



Attorney Phil Gardner (standing) moderates a debate Tuesday night between the three candidates for Henry County Sheriff (seated, from left): Jerry Farmer, incumbent Lane Perry, and John Cassell.

## Issues in sheriff's race discussed at Tuesday debate in Martinsville

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Staff writer*

The three candidates for Henry County Sheriff kept the tone civil but disagreed on crime statistics in a debate Tuesday night at the historic Martinsville courthouse.

Incumbent Sheriff Lane Perry and challengers John Cassell and Jerry Farmer squared off in a public debate organized by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. The benches of the former courtroom were full of spectators, some wearing shirts supporting their chosen candidate. Attorney Phil Gardner moderated, giving each candidate a set amount of time to respond to questions about their background, qualifications, and views on issues ranging from how to deal with drug crime to whether teachers should carry guns at school.

"The Chamber is not here to stir the pot tonight. We're here for the meat and potatoes," Gardner said as he laid out the ground rules for the debate. The goal of the event was to highlight "what are the essential differences between the candidates," he said, and to "make the public more aware of the skills and talents of each."

All three candidates in the upcoming Nov. 5 election cited extensive experience in law enforcement. Perry has been sheriff since 2006, when he was appointed following the federal indictment of then-Sheriff H. Frank Cassell and others in his administration. Perry was elected in 2007, 2011, and 2015. Farmer and John Cassell (no relation) have both worked under Perry's administration in the Henry County Sheriff's Office, among other experience. Farmer also ran against Perry in 2015.

See **Sheriff Debate**, page 7

## Perry Recognized, Tourist Spending Discussed at Board of Supervisors Meeting Tuesday



Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry, center, accepts a plaque recognizing the re-accreditation of the Sheriff's Office by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) from Pulaski Police Chief Gary Roche (left) and VLEPSC Commissioner and City of Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper (right) during the Oct. 22 meeting of the Board of Supervisors

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Staff writer*

The Henry County Sheriff's Office has once again been re-accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC).

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry was recognized Tuesday afternoon in a presentation by Pulaski Police Chief Gary Roche and VLEPSC Commissioner and City

of Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper during the regular meeting of the county Board of Supervisors.

In his remarks to the board, Roche noted that accreditation is a voluntary process that requires participating agencies to meet 192 professional standards of the commission in all aspects of their operations. He praised the Henry County Sheriff's Office "for their commitment to law enforcement excellence."

Accreditation "is one openly transparent means by which citizens and government leaders can be assured that an agency is maintaining ethical standards and benchmarks of performance to which the community has a right to expect," Roche said. It also means that local law enforcement is "in compliance with established state-of-the-art policies and procedures."

See **Meeting**, page 10

## PSA Board Hears Efficiency Updates

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Staff writer*

Water meter upgrades in the county are 82 percent complete, the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) learned at its board meeting Monday night.

Meters are being replaced with a radio-read system that increases the efficiency of the meter reading process and detects leaks earlier, said county Director of Engineering Tim Pace. About 8,036 of 9,586 devices have been replaced so far, he told the board.

Almost 3,000 additional meters had previously been replaced.

The project costs approximately \$1.4 million. "There will be some operational cost savings, but the biggest benefits will be efficiency and accuracy for the HCPSA's billing department," Pace said.

With the new meters, "a process that used to take 17 to 19 days now takes three to five days," Pace said.

The county has been using touch readers, which require using a device to physically touch the meter, for about 20 years. Now that they are upgrading to radio reading, "staff don't even have to get out of the car," he said.

"Our meter readers literally ride down the street, and the data downloads," said County Administrator Tim Hall.

Radio-read meters also can help detect possible leaks sooner. Previously, high water consumption couldn't be detected until after each read cycle, which could be up to six weeks before the customer was notified, Pace said.

"Once the new system is operational, the meters can be read twice each month, once for billing and once for leak

detection. This should allow the PSA to notify customers weeks sooner, conserving water and saving the rate payers money," he said.

The replacements are being performed by Core & Main and Professional Meters, Inc. The project is on track to be completed by December, if not sooner.

Also during the PSA board meeting, members learned that a rock smaller than a fist caused almost \$6,000 in water loss in August and September. The county is looking at measures to prevent future leaks from occurring.

Mike Ward, PSA Director of Regulatory Compliance, explained that 7 million gallons of water were lost from early August to September. "We were losing about 300,000 gallons a day of water and didn't

See **Efficiency Updates**, page 2

## New Companies to Locate in Henry County

*Advanced Revert LLC is Locating*

*First U.S. Operation in Henry County*

Two companies based in Sheffield, England will open their first United States joint-venture operation in Ridgeway, company and local officials announced today.

Advanced Revert LLC will place its first US operation at the former DH Griffin property located at 1131 Mica Road, in Henry County. Advanced Revert LLC is a joint-venture partnership between Advanced Alloy Services Ltd and Revert Alloys and Metals Ltd, both well-established companies in the historic metals and mining region around Sheffield, England.

The announcement was made at the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT) as part of an afternoon of events at CCAT. The Mica Road location that will be used by Advanced Revert LLC also is in Ridgeway.

The new company plans to

invest approximately \$5 million in property and equipment along with plans to hire over 30 employees over the next few years.

The new operation will allow Advanced Revert LLC to service the growing US market that both companies currently serve from the UK. The combined company will afford greater ease of access and faster service to existing and new customers.

The companies have extensive industry knowledge and experience with tried and tested revert management solutions that increase competitive purchasing power by adding value through effective recovery and recycling of valuable metals. The companies recycle a wide variety of grades of specialist steels, nickel, cobalt and

See **Advanced Revert**, page 2

## DRP Performance Relocating to Henry County

Company to renovate existing building in Bassett Forks

DRP Performance, an automotive specialty racing products company, is re-locating operations from Franklin County to Henry County.

The company and local officials announced today that the company is purchasing an existing facility, the former Memorial Hospital Clinic in Bassett Forks, and will ultimately invest approximately \$1.1M in real and personal property to renovate and expand the facility to accommodate the company's growth. The company will also relocate its 13 current employees to the Bassett Forks location. The relocation will allow DRP Performance Products to expand its growing business and to locate closer to its major racing customer base in North Carolina.

DRP Performance has operated in Franklin County since 1988, and specializes in custom, high-precision products including hub components, hub tools, pull down systems, alignment systems, set-up tools and suspension, primarily for the racing industry.

"This relocation affords DRP the room to grow and expand our business while retaining our highly-skilled employees," said Lynn Doughton, Chief Steward of DRP. "It also allows us to recruit new employees that are being trained by Patrick Henry Community College's Motorsports Technology program."

Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said today's announcement was more evidence that the County's economy is strengthening.

"This relocation is another example of our hard work paying off," Adams said. "We welcome DRP and thank them for their confidence in our community."

The Martinsville-Henry County EDC was alerted to DRP's need to expand in May 2019, by Butch Hamlet, a former member of the EDC Board of Directors who knew Doughton both professionally and personally as they served together on the PHCC Racing College Advisory Board. "From the first time I met Lynn it was

See **DRP Performance**, page 3

## Absentee Ballot Deadlines Announced

The Virginia Department of Elections announced two upcoming deadlines for voters wishing to participate in the November 5, 2019 General Election via an absentee ballot.

Voters wishing to mail their absentee ballot have until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29 to request a ballot through their local voter registration office or the Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal at [www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal). The local registrar must receive all applications by the deadline in order to mail absentee ballots to eligible recipients in time for the election.

Absentee voters have until Nov. 2 to visit their local voter registration office and vote in-person absentee. The local offices will be open Saturday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 2, for individuals wishing to cast their absentee ballots in person.

Voters also may visit their local voter registration office during regular business hours through Nov. 2 to vote absentee in-person.

Voters can find information about their local voter registration office online at [www.elections.virginia.gov/vro](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/vro).

All absentee ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 5, in order to be counted.

Absentee ballot application forms can be found online at [www.elections.virginia.gov/forms](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/forms). These

application forms may be submitted online, by e-mail, by fax or by mail. The Virginia Department of Elections is committed to providing absentee ballot access to all qualified voters. To see if you qualify to vote absentee, visit [www.elections.virginia.gov/absentee](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/absentee).

The Department of Elections encourages voters who are requesting absentee ballots sent by mail to apply well ahead of the Oct. 29 deadline, as the U.S. Postal Service advises that First Class delivery takes two to five days. Waiting until the deadline may not provide sufficient time for voters to receive their ballots and send them back on time.

Voters who wish to cast an absentee ballot in person must present acceptable photo identification. Voters who do not have an acceptable form of ID still may cast their ballot after completing the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application and receiving a Temporary Identification Document from their voter registration office. More information on acceptable IDs is available online at [www.elections.virginia.gov/voterid](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/voterid).

Voters can find more information about the Nov. 5 General Election at [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov).





# Dragon Festival at VMNH celebrated lore



Meli Markham, from Raleigh, N.C., drew a crowd in front of the museum as she twirled a flaming baton and appeared to swallow the fire during the Dragon Festival at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.



Wesley Morgan, age 3, wore a dragon costume to the festival Oct. 19 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

## Kim Barto Meeks

Staff writer

More than 2,700 people turned out for a day of fossils and fantasy on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the third annual Dragon Festival hosted by the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The Renaissance Faire-style event celebrated dragon lore with fire performances, sword-fighting, blacksmithing demonstrations, Vikings, live music performed by pirates, and talks on science and folklore. It was the festival's largest crowd yet. "It's nice to see it grow ev-

ery year," said Dr. Dorothy Bell "D.B." Poli, a biology professor at Roanoke College, research associate at VMNH, and director of the Dragon Research Collaborative, which spearheads the festival in collaboration with the museum. So, why is a biologist involved in research about a mythical creature? The Dragon Research Collaborative looks at how fossils may have influenced the development of dragon myths. The project came about six years ago when Poli's colleague Dr. Lisa Stoneman, a folklorist, "asked

about a joke I made about certain plant fossils looking like dragons," Poli said. The plant was *Lepidodendron*, which existed 300 million years ago and could grow as tall as 100 feet. The closest equivalent species today would be running cedar or club moss, Poli said. In fossil form, the patterns left behind by the leaves look like scales from a reptile -- or a dragon. Imprints from the branches and trunks can look like claws. "We looked at where dragon stories originated and where the fossils exist, and they overlap

all over the world," Poli said. The fossils are found with coal seams, and so "wherever there's coal, there seem to be dragon stories." The collaborative pulls together researchers from a variety of disciplines, including plant biology, history, literature, computer science, business, environmental science, and more. The Dragon Festival is a way to showcase their work, Poli said, as well as to capture people's imagination. On Saturday, the parking lot outside the museum was full of tents and vendors selling drag-

on-inspired crafts, jewelry, and metalworks. Fitting the medieval theme, the beer garden featured mead, a traditional wine made with honey. Children made crafts, posed for photos, and played dress up with knight and princess costumes and foam swords. Wesley Morgan, age 3, was one of many children attending the festival in a dragon costume. His family and friends came from Lynchburg on Saturday, said his mother, Elizabeth Brown. "We came last year and

See Dragon Fest, page 10

## Authorities issue scam alert

The Henry County Sheriff's Office issued a recent release to alert Martinsville and Henry County residents about a new type of scam in which residents are notified that they have missed jury duty and law enforcement is enroute to arrest them. The caller then tells the resident they can avoid arrest if they pay a fine, according to the release. The address and telephone number of the Henry County Sheriff's Office is being used in connection with the scam, and residents also are told to not to come to the Sheriff's Office to pay the fine because of the bottom floor of the building being flooded, the release stated. Rather, the scammers direct residents to pay through other means, including gift cards, Green Dot MoneyPak cards, etc., according to the release. The Henry County Sheriff's Office does not collect fines for the courts. This is only accomplished through the court system. Authorities are encouraging residents to be leery of this and other types of calls to keep from being a victim. If you receive a call and are unsure as to its legitimacy, call the Henry County

Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement agency for advice. Numerous citizens have contacted the Henry County Sheriff's Office to make us aware of this and other types of scams, even when they are not victimized. Those efforts are appreciated and keeps authorities apprised of the new or continuing tactics being used by scammers, the release stated. Banking institutions and government agencies, such as the judicial system and law enforcement, will not contact individuals by telephone in regards to arrests, fines, etc. This is accomplished through mailings or personal contact. Receiving a call from these organizations is a sign of a possible scam. Anyone who has been victimized by a scam, or has information on suspected scammers, 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 determine the amount of reward paid.

