast and east
 - 68. Take something or
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Lyric poems
 - 2. Genus of saltwater crabs
 - 3. Ingroup
 - 4. Type of lounge chair
 - 5. Memory card
 - 6. Archipelago
 - 7. Common Korean surname
 - 8. It's up there
 - 9. Quantity that helps to define ecclesiastical year
 - 10. First month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year
 - 11. Metal-headed golf club
 - 12. A shade of green
 - 14. Begin
 - 17. A good thing to have
 - 20. Language spoken in Laos
 - 21. Loosely compacted sediment
 - 23. Naturally occurring protein
 - 25. Woman
 - 26. Central Indian city
 - 27. Volcanic craters
 - 29. The largest existing land animals
 - 30. Rumanian city
 - 32. Equal to 10 meters
 - 34. Historic Nevada city
 - 35. A point of transition
 - 37. Remove
 - 40. Overwatch character
 - 42. Records electric currents linked to the heart
 - 43. Settles in calmly
 - 47. Partner to his
 - 49. Banking giant
 - 50. Slowly disappeared
 - 52. End
 - 53. Sword with a v-shaped blade
 - 55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
 - 56. Wild cherry tree
 - 57. Traditional Japanese socks
 - 58. Make of your hard work
 - 59. Stony waste matter
 - 61. Woman (French)
 - 65. Unit of loudness

This fall, students at Carlisle School have a new opportunity for hands-on educational experiences. Through the support of generous donors, the school has purchased a Tower Garden aeroponic growing system. Aeroponics is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium.

The Tower Garden system is an essential part of Carlisle's school-wide STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) initiative and allows students in grades PK-12th to study plant science, sustainable agriculture, and food production through interactive lessons. Throughout the year, students will grow academically by making

Harvest

from page 1

both verbal and non-verbal skills and can strengthen and improve appropriate criminal justice responses to different situations," she said.

Kaczor said she believes this type of training system will provide invaluable training to local agencies to adequately prepare and reinforce those skills that are commanded in their jobs, and best help them serve local citizens.

"With the ability for the public to utilize the system during Criminal Justice events," Kaczor added, "it will also provide them the opportunity to be in the same situations of-ficers are trained, giving everyone more transparency and understanding. It can be used as a tool to enhance public trust and confidence in the personnel who serve their communities."

Other partners for the program include the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region and local law enforcement agencies. The training academy serves 13 different criminal justice agencies, including Patrick County, Martinsville and Henry County, Pittsylvania County, Danville City, Gretna and Chatham.

The Harvest Foundation's Pick Up the Pace! grants program is a competitive, small grants program designed to engage people and organizations in sparking innovative ideas, collaborations and change in Martinsville and Henry County. These six-month grants for up to \$10,000 are available for application year-round. To find out more, visit www.theharvestfoundation.org or call (276) 632-3329.

Big IDEA Challenge Returns



What's the Big IDEA? Every year, Patrick Henry Community College challenges local residents to do something big with their great ideas.

Anyone who has an idea for a new product or technology can bring their ideas to life and vie for a prize package valued at over \$5,000. In this 30-day competition, participants will have access to professional product-development guidance and the high-tech prototyping technologies available in the col-

lege's FabLab. As participants' products or technologies start taking shape, they will compete against each other for a product-developer prize package.

Entrepreneurs, individuals, and duos (teams of two) can apply. The deadline to submit a product or technology idea is Friday, October 18. The 30-day challenge begins on Oct. 22.

"With every Big IDEA Challenge we've hosted, I am increasingly amazed at the

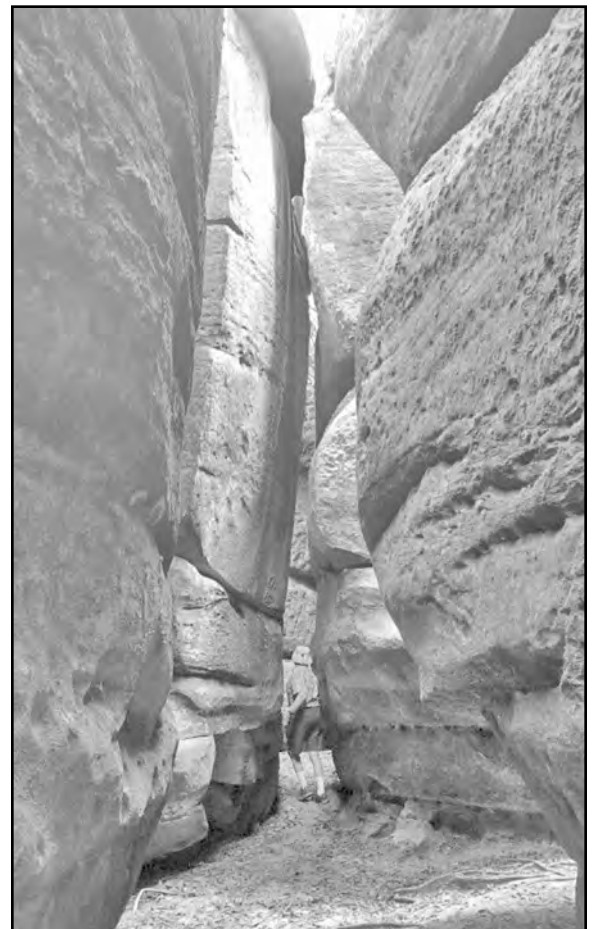
talent and ingenuity in Martinsville and the surrounding area," says Community Development Coordinator Matt Ratliff. "While our previous winners are working to patent their products and develop them into business concepts, I'm ready to see another group of creative community members begin realizing their potential."

Up to ten entries - individuals or teams of two - are chosen to participate. Those accepted receive one-on-one

mentoring, specialized training, free access to the Fab Lab (a fabrication laboratory is a space equipped for product prototyping and visualization), and design assistance.

At the end of training, participants pitch their product ideas to a panel of judges. The winner receives three months of free access to the Technology Accelerator, a space designed to help anyone develop an idea into a marketable product or business. Winners also receive continued design assistance, additional mentoring, as well as free media and promotional opportunities.

For more details, call the IDEA Center at 276-656-5461 or email Ratliff at mratliff@patrickhenry.edu. Applications are available online at www.patrickhenry.edu/wf/idea-challenge or at the Dalton IDEA Center, located at 26 Fayette St. in Uptown Martinsville. Entry and participation in the challenge is free. All intellectual property and equity remain with the entrepreneur teams and individuals.



Pictured in Mervyn King walking between huge rocks.

A Memorable Anniversary Adventure

What do an 81 year old woman and an 85 year old man do on their 59th anniversary?

If they are Mervyn and Virginia King, they may hike ten miles in the mountains to a phenomenal rock formation in southwest Virginia.

"We were looking for a camping and hiking adventure. Boy did we ever find one," Virginia King wrote. After camping one night and hiking at Hungry Mother State Park, the Kings drove on to a campground on the North Fork of the Holston River, near Abingdon.

"We learned about the Great Channels on Onlyinyourstate.com," Virginia King wrote. "They are highly impressive sandstone formations in the Clinch Mountains dating back 400 million years. As the website states, 'If you're in search of a Virginia trail that's unlike anything else you've ever experienced, you'll be excited to discover the trek through the Channels.'"

Different Internet

postings indicated the trail was 6 miles round trip, a gradual incline for about 1,000 feet that is well marked, Virginia King wrote.

"We thought, 'We can do that,'" she wrote, adding that "What we didn't know until after the fact, (was) that there are two trails to the Channels. When we drove to the trailhead marked the Channels Trail, we thought we were on the right track," she wrote.

"Actually, it was the first trail developed in 2004. It was ten miles long round trip, not well marked with a 2,600 feet climb. A few years ago, a second trail was cut," Virginia King wrote, adding that is the 6 mile trail the couple thought they were on.

The Kings determined to follow the trail they were on, and "we made it, with some spectacular pictures, sore legs and a tale to tell," Virginia King wrote. "We are looking for our next adventure, but not one this strenuous," she added.

STEP Into Christmas Homes Announced

Homes to be featured in STEP Into Christmas, a home tour fundraiser for Solutions That Empower People (STEP), have been announced and include five historic homes in the Claiborne Avenue neighborhood in Rocky Mount. The tour will be held December 7, 1-5 p.m. Tickets are available online now.

The Claiborne Avenue neighborhood, which includes High Street, has a long history in Rocky Mount. Included in the tour are two homes, built in the late 1800s which have been renovated to become a bed and breakfast and a guest house; a large home which once served as a well-known medical center, and an all metal "Lustron" home. In addition to the five homes, the tour will include a brief stop at the historic High Street Cemetery. The tour homes will each be decorated in styles unique to their owners.

"Ticket holders will have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to see first-hand the inside of some of Rocky Mount's most distinctive historic homes," said Marc Crouse.

"People who take the tour will be able to see parts of homes not often open to the general public. They will hear about their history and stories about the families who have lived there. It's going to be a very fun afternoon."

