

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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City positioned for development with new tourism zone designation

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

The entire city of Martinsville is now officially a tourism zone, in a move city leaders hope will attract new development.

At its Oct. 8 meeting, Martinsville City Council approved an ordinance on second reading that establishes the city as a tourism zone as allowed by the code of Virginia. The designation allows local governments to offer economic incentives and makes it easier for developers to obtain state funding for large-scale building projects, such as new hotels or restaurants.

Assistant City Manager Eric Monday explained during the meeting that many of these economic incentives are already available to de-

velopers as part of the city's enterprise zone, "but the big incentive is 'gap financing.' A developer of a tourism project can have difficulty obtaining that last half a million dollars in funding through the conventional financing market. The Virginia Department of Tourism will underwrite that funding at a significantly lower interest rate, but it has to be in a locality that's created a tourism zone before they will make that funding available."

Funding is intended for new, tourism-related developments that range from millions to tens of millions of dollars in cost, Monday said. These can include lodging, restaurants, and retail. Councilman Jim Woods asked if it could be used for cultural amenities, such as theaters. Monday answered yes, de-

pending on the size of the project.

There is no "one size fits all" list of incentives because the ordinance is designed to allow the city to customize the economic incentive package for each project, Monday said. This could include measures to streamline the process, waiver of some permits, and limited tax incentives.

Martinsville's ordinance is modeled after those in Staunton, Fredericksburg, and Lynchburg. Monday said this funding was "instrumental" in developing Staunton's Stonewall Jackson Hotel, a big parking garage, and other projects that have taken its downtown business district from "dead as a doornail" to "very vibrant."

Also during the Oct. 8

See **Tourism Zone**, page 3



Paint the Town 5k held to benefit CHILL

Runners and walkers of all ages were showered in colorful powder on Saturday, Oct. 12 during the ValleyStar Paint the Town 5k. The annual race benefits CHILL (Communities Helping Improve Local Lives), a teen leadership group in Mar-

tinsville and Henry County that promotes healthy lifestyle choices, such as saying no to drugs and alcohol. Participants went through four color stations as they circled Lake Lanier in Martinsville and a final color blast at the finish line on Indian Trail.



See **Paint the Town** for more photos, page 3

Students from New Epoch School in Beijing visit area, hosted by Carlisle School



Students from Beijing, China attended a welcome ceremony at Carlisle School. The 10 middle-school students spent two-weeks in Henry County.

Ten middle school students from New Epoch School in Beijing, China, were two-week guests at Carlisle School to experience American culture and plan for their futures through Carlisle's Cultural Exchange Camp. The students hope to attend an American school like Carlisle in the future to help them better transition into an Ameri-

can college or university.

On their first day at Carlisle School, the visitors from Beijing introduced themselves at a middle school assembly and then performed a traditional Chinese song for their peers in celebration of Chinese National Day.

According to Sandy Bailey, Carlisle's Director of Admissions, "Carlisle em-

braces guests from other cultures. Our Cultural Exchange Camps are offered to help international students get to know our school and the greater community."

During their stay, they participated in daily middle school lessons, experienced special events like Home-

See **Culture Exchange**, page 5

Martinsville schools to unveil new website

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

Martinsville City Schools will be ready to roll out a new website as soon as next Thursday, school board members learned at their Oct. 14 meeting.

The school system's current website is about six years old and lacks some functionality, especially when viewed on a mobile device.

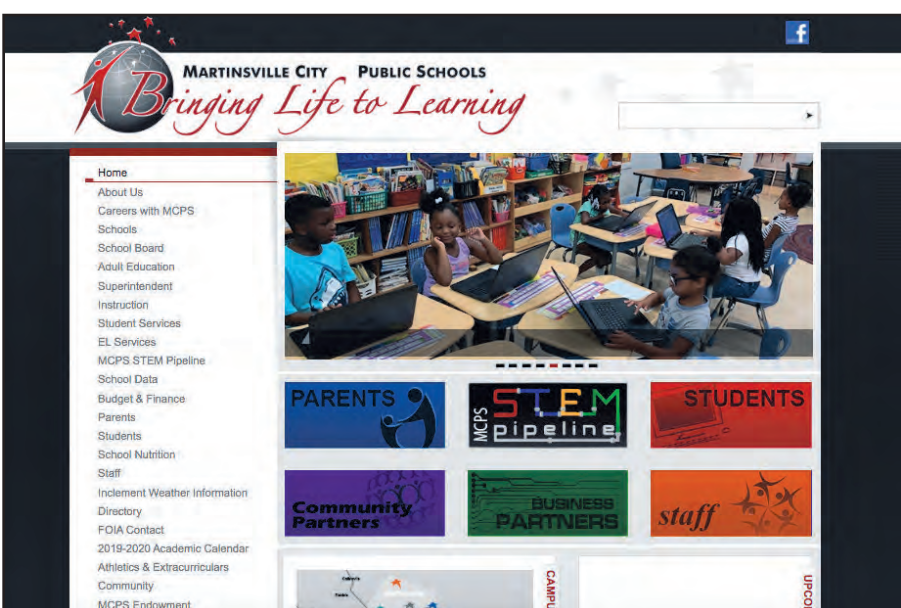
Beth Deatherage of Momenta, the company building the website, presented the new design to the board and described some of the features. "It's all been built. Now we're just fine-tuning the content and filling

up the school sites," she said.

The site is responsive, meaning it will adapt to fit on the screen if viewed on a phone or other mobile device. The homepage features "hot links" with icons of pages used frequently by students and parents, such as access to student grades, important announcements and a calendar of events. Each school website features a consistent look but is customized with the colors and popular links tailored to each school, Deatherage said.

Sarah Byrd, the division's Director of Human Resources, Communica-

See **New Website**, page 2



The new website for Martinsville City Schools will be ready next week. The current website, pictured here, is about six years old and outdated in terms of web technology.



Magna Vista High School student Kennedy Coleman is pictured with brothers G. Rodney Young and Terry Young, whose family sponsored a scholarship for Coleman to attend a three-week American Shakespeare Center theater workshop in Staunton this summer. Coleman and the Youngs were recognized by the Henry County School Board at their regular Oct. 3 meeting.

School board awards contract for elevator project at F-C Middle School

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

The Henry County School Board on Oct. 3 approved awarding a \$309,000 contract to Frith Construction of Ridgeway to install an elevator at Fieldale-Colinsville Middle School. Frith was one of two vendors submitting a proposal.

The elevator is needed to help students and visitors with disabilities access the second floor of

the school. Without the elevator, someone who cannot climb the stairs "would have to go all the way around to the back of the building just to get upstairs," said school division spokesperson Monica Hatchett. This is a particular problem in extreme weather, such as rain or cold, she said.

Because the school building was built in 1965, it is "grandfathered in" on certain requirements of the Americans with Disabili-

ties Act (ADA), Hatchett said. However, the school system identified the elevator as a need to make the building more accessible to those with wheelchairs and limited mobility.

"Equity is one of our focal points, and we want to make sure everyone has the same oppor-

See **Award**, page 5



Local schools among grant winners for educational projects

Schools in Henry and Patrick counties are among those in 38 Virginia localities to receive grants from Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom.

The program awarded 62 grants to for the 2019-2020 school year, including those to Axton Elementary School and Career Academy in Henry County and Blue Ridge Elementary School in Patrick County.

The funds are allocated to provide 25,000 youth with agriculture experiences related to gardening, animal agriculture, health and nutrition and leadership development.

"This year we had an outpouring of grant applicants reflecting pre-K through 12th grade education pro-

grams from schools across the commonwealth," said Tammy Maxey, Virginia AITC senior education manager. "These schools and 4-H chapters will start gardens, provide nutrition and culinary experiences, begin school farms and create agriculture leadership opportunities. We look forward to visiting these grant sites and watching students learn."

Agriculture in the Classroom is a national program that promotes greater understanding of agriculture through education. The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a non-profit organization that receives financial and administrative support from Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. For more information visit AgInTheClass.org.

NCI Announces Cyber Security Speaker Series for Inaugural Event

NCI announced the fall line-up of speakers and topics for the institution's inaugural Cyber Security Speaker Series. Topics ranging from understanding the uses and abuses of social media to computer forensics will be covered by state and national-level experts.

On Oct. 24, NCI will celebrate "Cybersecurity Day" in partnership with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) featuring NCSA Executive Director, Kelvin Coleman.

"Cyber Security is everyone's responsibility and these programs are designed to enhance awareness of some of the most pervasive challenges facing businesses, citizens, and the nation," said Karen Jackson, NCI's Interim Executive Director. "NCI is pleased to bring these impressive speakers to Southern Virginia".

Current Speaker Schedule:
Oct. 24 (All Day) - NCI/NCSA Cyber Day Own IT. Secure IT. Protect IT. To celebrate National Cyber Security Awareness Month in October, the Community is invited to Cybersecurity Day.

Come hear from local businesses, experts, and government representatives on how to #BeCyberSmart at home, at work, and on the go. Held in partnership with NCI and National Cyber Security Alliance. Details to be provided closer to the event.