## Advanced Revert

from page 1

titanium-based superalloys and pure metals. The metals are sorted, segregated, processed, certified and then sold to end users around the world to be melted into new superalloys used in high temperature and harsh environment applications including aerospace, power generation, oil and gas and the medical industry. "Once again an international company has chosen Henry County as the location for its first US operation," said Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors. "Not only will Advanced Revert LLC call Henry County home but it will bring life back to the former DH Griffin and Ridgeway Clocks location." The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation and Henry County officials worked with Advanced Revert LLC to bring the company to Henry County. The company was initially introduced to the EDC by Joe Anwyl of Invest Southern Virginia, an initiative of Mid Atlantic Broadband (MBC) and the Virginia Tobacco Commis-

sion. "We are grateful for Advanced Revert LLC's decision to locate in Henry County," said Larry Ryder, Chairman of the EDC Board of Directors. "Advanced Revert LLC continues Martinsville-Henry County's growing international presence and adds the fourth UK company to our manufacturing base." In lieu of a traditional incentive package, Advanced Revert's preference was to work directly with American National Bank due to the nature of their worldwide business model. The EDC and the Harvest Foundation will make funding assistance available as the company progresses toward its initial goals of capital investment and employment targets. "We can't say enough about the warm welcome we have received in Martinsville-Henry County said Andrew Skinner, Vice President Commercial, of the new company. "We thank Henry County, the EDC, Billy Kirby at American National Bank and attorney John Gregory for their assistance throughout this process.

Starting a new venture in a new country can be a daunting and at times a confusing journey, but everyone here went above and beyond to make this work and we say thank you to all who have helped us." John Cox, Vice President Operations, "I would like to thank all of those involved for the opportunity to locate our new joint business venture in Martinsville-Henry County. I would like to give a special mention to Mark Heath from the EDC for his continued support and belief. I can't wait to open the doors on the former DH Griffin building and look forward to working with the local people" Stephen Hall, President, "The help, encouragement and support of Henry County and in particular the personal focus and attention that has come from Mark Heath, Tim Hall, John Gregory, Billy Kirby and Joe Anwyl has been nothing short of amazing. It made Ridgeway an easy choice for the location of our first facility in the US. We are all very excited and looking forward to getting started."

## Efficiency Updates

from page 1

know where it was going," he said. "Staff searched everywhere," including remote sections of lines. Finally, there was a rock found in one of the pressure reducing valves in the Ridgeway area, he said. It was keeping open a valve and causing water to surge. As a result, the county is installing a screen in front of the valve and "looking at some other things trying to balance costs and effectiveness." One idea is to put a radio reader on the surge release valves so problems can be detected. County Administrator Tim Hall praised staff for solving the mystery. "It was a needle in the haystack, and they found it. The staff deserve a lot of credit. They put in a lot of foot time." The 7 million gallon water loss was estimated based on daily increased production at the water plant over a 30-day period, Ward said. The current unit cost to treat water at the plant is \$0.84 per 1,000 gallons, so the total cost based on those rates was about \$5,880. In an additional effort to stop water loss, the county is working with Utilis for satellite-based leak detection. In their first flyover, they found 169 leaks, according to board documents. They identified 684 "points of interest" for further investigation, and crews were able to look at 132 of those in less than two weeks, "so they made pretty good

progress," Pace said. The search identified "some hydrants that were losing four or five gallons a minute. That adds up," he said. The PSA hired Michael Whitlock as a Water Loss Technician in July 2019, and he is continuing to follow up on the satellite report, Pace said. Also during the meeting, Hall gave an update on Press Glass, sharing that they had started moving equipment into their new facility in Ridgeway that day. Meanwhile, Press Glass human resources and the construction crews for the building are working out the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT), he said. Hall said he wanted to correct "a rumor out there that Press Glass is not coming. Please reassure folks that they're here, and they're building like crazy. It's an exciting project." The PSA Board also learned that a fire hydrant repainting project has been tabled until spring 2020 due to an inability to find workers, Pace said. "It would have been a great summer for the fire hydrant painting, but we just could not get the labor," he said. Asked how much the jobs pay, Pace said \$8 an hour. "It's tough finding people. We've had real problems hiring, and not just us - that's the county, sheriff's office, industry, all over," Hall said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of relic  
7. Type of medical program (abbr.)  
10. Outer defense of a castle  
12. 1,000 calories (abbr.)  
13. A way of using  
14. Abounding with surf  
15. Expressed violently  
16. Shared a boundary with  
17. Swedish krona  
18. Thick piece of something  
19. Wreaths  
21. Animated program network (abbr.)  
22. Regains possession of  
27. Spielberg sci-fi film  
28. 2-time Super Bowl winner

CLUES DOWN

1. Grenade  
2. Off-Broadway theater award  
3. Small, immature herring  
4. \_\_\_-fi (slang)  
5. 007's creator  
6. Liquefied natural gas  
7. Cleanse thoroughly  
8. Handle of a knife  
9. Perform diligently  
10. Drink pourer  
11. Extreme greed  
12. Southern Russia river  
14. Type of cracker  
17. Single Lens Reflex  
18. Barely sufficient  
20. Slick  
23. Reference books  
24. Federally recognized native peoples

CLUES DOWN

25. Manganese  
26. Senior officer  
29. Atomic #18 (abbr.)  
30. Tax collector  
31. World wonder \_\_\_ Falls  
32. Origins  
35. Car mechanics group  
36. MMA fighter Urijah  
38. Gland secretion  
40. Gelatinous water creature  
41. Good friend  
42. Arab ruler  
43. Capital of Belgian province Hainaut  
44. English broadcaster  
45. Soviet Socialist Republic  
46. Affirmative  
47. Trigonometric function (abbr.)

# Local schools awarded grants for security upgrades

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Staff writer*

School systems in Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County are among 70 divisions in Virginia to be awarded state grant funds for security upgrades, according to a release from the governor's office.

The School Security Equipment Grant program was established in 2013 by the Virginia legislature in response to the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. State grant funds are available annually for k-12 public schools to purchase equipment such as security cameras, emergency communication systems, visitor identification systems, access control for school entrances, two-way radios, and other safety improvements to the school building.

According to Gov. Ralph Northam's announcement, Henry County Schools will receive \$41,383 for Axton Elementary, Drewry Mason Elementary, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle, and Laurel Park Middle School; Martinsville City Schools will receive \$80,553 for Albert Harris Elementary, Martinsville High, Martinsville Middle,

and Patrick Henry Elementary; and Patrick County Schools will receive \$15,943 for Patrick County High and Patrick Springs Elementary. School divisions must come up with a 25 percent match in local funds, the release said.

Martinsville City Schools has used these funds to make school security improvements for multiple years, said T.J. Slaughter, the division's Director of School Safety & Emergency Management. In 2013, they also used funding from a different state grant to establish School Resource Officers (SROs) at the two elementary schools for the first time.

"When it comes to school safety, our state legislators have been doing a tremendous job for us. Bipartisan funding has really helped Martinsville City Schools do a lot in the past seven years," Slaughter said. "As you know, Martinsville is a small system, so these funds help a great deal."