The homes included in this year's tour are owned by David and Kimberly Lang (220 Claiborne Ave.); Jim and Diane Lovell (Earth Environmental at 235 Claiborne Ave.); Amy and Matthew Vann (The Claiborne House at 185 Claiborne Ave.); Glenna and Larry Moore (The Angle Guest House at 215 Claiborne Ave.); and Dr. Richard and Teresa Harrell (an all-metal "Lustron" home at 170 High St.). The event will also feature strolling Christmas carolers and seasonal refreshments at the Franklin Center at 50 Claiborne Ave.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the tour. They can be purchased online through Eventbrite.com (search for STEP Into Christmas Home Tour) now and at several local retailers at a later date. Tickets can also be reserved by calling 540-

483-5142, ext. 3003.

Presenting sponsors for the event include Carter Bank and Trust, Mt. Regis Center, PAC Interiors, ReMax Lake to Mountain Realty, and the Franklin County Office of Economic Development - Tourism. Other sponsors include Bassett Office Supply, El Rio Mexican Grill, Innovative Insurance Group, Ippy's, Mid-Atlantic Data & Communications, Valley Star Credit Union, American National Bank, Appalachian Power, Arrington Enterprises, Choice Communications, Collinsville Printing, Hawk Advisers, Haywood Jewelers, Kroger, Member One Federal Credit Union, RRS Food Service, STEP Board of Directors, Virginia Office and Church Supplies,

Willard Insurance Agency, and William White, CPA.

With offices in Rocky Mount, Stuart, and Martinsville, STEP offers services to low income and people in poverty in those areas as well as Bedford and Danville. Funds raised during the tour will help support these programs: Early Head Start and Head Start; youth services (LIFES Academy and Project Discovery); senior services (Meals on Wheels, transportation); supportive services (re-entry, homelessness prevention); housing and weatherization; and financial services (tax preparation assistance). STEP's mission is to empower people to overcome barriers to economic, educational and developmental success within the communities it serves.



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:

- Martinsville: from 2:30 to 4 p.m., City of Martinsville Municipal

- Building, Conference Room #32, Lower Level, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

- 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.

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

Be sure to "Like" the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook.

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TIME: 4 to 8 PM

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- Carter Bank & Trust • Steve Martin's Trenching, Inc.
- Dillon Insurance Agency, Inc. • Jeff's Auto Parts • Auto Rehab
- Daniel's Auto Glass • Chad's Auto Sales • Service Printing
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- Bassett Physical Therapy • Martin's Auto Body & Restoration

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OPINION

Rives Theatre memories

I'm writing this column on Sept. 9, 2019, one day after the fire that claimed The Rives Theatre. The Rives holds a special place in my heart and I'd like to share some memories from my time working there.

I graduated from college in 2007, right before The Great Recession hit, during one of the bleaker economic periods in Martinsville and Henry County's history.

Being a newly-minted college graduate entering the workforce in 2007 was sort of like jumping from a plummeting airplane armed only with an umbrella: You don't regret bringing the umbrella, but you doubt it will make much difference.

I started out applying for jobs at a number of places I was interested in, and then I applied for jobs at places I wasn't interested in, and then I applied for the worst jobs I could find. Unfortunately, I soon found that you needed five years of experience and a reference from the Dalai Lama just to get a job scrubbing floors at a slaughterhouse. Like so many before me, I nearly considered doing the unthinkable: I almost went to graduate school.

Thankfully, fortune smiled upon me in October of 2007. The Rives Theatre, which had been dormant for a bit, was going to re-open with funding from The Harvest Foundation and be operated through the Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association. I applied for a job at the Rives and some-

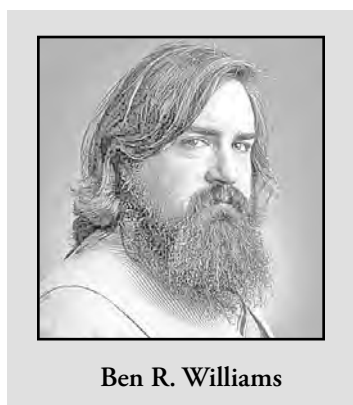
how managed to snag it, and by the time 2008 rolled around, I was the manager. I worked there through May 2009.

During this window of time, the Rives was operating as a second-run movie theater. Sometimes this worked out fantastically – for example, I managed to snag “No Country for Old Men” right about the time it got nominated for eight Academy Awards and won four of them. It ended up being our second most successful movie during my tenure (the first was “Twilight,” which I'm still bitter about).

At other times, it was difficult, because a movie that did gangbusters during its first run would sometimes be tanked by bad word-of-mouth by the time I was able to get my hands on it (looking at you, “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”).

One of my favorite parts of the job was getting to operate the monolithic 35mm projectors. Today, your local movie theater doesn't run 35mm anymore. While some movies are still shot on film, that film is converted to a digital file, put on an encrypted hard drive, and then shipped to the movie theater. Do you remember the last time you went to the movies and the picture was out of focus or the movie cut out halfway through? I'm betting it's been more than five years, because the new digital technology is virtually foolproof.

35mm is not foolproof. It is wildly susceptible to fools.



Ben R. Williams

Our 35mm films would arrive by courier early in the week. The courier would drop off two or three heavy film cans that usually contained between five and seven reels of film, depending on the length of the movie. Using something called a “build table,” which was basically a table with a motorized spindle that would turn the reels, I would feed the reels onto a giant horizontal platter next to the projector, connecting each reel end-to-end with special tape. The completed film was enormous, about as big around as one of those \$100 party pizzas with a name like “The Widowmaker.”

Once the movie had been built, it would have to be threaded through the projector. This was easier said than done.

The film would have to run through a series of pulleys on the platter, up another series of pulleys to reach over to the projector, run through an elaborate sequence of gears and gates within the projector, and then down to another series of pul-

leys that would guide the film back onto a different platter.

If any one of those pulleys or gears or gates didn't work properly, or if you accidentally put too much tension on the film at one spot or not enough at another spot, it would be an absolute disaster. The film would tie itself into a knot, or it would snap and pool on the floor, or it would get stuck and melt in front of the hot projector bulb. During my first couple of months at the Rives when I was learning how to thread film by trial and error, I sometimes thought I could actually hear my ulcer growing.

Compared to digital, 35mm is a prehistoric format. It's burdensome to use, it introduces all kinds of pops and scratches into the movie, and it can easily fail.

I miss it tremendously.

Even ten years ago, it was becoming difficult to lay hands on a number of 35mm films, especially weird older titles I wanted to show as midnight movies, so we invested in a digital projector that could display Blu-Ray movies. On one occasion, a guy asked for a refund because he had been expecting a battered old 35mm print, not a crisp, perfect Blu-Ray.

As I've grown older, I've gained an appreciation for his viewpoint. I enjoy listening to music on vinyl. I work on pinball machines as a hobby. I recently acquired a free 16mm projector that I use to watch old cartoons.

An MP3 will usually sound cleaner than vinyl, a pinball machine can't hold a candle to a Playstation 4, and a 35mm film will look pretty rough next to a digital movie displayed in 4K HDR.

However, when these older technologies are working the way they're supposed to, there's something almost magical about them, something that goes beyond nostalgia, something that functions almost like a time machine.

One of the most surreal experiences I ever had at the Rives occurred in December of 2007. We had gotten an old print of “Home Alone,” and as I screened it in the little theater to make sure I had spliced everything correctly, I felt myself transported back in time to 1990, when six year old me had sat in that very same theater watching that very same movie.

In the wake of the fire at the Rives, I've heard so many comments from people about their favorite Rives Theatre memories. People talk about what it was like to see “Batman” there back in '89 when the line wrapped around the block, or what it was like to catch the midnight showing of “Star Wars: Episode 1” back in '99. While I was working at the Rives, one older gentleman even told me he remembered seeing “Gunga Din” there in 1939.

No matter what the future holds for The Rives Theatre, those memories and so many more will remain indelible.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday October 15

Virginia Organizing: is a non-partisan statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. The group will have a meeting 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

Martinsville Public Library: Tai Chi class every Tuesday, starts at 11:15 a.m. until 12 p.m., open to the public

Martinsville Public Library: “Crime Scene Investigation” talk in partnership with Martinsville Police Department, starts at 5:30 p.m., free event open to the public, limited space

Wednesday October 16

Martinsville Public Library: Line dancing class every Wednesday, starts at 10 a.m., free event open to

the public

Variety Ride: Henry County Bike Club invites everyone to join them every Wednesday for a ride on the Smith River Trail System, lights are required to ride, contact for locations and times

Thursday October 17

Martinsville Public Library: Book Bingo, starts at 2:30 p.m., open to the public

Creative Corral: Every Thursday at the Mountain Valley Artisan Barn, start at 6 p.m., musicians and instruments welcome, different craft each week

Friday October 18

Martinsville Public Library: Line dancing class every Friday, starts at 10

a.m., free event open to the public

Ride 'n' Dine: Every Friday, Henry County Bike Club meets at Liberty Street access point to Dick and Willie Trail for a ride and refuel at a local eatery, check Facebook for times.