Nov. 6, 6 to 8:30 p.m. - Privacy and Computer Security Issues in Today's World Want to know more about current laws affecting consumer privacy and those regulating businesses in their handling of consumers' personal information? Then this is the NCI cyber session you don't want to miss. Topics will include database breaches, identity theft, computer fraud, and other current computer scams. This outstanding session will include tips to avoid falling victim in these areas, and remedial measure to take should you or your business become a victim. Consumers and businesses of all sizes are encouraged to attend. Presented by Gene Fishel - Sr. Assistant Atty General and Chief of the Computer Crimes Section, VA Attorney General's Of-

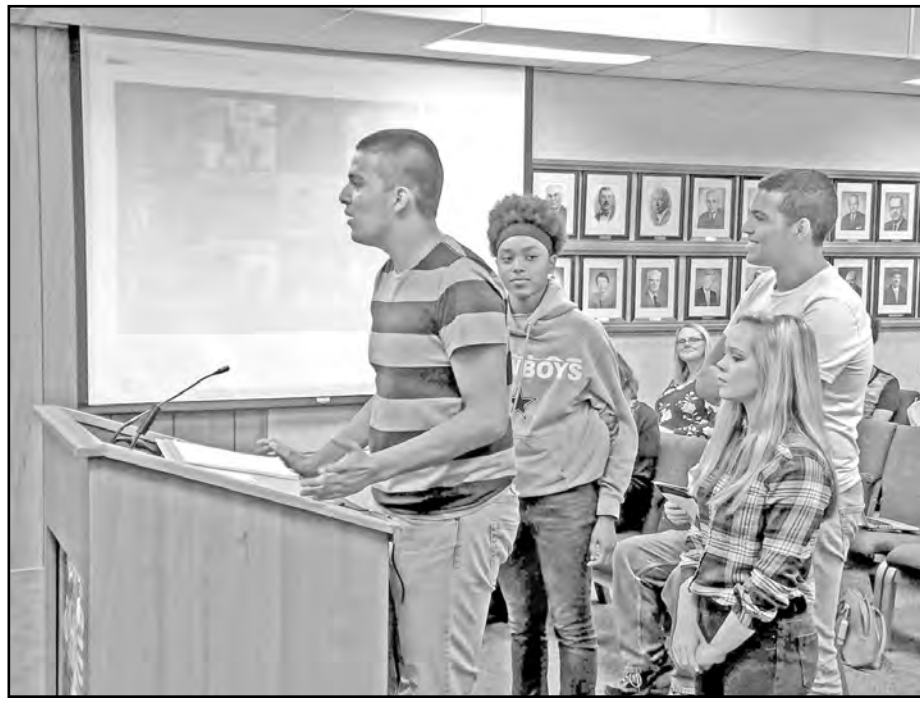
fice.

Dec. 4 (All Day) - Computer Forensics in Law Enforcement: Legal and Practical Instruction for Handling Digital Evidence in Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions (Registration restricted to Law Enforcement personnel only). This 5-hour training for law-enforcement will touch upon current legal issues surrounding digital evidence in criminal cases and offer practical tips for securing and properly analyzing digital evidence, including addressing the latest trends and issues that frequently arise. Presentation will be beneficial to all law enforcement officers, computer forensic examiners, and prosecutors. Partial in-service credit for law enforcement officers is currently pending through DCJS. Lunch will be provided. Presented by Virginia Office of the Attorney General Computer Crime Section.

Programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Registration is required for all events. For more information visit www.NewCollegeInstitute.org

New Website

from page 1



Student members of Martinsville High School's new anti-bullying committee address the Martinsville School Board during its Oct. 14 meeting.

tions, and Community Outreach, said the division revised its mission, vision, goals, and logo last year. Materials with the old logo are being phased out, and the redesigned website will feature the new branding.

Also during the meeting, the school board heard from students at each school about anti-bullying efforts taking place throughout October for National Bullying Prevention Month. For example, students at Martinsville Middle School participated in a video demonstrating different types of bullying and encouraged their peers to speak up.

High school guidance counselor Kristen Scott introduced a new committee of students formed to address bullying at their school. Teenagers may not always speak up about bullying because they don't want to look like a "snitch," she said. The four students told the board they are "all about including people" and are here to stop harmful gossiping and bullying. Part of their focus is encouraging bystanders to take action when they see someone being bullied to speak up for the victim or go to a trusted adult.

School Board Chair Donna Dillard said she and school board member Dominique Hylton attended a webinar on

school-based programs against bullying and praised the schools for their efforts. "We're not going to tolerate bullying in school," she said.

In addition, the school board:

Heard from School Nutrition Director Sheilah Williams that three schools have once again received the state Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant. Albert Harris Elementary, Patrick Henry Elementary, and Clearview Early Childhood Center will each receive about \$65 per student to purchase additional fresh produce as a snack three times a week during the 2019-20 school year. The program is "intended to create healthier school environments, to increase students' consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and connect the classroom and cafeteria by implementing farm to school initiatives," Williams said. Along with the additional exposure to fresh produce, students and parents receive education about nutrition and healthy recipe ideas.

Learned that the Second Chance Breakfast program at Martinsville High School has increased student participation in school breakfast by 65 percent. Williams said the program offers students who arrive late or who are not hungry first thing in the morning

the chance to pick up a "grab and go" breakfast from a kiosk in the school commons between first and second blocks.

Approved the consent agenda, including the minutes from the Sept. 9 school board meeting and financial report through Sept. 30.

Received an update on the new English textbook adoption process from Assistant Superintendent Angilee Downing. Teachers have reviewed the available options and selected their preferred textbooks, which will be available for public review at Central Office for the next month before the board votes to adopt them at the November meeting.

Approved updates to the Board Policy Manual to comply with recommendations from the Virginia School Boards Association. These included updates to six policies and retirement of eight others because they had been combined with other policies. The VSBA policy team publishes updates and revisions to the policy manual based on actions passed in the most recent General Assembly session or by actions passed at the federal government level. Changes include such items as language edits, legal reference updates, and cross reference updates.

Entries sought for annual Memorial Photography Show

The Reynolds Homestead will host the 2nd annual Nancy Susan Reynolds Memorial Photography Show beginning Nov. 7 through Dec. 20. All photographers in Patrick, Henry, Stokes, Surry, Franklin, Floyd and Carroll counties are encouraged to bring their entries to the Reynolds Homestead on the following dates:

- Sunday, Oct. 20, 1 to 4 p.m.;
- Monday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- Tuesday, Oct. 22, noon to 7 p.m.;
- Wednesday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Youth ages 12-17 and adult photographers are eligible. Work entered may be of any photographic style - black and white, HDR, infrared, drone, or panoramic. All entries must be original and the photographer's own work.

All work, including that of youth, must be framed and mounted and properly wired for hanging. Work can be no

larger than 32" x 50" with frame. The only exception is panoramic photographs which may be up to 36" horizontally and 16" vertically (or vice versa), including matting and framing.

Entry fees are \$10 per entry for a maximum of 3 entries for adults, and \$5 per entry for a maximum of 3 entries for youth.

The theme for the 2019 Nancy Susan Reynolds Photography Show is "Transitions." Categories for the adult division are Architecture, People, Nature, Events and Special (travel, tourism, pets, other). The youth division is not divided into categories.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and the Reynolds Homestead. They are also available on the website www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu. Questions may be directed to (276) 694-7181.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Computer key 4. Periodical (abbr.) 7. Hot beverage 8. Capital of Ghana 10. Shrek is one 12. Behemoth 13. Good friend 14. Form of "to be" 16. Where travelers rest 17. European country 19. Everyone has one 20. Pop 21. Feelings of anxiety 25. Small amount 27. Moved quickly 26. Common name for a type of frog 29. Free from psychological disorder 30. 8th month (abbr.) | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of bomb 2. Smooth 3. Clothing pattern 4. Defunct phone company 5. Something to take 6. Type of piano 8. Consumed 9. "Pitch Perfect" actress Kendrick 11. Ray-finned fish 15. Shrink back 18. Yukon Territory 19. Connects words 20. Sound unit 22. Furniture with open shelves 23. Cool! 24. 007's creator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Source of the Nile River 28. Not safe, but ... 29. Helps little firms 31. Comedienne Gasteyer 32. Conceptualize 33. Root mean square (abbr.) 34. Integrated circuit 35. Evergreen trees and shrubs genus 36. Apprehended 37. Suitable for growing crops 38. Isolated 39. Footwear company 40. Electronic intelligence gathering 44. Political action committee 47. Free of |
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Registration Open for Fall SignUpNow Workshops

SignUpNow is on the road.

The program teaches the "ins and outs" of the eligibility requirements, application procedures, and post-enrollment information for Virginia's Medicaid and FAMIS programs:

New Medicaid health insurance for adults

Programs for children

and pregnant women (the FAMIS programs)

Low Income Families with Children (LIFC) program

Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth (FFC)

Plan First (family planning)

SignUpNow participants will be able to educate and provide hands-on assistance to those who

want to apply for or renew health insurance through Medicaid/FAMIS.

Even if you've attended a SignUpNow training in the past, this fall's training contains new information. Those interested are encouraged to 'sign up' again.

Check www.vhcf.org/workshops/ to find a training workshop near you.

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Tourism Zone from page 1

meeting, council held a public hearing to prepare for resubmission of a federal grant application to revitalize the Pine Hall Road area of the city. The city of Martinsville applied for Community Development Block Grant funding in March 2019 to address blight, help homeowners to make improvements to their properties, and engage local residents in the improvement of their neighborhood.

However, said City Manager Leon Towarnicki, the application was rejected on a technicality due to an issue with how one of the required public hearings was advertised. The city plans to resubmit the application in March 2020 if not before.

Towarnicki said there is a chance that another round of applications may open before the end of 2019 due to a low number of applications received in March, but this is not certain. In an effort to be proactive, the city council voted at its Sept. 24 meeting to set the public hearing for Oct. 8 “out of an abundance of caution,” he said. Even if an earlier round of applications does not open up before the regular deadline of March 2020, this hearing satisfies part of the requirements for the application. Public hearings must be held within a year of the grant application submission, he said.