Slaughter said the state has yet not specified which budget items in the grant request have been approved, but the division originally applied for about \$147,000 worth of equipment. This includes additional security cameras and "security upgrades in some of our front office

areas," he said.

The city schools plan to purchase Identikid video identification software for the two elementary schools to match what is already in place at Martinsville Middle and Martinsville High, he said. "Basically, if a visitor comes to the school, whether to eat lunch or check out a child, they have to scan their driver's license. [The software] scans the sex offender registry in all 50 states," Slaughter said.

Also included in the grant request is a new product called Window Armor. Some products meant for securing classroom doors against intruders, like door stoppers, are actually against the fire code or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Slaughter said, because they interfere with the door's ability to open. Window Armor consists of a steel shutter that can slide across the window in the event of an active shooter.

"Classroom doors, as long as they are closed and locked, are pretty secure. The only weak spot is that window," Slaughter said.

Henry County Schools plans to use funding for increasing and updating the security surveillance systems at Axton Elementary and

Drewry Mason Elementary schools. At the district's two middle schools, Laurel Park and Fieldale-Collinsville, the in-school handheld radio system and mass notification systems will be updated, said division spokesperson Monica Hatchett.

In total, \$6 million in School Security Equipment Grant funds will be awarded to 340 schools across Virginia. The maximum annual award for a school division is now \$250,000, compared with \$100,000 previously. Next year, the total annual appropriation for the program will double, from \$6 million to \$12 million, according to the governor's office.

"Virginia's public schools must be safe learning environments where our children can grow, thrive, and prepare for a lifetime of achievement," said Gov. Northam in the release. "That's why I asked the 2019 General Assembly to more than double the maximum grant allowed for each school division, and worked with state lawmakers to double the total annual appropriation for this critical program. This funding represents an important investment in the safety and security of our students and teachers in every corner of the Commonwealth."

The awards give priority to schools most in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades. This year — at the recommendation of Northam's Student Safety Workgroup — additional weight was given to applications from elementary schools.

While funds for SROs are not part of this grant, SROs are an important part of school safety and security, Slaughter said. That is why the school division has maintained resource officers stationed at all four K-12 schools, even after the state grant ended, whereas "a lot of localities only have SROs at the middle and high school level," he said.

In some cases, elementary students come to the resource officers "if they're being harmed at home, or if they see something in their neighborhood. It's important just to have them as a mentor," he said. "Getting law enforcement in at the elementary level lets kids see that the police are here to help them."

## Walk held to benefit Alzheimer's research



Participants in the Alzheimer's walk at King's Grant retirement community walk through the Village Greens on Oct. 11.



Vaun Gott, who spoke during the kick-off for the King's Grant Alzheimer's walk, walks with her mother, King's Grant resident Lynn Kazar.



Commonwealth Hospice team members, Deana Ferguson and family, were among the participants of the Alzheimer's walk.

**Kim Barto Meeks**  
*Staff writer*

A walk at King's Grant retirement community on Oct. 11 raised almost \$6,000 for Alzheimer's research.

This exceeded the original fundraising goal of \$5,000, and so King's Grant Executive Director Tom Fitzgibbons made good on a promise to dye his hair and beard purple. Purple is the color of Alzheimer's awareness.

Participants in the annual event included King's Grant residents, staff, families, and organizations such as Edward Jones agent Matt Erikson, Commonwealth Hospice, SOVAH Home Health, Mountain Valley Hospice, and Dr.

Craig Dietrich, DDS. All proceeds benefitted the national Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disease that affects 5 million Americans, according to the Alzheimer's Association. It is the most common form of dementia, which is a general term referring to cognitive symptoms such as loss of memory and thinking skills. Most patients are ages 65 or older, but about 200,000 Americans suffer from early-onset Alzheimer's.

"Awareness is critical in the education and treatment of Alzheimer's disease," said King's Grant Marketing Director Crystal Caldwell. "Funds are utilized in Alzheimer's research to offset the staggering rates of diagnosis,

as well as to steady the mounting costs associated for families, caregivers and our nation as a whole."

Caldwell shared statistics from the Alzheimer's Association stating that the disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and one in three seniors die with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. It kills more each year than breast and prostate cancer combined. Someone is diagnosed every 65 seconds, she said.

Alzheimer's is progressive, meaning the symptoms get worse over time. Eventually, patients may decline to the point where they cannot speak, walk, or even swallow. There is a great deal of variation in the independence levels of dementia sufferers, but those

in the late stages of the disease require round-the-clock care with even basic functions.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's, but there are treatments that can address some of the symptoms. More research is needed to diagnose it earlier, find treatments that can slow the disease's progression, and ultimately find a cure.

King's Grant opened its Memory Support Neighborhood to serve residents with dementia in 2018. It includes 14 beds and multi-sensory resources to help reduce anxiety and promote well-being. Staff are specially trained to care for dementia and Alzheimer's patients, who may have trouble communicating their needs.

"Memory Support staff are

trained in the concept of generating daily 'moments of success' by offering opportunities for residents to find happiness while supporting their individual needs," said Cheyenne Barton, Memory Support Neighborhood Coordinator. "Our program's core has a person-centered approach which provides belonging and purpose with a preservation of identity and sense of self. We incorporate personal preferences into the daily schedule and environment to meet the needs of our Memory Support residents."

For more information on Alzheimer's and resources for patients and caregivers, visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).



King's Grant staff members participated in the Alzheimer's walk.



Richard & Susanna Carle, King's Grant residents, participated in the Alzheimer's walk.



King's Grant Executive Director Tom Fitzgibbons made good on his promise to dye his hair purple as a result of the Alzheimer's walk raising more than \$5000 for Alzheimer's research.

## DRP Performance

from page 1

obvious we were dealing with a quality business and first-class owner," said Mark Heath, EDC President/CEO.

Butch Hamlet said "I've known and done business with Linnie for more than twenty years and we served together on the PHCC Racing College Advisory Board. As I've watched Linnie's business grow over the years it's obvious he is a true entrepreneur in the world of racing

components."

The Martinsville-Henry County EDC is providing a grant of \$75,000, to be matched by The Harvest Foundation, to assist with relocation and renovation costs. "We are grateful for DRP's confidence in Martinsville-Henry County and we look forward to its continued growth here," said Larry Ryder, Chairman of the EDC Board of Directors.

"The Foundation welcomes our newest corporate partner as we always look to leverage resources to expand the community's tax base and job opportunities," said Allyson Rothrock, President of The Harvest Foundation. "Our community has a rich racing heritage and we are excited to add DRP to our list of racing-related ventures."