BASSETT JAMBOREE, HJDB Event Center: Jam Session from 6 to 7 p.m., the featured band ‘MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY’ will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. The Gospel Tones will also perform that morning at 10 a.m. Dancers welcome. Concessions Available. Admission \$5 donation. Call 276-358-0489 for more information. 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, (old Bassett High School).

Saturday October 19

Martinsville Public Library: Family Friendly movie with popcorn provided, starts at 11 a.m. un-

til 1 p.m.

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church: (725 Beechnut Lane) McAllister Lecture Series with guest speaker Dr. Alan Snyder, starts at 9a.m. to 1:30 p.m., lunch will be provided.

Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In: 4- 8 p.m. Bassett Furniture Ind. Parking Lot, downtown Bassett.

Hundreds of classic cars, Modified and late model race cars on display as well as some “old-time” champion drivers. Food Drive for Grace Network (cans only).

Monday, October 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.

Friday October 25

Spencer - Penn Centre: Painting 6-9 p.m. for a fall themed canvas. All supplies will be provided. Pre-registration and payment required. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Please call (276) 957-5757.

Saturday, October 26

Spencer- Penn Centre : Vera Bradley Bingo 5 p.m. with concessions available and games begin at 6 p.m. Join us for fun and great prizes. Questions please call (276) 957-5757.

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

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Unopposed incumbents seek support in Nov. 5 election

Corey Thompson
Contributing writer

Incumbents Scott B. Grindstaff and Linda N. Love are among those up for reelection. Both are unopposed in their respective bids for Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue.

Grindstaff, 56, is currently in his 20th year of service to Henry County.

Since assuming office, Grindstaff said he has done his best to simplify and streamline office operations, many of which are geared to making transactions more user friendly. That includes offering more options for payments through online services, and a simplified billing system so that residents know exactly what they are paying for and how much.

He said that his office always has been and will continue to be service oriented.

“My boss (is) the voters,” Grindstaff said. “We serve them and their needs.”

Grindstaff said he also knows the biggest issues facing the area are education and the workforce. He is hopeful that the county will find a home for the New College Institute (NCI), a four-year educational institution, and will keep fighting for it.

“Education is key,” he said.

His office is also behind the push to increase the workforce in the area. He said he works with colleagues in other departments to provide entrepreneurs and businesses with the tools they need to succeed.

Grindstaff said the best way to accomplish these goals is for the community to get involved. He believes in the full effectiveness of democracy. With that comes transparency, although his hands are somewhat tied in that respect because his office handles confidential information that cannot always be given to the public.

Still, “most of what we do is a matter of public record,” Grindstaff said. “Everyone is able to find and research most of what we do.”

He encourages his staff to be forthcoming with any information they can, as long as it is legal to provide it. Grindstaff said those in his office share a common goal – they are there to serve, but is quick to remind resident that his office merely collects revenue; the Commissioner of Revenue and her office determine and assesses ownership.

Love said she is currently in her 12th year as Commissioner, and 29th year of service to the county.

After graduating from Bassett High School, Love began working in the Commissioner's office, and eventually worked her way through the ranks to be where she is today.

“I was taught by the best of the best,” she said.

During her tenure as commissioner, Love said she has tackled issues of trying to help get new businesses in the area. However, the tax rates she has to work with are already set by the time they get to her and her staff.

Still, she said she is always open to listening to residents, and open to hearing their comments.

She says people should continue to come to her office with any questions they have. She is happy to answer them or help in any way she can. Even though she is running unopposed, she would still love the support of the community so that she can be assured she is serving them correctly. She says her campaign slogan is the same today as it was when she first ran: “My door is always open.”

Each day is different, Love said, adding that she truly enjoys her work.

“I love the work I do,” said Love. “I like serving the people. They are easy to talk to, and my staff is amazing.”

PHCC first in the nation to launch top-tier of industry training

Patrick Henry Community College and its partners recently announced that the college will be the first institution in the nation to offer the highest level of Industry 4.0 training available through Festo and NC3. Industry 4.0 refers to advanced manufacturing systems that utilize robotics, automation, and human-machine interfacing. In the new Festo/NC3 Industry 4.0 level three program, students will not only learn to work with the newest innovations in manufacturing technology, they will learn how to adapt to emerging technologies and prepare for jobs that don't yet exist.

In his opening remarks during the announcement ceremony, Thomas Lichtenberger, the

president of Festo Didactic, praised the PHCC. "After being here and seeing what you've accomplished, I am blown away. What you have accomplished here is really unique. ... We are very proud to be your partners."

As a global leader in manufacturing cyber-physical systems, Festo Didactic has been a key partner with PHCC since the inception of the school's Industry 4.0 program. Festo Didactic was only one of the many partners that joined the college in celebrating the announcement. Other instrumental partners in the initiative are the National Coalition of Certification Centers [NC3], American Electric Power Foundation, the Harvest

Foundation, as well as several local employers and educational entities. Several of these entities provided supportive remarks during the ceremony.

David Cook who was one of the presenters and a representative from the local manufacturing company Mehler Engineered Products expressed that companies like Mehler are actively working to "bring the machinery, equipment, and everything to the next level – the level that it should be." Cook said that to accomplish this goal, having technicians who can work on these machines at the higher level the equipment requires "is extremely important."

The college began pursuing Industry 4.0 in August 2018

and has already issued more than 300 certifications. Only a few months after launching level one training, PHCC led the nation into the second level of the NC3/Festo Industry 4.0 training last summer. Now, just over a year since the program's inception, the college is forging ahead into level three. Officials at the college say that the local demand for a highly-trained workforce is driving the program's rapid growth.

"Nationally and locally, there are more jobs available in this field than there are qualified applicants," said the college's Vice President of Workforce, Economic, and Community Development, Rhonda Hodges. "Typically, as soon as our students complete

their training, they get a job. The number of businesses requiring these skills among their workforces grows rapidly. Our local employers need every viable graduate at each available training level."

For local employers like Mehler Engineered Products, Eastman, Georgia Pacific, and Hanesbrands, an employee with level three skills is an invaluable asset. Employees with level-three skills could enable facilities to modernize processes, reduce downtime, and ultimately increase production. For PHCC's students, the high value that an Industry 4.0 level three certification commands can open the door to higher-paying jobs and faster career advancement.



Graduation

ploma, compared with 91.6 percent of the 2018 cohort. The dropout rate for the class of 2019 was 5.6 percent, compared with 5.5 percent for the previous graduating class.

"Virginia's on-time graduation rate has risen by more than 10 points in the decade since the department began reporting graduation rates that account for every student who enters the ninth grade," Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said. "I believe this long-term, upward trend will continue as school divisions and the commonwealth adopt equi-

table policies and practices that provide instructional and support services tailored to the unique needs of every learner."

Of the students who entered high school as first-time ninth graders in 2015:

- 50,715 (51.5 percent) earned an Advanced Studies Diploma (including International Baccalaureate).
- 36,614 (37.2 percent) earned a Standard Diploma.
- 2,715 (2.8 percent) earned an Applied Studies or Modified Standard Diploma.
- 1,064 (1.1 percent)

earned a GED.

- 5,504 (5.6 percent) dropped out.

Applied Studies and Modified Standard Diplomas are available only to students with disabilities. Students who earn high school equivalency certificates — such as a GED — or complete high school without earning a diploma are not included as graduates in calculating graduation rates.

The graduation rates and dropout rates for major student racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups are as follows:

- 97.5% of Asian stu-

- dents graduated and 1.7% dropped out.
- 89.7% of black students graduated and 6.2% dropped out.
- 87.2% of economically disadvantaged students graduated and 8.2% dropped out.
- 71.1% of English learners graduated and 25.8% dropped out.
- 80.1% of Hispanic students graduated and 16.5% dropped out.
- 88.6% of students with disabilities graduated and 9.1% dropped out.
- 94% of students of two or more races graduated and 3% dropped out.

94.7 percent of white students graduated and 2.9% dropped out.

Since 2011, high schools have had to meet an annual benchmark for graduation and completion to earn state accreditation. Schools receive full credit for students who earn diplomas and partial credit for students who remain enrolled, earn GEDs or otherwise complete high school. In addition, revisions to the accreditation standards adopted by the state Board of Education in

2017 include benchmarks for reducing dropout rates and chronic absenteeism.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

O	A	S	E	S	M	R	S	P	A	C	K	
D	R	E	A	D	G	A	H	U	A	B	L	E
E	C	C	M	A	R	L	E	N	R	I	T	E
S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E	L	A	B	E
S	A	I	G	A	T	O	M	K	Y			
D	A	M	O	B	I	E	P	E	E	S		
E	G	A	D	I	N	E	L	A	S	T	I	C
B	R	A	E	S	A	L	E	S	E	B	U	M
A	R	C	H	E	T	E	R	I	S	E		
S	A	U	C	E	H	A	H	U	P	I		
C	F	M	C	G	C	A	S	E	S			
H	A	C	E	K	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
A	D	I	T	M	E	A	T	S	B	A	A	L
S	E	R	E	M	A	S	S	D	E	B	R	A
E	D	E	R	E	N	E	B	R	I	N	G	

SPCA

control, he said, "I've always been interested in animals."