If awarded, the Pine Hall project will start in April 2021.

No one from the community spoke at the public hearing, although Towarnicki shared that one nearby resident had contacted him to express support. Janet Jonas of Summit Engineering, which has worked with the city on this application and past CDBG efforts, gave a presentation to the council about the project.

Jonas gave an overview of several past successes with CDBG funding in Martinsville, including Northside, Cherry Street, Moss-Barton, RP Thomas and Academy Place, the Henry Hotel. New College expansion, and revitalization of the uptown business district.

“Martinsville is really well-known by the Department of Housing and Community Development for really excellent community development projects,” she said.

“CDBG-funded projects have to meet one of three major objectives: to benefit low to moderate income people, eliminate slums and blights, or to meet urgent community development needs.”

In preparation for the Pine Hall application, Jonas worked with the city to conduct a housing assessment on 14 properties. She said they will need to speak to the homeowners again to update their information before the application can be resubmitted, because income information cannot be more than a year old. However, the homeowners will not have to do a full reapplication.

Homeowners in the neighborhood who did not participate the first time are welcome to do so now, she said.

There are some burial grounds around some of the properties, but those will not be affected by the project, she said.

Councilman Danny Turner questioned how the money was spent on Northside project, estimating the cost at \$1.2 million. “There’s no way you can spend a million dollars over there. ... It looked like we didn’t get very much bang for a million dollars over there,” he said.

Jonas said the money was “well-spent.” While she said she did not have the exact numbers handy, she recalled that they substantially reconstructed five homes and rehabbed three or four others. “Substantial reconstruction projects run about \$100,000 each,” and one home cost much more than that, she said. Also, street improvements and stormwater drainage were “a significant portion of what was done.”

Mayor Kathy Lawson added that there was some demolition work done as part of the project, and “the Dillard and Franklin Street improvements were huge.”

Vice Mayor Chad Martin told Jonas, “Being a community organizer, I want to take my hat off to you going door to door like that.” He suggested using high school juniors and seniors who need service hours for graduation to help with future efforts.

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OPINION

It's me, your casual acquaintance

Hey, fancy running into you here! It's me, your casual acquaintance. Looks like you got a big cart of groceries there. Don't worry, I'll walk with you to your car. I have all the time in the world, and I assume you do too.

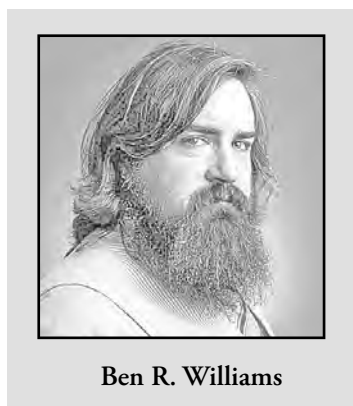
How are you? Fine, you say? Well, things haven't been going so great for me. I'm glad I ran into you, because since I bumped into you at the DMV two years ago, a lot more terrible things have happened to me and my family, and I'm sure you'll want to hear every detail, no matter how personal or disgusting.

Well, mama ain't doing so good. She's got that Lou Gehrig disease. No, not that one. She's got this disease where she thinks she's Lou Gehrig. You ask her a question, she starts talking about her .340 batting average. It's powerful tragic, but she seems to be taking it pretty well, I guess. When the doctor gave her the news, she

said she was the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.

Daddy, he ain't doing so good either. He caught a bad case of Total Body Failure. Yeah, one day his whole body just up and fell off. Couldn't afford a replacement body, so we put his head on the body of one of those old Teddy Ruxpin dolls. You know daddy, though; he always loves to tell a story. Still does, you just gotta put a cassette in his back first.

Now granny, she's been having a real tough time. She wrecked her Harley a few months back, went over the handlebars and sailed into the woods. Took the EMTs forever to find her; turns out, she hit a big knot hole traveling about 100 miles per hour and now she's stuck in a tree. Doctor said it would be pretty expensive to get her out of there, and you know granny's just as tight as old Dick's hatband, so now I gotta go down into the woods a couple of times a day and stick some



Ben R. Williams

Werther's Originals in the knothole. You should hear her carrying on.

Hey, looks like your ice cream's starting to melt. I hate when that happens.

Now grampa, he's a real mess. About a year ago, he was trying to fix his clock radio and he got sucked into some kinda parallel dimension. Yeah, turns out it's this dimension where the meteor never struck the Earth and the dinosaurs never died out, so instead they conquered the mammals and evolved into

sapient lizard-people. You can imagine how hard it was for grampa to make friends. He managed to get back to this dimension, but now he eats his meat raw and spends most of the day sunning himself on a flat rock in the backyard. It's real rough. Same thing happened to his daddy, so I guess it runs in the family.

Of course, the family's doing pretty good compared to me. Boy, I tell you, it's rough. I went to the doctor the other day, and he told me my skeleton's made of glass and my feet are on backwards. Don't know if I'm coming or going half the time.

I always told people I got a big heart, but the doctor says it's way too big. Said my heart weighs about fifty pounds. I go to the gym and it sounds like someone pounding the drum on one of those Viking ships. It's real distracting, but I'm trying to get me a part-time job as a

metronome at Juilliard.

Let me tell you, it's tough all over. I went to the carnival and paid the fortune teller a buck to tell my future. She said I was going to die in a grain elevator explosion. The joke's on her, though; I've survived three of them since then, and I'm no worse for wear, except for the constant ringing sound in my ears and the fact that I can't fall asleep unless someone's holding my hand.

Hey, are you getting in your car? I don't blame you for wanting to sit down. My feet are pretty sore, too. The doctor said I have Mathlete's Foot. It's like Athlete's Foot, except it multiplies really quickly. It's super contagious. Here, let me pull my shoe off and I'll show you—

Whoops! I think your foot slipped on the gas because you just ran me over while backing out of your parking spot. That's OK, I keep the hospital on speed dial. I'll tell you all about it next time I see you.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday October 20

Fall Festival at the Barn: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Mountain Valley Artisan Barn. Spend a perfect fall weekend shopping one-of-a-kind pieces of art and handmade crafts while enjoying rocking music, delicious food and picturesque views. New for 2019 - A Car Show. Everyone is welcome.

History of Colonial Firefighting: 3 p.m. at the Historic Henry County Courthouse. Hear about how our ancestors managed unwanted fires as Bob Vogler presents this walk through the history of colonial firefighting. Free event open to the public. Refreshments provided. Contact us by email at mhchistory@society@gmail.com or by phone at (276) 403-5361.

Wine Tasting at Hamlet Vineyards: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Hamlet Vineyards in Bassett. Every Sunday you can enjoy a wine tasting of eight wines. Wines include: Pinot Gris, Viognier, Petit Verdot

and Old Virginia Red. Also offering local freshly baked breads and gourmet spreads to complete your tasting. Wine tastings are a perfect afternoon activity for couples, best friends, girl's days or just because. Admission \$9.

Mountain Bike Ride: 2 p.m., the Henry County Bike Club will ride at the Mountain Laurel Trails in Ridgeway every Sunday. Occasionally the Mountain Bike Ride may be held at Cedar Ridge Trails. In those instances, the Henry County Bike Club will post an update on the website as well as the Facebook page. For more information on the weekly Mountain Bike Ride, call Bob Norris at 276-340-9144 or Tommy at 276-618-0343. Free event open to the public.

Monday October 21

Story Time at Spencer-Penn: 10:30 a.m. at the Hylton Library, the Centre will hold a preschool story time and playdate program. Carole Anne Penn will read a

story and lead songs, crafts and then play time with friends. An age-appropriate story will be read, drawing out questions and answers that involve the children and promote early reading skills, along with a simple craft activity. After story time, children are welcome to go into the Children's Library for playtime and interaction with each other. Toys, puzzles, and the 'housekeeping' center promote socialization skills in playing with other children. Children of all ages are welcome.

Tuesday October 22

Trivia Night at Papa's Pizza: Every other Tuesday night. Each event consists of varying subjects and has rotating Hosts.

Artspiration Senior Studio: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Seniors are invited to paint together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space for seniors to socialize while creating artwork. Bring your own supplies. Free event for members /Non-members pay \$5 at the door.

Lobsterfest 2019: 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the New College Institute, Menu: 1-1/2 lb. lobster or whole rotisserie chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, roll and dessert, tea, water, beer or wine. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year. Tickets are \$35 and available from any Rotarian in the Martinsville Evening Club or at the Martinsville Visitors Center. They will not be sold at the door. Email rotaryclubofmartinsville@gmail.com for additional information or to purchase your ticket.

Tai Chi: Every Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Martinsville Public Library. Free event open to the public

Power of the Plant: 5:30 P.M. Martinsville Public Library. Join Bob Tuggle as he discusses the folklore, medicinal uses, and magical aspects of plants. Open to the public. For more information or to sign-up call the Library at 403-5430.

Wednesday October 23

Henry County Bike Club Evening Ride: Evening ride along the many gorgeous trails of the Smith River Trail System. Mountain bikes are recommended but road bikes can be used as well. The Wednesday evening ride offers bikers the opportunity to ride road, trail or both. Ride times will range from 30 minutes to an hour, and locations will vary. A light is needed to participate in this ride. Check the Henry County Bike Club Facebook page, or contact Tommy at (276) 618-0343 for ride locations and times.