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# OPINION

## They're coming to get you, Barbara

As I've gotten older, I have come to realize that Halloween is my favorite holiday.

Christmas is nice and all, but it's too expensive. Thanksgiving is all right, but I'm not a big fan of turkey, the easy-listening station of the meat world. The best Valentine's Day I've ever had involved me and my buddy Doug, both of us recently single, sitting on a couch and passing a bottle back and forth while talking about the horrors of dating. Obviously, that isn't a high bar to clear.

Halloween, on the other hand, is about getting together with friends, enjoying pleasant weather, draping fake spiders around your house, and watching horror movies.

This will probably come as no surprise, but I love horror movies. It's getting pretty rare that I watch a movie that isn't a horror movie. My free time is valuable, and I don't see the point in watching a movie about two people falling in love when I could be watching a movie about multiple people being menaced by a hideous creature. Maybe I find the latter more relatable.

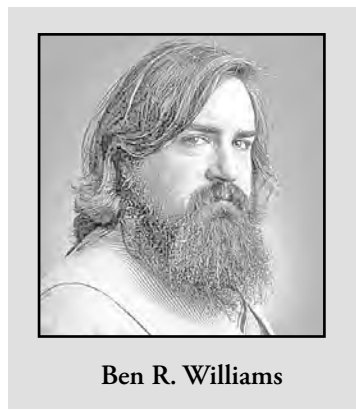
Every October, I try to watch 31 horror movies, one for each day of the month. I realize that for a lot of people, that must sound like an absolute nightmare. I've known a number of people who hate horror movies and cannot un-

derstand why anyone would want to put themselves through that experience. It's a question I've asked myself from time to time.

My best theory is that with all the horror occurring in the real world, it's a comfort to spend a couple hours being frightened by an evil clown from beyond time and space. It allows you to forget, at least temporarily, all of the real things that are much more frightening.

When I was a kid and my parents would take me to Blockbuster or Brewer's Video, I remember trying to strike a delicate balance: I would try to find horror movies that would scare me in a fun way (the "Critters" franchise was a particular favorite) while avoiding horror movies that would scare me so badly that I wouldn't be able to sleep at night.

Now that I'm older and I've seen hundreds of horror movies, I find myself actively seeking the absolute scariest movies I can find. I find myself wanting to re-experience that irrational childhood terror, the thought that one of the "Ghoulies" really could burst out of the toilet at the worst possible time. When "The Ring" came out in 2002, I remember reading a review from a guy who said that his girlfriend spontaneously burst into tears on the car ride home from the movie, and my first thought was, "Well, I know what I'm doing this



Ben R. Williams

weekend."

All of this leads me to a couple of weeks ago, when I joined up with some good friends and attended the "Days of the Dead" horror convention in Charlotte, NC.

Horror conventions are an opportunity for horror fans to meet the actors, directors and writers from some of their favorite movies. When I found out that Tom Savini would be in attendance at Days of the Dead, I knew I had to get his autograph.

If you're remotely interested in horror films, Tom Savini is a household name. A former combat photographer, he parlayed his experiences in Vietnam and his childhood love of monster makeup into a career as one of the most significant horror special effects wizards of all time. He did makeup and special effects on 1978's "Dawn of the

Dead," the first "Friday the 13th" movie, "Creepshow," and countless other films. He's also an actor, having appeared in such movies as "Django Unchained" and "From Dusk Til Dawn."

The most significant achievement in Savini's long and storied career – at least for me – is his 1990 remake of 1968's "Night of the Living Dead."

Sometime around 1994, when I was ten years old, I was visiting my grandparents. My grandpa had found Savini's remake of "Night of the Living Dead" on his massive satellite dish and I sat on the couch to watch it with him.

If you've never seen the original "Night," first off, my condolences. Secondly, the original opens with siblings Barbara and Johnny driving to a rural cemetery to visit their father's grave. While they're standing at the grave, a fellow staggers up to them. They think he's a confused old man, but he's actually a zombie, and he attacks them.

In Tom Savini's remake, Barbara and Johnny drive to a remote cemetery to visit their mother's grave. A man staggers up to them. We, the audience who has seen the original, think he's a zombie. It turns out that he really is just a confused old man. And then, the moment the old man staggers out of frame, the real zombie bursts in from off-screen and viciously at-

tacks Barbara and Johnny.

I will never forget what this zombie looked like. His wispy gray hair, moldy suit and evil rotting face are burned into my memory. This zombie was not fun-scary; he was utterly terrifying and realistic (as much as a zombie can be realistic).

For weeks after that, I was convinced that cemetery zombie was going to get me. I remember going on a trip with a friend of mine and his parents and lying in the hotel bed for hours, wide awake, convinced that the cemetery zombie was going to emerge from the bathroom and murder me. I don't know how he was going to get into the bathroom, considering that I had already checked it several times to make sure it was zombie-free, but I was certain it was going to happen.

As Tom Savini signed my copy of his book collecting the storyboards from "Night of the Living Dead," I told him a shortened version of this story, and we exchanged a fist bump. It was a cool moment.

I'm sure most celebrities hear stories about how the role they played inspired someone, or how their script allowed someone to laugh again. For those who create horror, however, there can be no greater compliment than, "That thing you did scared me for life. Thank you."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is becoming painfully apparent, that we need to remove our President from this office as Commander in Chief. I cannot see another four years of chaos, divisiveness, ignorance and irresponsible behavior.

I know it is difficult to listen to any tv station, radio talk show or read newspapers

to clearly get an unbiased take on true facts or fake news.

Rather, it is easier to listen to any real time Trump moments and hear his speeches and how incapable he is to make sensible statements. If he reads a prepared speech, he almost convinces me that he can articulate. It is when he speaks off script, in front of

helicopter noise, or to foreign dignitaries, or to members of Congress that he blurts out evidence of his ignorance of basic knowledge, his inflated self-worth, his lack of empathy and an inability to grasp the integrity of what it means to be an American.

From the beginning he has failed to understand his

relationship to the other branches of government, assuming they work only for him. He has no significant knowledge of the Constitution that he vowed to defend. He has dismissed important generals, experts and other professionals who could have helped make a successful presidential term.

He has tarnished our worldwide reputation and it will take years to restore. As painful as it may be, please listen to this man as he continues to embarrass our country. He has violated the constitutional emolument clause; he has given "aid and comfort" to adversary governments, solicited other

countries to interfere in our election process and has regularly shown mental instability in decisions and decorum. He doesn't know what he is doing.

This is my opinion for the opinion column. Thank you.