Working in animal control sparked his interest in combating animal cruelty. As part of his job, Stone assisted in the prosecution of between 150 and 200 animal cruelty cases but was frustrated at the lack of penalties for animal abusers.

"I was trying to get stiffer penalties for animal cruelty. I could see from the cases I was seeing in court that not much was being done," he said. Even in cases where the person was convicted, "they weren't doing much time." He recalled one person serving six months in jail, and another serving two months, and those were relatively long sentences.

Until this summer, animal cruelty "was only a felony if the animal died." If an animal was abused and lived, the person could only be charged with a misdemeanor. The Virginia legislature passed a new law that went into effect July 1, 2019 making cruelty a Class 6 felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Still, Stone said, "I would like to see things improve."

In 2017, the SPCA said, Stone was "instrumental" in changing the city of Martinsville's ordinance on tethering dogs. Many of the cruelty cases he saw involved dogs who were chained to a fixed place in the yard in all kinds of weather and often forgotten about. In September 2017, with advocacy from Stone and the SPCA, Martinsville City

Council made the law stricter and easier to enforce. Dogs now cannot be chained to a fixed place between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., or during extreme cold or heat.

Part of Stone's job in animal control was working with the SPCA to find homes for animals from the city pound.

"They come out and take pictures of the animals and put them on Facebook to hopefully get adopted," he said. Stone is often pictured posing with the adoptable dogs. Though he is happy to see them find "forever homes," he said, "I get really close to the dogs, and it's hard to see them go."

Stone's dog for the past eight years, a Shih-Tzu mix named Booboo, came from an animal cruelty case. Originally, the dog's fur was so matted that it took four hours to shear and groom, he said.

It takes a lot of money and time to rehabilitate animals that have been abused or neglected, Stone said. Even healthy animals come with a cost before they can be adopted out by the SPCA.

"People don't realize that pretty much every animal comes through the door, whether it's a kitten or a full-grown dog, costs the SPCA more than \$300" to complete the required vaccinations, spaying/neutering, and other care, he said. Dropping off a box of kittens "may not seem like much," he said, but one litter alone can cost thousands of dollars.

"A big part of my job is going to be fundraising," Stone said. "I've lived here my whole life, and I know a lot of peo-

ple. I'm hoping to get people that aren't current donors to get involved and help out."

He also plans to use his connections on the state animal control board to transfer more adoptable animals to larger areas, such as Washington, D.C., where there are more families available to adopt them.

Stone said his goal over the next few years is to increase the space and capacity at the SPCA's shelter.

"I would like to see this SPCA grow and expand, with more runs where we could take in more animals from the public," he said. He also hopes to add to the existing staff with "a veterinarian, a vet tech, and a groomer on site one day. It would cut down on the cost of the spay-neuter program a lot, as well as the cost of transporting the dogs and cats."

Board President Tiffany Smart noted that the SPCA not only provides "a safe haven for strays and misplaced pets, but we offer important services to the people of our community as well. Those services include low-cost spay/neuter clinics, wellness clinics, and educational programs."

The SPCA was organized in 1974 to sponsor, promote, participate in and encourage interest in the welfare, health and life of all animals and all interpretations of their humane welfare; and to conduct educational programs to ensure its success. For more information, visit www.spcamhc.org.

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The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA has selected E.C. Stone as the organization's new executive director, effective Oct. 21. Stone is pictured with adoptable dogs from the city pound from his nine years working as Martinsville Animal Control Officer.

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Hope

from page 1



Mother and daughter Regina and Tenzi Chacha pose with clothing from the fashion line Tenzi started to empower women in rural Tanzania. Regina is the international executive director of the City of Hope, which is holding a fundraiser, the Festival of Hope, on Oct. 19.

storytelling. Students from the City of Hope orphanage in Ntagatcha, Tanzania who now attend school in Virginia will perform a drama telling the story of the center and how it changed their lives.

Tenzi is the daughter of City of Hope founders Dr. John and Regina Chacha. The center began in John Chacha's home village of Ntagatcha in 2007 with a home for 110 orphaned children. The complex has since expanded with a primary school in 2009, a medical clinic in 2012, and, most recently, a secondary school.

The inspiration for TENZI Design came during the year Tenzi Chacha spent living abroad after graduating from Martinsville High School.

"My parents made each of us kids spend a gap year between high school and college volunteering at the City of Hope," she said.

Her mother interjected. "Did we really 'make you?'" Regina Chacha asked.

"Yes," Tenzi said, laughing, "but it all worked out in the end. It was that time that helped me formulate this idea."

After graduating from Liberty University in 2015 with a degree in business marketing and a minor in fashion, Tenzi spent time looking for work before finding her purpose.

"I finally heard God tell me, you should move to City of Hope," she said. She still wanted to work in fashion, but decided, "I want to help people with my gift, not just affect the way you look."

In January 2017, Tenzi moved back to Tanzania and began holding

sewing classes five days a week for local women. At first, with no electricity at the complex, they had to use old-fashioned treadle sewing machines and a charcoal iron. Another challenge was teaching in a foreign language -- the women did not speak English, and "my Swahili is really bad," she said.

City of Hope was connected to the electrical grid at the end of 2017, so they were able to start using electric machines and a serger that "helps finish things more nicely," Tenzi said.

Once students build up their sewing skills, they have the opportunity to work as employees for TENZI Designs and earn money for their families. There are currently six paid employees. "It's a good way they can do something of value regardless of their education status," she said.

Sewing is a useful skill even if the students do not end up working for TENZI Designs, she said. The women can start a business on the side or save money by tailoring their kids' school uniforms.

"I love what I do," Tenzi said. "We have a really good community. It's a good, safe place where women can be encouraged and try again until they succeed. We laugh a lot."

Currently, TENZI products are sold at City of Hope events and online at www.tenzidesign.com, but Tenzi Chacha hopes to expand further.

"I'm really working on training up some of my students to be teachers," she said. "I would love to spend more time on the marketing and promotion of the brand and get into some shops in the U.S."

Sewing is not the only job opportunity for women at the City of Hope. "We are one of the few places in the country that employs women for construction work," which resulted in a commendation from the Tanzanian government, Regina Chacha said.

Females in rural Tanzania face many challenges that males do not, according to the City of Hope website. Families often prioritize the education of boys over girls, leaving women dependent upon their husbands for financial support. Harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation remain widespread in that area of the country, in spite of being illegal. In addition, lack of healthcare leaves women at particular risk of dying during childbirth or from preventable diseases.

The organization addresses these issues in a number of ways, and equal access to education is a key component. Traditionally, schools in Tanzania have charged fees for students to attend. In the past few years, government schools have begun offering a no-cost option, but they tend to lack basic supplies and teachers, and are not as high quality, Regina Chacha said.

The City of Hope's two schools offer a free, quality education to the children who live at the orphanage. Day scholars from the surrounding villages also attend; some pay a fee, but because the population does not have much money, the fee is lower than in many other places, she said. The other group of students are boarders from outside the area who pay to attend.

Thanks to these fees, "we are self-sustaining at the primary school level and almost self-sustaining at the secondary level," she said.

Her husband, John Chacha, had dreamed of opening the secondary school but sadly did not live to see it happen. On April 16, 2015, he was killed unexpectedly in a car accident while traveling in Kenya. Since then, Regina Chacha has led the organization as its international executive director. The Dr. John Chacha Secondary School and Institute of Leadership opened in January 2017 with state-of-the-art science and computer labs, as well as vocational training.

While the school building itself is complete, the organization is in the process of building more student dorms and teacher housing that will

enable the school to become self-sufficient. However, all of this growth comes at a cost.

"Funding is needed for our capital projects, and we have a sponsor-a-child program for the orphans," Regina Chacha said.

In addition, the medical center needs more staff and equipment to reach full capacity. It was originally built to have up to 30 employees but currently has six, and they are "definitely overworked," she said. The City of Hope thought the government would help staff the center, but that did not happen.

Malaria remains common, as are water-borne illnesses due to a lack of safe drinking water, Regina Chacha said. The clinic offers vaccines, care for pregnant women and newborns, dental and other basic medical services. They would like to add sonogram and x-ray equipment, and to one day open a nursing school that will address the shortage of medical care in the region.

Funding will also be needed to help 33 City of Hope students attend college in the next few years. These high school-age students attend Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Va. and will be performing at the Festival of Hope fundraiser on Oct. 19.

Mountain Mission School was originally founded to teach the orphans of coal miners, but as this need lessened, they opened up to more international students, Regina Chacha said. The Tanzanian students came to the school thanks to an unprecedented offer.

"On my husband's last trip to America, we were visiting Mountain Mission School, and they told us we could bring 23 children on a full scholarship. We just had to get them here," she said. "For them to do that with a group like ours is truly amazing. I praise God for that opportunity."

That was in 2015. The next year, Mountain Mission School allowed 10 more City of Hope students to attend at no cost. The first graduates of this group will be heading to college, hopefully in the U.S., starting in August 2020.

"We really see this as an amazing opportunity: To have an international mindset and education, and then to go back and be leaders in Tanzania," Regina Chacha said.