Happy Healthy Hour: Every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Regional Library on Church Street. A natural health and wellness meeting covering topics such as reversing degenerative diseases, weight loss, increasing energy and focus, building vitality, restoring health, and more. For more information, call Rhonda at (276) 336-1525 or Sandra at (276) 632-6124.

Line Dancing Class: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Martinsville Public Library, Free event open to the public.

"Healthy Eating and Staying Active for Seniors": 11 a.m. at the Martinsville Public Library, partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office of Henry County and Martinsville, Free event open to the public. For more information call the Library at 403-5430

"Essential Elements for Successful Sales": 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (820 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA), Join us for a seminar presented by Dr. Vincent P. Magnini on boosting your successful sales through both verbal and nonverbal communications developed through research. Free event, Pre-registration is required.

Thursday October 24

Martial Arts Class: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Spencer-Penn. Cost for the entire month is \$40 for members of the Centre or \$65 for non-members. All ages, fitness and experience levels are welcome. Call the Centre at (276) 957-5757 to sign up.

Creative Corral: 6 p.m. at the Mountain Valley Artisan Barn. Each week we will create a different project which will be announced on our Facebook page. Come out to the barn and get creative! All ages welcome, Musicians are welcome to bring their instruments and play.

Friday October 25

Music with the Kitchen Pickers: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

at the HJDB Event Center cafeteria (3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett), Admission is a \$2 donation to the HJDB Senior Game-on Program. Available for purchase 8:30 a.m. Breakfast-\$5, 12p.m. Lunch-\$6. For more info call 276-629-1369

Line Dancing Class: Every Friday at 10 a.m., Martinsville Public Library, Free event open to the public.

Ride 'N Dine: Each week fellow cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the Dick & Willie Trail to put in some miles and to refuel with a delicious lunch at a local eatery. A different lunch locality is chosen each week so that your Friday afternoon is always unique and interesting. For more information on Ride 'N Dine, contact Marti at (276) 358-1312. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees. Check Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Saturday October 26

Fab Lab Craft Days: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., PHCC Thomas P. Dalton IDEA Center, Join us for a fun, hands-on activity for the entire family in the Fab Lab. Want to make more time for creativity? Create real, tangible objects? Meet other craft-minded people? Then join us for a fun afternoon of creating on trend crafts using the laser cutter! Making felt flower mason jar bouquets, Admission \$30, Instructor Libby Sharp.

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

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Virginia Attorney General Sparks Up Conversation on Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

Jeff Raines
Capital News Service

Attorney General Mark Herring tweeted his support for the legalization of recreational marijuana in Virginia Tuesday night.

"Virginians know we can do better. It's time to move toward legal, regulated adult use," Herring said in his tweet of a study that revealed more than half of Virginians agree with him.

The study, published by the University of Mary Washington last month, showed that 61% of Virginians support legalization of recreational marijuana, while 34% oppose legalization. The remaining respondents said they were uncertain.

This is a noticeable uptick from a UMW study conducted in 2017 that showed 39% of Virginians supported legalizing marijuana for personal use.

The 2017 question was worded differently, asking if marijuana should be legalized in general, for personal or medical use, or remain illegal. A plurality said medical marijuana should be legal and the rest (17%) were opposed to legalization.

Recreational use of marijuana is becoming an increasingly popular issue for Virginia politicians as they go into the November State Senate elections and the upcoming 2021 gubernatorial elections.

Stephen Farnsworth, a UMW political science professor, said he believes legalization is several years away, but the timeline could change if a Democratic majority is elected in November. Eighty percent of the Commonwealth's youth (25 and under) are in favor of recreational marijuana, Farnsworth said. "Winning the support of younger voters can be key."

Herring, a candidate in the 2021 gubernatorial elections, has long voiced his support for decriminalization of marijuana.

Micheal Kelly, director of communications for Herring, said in an email the attorney general believes "Virginia needs to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana, take action to address past convictions, and a move towards legal and regulated adult use in Virginia."

Almost all marijuana-related arrests last year (90%) were for possession alone, and arrests for marijuana possession have increased 115% from 2003 to 2017, according to a press release from the attorney general's office. First time marijuana convictions in Virginia have risen 53% from 2008 to 2017, with enforcement costs estimated to be nearly \$81 million a year.

Chasing Your 'Tale'

Fran Snead
Bassett Historical Center

With the new season, many changes occur such as cooler temperatures, football games, fire pits, and foliage. As Mother Nature works her magic all around us, bringing out the beauty in her trees, it is also a good time of year to concentrate on another important kind of tree. In 2001, Congress passed a bill brought forth by Senator Orrin Hatch declaring the month of October to be recognized as National Family History Month in the United States. Senator Hatch stated, "By researching for our roots, we come close together as a human family." This may be a great time of year to think about your family tree.

Whether you are an experienced researcher with an already elaborate well-researched, documented family tree still trying to connect those last pesky branches, or you are just beginning to investigate your family, the Bassett Historical Center provides a great opportunity for you to discover your ancestors, not just this month but every month. And if you haven't begun researching, you never know what that one spark will be to get you started.

As a child, I remember visiting the (then) Bassett Public Library to check out books, bags full at a time, to participate in the summer reading program. I enjoyed standing on the two-step wooden stool which was located in the front of the circulation desk so that I could carefully sign each card with Mrs. Shirley Bassett on the other side smiling and waiting patiently while I did so.

One of my most memorable trips to the library came in 1981 when I was in the fourth grade at Campbell Court Elementary School. Every fourth-grade student in Henry County was given a booklet entitled "A Proud Look Back," published in 1975 by the First National Bank of Bassett. The booklet contained articles written by local historians like Lela Adams and Doug Belcher that were first published in local newspapers to illustrate the importance of the role that Henry County played in the development of our nation.

After my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Charlotte Bishop, distributed a booklet to each student in our class, she allowed us a few minutes to investigate while she explained to us what exactly we were viewing. As I began looking through the booklet, I discovered a partial list of the names of soldiers from Henry County and surrounding counties that participated in the Revolutionary War. My eyes quickly focused on the name Daniel Ross, Lt. in the Militia. Immediately, my curiosity had the best of me and I wanted to know if this man, whoever he was, was related to me. Until that moment, family, for me, consisted of only the people who I lived with or saw on holidays or dined with around the Sunday table.

That night at the dinner table, I asked Dad to tell me about Daniel Ross. He had a puzzled look on his face so I eagerly showed him the booklet that I was given at school. I turned to the page in the booklet that had Daniel's name. Mom, who had started working part time at the library, quickly told us where we could find out and who we should see. Dad and I went to visit Mrs. Bassett at the library that following Saturday because at

that point Dad was just as excited and interested as I had been.

We both followed Mrs. Bassett downstairs to the basement to the "Genealogy Department" which consisted of one dark poorly lit room lined with two walls of books and notebooks which covered several shelves and a four-drawer filing cabinet. After our first visit we were well on our way to tracing our family tree. This led to meeting Archie Ross, who lived in Fieldale, and visiting the Ross-Harbour Cemetery in Elamsville, where we took pictures of the tombstones as well as made several tombstone rubbings. Both Dad and I were hooked as we were able to trace the Ross line back to when three brothers came over from Scotland on a ship - one who began the Ross line of which my family is a part; or so we thought!

This is where one has to be extremely careful when working in genealogy. Lots of family histories are passed down by word of mouth stories through generations, with information that may not have been documented. It seems that most family histories tend to begin with three or more brothers coming to America on a ship.

According to the book entitled "The Ross Family: Beginning in 1734 in Hanover County, Virginia," written by Ross Chappell and published in 2005, my family (the Ross side that is) descends from John Ross who was part of a Jacobite movement in Scotland in the early 1700s. To make a long story short, he was one of many who was imprisoned in a church and then transported to Maryland aboard a ship. Well, there is the "ship" that I learned about.

John Ross was then sold as an indentured servant to a man who died before he was listed in the inventory of the man's estate. Because of the documentation found, John Ross was more than likely released from servitude rather than having run away. He married a woman by the name of Sarah whose maiden name is uncertain, and they lived in Hanover County, Virginia.

When people come in the Center and begin their family research, they never know what they are going to find or who they are going to end up being related to. More times than not, a patron will leave the Center after learning they are related to another patron that is visiting at the same time, or even one of the staff members. Things also may be uncovered about relatives that may be quite hard to believe. For instance, you may discover that you are related to a President, a Founding Father, a military hero, or a convicted felon.

Along with monthly programs, the Center offers genealogy classes that are held twice each year. The series of four classes are held in February and again in September. If you are interested in starting or continuing your research and are interested in taking the classes, please give us a call to put your name on the list. Keep in mind, there is a limited space for the classes.

And remember, as you watch the squirrels milling around gathering their nuts for the winter season, consider all of the "nuts" you may have and find on your tree as well! It may be fun chasing your own 'tale'!

(Snead is the director of the Bassett Historical Center.)

Culture Exchange

from page 1



New Epoch School students from Beijing participated in a field trip to the University of Virginia during their two-week visit to Carlisle School in Axton.

coming, attended school athletic events, and enjoyed spending time with their host families. They toured UVA and Wake Forest University to explore college options and also visited Monticello while in the Charlottesville area.

The students, accompanied by their Head of School and two teachers, stayed with host families. Amanda Russell of Martinsville hosted several of the students in her home for the camp. She said, "hosting international students has been an amazing experience that our children will never forget."