*John Rehder, Ridgeway*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Sunday October 27

**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 is a Car Show. Everyone is welcome.

**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: Pinot Gris, Viognier, Petit Verdot and Old Virginia Red. Also offering local, freshly baked breads and gourmet spreads. 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, call Bob Norris at 276-340-9144 or Tommy at 276-618-0343. Free and open to the public

mornings to enjoy Old Style Country & Gospel Music. The musicians set up in a corner to play and entertain special requests from the audience.

**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.

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

### Wednesday October 30

**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. Contact Tommy at 276.618.0343 for ride locations and times.

**Management Bootcamp:** Patrick Henry Community College Frith Exhibit Hall, 8 a.m. until 12 p.m., goes through Nov. 20, Join PHCC and learn the skills to turn yourself from a good employee into a great leader/manager/supervisor, cost \$379.99

**Happy Healthy Hour:** Every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5p.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 please call Rhonda @ 276-336-

1525 or Sandra @ 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:** Martinsville Library, in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office of Henry County and Martinsville will be holding "Healthy Eating & Staying Active for Seniors" workshops at 11 am. For more information or to sign up, call the Martinsville Library at 403-5430. This event is free and open to the public.

### Thursday October 31

**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. Martinsville Library The Martinsville Library will be participating in Uptown's Trick or Treat. Drop into the library before 5:30 p.m. for a treat.

### Friday November 1

**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.

**Bluegrass/Gospel/Country Music:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. HJDB Event center cafeteria, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Admission is \$2 donation. Available for purchase 8:30 a.m. breakfast and 12 p.m. lunch for \$6, for more information call 276-629-1369

### Saturday November 2

**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.

**Board Game Day:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Martinsville Public Library, Bring your favorite game or try one the library has on hand. This event is free and open to the public.

**Saturday Afternoon Movie:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Martinsville Public Library, Popcorn will be provided. For more information, call the Martinsville Library at 403-5430.



Dr. Elliot Engel

# Elliot Engel Brings The Wizardry of Oz to Piedmont Arts

Renowned scholar and storyteller Dr. Elliot Engel returns to Piedmont Arts with *The Wizardry of Oz*, an engaging talk about L. Frank Baum and his beloved novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the museum.

Using anecdotes, analysis and large doses of humor, Dr. Engel delves into Baum's life and reveals the reasons for the enduring and endearing fame of Baum's *Oz* series, which features 14 novels and several short stories written by Baum.

Guests can enjoy dinner with Engel prior to the talk or attend the talk only. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and advance reservations are required. The talk begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Tickets are \$45 for the talk and dinner or \$20 for the talk only. Tickets can be purchased at Piedmont Arts and online at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

The program is sponsored by King's Grant.

Engel lives in Raleigh,

N.C., where he has taught at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and Duke University. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA he won that university's Outstanding Teacher Award. Engel has written ten books published in England, Japan, Turkey and the United States. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS television stations around the country.

Piedmont Arts is a non-profit art museum in Martinsville that inspires and engages the diverse Martinsville-Henry County community and surrounding areas through visual arts, performing arts and arts education. It is located at 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at [www.PiedmontArts.org](http://www.PiedmontArts.org).

# Annual STEM essay contest announced

The 9th annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Essay Contest for young women in their senior year of high school was announced by Gov. Ralph Northam.

"As we build the workforce we need to compete in a 21st century economy, we must step up our efforts to encourage young women across Virginia to explore their interests in innovative industries like science, technology, math, and engineering," Northam said. He and First Lady Pam Northam will serve as honorary co-chairs.

"This annual essay contest is a tremendous opportunity to reward some of the Commonwealth's brightest young women and open new doors for girls seeking to pursue their educational and professional goals in these high-demand fields," he added.

The STEM Essay Contest was launched in 2012 with 170 young women from across the Commonwealth submitting essays focused on their vision for pursuing a STEM career. In the first year, the Council raised \$10,000 and awarded three scholarships. Now, in its ninth year, the Council has awarded nearly \$200,000 in scholarships. Last year, the Council received more than 500 essay submissions, and thanks to the generosity of sponsors, awarded \$25,000 in scholarships to five Virginia students.

The Council will award scholarships to qualifying high school seniors who plan to pursue a STEM career at a community college, four-year college or university, trade or technical school, online, and/or through certificated STEM-oriented courses.

This year, one merit-based and one need-based scholarship will be awarded in each of five geographic regions across

the Commonwealth. Merit-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted, and need-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay and the individual's self-identified financial need. Award amounts may vary and are determined by the Council annually.

"For years now, the Virginia Council on Women's STEM Essay Contest has increased educational access for students throughout the Commonwealth and we're thrilled to now expand this access to even more students," said Jill Gaitens, Virginia Council on Women STEM Essay Contest Co-Chair.

To be eligible, one must be female or identify as female, reside in Virginia, be a senior in high school and hold at least a 3.0 GPA for the merit-based awards and a 2.5 GPA for the need-based awards. Applications and guidelines are available online here.

Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2020. Essays will be judged by a panel of Council members and individuals who represent STEM fields. Winners will be notified on Friday, February 28, 2020. The scholarship awards will be presented at a reception at the Executive Mansion in Richmond, Virginia, in Spring 2020.