City of Hope is "definitely a Christian organization in everything



Regina Chacha is the international executive director of the City of Hope in rural Tanzania, a complex that includes an orphanage, two schools, and a medical center. The organization's Festival of Hope fundraiser on Oct. 19 will feature African dance, music, storytelling, and fashion.

we do," she said. "To me, the humanitarian side of it is never enough on its own. When people's minds are truly transformed by the power of the Gospel, this is when true change occurs. We've really seen God change the lives of the staff and children."

For more information on the Festival of Hope, visit <http://festivalof-hope.info>. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$15 per person, with no charge for kids under age 8. A family pack of five tickets is available online for \$70.

More information on the City of Hope is available at www.teamworkcityofhope.com or by calling 276.632.8477.

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

You Can Find The Henry County Enterprise At The Following Businesses:

Woody's Supermarket

644 Morehead Ave.
Ridgeway

57 Grocery

7850 Fairystone Dairy Rd.
Bassett

Rising Sun Breads

1049 Brookdale St.
Suite D
Martinsville

Martinsville – Henry County Chamber of Commerce

115 Broad St.
Martinsville

Peoples Market

5780 Greensboro Rd.
Ridgeway

Old Country Store

18241 AL Philpott Hwy.
Ridgeway

Circle K Store #107

6690 Greensboro Rd.
Ridgeway

New Locations:

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Building A
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Daily Grind

303 E. Church St.
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Martinsville

Walgreens

103 Commonwealth Blvd. W.
& 2707 Greensboro Rd.
Martinsville

JS Adams Grocery

4201 Stone Dairy Rd.
Bassett

The Enterprise,

129 N. Main Street,
Stuart

Bryant Radio Supply

3449 Virginia Ave.
Collinsville

More Virginians Are Home-Schooling Their Children

Judi Dalati
Capital News Service

About 1.3 million students across Virginia went back to school after summer vacation. But for Alison Hatter's three children, this didn't require getting on a bus or even going outside. Instead, their classroom is the kitchen of the family's home in Floyd County.

"We usually wake between 6-7 a.m., and we aim to start at 9 a.m. at our kitchen table, where we read our Bible, pray, then begin our table work," said Hatter, an artist who grew up and still lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. She home-schools her three children, ages 8, 11 and 14.

The Hatter children are among more than 43,500 students statewide who study at home instead of attending a public or private school. It's an increasingly popular option for families: The number of home-schoolers in Virginia has grown more than 20% over the past five years.

If home-schoolers were a school division unto themselves, they would represent the seventh-largest district in the state.

Statewide, home-schoolers make up about 3% of the total student enrollment. In some communities, the proportion is a lot higher.

Last year, for example, 315 students in Floyd County were home-schooled. About 1,975 students attended Floyd County Public Schools — so home-schoolers constituted about 14% of the county's total enrollment.

Floyd County is a politically and socially conservative community where many parents choose to home-school their children for religious reasons.

"The first and strongest reason is my husband and I are Christians," said Hatter, who graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1998 with a bachelor of fine arts degree. "And before we had children, we made it our goal to home-school or provide a private Christian education."

Floyd County was among seven school divisions in Virginia where at least 1 out of every 10 students was home-schooled last year, according to a Capital News Service analysis of data from the Virginia Department of Education. Other districts were:

- * Surry County, at 14%
- * Warren County, at 11%
- * Bedford, Madison, King and Queen, and Clarke counties, at 10%

About 25 school districts have seen their numbers of home-schoolers surge by more than 50% between the 2013-14 and 2018-19 academic years.

For example, in Chesapeake City Pub-

lic Schools, the number of home-schoolers increased by 72% — to 2,100 students. In Charlottesville, Scott County and Petersburg, the number of home-schoolers doubled.

Several groups have sprung up to help parents home-school their children by providing teaching materials, organizing field trips and events, and offering legal assistance and other support. The groups include:

- * The Organization of Virginia Home-schoolers
- * The Home Educators Association of Virginia
- * The Home School Legal Defense Association

Hatter is a member of the Home Educators Association and the Legal Defense Association.

"I've used my membership for teachers discounts, legal counsel, state requirements for school and diplomas, blogs, podcasts, education tips and providers, and curriculum previews," she said.

The Virginia Department of Education also has resources for home-schooling families.

Under state law, parents who want to home-school their children must notify their local school division by Aug. 15. By the following Aug. 1, the parent must provide "evidence of the child's academic progress," such as scores on a nationally normed standardized achievement test, a report card from a distance learning program or correspondence school, or an evaluation by a licensed teacher.

Virginia has relaxed its laws on home schooling over the past 15-20 years, according to Charles Pyle, the director of media relations at the Virginia Department of Education. For instance, a parent is no longer required to have a four-year college degree to home-school a child.

There can be disadvantages to home schooling. For one thing, home-schoolers cannot join the sports teams of their local public high school. The Virginia High School League, which oversees interscholastic competitions, forbids home-schooled students from participating.

For years, home-schooling advocates have pushed for a state law to let school districts decide whether local home-schooled students can play school sports.

"Legislation in the 2019 General Assembly to remove barriers to participation was defeated in the House Education Committee," Pyle said. "At present, the level of participation of home-schooled students is determined by the local school board and Virginia High School League rules."

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Oktoberfest

from page 1

such a great festival for all members of the family, as there is something for everyone," Keller said. "We would love to thank all who attended the festival as a patron, vendor, or as a sponsor. Without our sponsors, we could not host this festival."
This year's sponsors included

B99.9 Southern Virginia's Country Station, Chick-fil-A (food court sponsor), Danville Distributing, Martin Plaza Furniture Outlet, URW Community Federal Credit Union (Platinum sponsor), ValleyStar Credit Union, and Vis-itMartinsville.
Keller also thanked the City of

Martinsville's staff. "They play a huge part in allowing this festival to continue. Between the Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Public Works, and so many others within the City, they help us to make sure the event is safe, clean, and efficient. We can't thank them enough."



Miriam Carter, age 5, shows off the face painting she got at Oktoberfest on Saturday.



About 8,000 people filled the streets of uptown Martinsville on Saturday, October 5 for the 40th annual Oktoberfest. The free festival featured music, kids' activities, a beer garden, and numerous vendors selling food, art, crafts, holiday decorations, jewelry and more.



Children enjoyed carnival rides, a giant inflatable slide, and a rock-climbing wall at Oktoberfest.