The visit provided abundant educational opportunities for Carlisle's students, as well. In Mr. Damian Dydyn's 7th grade class, students have been studying government and writing a paper on the three basic forms: Democracy, Authoritarian, and Monarchy. Their assignment was to build and support a thesis statement about which type of government

is most effective. Dydyn explained that for the project, "the meaning of 'effective' was up to them [the students]."

The class began by building tables of pros and cons for each form of government. Dydyn said, "With our visitors from China sitting in on the class, the students were exposed to very different perspectives on governments and had some of their preconceptions challenged. The conversations that took place were fascinating to listen to and quite illuminating for both the students and me."

Students were able to use technology to assist in communicating some of the more complex ideas and questions. Google translate served as an effective bridge when the language hurdles occasionally slowed down discussions.

Dydyn said, "Some of the things that sparked the most discussion were ideas like freedom of speech, social programs, and having more voices present in

government decisions."

Students were able to share much knowledge. Jack Lingle, a Carlisle 7th-grade student from Danville, explained that his new friends from Beijing taught him to play a Chinese strategy game called Go. He also said, "they taught us paper crafts, the traditional Chinese art of paper cutting." He added, "It was hard, but they helped us."

Many activities at American schools are different than ones the guests experience at home. Lingle said that the students from Carlisle taught the guests how to navigate campus to get to classes on time and helped them to learn procedures for lunch and other daily events. He said they also collaborated on a project in drama class.

"The students from New Epoch School adapted academically and socially during their visit, and we would welcome their enrollment at Carlisle in the future," Bailey said.

Award

from page 1

tunities," Hatchett said. Along those lines, she added, "We installed handicapped ramps at front of building this summer so that anyone can enter the front doors of the school instead of going around the side."

It will be summer 2020 before the elevator is operational.

Facilities and Maintenance Director Keith Scott told the board that "elevator companies have about a 20-week lead time," which is standard for the industry. He also noted that the project is "well below budget."

Also at the regular Oct. 3 meeting, the school board heard a report on school accreditation from Michael Minter, Director of Assessment and Accountability. Minter said all 14 schools in Henry County are accredited and experienced growth in student scores. This is even though the Virginia Department of Education made changes to the accreditation standards that schools must meet in 2017-18.

In order to be accredited, schools at all grade levels must show overall proficiency in English, math, and science. Achievement gaps between different groups of students in English and math, and rates of chronic absenteeism are also taken into account. Elementary and middle schools must show growth in student proficiency rates in reading/writing and math. High schools are graded on their on-time graduation, completion, and dropout rates. New for the class of 2022, 85 percent of graduates must show "college, career and civic readiness."

Minter noted that Henry County's on-time graduation rates have risen from 87 percent in 2016-17 to 90 percent last year (in 2018-19), slightly below state average of 91 percent.

A graph of overall pass rates in different subjects in Henry County Schools showed English, math, and science have mostly held steady from 2016-17 to 2018-19. However, pass rates in social studies have declined from the mid-80s to the mid-70s during that time and are several percentage points below the state average. In response to a board member's question about the figures, Minter said, "We've had a lot of teacher turnover in that area over the past five years." The school system is working on professional development and other strategies with the teachers to improve the scores.

In addition, the school board recognized student Kennedy Coleman, who received the Young Family Scholarship to attend a three-week theater workshop with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton this summer. Kennedy, a sophomore at Magna Vista High School, thanked the Young family for the scholarship.

"This experience has helped me become a more confident actor and a more outgoing person," she said. "A lot of the exercises and skills that I gained from this camp I'm able to use today in my drama classes." Kennedy said that while she does not plan to pursue acting as a career, the workshop helped her become more confident interacting with people and making eye contact.

Also during the Oct. 3 meeting, the school board:

Recognized October as is Bullying Prevention Month and Disability Awareness Month. Schools will have related activities to raise awareness throughout the month, Hatchett said.

During the public comment period, heard from Dorothy Carter, who spoke on behalf of

the Henry County Education Association about addressing school employee salaries.

Approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the Sept. 5 school board meeting; bills for payment from Sept. 13 and 30; overnight and out-of-state field trip requests; and setting of the support group audit fees.

Approved an estimated \$26,000 from fiscal year 2020 local instructional funds for the annual purchase of student planners. Henry County Schools annually provides a student planner for students in grades K-12 to assist students with organization skills in addition to providing supplemental instructional resources. The planners will be purchased for the 2020-2021 school year. Vendors are Global Datebooks and Premier - School Specialty.

Approved employee computer purchases through payroll deductions. The school division allows employees to purchase iPads, laptop computers, and Apple watches at the negotiated rates from vendors currently under contract with the school division. Employees who choose to participate will have monthly payments deducted from their paychecks for six months, beginning January 2020. The same program is also being offered to city and city school employees. There is no financial impact to the school division other than staff time to process the payments.

Heard reports from the superintendent, including a slideshow of instructional highlights; the monthly financial statement from Aug. 31; the energy and facilities report; the discipline summary report; membership report; and fundraisers approved by the superintendent.

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Northam signs Executive Directive to Ensure Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care Coverage for All Virginians

Gov. Ralph Northam recently issued Executive Directive Five, directing actions to increase the number of Virginians enrolled in quality, affordable health care coverage.

This year, Medicaid expansion is providing access to health coverage for more than 325,000 eligible Virginians who have enrolled, positively impacting their health. But meaningful health coverage remains unaffordable for too many Virginians, due in large part to federal policies that have increased cost and decreased the quality of available coverage.

"Health coverage should be both meaningful and affordable, but unfortunately, policies from Washington threaten to increase the number of families who are uninsured or underinsured," Northam said.

"It's more important than ever that we identify and implement policies at the state level that control costs and ensure that Virginians can afford to buy health insurance that covers their health care needs."

Executive Directive Five requires Virginia explore strategies to reduce health insurance premiums statewide, and protect Virginians from federal uncertainty. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Finance and Public Safety and Homeland Security, will review policies and programs and take actions to promote greater access and enrollment in quality, affordable health insurance coverage. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources will work with state agencies, community part-

ners, providers, health plans, and policy makers to implement policies and processes that will result in measurable and sustained improvement in access to affordable health care coverage.

"Health care is about wellness and well-being, but it is also an economic issue for many Virginians," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey, M.D. "We know that quality, affordable health care coverage allows families to maintain employment, pursue educational opportunities, and have more money for other important personal investments and we need to protect and build on the gains we have made."

The Secretary of Health and Human Resources will develop data-driven strategies to create ef-

iciencies in coverage and improve health outcomes, with a special focus on particularly vulnerable populations, including but not limited to: pregnant women, justice-involved populations, non-English speaking populations, individuals with disabilities, and youth in foster care. The Secretary will also look for solutions to improve affordability through state innovations.

Officials at the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association wrote in a statement that their members "appreciate Governor Northam's continued focus on identifying consensus-driven reforms to increase the number of Virginians enrolled in quality, affordable coverage and to reduce health insurance costs. Even now, many Virginians lack affordable health care

options. This negatively impacts access to care and health outcomes, particularly for people in vulnerable populations.

"Virginia hospitals have undertaken efforts to reduce health care costs through value-based improvements in care delivery and have partnered with the Commonwealth on initiatives to enhance access to care, such as the commitment hospitals made in 2018 to fund the state's share of Medicaid expansion costs. In that continued spirit of cooperation we pledge our ongoing support to Governor Northam, Secretary Carey, and other partners as we work to make Virginia the healthiest state in the nation."

Uptick in Student Absentee Ballots Might Indicate Higher Turnout

Imani Thaniel
Capital News Service

In addition to hitting the books this fall, more Virginia college students may hit the polls next month, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

Virginia Department of Elections data show that 10,923 students in Virginia have applied for absentee ballots this year. That's more than double the number of absentee ballot applications (4,878) received in 2015, the last year all 140 seats were up

for reelection in the General Assembly, according to Christopher Piper, commissioner of the department.

Residents (including students) have requested 66,219 applications for absentee voting, according to state election data. Records show that 62,605 absentee ballots were filed four years ago. As of today, the state has filed 24,766 absentee ballots; it remains to be seen how many more are returned.

Piper said absentee ballots have increased in

popularity. Last year, voters submitted 287,763 absentee ballots, the highest number of votes in the state during a non-presidential election based on data available since 1976. The 2008 presidential election had the highest rate of absentee voting recorded in Virginia, with 506,672 absentee votes submitted.

"Using absentee voting is a good indicator of potential turnout, and if you look at previous elections and compare it to today there has been an increase in this election and overall,"

Piper said.

Traditionally, voter turnout is highest during presidential elections and drops during state elections. For instance, 72% of registered voters participated in the 2016 presidential election, but turnout for the 2017 gubernatorial election fell to 48%. That same year, the second highest number of absentee votes, 496,452, were filed.

"We could potentially have a higher turnout due to the opposition within the 93rd and 94th House districts," said Vicki Lewis,

with the Newport News registrar's office.

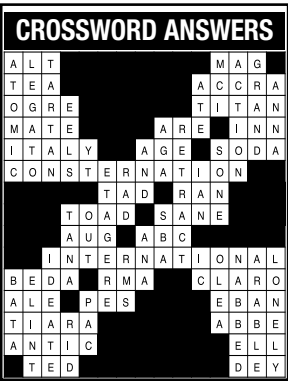
Perhaps this election is predicted to spur higher voter turnout in part because it includes over 30 competitive races. Further, redistricting maps gave an advantage to some House Democrats, who hope to wrest back the slim majority Republicans hold — in both chambers. As of Sept. 30, Virginia had 5,612,769 registered voters. In the 2015 election, nearly 5.2 million residents registered to vote and a little over 1.5 million, or 29%, actually

voted.