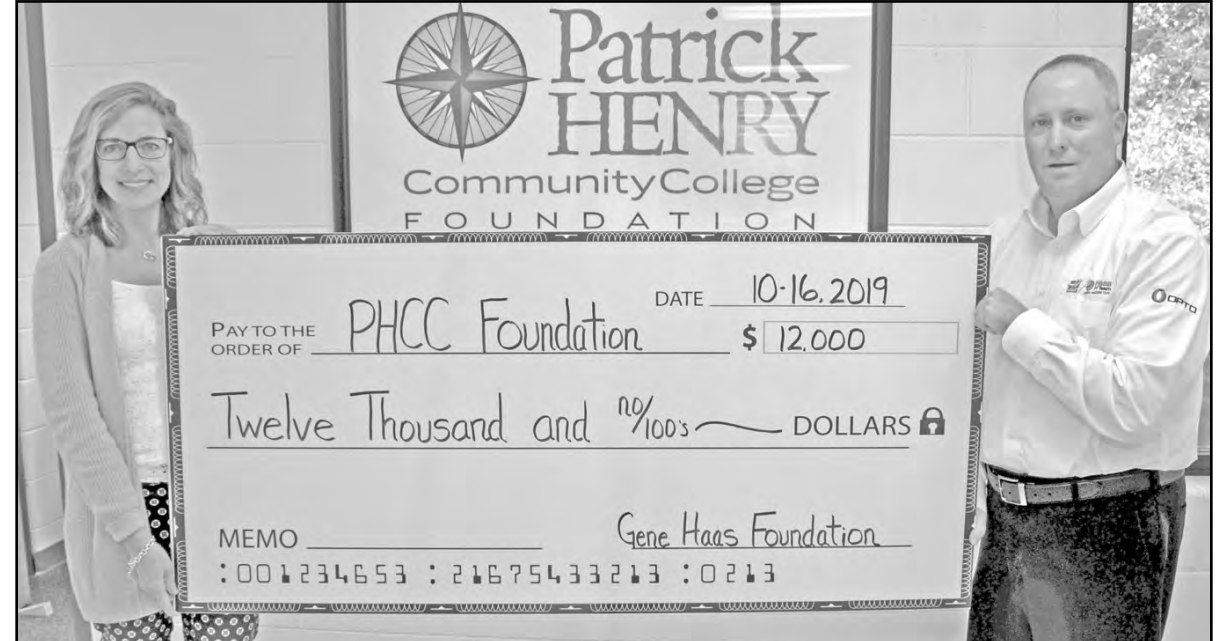
The chief purpose of the Virginia Council on Women is to help women reach their potential and maximize their contributions to society and the Commonwealth as wage earners and citizens. The Council has initiated several projects to meet this goal, including the annual STEM Essay Contest for high school seniors. Find additional information about the Council and available sponsorship opportunities here.

# Ribbon Cutting Held at Neck & Back Pain Relief



Several officials attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome a new business, Neck & Back Pain Relief. (Left to right) Kevin Dalton, Lois Fountain, Cameron, Jennifer Oakley, Leon Towarnicki-City Manager, Cynthia Cox-Massage Therapist, Chad Martin-Vice Mayor of Martinsville, Minister James Millner, Shana LeGrant, Dr. Japhet LeGrant-Owner, Harvey LeGrant, Jane LeGrant, Euradell Fears, Mitch Fears, Rena Watkins-Office Manager and Sharon Shepherd-MHC Chamber of Commerce. The business, located at 1141 Memorial Blvd. in Martinsville, can be reached at (276) 632-3334.

# PHCC Receives \$12,000 in Scholarship Funds



The Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) Foundation accepted a check from the Gene Haas Foundation for \$12,000 this week.

This marks the fourth year that the Gene Haas Foundation has selected PHCC to be a recipient of this generous donation. The continued support enables PHCC to provide scholarships to students pursuing a variety of engineering and machinist-based programs at PHCC. These programs include PHCC's popular motorsports program and the college's new precision machining program.

Kathy Looman, administrator of the Gene Haas Foundation, said that supporting PHCC aligns with

the foundation's mission "to expose students to careers in manufacturing and to provide scholarships to the students who choose a career in CNC machining and/or manufacturing engineering."

According to Looman, support for this particular demographic is crucial because "53 percent of high school students don't believe they will have an opportunity to have a good job."

According to PHCC officials, this support is also critical because scholarships often play a pivotal role in a student's decision and ability to pursue a field of interest.

"Many of our students rely on scholarship to pursue their goals," said Tiffani Underwood, execu-

tive director of the PHCC Foundation. "We are so very grateful to the continued support the Haas Foundation has shown us. This donation makes an impact in the future of manufacturing and engineering in our area just as it makes an impact in the lives of the PHCC students pursuing these fields."

The Gene Haas Foundation was founded in 1999 by the owner of Haas Automation, Inc., America's leading builder of CNC machine tools. To promote American manufacturing and manufacturing education, the Haas Foundation has donated more than 50 million dollars to over 4000 charitable organizations and schools.

# Nomination Period Open for Volunteerism and Community Service Awards

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2020 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards, an annual program that recognizes the outstanding contributions of Virginia citizens to the life and welfare of the Commonwealth and its people.


The nomination period will end at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019.

"Volunteers across our Commonwealth work tirelessly every day to improve our communities and enhance the well-being of their fellow citizens," Gov. Ralph Northam said when announcing the open nominations. "Each year, it is my great honor to celebrate the

hard work, generosity, and tremendous accomplishments of deserving Virginians with these awards."

Nomination forms must be submitted online and require two letters of support. The award categories include Individual Achievement Awards for senior, adult, young adult, and youth volunteers, and Group Achievement Awards in the following categories: family, faith-based volunteer service, educational institution, community organization, small business, and corporation.

Winners will be honored in the spring during an awards ceremony in Richmond.



**APPALACHIAN POWER**  
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## Appalachian Power Public Open House Canceled

The recently announced project and open house for Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Magna Vista High School is canceled pending additional stakeholder input regarding requirements and scheduling for transmission equipment upgrades in Henry County.

## Re-Elect Lane Perry Sheriff of Henry County

**Since January 1st, 2016:**


- Over 270 suspects arrested for distributing narcotics, with over 675 drug distribution related charges.
- An additional 541 drug investigations resulting in 339 suspects arrested so far.
- Executed 23 narcotics search warrants on the homes of drug dealers.
- Downward trend of juvenile drug arrests. (Martinsville Bulletin, 6/16/19)
- Seized multiple pounds of cocaine & methamphetamines along with large quantities of heroin and illegal pharmaceutical pills.
- Seized assets from drug dealers including:
  - Over \$238,000 dollars in U.S. Currency
  - Dozens of illegally possessed firearms
  - Multiple sets of body armor
  - 2 real estate properties (home & acreage)
  - 31 cars, 11 motorcycles, 10 ATVs, a boat and a camper
- Deputies have answered more than 167,400 calls for service and routinely have the responsibility for the care of over 300 inmates.
- We have safely executed over 40 high risk tactical operations.

**In Favor of SRO's in all schools!**

In 2013 our office presented school administration two plans for coverage of our elementary schools. One was full coverage and the other was partial coverage. When neither was funded, we implemented plans that existing SRO's assist the elementary schools and respond any time needed.

- The Sheriff's Office constantly maintains a case clearance rate higher than the state average. The Henry County Sheriff's Office average is 48.1% vs the state average of 28.5%. (1/1/16 – 8/7/19)
- Proactive approach to law enforcement has resulted in a 16% reduction in violent crime over the past year. (Martinsville Bulletin, 6/19/19)
- In my 13 years as Sheriff we have investigated 59 homicides and solved 56 of these cases. Our average is 94.9% vs the national average of 62.9%. (FBI stats)

## To Keep Henry County Safe I ask for your vote on November 5th!



Paid for and authorized by Lane A. Perry



# New outdoor Classroom, Butterfly Habitat Unveiled



Martinsville school officials, the Dan River Basin Association, and partners cut a ribbon on the new Green Schoolyard at Albert Harris Elementary School on Oct. 10.