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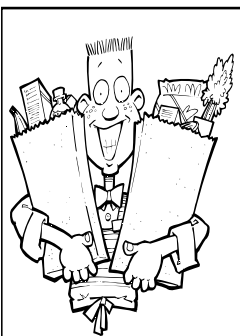
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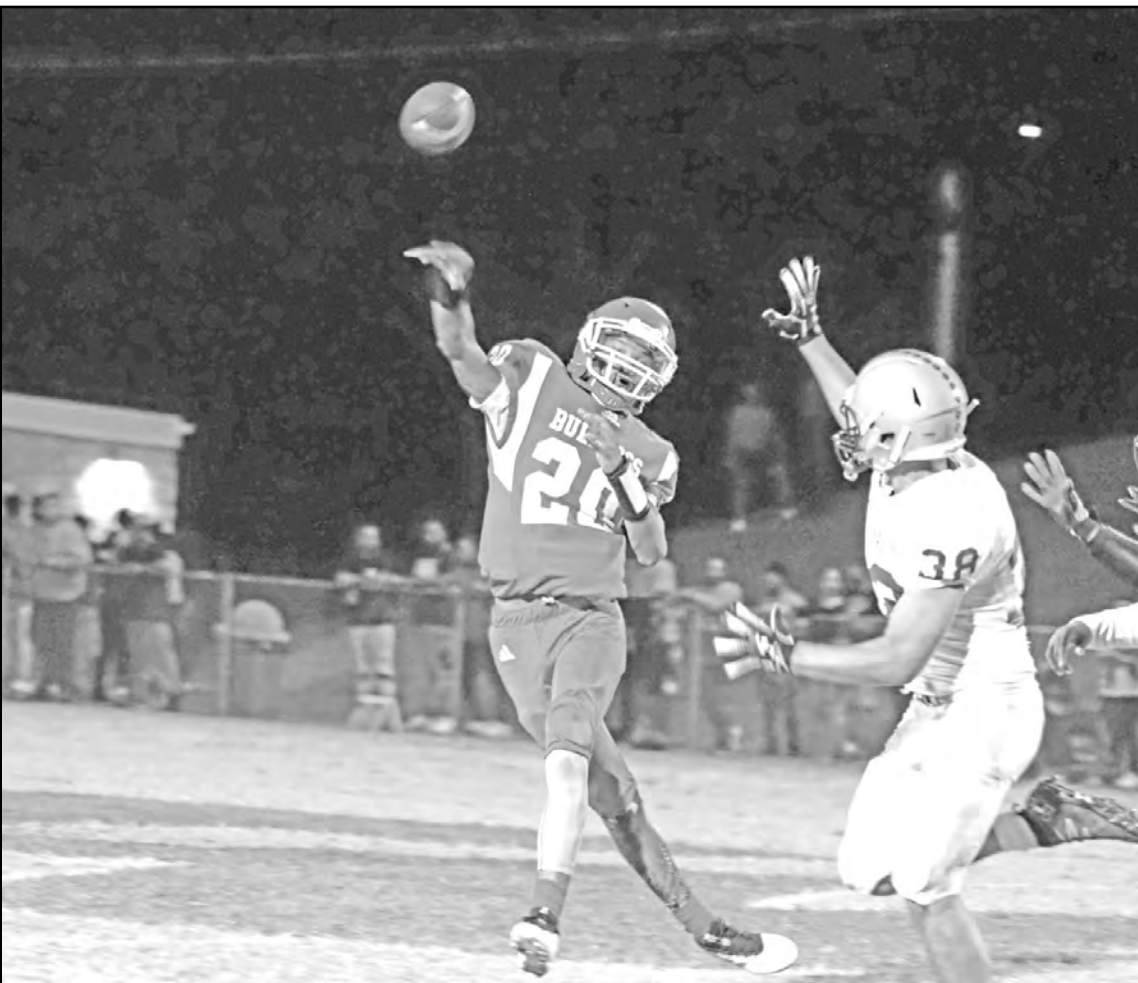
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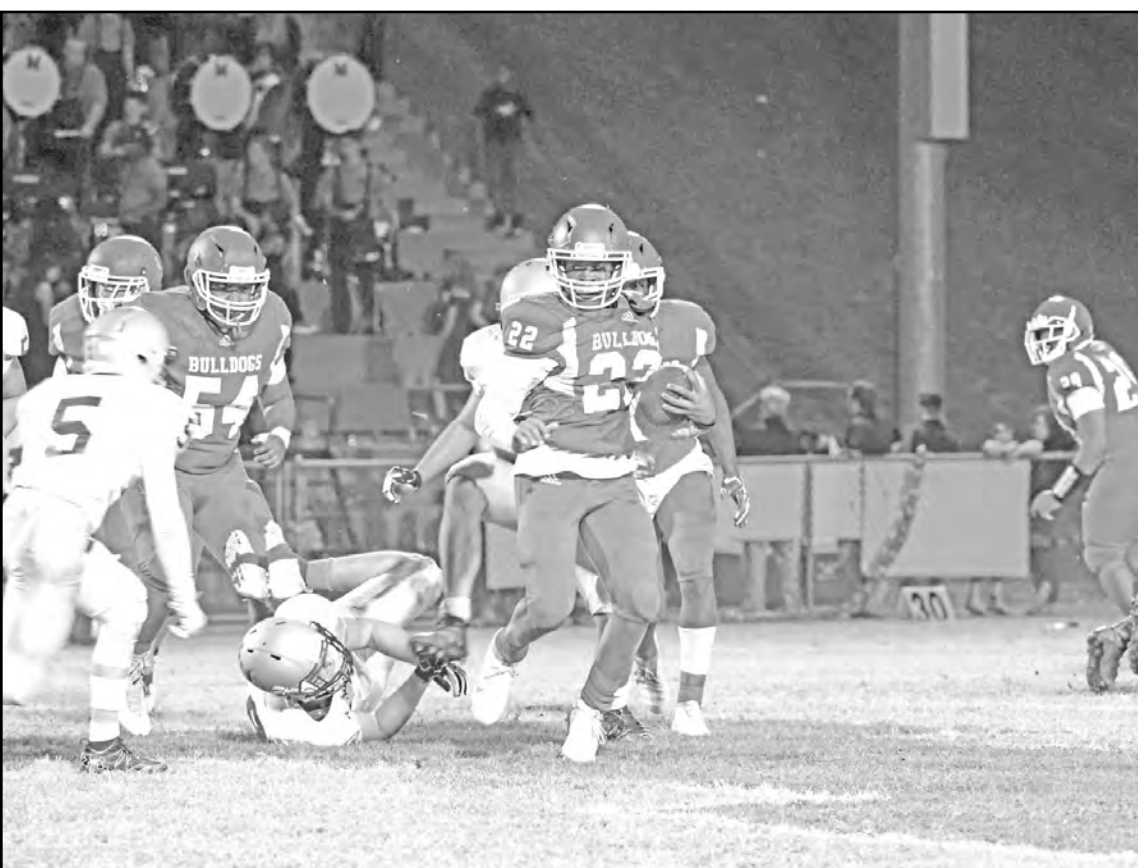
Bulldogs' Rally Falls Short Against Cougars



Martinsville running back Javontae Manns (2) runs for a first down during Friday's 27-19 Homecoming loss to Patrick County.



Martinsville quarterback Rashaun Dickerson (20) throws a pass during Friday's 27-19 Homecoming loss to Patrick County.



Martinsville running back Zion Adams (22) runs for a first down during Friday's 27-19 Homecoming loss to Patrick County. (Enterprise photo by Harrison Hamlet)

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) – Martinsville head football coach Bobby Martin said last week that his team's winless record and struggles against Magna Vista were not indicative of the progress his players had made in the opening five weeks of the 2019 season.

On Friday night, Homecoming, against a Patrick County offense that has been rolling through opponents this season, Martinsville showed for three quarters just how much they had improved.

Unfortunately, by the time that improvement became apparent, the Cougars had built a lead the Bulldogs could not quite reclaim, and Martinsville fell 27-19.

"We're trying, we're fighting with all we got," Martin said. "We're going to keep fighting and I'm going to keep trying to teach our guys how to fight. We aren't satisfied with any moral victories or anything like that. These guys wanted to win and they played the last two weeks like they wanted to win the game."

Patrick County built a 21-0 lead in the opening 20 minutes of the game behind their running game, taking advantage of a pair of Martinsville turnovers and a number of penalties against the Bulldogs.

"We have to learn to be disciplined and quit hurting ourselves in these games," Martin said of the early turnovers. "We just got to get better and be disciplined everywhere we go, on and off the field."

Martinsville answered the bell in the closing minutes of the first half and throughout the second half with a balanced offense and solid defense.

Rashaun Dickerson, Javontae Manns and Zion Adams powered the Bulldogs' offense all night, including the first scoring drive, with Adams crossing the goal line on a rush with 1:00 to play until halftime.

Martinsville recovered the ensuing onside kick and a Dickerson pass to Khalil Niblett immediately had the Bulldogs back

in the red zone.

Patrick County's defense held, however, as the clock ran out and Martinsville entered half-time trailing 21-7.

"Our defense understood how big that last stop was," Patrick County head coach David Morrison said. "If Martinsville scores there and come back out with the ball on Homecoming night, that is huge momentum for them and something you don't want to face, especially against a team like Martinsville. They have athletes all over the place."

Martinsville was able to cut the Cougars' lead to 21-13 in the third quarter and get within one score at 27-19 in the fourth quarter, but, ultimately, Patrick County's ability to possess the ball and run the clock on the strength of 46 team rushes for 211 yards on the night sealed the win for Patrick County.

Morrison was complimentary of Martin and his team after the game.

"We knew they were going to be a really tough opponent, just from watching them on film," Morrison said. "They haven't had a lot of success in the wins-losses column...but this is a tough program right here and Coach (Bobby) Martin is doing things the right way. These kids are great football players down here. They're a much better football program than people think."

When asked if he was excited about the improvements his team has shown in recent weeks, Martin was blunt in his explanation.

"Not yet," Martin said. "We just have to keep working. The players work hard, golly they work hard and I just want them to get some wins. Nobody knows how hard they work. People talk about them and put them down and talk about coaches and put them down, but golly they are working hard and I have their back. We're trying to build something here and it's just going to take some time."

Martinsville (0-6) will travel to Halifax County (4-1) this week.

PCHS - 7 14 6 0 - 27
MHS - 0 7 6 6 - 19

Patrick County High School 27, Martinsville High School 19

SCORING SUMMARY

FIRST QUARTER

7:47 – PCHS – Will Sprowl 1 run (Martin Morse PAT good)

SECOND QUARTER

5:59 – PCHS – Dae'Shawn Penn 7 run (Martin Morse PAT good)

3:41 – PCHS – Jonny Crowell 34 pass from Will Sprowl (Martin Morse PAT good)

1:00 – MHS – Zion Adams 4 run (Huver Jaramillo-Mata PAT good)

THIRD QUARTER

7:13 – MHS – Zion Adams 16 run (PAT miss)

0:40 – PCHS – Will Sprowl 7 run (PAT blocked)

FOURTH QUARTER

5:26 – MHS – Jahil Martin 3 pass from Rashaun Dickerson (2 point try fail)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Dae'Shawn Penn 25 for 134, TD;

Carson Merriman 12 for 53;

Jonny Crowell 3 for 15; Will Sprowl 6 for 11, 2TD. TOTAL: 46 for 211, 3TD.

PASSING

Will Sprowl 1/1 for 34, TD.

RECEIVING

Jonny Crowell 1 for 34, TD.

MARTINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Rashaun Dickerson 12 for 63, fum.; Javontae Manns 9 for 47;

Zion Adams 11 for 46, 2TD, fum.; Jahil Martin 2 for 10; Troy Brandon 1 for 9; Jeremiah Law 3 for 8; Trey Wilson 1 for 3;

Privan Patel 1 for -1; Delvin Roberts 2 for -4. TOTAL: 41 for 181, 2TD, 2fum.

PASSING

Rashaun Dickerson 7/13 for 90, TD; Privan Patel 1/2 for 12; Troy Odell 0/1, INT. TOTAL: 8/16 for 102, TD, INT.

RECEIVING

Javontae Manns 2 for 47; Khalil Niblett 3 for 35; Zion Adams 1 for 20; Trey Wilson 1 for 12;

Troy Brandon 1 for 5, Jahil Martin 1 for 3, TD.

Road Warriors Balanced in Dominant Victory

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(DRY FORK, Va.) – Magna Vista head football coach Joe Favero said last week, after a solid performance against Martinsville, that he wanted to see two weeks in a row of good play, something he felt his team had not accomplished so far in 2019.

Tunstall was the victim as Favero successfully instilled a dominant mentality into his

Warriors for the second consecutive week. Magna Vista's offense was too much for the Trojans from the opening whistle, and their defense out-muscled Tunstall in every facet of the game on the way to a 56-3 win.

"I thought we played really well," Favero said of the win. "We took advantage of opportunities in the first half and put the game away."

Magna Vista scored on their opening possession, and

Tunstall was able to produce their only points of the night right away, tallying a field goal after a long pass play to make the score 7-3.

That was as close as the game got. Magna Vista exploded for 35 more first-half points to take a 42-3 lead into the locker room before securing the win with two more scores in the second half.

Six different Warriors – Louis Taylor (2), Dryus Hair-

ston, Ty Grant, Isaac Ellison, Dekavis Preston, Freddie Roberts – found pay-dirt for the Warriors on the ground or through the air offensively, while Logan George added a fumble recovery for a score on the defensive side of the ball.

Junior quarterback Hairston was 9-for-14 passing with touchdown throws to Grant and Ellison, and added a score on the ground to maintain his torrid statistical pace and his ef-

ficient play.

Favero credited his offensive line and Hairston for the offensive explosion this season, as the Warriors have averaged 44.6 points-per-game so far this season

"I think the guys up front are doing their job to help everyone to produce," Favero said. "Our quarterback play has been very good as far as spreading it

Josh Berry Dominates Late Model Field at Martinsville Speedway

Enterprise Staff Report

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) - Josh Berry said last week Martinsville Speedway could be a frustrating place after coming painfully close to winning there before. Now he has a reason to celebrate — 44,000 reasons to be exact.

Berry, driving for Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s JR-Motorsports team, started from the pole, led every lap, and won both stages to take home a record-setting payday of \$44,000 and the famous Grandfather Clock after dominating the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 on Saturday night.

Berry was able to pull away from a late restart and hold off Lee Pulliam and Timothy Peters who finished second and third, respectively.

"I learned a lot last year here at Martinsville," Berry said. "We were fortunate enough to build a gap with the two racing behind us there at the end. This is a great day and I'm so happy to give Dale (Earnhardt) Jr., Kelly Earnhardt-Miller and everyone at JR Motorsports their first win in this prestigious race."

Berry started from the pole and collected \$2,000 from Clarence's Steakhouse for winning the first and second stages of the race. He also collected lap leader bonus money from Doughtons Racing Products and the pole award from Martinsville Speedway to build up his record-setting payday.

The competition facing Berry for those prizes



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARTINSVILLE SPEEDWAY

Stuart's Billy Martin Racing, considered a favorite with ace driver Mike Looney behind the wheel, suffered an unfortunate end to their race early in the event. Looney cut down a tire after suffering early damage to the right-front corner of his 87Va. Hopkins Lumber machine, leading to further suspension damage. The incident sent the fan-favorite team into the garage less than 75-laps into the 200-lap feature race. Josh Berry (88) won the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 in dominant fashion on Saturday night at Martinsville Speedway, qualifying on pole and leading every lap to claim \$44,000 in prize money.

was not light. In total, 68 of the best NASCAR Late Model Stock Car racers in the Mid-Atlantic faced off with Berry for the chance at the prestigious prize of a win at Martinsville Speedway on a Saturday night.

"To win this race you have to beat the best of the best," Berry said. "Any of the top-five drivers to-

night could be driving on Sunday (in the NASCAR Cup Series). This field is full of talent and to win here against them is special."

Pulliam won the Virginia Triple Crown bonus, edging Peyton Sellers to win the honor by pulling off a last-lap pass of Peters.

The Virginia Triple

Crown is a three-race Late Model Stock Car series featuring events at South Boston Speedway, Langley Speedway and Martinsville Speedway. The Triple Crown paid \$7,000 to the best average finish in those three events, with second-best average finish earning \$2,000 and \$1,000 to third-best.

"We had a hard battle tonight with Timothy Peters and we were racing for second place as Josh (Berry) had everyone covered tonight," Pulliam said. "I want to thank South Boston, Langley and Martinsville Speedways for offering this award. This is the fifth time I've finish second in this race but

taking home \$15,000 is a good day for us."

Bobby McCarty was fourth and Bubba Pol-lard finished fifth to give JR Motorsports a pair of top-five finishes. Sellers finished sixth with Justin T. Carroll, Kyle Dudley, Dustin Rumley and Kres Van-Dyke rounding out the top 10.

Early Mistakes Haunt Bengals on Road

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(SOUTH BOSTON, Va.) - It is becoming a theme for Bassett's football team this year to go into halftime trailing, but still come away with a win.

Although head coach Brandon Johnson said that the Bengals never felt out of the game on Friday against Halifax County, Bassett was unable to pull the same trick in Week Six, falling 25-15 in South Boston.

"Friday night was really a team effort," Johnson said of the game. "The mood was never like we were out of the game. We were down 25-7 at one point, but we were still playing hard. We gave ourselves a chance with some time left on the clock and just couldn't pull out the win this time."

Freshman quarterback Jaricous Hairston continued his recent run of outstanding

play, firing two touchdown passes on the night, one each to Demetrius Gill and Elijah Stokes, although a third-quarter interception was a blemish for the emerging player.

"I think he is growing up a little bit," Johnson said of Hairston. "He never changes his demeanor. He is very even-keeled and a leader in the huddle. If you didn't know it, you wouldn't think he was a freshman the way he is playing for us right now. Never once did he get rattled or point his finger at any of his guys and that's who you want leading your team. I think he is just going to continue to get better."

Johnson said he wasn't displeased with how the Bengals played overall, noting that two early mistakes ultimately cost Bassett a chance to win against a tough team.

"We fumbled into the end zone and they recovered for a touchdown," Johnson said, recalling the first quarter of the

game. "We got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff and fumbled the very first play on their 20 and we got a personal foul call added onto that. It put them in a first-and-goal situation. We gave up two touchdowns and Halifax only had 10 yards of offense. We shot ourselves in the foot with those two possessions."

After closing the score to 13-7 with a solid drive ahead of halftime, Johnson said the mood was positive during the break.

"It was very different mood, we've won games after being down at half," Johnson said. "The kids were upbeat and understood the situation. We gave them two gifts, from there they still had some fight in them."

Hairston's interception led to a Comets score and a 19-7 hole for Bassett, before Halifax essentially put the game away with a score to make it 25-7 in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, Johnson said the Bengals held Halifax County in check, allowing just three completed passes.

"I think they felt like they could throw the ball because we were stopping the run and stacking the box," Johnson said. "We did our job against their running game. They've put up major yards on everybody and last year they whipped our tail. So it was nice to play better this year."

With injuries mounting for Bassett, as they are for many teams six weeks into the season, Johnson said he was pleased with the fill-ins along the offensive line and with the emerging depth on offense, where Elijah Stokes showed he is another young player ready to assume responsibility for the Bengals.

"We had two offensive-lineman hurt and the young guys plugged in and played well," Johnson said. "Elijah, another freshman came into his own against Patrick

County last week and Halifax County this week. It's good to see young kids start to play well. They're trending in the right direction. I'm pretty excited about where we're going."

Where the Bengals (3-3) are going next is Dry Fork to face a Tunstall (0-5) team reeling from a 56-3 loss at the hands of Magna Vista.

"We feel every week is an opportunity for us to get better and win a game," Johnson said. "Tunstall has a new head coach and I was in his shoes not too long ago. Year one is tough. He's pounding the pavement and trying to get better. The scores haven't looked great for them, but they play hard. It will be a good test for us."

Halifax County High School
25, Bassett High School 15
HCHS - 13 0 6 6 - 25
B - 0 7 0 8 - 15

Victory

from page 8

around. We're mixing it up and having success with a bunch of athletes."

Despite the offense's incredible production all season, the defense has not wavered or taken a series off as they aim to one-up their point-scoring counterparts every week.

Favero said he has been impressed with how his defense, led by assistant coach Joe Field-

er, has played throughout the first six games of 2019.

"It all starts with being physical on defense," Favero said. "They have been really physical and yards are just hard to come by against us right now. The kids are playing with a chip on their shoulder. They're not just out there to perform well, but to really establish control, and make sure when teams do

pick up yards, they'll be tough earned."