Erin Burke Brown, the voter registration and turnout chair for VCU Votes, which promotes voter engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it remains to be seen whether young voters will show up to the polls.

"It depends on whether young people are fired up to want things to change and have their voices heard," Brown said.

Applications for absentee ballots can be found online or by visiting the local registrar's office.



Claudville man held without bond in connection with alleged incident

Larry Dale Puckett, 57, of Pedigo Ridge Road, Claudville, was charged with aggravated malicious

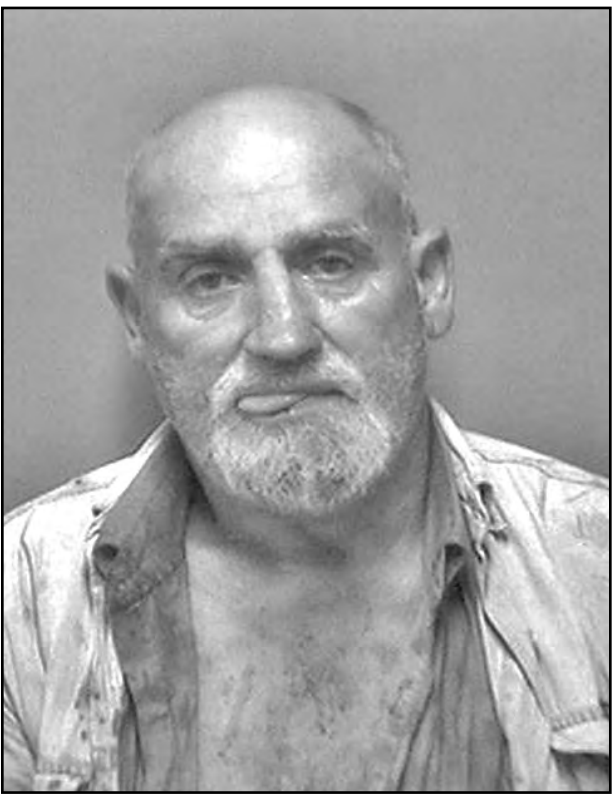
wounding in connection with an incident Sunday, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Another man, Justin Sinclair Hawks, 29, of The Hollow Road, Ararat, was transported early Monday morning to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is being treated for life threatening injuries after he was allegedly stabbed late Sunday, Smith said in a release.

Puckett and Hawks had been involved in an ongoing dispute, according to the sheriff. Puckett was found in his residence a short time later and was arrested by Patrick County Deputy Noah Wolfe.

He is being held in the Patrick County Jail with no bond, Smith said.

The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information is urged to contact Investigator Tyler Wilson at (276) 692-5123.



Larry Dale Puckett

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Conservation agency, Southern States partner on nutrient management effort

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is partnering with Southern States Cooperative to encourage nutrient management planning on Virginia farms. Nutrient management planning involves matching soil inputs with crop needs. The practice can make farming operations more efficient and improve growing conditions by ensuring crops don't receive more fertilizer than they need. Nutrient management planning can also benefit water quality by reducing amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution that run off into local waterways when it rains. "I am pleased that Southern States will lend its expertise to encourage nutrient management planning across Virginia," DCR Director Clyde E. Cristman said. "Private-sector support is essential to getting

the word out about this beneficial practice. DCR values the time and effort Southern States is investing in this partnership." Through its agronomy sales teams, Southern States will advise growers, where possible, about the benefits of nutrient management and how to get a plan. Nutrient management plans are developed by plan writers who are trained and certified by DCR, the commonwealth's lead agency for agricultural conservation. "Nutrient management planning is the kind of practice Southern States embraces," Southern States President and CEO Jeff Stroburg said. "It aligns with our company's goal to recommend products and services that are agronomically sound, cost-effective and environmentally responsible." Nutrient management plans are site-specific and based on factors such as

soil and manure samples, timing and rate of applications, and yield records. Financial incentives for plan development may be available through local soil and water conservation districts. Nutrient management plans are a voluntary best management practice for most farms in Virginia. Certain permitted animal operations and some farms enrolled in the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program are required to be under a nutrient management plan. Virginia's Chesapeake Bay restoration plan — the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, released in August — calls for nutrient management on 85 percent of Virginia cropland in the bay watershed by 2025. For information about nutrient management plans, contact a DCR specialist.

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Supreme Court hears arguments on D.C. sniper's life sentences

Horus Alas
Capital News Service

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments Wednesday over whether "D.C. sniper" Lee Boyd Malvo's juvenile life sentences without parole in Virginia violated the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and thus should not stand.

Malvo and his partner, John Allen Muhammad, killed 10 and wounded three others during a 22-day spree of sniper attacks in Washington, Maryland and Virginia that began Oct. 2, 2002. Then-17-year-old Malvo was convicted on two capital murder charges before pleading guilty to five separate charges in Virginia. He was given four life sentences without parole there in 2004. But in 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that life sentences without parole for minors violated their Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment, unless their crimes indicated "permanent incorrigibility." A federal court in Virginia subsequently ruled Malvo should be resentenced. Randall Mathena, chief warden at the prison holding Malvo, appealed that decision. When the U.S. Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit in Richmond also sided with Malvo, Mathena appealed to the Supreme Court. Danielle Spinelli, an attorney representing Malvo, argued that her client deserved new sentencing because courts could not have duly considered his youth as a mitigating factor prior to the Supreme Court's 2012 decision. "Juveniles are entitled to at least one opportunity to show that they are not permanently incorrigible," she said. But Malvo had no way of knowing he should raise that issue, and courts were not obligated to apply the incorrigibility standards to minors at the time, according to Spinelli. Virginia Solicitor General Toby Heytens, represent-

ing Mathena, told the justices that the 2012 court decision only prohibited "mandatory" life sentences without parole for minors. Therefore, Heytens said, that ruling "does not cover Malvo's case." The Virginia courts had already differentiated between "mandatory" and "discretionary" sentencing structure for youths, Heytens said. He added that "Malvo's victims were already required to endure one full trial," and should not have to go through another. Liberal members of the court did not appear to be readily convinced by Virginia's arguments. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg questioned whether Malvo's sentences were not mandatory. She said Virginia courts at the time only allowed him to be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole. And Justice Elena Kagan doubted whether a discretionary sentencing structure afforded minors due protections. "A judge could say, 'You know what? I just don't feel like thinking about a defendant's youth,'" she said. She summed up the court's 2012 ruling as "youth matters." Meanwhile, Justice Brett Kavanaugh pressed both counsels aggressively. He questioned Heytens on how the justices could know the judge who sentenced Malvo had differentiated "immature" from "incorrigible" when assigning him life sentences without parole. Kavanaugh then questioned Spinelli on why it couldn't be inferred from a discretionary sentencing structure that a judge had in fact considered all relevant factors in a defendant's sentencing. Chief Justice John Roberts noted the court's 2012 decision did not require a "formal finding" with regard to a juvenile criminal's incorrigibility. The ambiguity compounded whether life in prison without parole was "proportionate" in the Malvo case and the 2,000 other resentencings underway that followed the ruling, he said. At another point,

Ginsburg asked Heytens whether a Virginia defendant had ever had a sentence lessened from life in prison without parole to life in prison with parole. Heytens said that to his knowledge, no defendant had secured such a change. Justice Samuel Alito pressed Spinelli on the ultimate goal of Malvo's resentencing. "If he can demonstrate, as a result of good behavior in prison, for example, that he has been rehabilitated, then he must be released?" he asked. "No, absolutely not." Spinelli responded. She said Malvo's youth amounted to just one factor in the case, and "the sentencer then can decide what the sentence is going to be." Spinelli also pointed to cases where juvenile offenders were resentenced to life in prison without parole. The appearance of Malvo's case in the high court followed a years-long saga of petitions and appeals on multiple fronts. In Virginia, Malvo's requests for resentencing worked their way up to the Virginia Supreme Court and were ultimately denied. In Montgomery County, Maryland, where Malvo faced six life sentences without parole, a judge denied his request for resentencing in 2017. Malvo's attorneys filed an appeal thereafter. Even if justices decide Malvo should be granted resentencing in Virginia, his life sentences without parole in Maryland stand until appealed successfully. Malvo is being held at Red Onion State Prison - a super-maximum security facility - near Pound, Virginia. Muhammad - an ex-soldier and expert marksman who brought Malvo into the United States from Antigua and trained him in military tactics for nearly a year before the attacks - was sentenced to death in Virginia in 2004. He was executed there in 2009. The United States is the only country in the world that currently allows juveniles to be sentenced to life without parole, according to court documents.

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SPORTS

First Half Explosion Powers Bengals in Road Win

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(DRY FORK, Va.) – Bassett's football team started fast on Friday night at Tunstall, then held on late, riding a 21-point first half to a 27-20 road victory, spoiling homecoming for the Trojans.

The Bengals exploded out of the gate, scoring on their opening drive. Demetrius Gill capped the nine-play, 75-yard drive with a 12-yard rushing touchdown and Bassett was off to the races.

Simeon Walker-Muse scored on a four-yard rush and Elijah Stokes scored on a 24-yard reception from Jaricous Hairston to give the Bengals a 21-6 halftime lead and the game looked to be an easy win if they continued to execute at a high level, with Stokes' 134 total yards powering the Bassett offense.

Walker-Muse and Stokes, both sophomores who started the season playing JV football before getting the call up to varsity in Week Four, continue to impress with their play.

"They're players, they're young but they're players," Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson said of the sophomore duo. "They've been a huge asset to us. They gained a lot of confidence playing at the JV level the first half of the season, and now they have picked it right up. I have enjoyed seeing their growth."

According to Johnson, however, the final 18 minutes of play were not up to a high standard.

"For a lot of years, these kids aren't used to coming into halftime and having a big lead. We're trying to teach them how to handle that," Johnson said. "We lost a lot of focus at halftime, and once you lose that it is hard to get it back."

Bassett forced a turnover on downs to open the second half, then scored immediately on a Kashaun Valentine jet sweep to take a 27-6 lead. Johnson forced the issue, opting for an onside kick, which the Bengals recovered. From that moment on, the game turned in Tunstall's favor.

The Trojans held the Bengals after the onside recovery, then scored 14 unanswered and had the ball late in the game in position to tie, largely thanks to the outstanding play of speedster receiver William Blackwell, who burned Bassett's secondary for 148 receiving yards and three

touchdowns.

"Our lack of execution and discipline in the second half was frustrating," Johnson said. "We went up 27-6 and recovered an onside kick and had a chance to be the team we want to be and suffered penalty after penalty and lacked discipline... Every big penalty led to a touchdown for them. If you give up a big play or penalty, it is probably going to bite you and it bit us tonight. I felt like we lost focus."

One group that remained focused through the final whistle for Bassett was the defensive front seven. The Bengals front tallied six sacks on the night and drew multiple holding penalties on the Trojans' offensive line.

The key play for the pass-rushers came with under three minutes to play, when Austin McDaniel got to Tunstall quarterback Dylan Burnett for a sack that stalled the Trojans' last-ditch attempt to tie the game.

"We call our defensive line 'the hot boys' because we get off the ball fast and are going to do whatever it takes to get pressure on the quarterback," McDaniel said. "We're a back against the wall defense and if you put us under pressure, diamonds are formed under pressure."

Johnson credited his pass-rushers with playing at a high level late in the game.

"They're relentless, they're always going to be relentless. It's always a green light for them," Johnson said. "At the end of the game, they came up big with some sacks just by pinning their ears back and just not stopping."

Now, after surviving a trip to Tunstall and escaping with a 27-20 win, Bassett (4-3) must travel into Martinsville to play their oldest rival, the Bulldogs (0-7).

Despite Martinsville's struggles in the win-loss column, Johnson said he knows his Bengals are in for a fight on Friday night. When asked if two poor quarters in Dry Fork would help re-focus his team ahead of the rivalry game, Johnson said "if it doesn't (refocus the team) we're not the team I thought we were."

"Martinsville is very athletic, young, hungry for a win and I told my guys we have to come out and be ready to play," Johnson continued. "Any given night when you're playing a sport, anybody can beat anybody - especially in the Piedmont District and especially if you're not ready to play."



Bassett running back Elijah Stokes (28) jukes a Tunstall defender during the Bengals' 27-20 win in Dry Fork on Friday night.



Bassett running back Simeon Walker-Muse (middle) looks for space during the Bengals' 27-20 win in Dry Fork on Friday night.



Bassett linebacker Shy Preston (foreground, middle) earns a tackle for loss during the Bengals' 27-20 win in Dry Fork on Friday night.



Bassett defensive end Austin McDaniel (left) performs a textbook swim move during the Bengals' 27-20 win in Dry Fork on Friday night.

PHOTO BY HARRISON HAMLET

Bassett High School 27, Tunstall High School 20
BHS – 6 14 7 0 - 27
THS – 6 0 7 7 - 20

SCORING SUMMARY

FIRST QUARTER

7:27 – BHS – Demetrius Gill
12 rush (PAT fail)

3:01 – THS – William Blackwell 47 pass from Dylan Burnett (PAT fail)

SECOND QUARTER

9:21 – BHS – Simeon Walker-Muse 4 rush (Freddie Lopez PAT good)

6:29 – BHS – Elijah Stokes 24 pass from Jaricous Hairston (Freddie Lopez PAT good)

THIRD QUARTER

7:31 – BHS – Kashaun Valentine 7 rush (Freddie Lopez PAT good)

4:03 – THS – William Blackwell 42 pass from Dylan Burnett (Thomas Barker PAT good)

FOURTH QUARTER

5:28 – THS – William Blackwell 30 pass from Dylan Burnett (Thomas Barker PAT good)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL RUSHING

Elijah Stokes 8 for 86; Simeon Walker-Muse 14 for 68, TD; Kevon Smith 13 for 55; Demetrius Gill 3 for 25, TD; Ty Cline 1 for 25; Jaricous Hairston 3 for 11; Kashaun Valentine 1 for 7, TD.

PASSING

Jaricous Hairston 5 of 14 for 59, TD.

RECEIVING

Elijah Stokes 4 for 48, TD; Kashaun Valentine 1 for 11.

TUNSTALL HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Donovan Dickerson 9 for 49; William Blackwell 2 for 11; Dylan Burnett 7 for 8; Jalan Troy 5 for 2, fumble; Tyler Moss 1 for 1; Jamison Graves 1 for -10.

PASSING

Dylan Burnett 12 of 25 for 208, 3TD, INT; Jamison Graves 0 for 1.

RECEIVING

William Blackwell 4 for 148, 3TD; Jamison Graves 2 for 17; Damoni Hairston 1 for 17; Ethan Broyles 2 for 16; Jalan Troy 1 for 3.

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Athletic Eagles Too Much For Cougars

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(STUART, Va.) – Some things in sports are like clockwork. The New England Patriots are disciplined, Virginia Tech plays ‘Beamer-Ball’ on special teams, and it snows when the Buffalo Bills play at home in January.

Similarly, G.W.-Danville’s football team is known for its abundant athleticism, and Patrick County head coach David Morrison made no bones about the fact that 2019 was the same for the visiting Eagles on Friday night.

That athleticism allowed G.W.-Danville to jump out to a 20-0 lead after one quarter en route to a 54-14 win over Patrick County in Stuart.

“They didn’t do anything we didn’t expect them to do, they just out-played us,” Morrison said.

Since their arrival in the Piedmont District, G.W.-Danville has solidified themselves as a perennial championship contender. For Morrison and his Cougars, facing a team loaded with talent and discipline was a lesson in what could be.

“We have to do a lot of

things properly to compete with a team like that. That’s what we want to look like,” Morrison said. “We have to get everybody buying into the program and the weight room... for us to compete with them we have to do a lot of things 100-percent right. Not just some things, a lot of things.

“We’ve got a core of guys who have bought into the weight room and the off-season work but it can’t just be the guys who are starting it has to be everybody on special teams or role players. When it gets to that point, that’s when you’ll see dramatic turnarounds and us being highly competitive with teams like G.W.”

Despite the lopsided score, Morrison was able to point to several positives after the loss.

The play of Dae’Shawn Penn continues to be a revelation for the Cougars, as the junior tailback accounted for both Patrick County touchdowns on Friday, one on a 67-yard reception and a five-yard rush.

But it isn’t just Penn that is impressing in the running game, according to Morrison.

It is also the offensive line.

Josh Dalton, Jonathan Pell, Justin Pell, Jess Edwards, Jaheim Johnson and tight end Bryson Fulcher have been paving the way for a running game that has kept Patrick County competitive in losses and dominant in victories.

“These guys go unnoticed all the time but our offensive line did a solid job again on Friday night,” Morrison said. “They are making holes and creating holes and movement at the point of attack. We couldn’t get there fast enough or G.W. would fill the hole, but the offensive line play was there.”

Junior quarterback Will Sprowl, and later senior Jay Phillips, also impressed, with both leading second-half scoring drives, while Carson Merriman continued his stellar play on both sides of the ball.

Morrison said Phillips’ play was a theme on Friday, as a number of players exited the game due to injury, including Sprowl, and he was pleased with the players who stepped into a tough situation and played well.

The scoreboard ultimately outweighed the posi-

tives for Morrison and his players, who obviously felt disappointment at the loss.

“Obviously, anytime you take a loss you’re going to be upset,” Morrison said. “It is good to see in a way that the kids take it to heart. There was no whining or pouting, but we understand that they’re a standard we’re striving for and we aren’t there yet.”

The schedule doesn’t get any easier next week for Patrick County (3-4), as they will travel to Ridgeway to face a rested Magna Vista (5-1) team that is coming off a bye week.

“They’re fresh and we’re coming off a tough game,” Morrison said of Magna Vista. “They’re going to have to practice all week like we are and both teams have to lace them up on Friday night.”

Playing in Ridgeway has become a tough environment with Joe Favero at the helm of the Warriors program, with fans and students alike bringing a raucous feel to big games in ‘The Hole.’

“You would like to think that the Christiansburg game prepared us for that environment,” Morrison said. “Play-

ing down at The Hole it is always going to be an exciting game and a great crowd. There will be wind and cool weather, Cougar weather as we call it. It is going to be great to get into that atmosphere.”

Like G.W.-Danville, Magna Vista has become a dominant force in the Piedmont District in recent years, leading to an “opportunity” two weeks in a row for Morrison and his Cougars.

“We look at it as a great opportunity. Anytime you play a great team it is a great opportunity to measure ourselves against good football teams. That’s what you want,” Morrison said. “You’re going to have to stick their head out there sometimes against teams that are more talented than you. You have to embrace it. You can’t run away from it. We get to play a really solid team and measure ourselves and evaluate who we are as a team right now.”