In the vein of 'tough-earned yards' Magna Vista's defense lined up against Tunstall's offense for 29 running plays. The Trojans went backwards on the night, totaling -6 rushing yards.

After 118 points scored and just three points allowed in their last two weeks, Magna Vista (5-1) heads into their bye-week

with momentum, and time to focus on their weaknesses before preparing for an October 18 home game against Patrick County (3-3).

"We're pretty healthy, we're going to try and work on some things we feel like we're struggling with," Favero said. "We'll put in a little more on offense and try to create some more depth using our younger players

this week in practice.

"We're going to just focus on us this week, then worry about Patrick County next week."

Magna Vista High School 56,
Tunstall High School 3
MVHS - 21 21 14 0 - 56
THS - 3 0 0 0 - 3

Repaired Section of the Dick and Willie Trail Reopens

A section of the Dick and Willie Trail that's been impassable for months is now open for business.

When rain associated with Hurricane Florence came through Martinsville-Henry County last fall, some of the fallout was damage to a section to the Dick and Willie. A stretch between the Lib-

erty Street trailhead and the Doyle Street trailhead, near the back of the Clock Tower property in Martinsville, buckled because of damage to a water conveyance pipe underneath.

But that section is now officially back in service. Repairs, funded in part by the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency because of the hurricane-related impacts, are complete and the section is back in service.

"We are excited to have this trail section repaired, and I know the community is too," said County Administrator Tim Hall. "Some of our residents were already using the new section before we even

finished the repairs. While we certainly don't encourage that, we understand that the community and our visitors love the Dick and Willie Trail, and they are eager to get back on it."

The repaired section will need an additional layer of sealing within the next two weeks, which will necessitate

its brief closing. Henry County will release that information when it becomes available.

Section 6B of the Dick and Willie, the newest piece of the Trail stretching from Spruce Street to the Smith River Sports Complex, also is on target for an October debut. Details on that event will be released soon.

Magna Vista JROTC Raiders Win Region Competition



Sitting left to right: Marky Martinez, Enrique O'Campo-Suarez, Kolby Quigg, Kaitlyn Silvers, Matt Powell. Standing arms crossed: Aaron Wood, Caleb Motley, David Sharpe, Amelia Hubbard, Trinity Davis. Standing Back Row: Marco Duarte-Saucedo, Eyad Hamdy, Victoria Pritchett, Nolbert Luviano-Bustos, Evan Clark, Bryan Villalobos, Jose Angeles

championship of the year. This, 4th Bde regional, win earns them a berth to the 4th Bde Mid Atlantic Championship on April 4th of 2020 to be held at Magna Vista.

Led by Commander Kolby Quigg and four-year veterans Enrique O'Campo-Suarez and Kaitlyn Silvers the Warrior Battalion had a strong showing. In the grueling (TPFC) Team Physical Fitness Challenge, they were ahead of the field with a time of 3 minutes 52 seconds, 6 seconds ahead of the second-place team. The TPFC is a course with a series of obstacles the team must execute over a ¼ mile stretch. Some of the obstacles are the tire flip, carry a heavy item as a team, low crawl, and going over hurdles.

They dominated the next event, the litter obstacle course, with a time of 3 minutes 10 seconds, 31 seconds ahead of the nearest competitor. The litter obstacle course is also approximately ¼ of mile carrying a simulated casualty on litter. The team must negotiate 6-foot and 8-foot walls, drag the litter under a low crawl and lift it over two high obstacles. One of the keys to this event is teamwork, transitioning the litter among the

team members overt and under obstacles. The transitions are executed by the raiders carrying the litter and passing it off to other team members waiting on the other side of an obstacle, such as the low crawl. They must do this approximately 3 to 4 times throughout the course.

The other first place finish was on the one rope bridge crossing event. The has been a strong event in the Warrior Raider's past history. On this day they continued their dominance of the event with a time of 1 minute 55 seconds, bettering the second-place team by 10 seconds. The Warriors actual raw time was 1:45, but was assessed a 10 second penalty. Team members must construct Australian and Swiss seats using a 14-foot rope, set up the one rope bridge, cross the one rope bridge by hanging upside down pulling themselves across the gap and finally disassembling the rope bridge. Stand outs for this event were Trinity Davis and Marky Martinez. Trinity constructed her Australian seat and had the team ready to set up the one rope bridge in under 25 seconds. Marky completed the rope bridge construction at a blistering pacing by secur-

ing the the nearside anchor knot, completing the bridge set up in 52 seconds. From this point the team crossed and disassemble the bridge in 53 seconds for time of 1:45.

Although it was good day for the Raider Coed team, we have work to do. SFC Truini, "we need to improve our 5K time. We brought home a second-place finish with a time under 29 minutes as a team, but our time needs to improve going forward. This is something we will focus on during practices." David Sharpe, Amelia Hubbard, Victoria Pritchett and Marco Duarte performed at very high levels to greatly contribute to the team's success. Competing in Raider Competitions is a total team effort, will progress as a team and get stronger as the year progresses.

Over the next 6 weeks the Warrior Raider team has a full schedule. They will travel to China Grove on October 12th to compete in tournament, then off to compete in the Army National Raider Competition on November 2nd. The very next week they will travel to Chesterfield to compete in the Virginia State Meet.

After winning the, 4th Brigade, Mid Atlantic Championship in April of 2019, the Warrior Raiders graduated two key members of their team. There was looming uncertainty going into the new sea-

son and the first competition of the year at East Surry, Pilot Mountain, NC on Saturday, October 5th. The Raiders' Coed Team had a strong performance by finishing first in 3 of 5 events to claim their first Cham-



Far Left: Victoria Pritchett, carrying front of litter, left to right litter, Enrique O'Campo, Kolby Quigg, Marco Duarte-Saucedo, Marky Martinez, can't see.



Front to Back: David Sharpe, Marky Martinez, Trinity Davis, Victoria Pritchett, Kaitlyn Silvers, Amelia Hubbard, Marco Duarte, Kolby Quigg, Enrique O'Campo-Suarez

VDOF Prepares for Fall Wildfire Season, Dry conditions are cause for concern

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and federal partners within the state are preparing for what could be a severe fall wildfire season across Virginia. The fire danger is increasing each day the state goes without a widespread, significant rain. Some isolated areas that have been getting showers are not as crit-

ical, but most of Virginia has not been so fortunate.

"This is one of the driest falls we've seen in Virginia during the past 20 years," said State Forester Rob Farrell. "The potential for an increased number of fires and more complex fires is significant."

According to Phil Manu-

el, a meteorologist with the Blacksburg National Weather Service, many areas have gone more than 25 days without significant rainfall. That, combined with the lower humidity levels that are typical this time of year, increase the risk of wildfires. "The short term forecast (6-10 days) indicates a continuation of this

dry spell and the long-range through the end of October does not look much better," he added. This time of the year there is always the possibility of a tropical storm to bring rain to Virginia, but so far there are none on the horizon.

Virginia's fall wildfire season typically runs from Oc-

tober 15 until the end of November or early December. It has been several years since the traditional fall wildfire season has begun facing such dry conditions.

As of Oct. 7, more than 24 localities in Virginia have enacted a county-wide ban on all outdoor burning. These localities are mainly located in

southwest Virginia, and this number will likely increase over the next several days as the drought continues. "We support each county's decision to take the proactive step of establishing burn bans," said VDOF Director of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Placing restriction on burning is not a task easily taken by the county government, but if this prevents a single wildfire from occurring, it will be worth it. One never knows if that one fire prevented could have also saved a life."

The VDOF asks all citizens, especially those who live in counties with a burn ban in place, to obey all local restrictions and postpone any burning until we get a significant rainfall event and the burn bans are removed. If you live in any area that does not have any restrictions on burning, be extra careful and follow the recommendations below:

- Don't burn on windy days;
- Keep your burn piles small;
- Have water and tools nearby;
- Never leave your fire unattended;

If you are burning and your fire escapes, call 911 immediately.

"How this season turns out remains to be seen," said Farrell, "But the potential for a severe fire season is very real. VDOF personnel have ramped up preparedness and we urge the public to do their part to help reduce the number and severity of fires this fall."

It's more than a month.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, but for us fighting breast cancer is on the calendar every day. We know early detection of breast cancer is key. One of the best methods of early detection is an annual mammogram. This simple, routine screening helps detect breast cancer earlier than if you waited for symptoms to start.

According to the American Cancer Society women should have the choice to start screening with yearly mammograms as early as age 40.

Talk to your primary care provider about scheduling your mammogram.



SOVAH
Julius Hermes
Breast Care Center

SovahMartinsville.com

This facility and its affiliates comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-828-1120.
주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다.

Fall has arrived at
ARIEL'S
Ladies Clothing

Patrick Henry Mall
730 East Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
276.632.7484

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

LANCER HALL

BINGO

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

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

B	I	N	G	O
43	22	72	36	4
29	18	63	52	1
70	8	FREE	24	5
6	27	16	30	4
31	12	39	57	26