G.W.-Danville High School 54,
Patrick County High School 14
GW-D – 20 14 20 0 – 54
PCHS – 0 0 6 8 – 14

Bulldogs Struggle on the Road, Fall to Comets

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(SOUTH BOSTON, Va.) – The improvements are there, Martinsville head football coach Bobby Martin said on Sunday afternoon, they just aren’t showing up on the scoreboard yet.

On Friday night on the road against Halifax County, the scoreboard was again unkind to the Bulldogs as they fell 47-14, but Martin sees the improvement in his Martinsville roster.

“We were battling early, it just gets away from us up front as the game goes on, we get out-manned up front,” Martin said. “We’re getting better, we’re just trying to make up for lost time.”

Early in the second quarter, Martinsville was able to tie the game at six, but the Comets exploded from there, leading to a 21-6 halftime deficit for the Bulldogs.

Martin noted that several times this year, his team could have been in position to close out wins if a better start to the game had set them up for success. Instead, the Bulldogs often find themselves digging out of holes.

“The starts are encouraging, we’re able to match up early, but if our starts were a little bit better we’d be 3-4 (instead of 0-7),” Martin said. “Three games now we could have won if we hadn’t spotted teams 21 points. I don’t care how good you are, that’s a tough situation. We’re doing some things better every week, just not putting it all together right now.”

After halftime, the visiting Martinsville team was unable to mount the same challenge to Halifax County that the Bulldogs managed at home against Patrick County. This led to a 35-14 deficit entering the fourth quarter, something Martin felt would

be difficult to overcome, especially after watching the film of the Comets victory over Bassett.

“When I watched them on film Halifax looked good, they looked good against Bassett and Bassett has some men,” Martin said. “I was impressed with that. We saw the same thing on Friday night.”

The Martinsville touchdowns came courtesy of Jahil Martin and Tre Wilson on explosive plays, one a kick return, but there simply weren’t enough explosive plays in the bag to keep the Bulldogs in the game late.

Despite injuries affecting the offensive line and skill positions, Martin said he has stuck roughly to the same offensive philosophy, allowing his players to become more comfortable now after a fall camp and seven weeks under the first-year head coach. The formations have changed slightly, but the plays are at-

tacking the same stress points in opposing defenses.

“It’s been the same offense just a different formation. We’ve been running the same stuff for four weeks now,” Martin explained. “We had so many injuries. If we ever got healthy we’d go back to a true spread. We just have too many injuries up front and lost too many skill kids to injury to run a true spread. For example, we were missing three running backs on Friday against Halifax. It has just been a tough road this year.”

Martinsville (0-7) must now prepare to face Henry County rival Bassett (4-3) and familiarity for the players could play a motivating role for the Bulldogs, Martin said.

“I hope that seeing those Bassett guys around town helps motivate the players,” Martin said. “For me, to play another Friday night is something to look forward to. I

just love lining up and going to compete. I know we’re going to get it turned around eventually.”

For the coaches, there is certainly familiarity, as well, with the elder Martin noting he has known Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson and Johnson’s family for decades.

“I’ve known coach Johnson since he was a baby so I am excited for him and the job he is doing at Bassett. I knew he would do things right,” Martin said. “I watched him grow up. I knew he was going to do a good job, so that doesn’t surprise me one bit. I’m a big supporter of his.”

Halifax County High School 47,
Martinsville High School 14
MHS – 0 6 8 0 – 14
HCHS – 0 21 14 12 – 47

Odds Favor Another First-time Winner for NASCAR Hall of Fame 200

What are the chances of a first-time series winner emerging when Martinsville Speedway hosts the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 for NASCAR’s Gander Outdoors Truck Series on Oct. 26?

Based on previous races, about as good as a run on the track’s famous hot dogs once the gates open.

For those into statistical lore, consider this: For the last five odd-numbered years – 2009 through 2017 - there have been five first-time winners in the series at the legendary .526-mile speedway.

In 2009, a young Timothy Peters, hailing from just down the road in Danville, Va., scored his first career victory in the NGOTS when he captured the a Martinsville truck series race win while competing for Red Horse Racing;

Two years later, another local favorite, Cup star Denny Hamlin of Chesterfield, Va., bested the field to earn his first victory in the series;

Bubba Wallace scored a landmark victory in 2013 at Martinsville when he became only the second African-American driver to win a NASCAR national series race, joining NASCAR Hall of Fame driver Wendell Scott. It was Wallace’s initial win in the series.

The 2015 fall truck race at Martinsville didn’t see a new winner – but that had been taken care of months earlier when current Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion Joey Logano collected the victory in the March running of the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race.

Rounding out the run of new first-time winners was

Noah Gragson, the 2017 champ in the fall race.

Not only was the ’15 victory Logano’s lone win in the series, to date it’s been his only start as well.

“I wanted to win a truck race just to say I did all three,” the Team Penske driver admitted. “Honestly, since then, the opportunity has never really presented itself to run (a truck) again.”

“I ran for (teammate) Brad Keselowski and he ended up hiring a couple of full-time drivers (for his trucks).”

Wallace, Gragson and Hamlin each won at Martinsville while competing for Kyle Busch Motorsports.

Wallace, who now competes for Richard Petty Motorsports in the Cup Series, looks back at his victory as a catalyst that propelled him up the NASCAR ladder.

“A conversation Kyle and I had during the (’13) off-season,” Wallace said, “he said, ‘Dude, if you hadn’t won that race you wouldn’t be back here.’”

“At the time I was like, ‘Oh, OK.’ But then I started thinking about that and said, ‘Hell, if I wasn’t there (at KBM) for the ’14 season, I wouldn’t be here today in the spot I am. ... It’s just kind of crazy how it all works out. That was definitely a huge win for me.”

Gragson has since moved on to the NASCAR Xfinity Series, but hasn’t forgotten how special it felt to score that 2017 Martinsville victory.

“It was my first win in the series, obviously, but just all the history that goes with Martinsville – if you can win there, it’s really big deal,” the 21-year-old Gragson said. “It

has one of the coolest trophies with the grandfather clock, and there’s so much history there.”

“It’s just a challenging race track in general to get around by yourself.”

“With that being said, the way we did it passing Johnny Sauter and Matt Crafton, that was really, really cool for myself being a rookie. Going up against two (series) champions and really the best guys in the series. Being able to pass Crafton on the outside, drive away from him and eventually to take the win was awesome.”

The NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 (FS1, 1:30 p.m. ET) is race No. 5 of this year’s playoffs for the Gander Outdoors Truck Series.

Those looking for a Martinsville victory and a guaranteed spot in the Championship Four at Homestead

Miami Speedway are Brett Moffitt (GMS Racing No. 21 Chevrolet), Stewart Friesen (Halmar Friesen Racing No. 98 Ford), Austin Hill (Hattori Racing Enterprises No. 16 Toyota), Ross Chastain Niece Motorsports No. 45 Chevrolet), Matt Crafton, (ThorSport Racing No. 88 Ford) and Tyler Ankrum (DGR Crosley No. 17 Toyota).

Will this year’s edition of the tremendously popular race see yet another fresh face in victory lane? Stay tuned.

In addition to the Hall of Fame 200, Martinsville Speedway will host the First Data 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Oct. 27. The race, slated for a 3 p.m. start (NBCSN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio), is race No. 7 in this year’s 10-race championship chase.

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 critical, 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 Manuel, 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 October 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 restrictions 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.”

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Miles in Martinsville November 2nd

Miles in Martinsville, under the auspices of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, will be running the Nail the Rail 9 Miler race on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Starting time is 9:00 AM.

The race starts and finishes at the Dick & Willie Passage Trail's Virginia Avenue Trailhead. The race course is simple. Competitors start at mile point -0-, run to the other end of the trail to mile point 4.5; turn around and run back to mile point -0-. Run the race in under 60 minutes and you are deemed to have "Nailed the

Rail"! Few achieve that benchmark but regardless of time, the Nail the Rail 9 miler is a great test of endurance for both novice and experienced racers. Runners of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to participate. Fun fact...The final 3 miles are downhill!

Participants may pick up their packets with race bibs on Friday, November 1 from Noon - 4:00 PM at the YMCA at 3 Starling Avenue; and from 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM at the Dick & Willie Trail's Virginia Avenue trailhead. Paper registration is also avail-

able at these times. Runners are strongly encouraged to register online by October 23 at www.milesinmartinsville.com.

Miles in Martinsville conducts a series of seven races throughout the year with this effort being supported by numerous community sponsors. Title Sponsors for the series include Friedrichs Family Eye Care Center, VISIT Martinsville, and SOVAH Health of Martinsville.

Full details on the Nail The Rail 9 Miler and other Miles in Martinsville events can be found at www.milesinmartinsville.com



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Carilion Clinic is pleased to welcome Martha Cole, D.O., your newest family medicine provider in Martinsville.

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Appalachian Power Public Open House
Fieldale-Ridgeway Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Appalachian Power has announced plans to strengthen the transmission grid for customers in Henry County.

The Fieldale-Ridgeway Transmission Line Rebuild Project includes rebuilding 15 miles of transmission line in Henry County. Appalachian Power representatives will file an application with the Virginia State Corporation Commission in spring 2020, with approval expected within one year. If approved, construction begins in Fall 2021 and concludes the end of 2022.

Appalachian Power will host an open house to provide the community and affected landowners with project information. The open house will be held Wednesday, October 30, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The event will take place at Magna Vista High School at 701 Magna Vista School Road. Company representatives will answer questions, share details about the project and gather public input.

To learn more about Fieldale-Ridgeway Transmission Line Rebuild Project visit: www.AppalachianPower.com/Fieldale-Ridgeway.