Albert Harris Elementary students gathered at a ribbon-cutting for the new Green Schoolyard and official Monarch Waystation in the school courtyard on Oct. 10.



The Green Schoolyard at Albert Harris Elementary School includes a new interpretive sign about the importance of monarch butterflies and their habitat.

## Kim Barto Meeks

Staff writer

School officials and their nonprofit partners recently unveiled a new butterfly habitat and outdoor classroom at Albert Harris Elementary School.

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) received a grant from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia to help implement the Green Schoolyard project last fall, said DRBA Education Manager Krista Hodges. Hodges worked with Albert Harris teachers Laurie Witt and Elizabeth Jent, as well

second-grade students, to revive a garden area in the school's courtyard and help with monarch butterfly conservation. "The school had some

older rain barrels, compost tumblers, and a startup butterfly garden on campus, but to get everything going again, we decided to make this a green pilot project that could be used as a model for other schools," Hodges said. "We have worked over the last year to get two rain barrels hooked up and running in the school courtyard, turn the startup butterfly garden into a certified Monarch Waystation, and implement a composting program within the classrooms."

As a certified Monarch Waystation, the site

includes a sign from the nonprofit organization Monarch Watch stating that it "provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America."

Butterflies are important to the ecosystem because many plants depend on them and other pollinator insects to reproduce. However, the population is declining in North America because habitat for monarch butterflies and other wildlife is disappearing at a rate of 2.2 million

acres each year, according to Monarch Watch. Milkweed, in particular, is being killed off by herbicides commonly used in agriculture, depriving monarchs of their main breeding ground. Monarch butterflies feed off of many types of plant nectar, but they only lay eggs in certain types of milkweeds.

"The first seeds were planted when second graders wanted to help butterflies in our community," Witt said. Second graders learn about the butterfly life cycle as part of their science curriculum. By installing

rain barrels and using the collected water, she said, "students became environmental stewards."

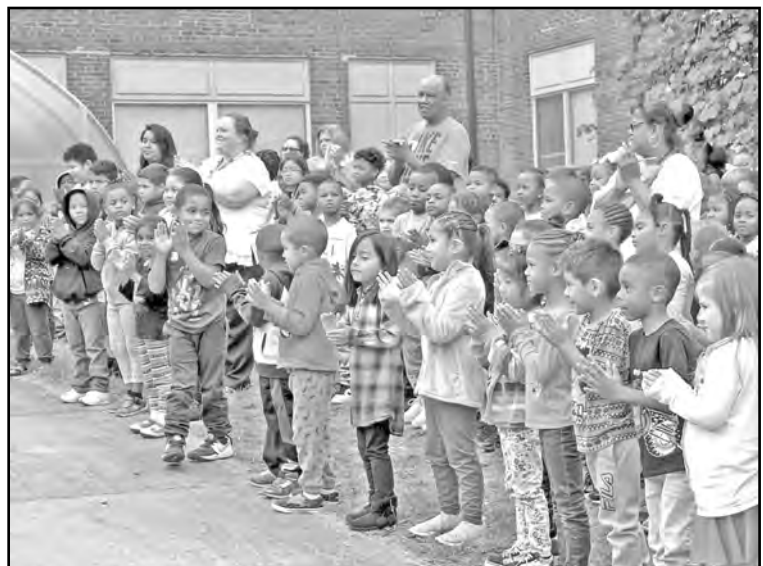
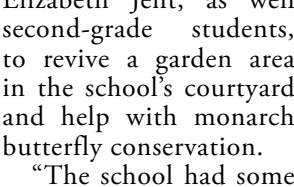
During the ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 10, Jent recognized her second-grade class last year for moving all the rocks, pulling weeds, and planting flowers to create the garden. "They did an amazing job," she said.

Hodges also thanked Koger Air, Gateway Streetscape, and the Master Gardeners for donating supplies, expertise, and labor to making the garden possible.

The space includes a

newly installed interpretive sign about the importance of protecting monarch butterflies and what their habitat needs to include.

The Community Foundation just approved a grant for the second phase of the project, Hodges said. It will include a weather station, which is part of the fourth grade curriculum; an outdoor whiteboard for students to record their scientific observations; and storm drain marking to educate people about protecting the watershed by keeping trash out of the drain.



Albert Harris Elementary students cheer during the unveiling of a new butterfly habitat in the school courtyard on Oct. 10.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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Woody's Supermarket

644 Morehead Ave.  
Ridgeway

Rising Sun Breads

1049 Brookdale St.  
Suite D  
Martinsville

Peoples Market

5780 Greensboro Rd.  
Ridgeway

Circle K Store #107

6690 Greensboro Rd.  
Ridgeway

Eastwood General Store

1555 Irisburg Rd.  
Axton

Daily Grind

303 E. Church St.  
Suite A  
Martinsville

JS Adams Grocery

4201 Stone Dairy Rd.  
Bassett

Bryant Radio Supply

3449 Virginia Ave.  
Collinsville

57 Grocery

7850 Fairystone Dairy Rd.  
Bassett

Martinsville – Henry County Chamber of Commerce

115 Broad St.  
Martinsville

Old Country Store

18241 AL Philpott Hwy.  
Ridgeway

New Locations:

Howell's Wholesale

617 Liberty St.  
Building A  
Matinsville

Walgreens

103 Commonwealth Blvd. W.  
  
2707 Greensboro Rd.  
Martinsville

The Enterprise,

129 N. Main Street,  
Stuart

Fast Mart Valero,

2170 King's Mountain Rd.,  
Martinsville,

1118 Memorial Blvd.,  
Martinsville,

1105 Brookedale St.,  
Martinsville

5972 AL Philpott Hwy

## Initiative Launched to Leverage Federal Program

Opportunity Virginia, a new initiative designed to leverage the federal Opportunity Zone program, now is officially launched.

Gov. Ralph Northam made the announcement during an event at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business that aims to bring together community stakeholders to engage, share project ideas, and connect investors with businesses.

Northam introduced the initiative in April, and the platform has been developed over the last six months to help support his goal of ensuring that every region, community, and household can participate and share in the Commonwealth's economic progress.

"As Governor, one of my highest priorities is ensuring that every Virginian has access to a good job and the skills to be successful, no matter who you are or where you're from," Northam said. "This initiative will help Virginia use the Opportunity Zone tax incentive program created by Congress almost two years ago to bring needed investment to important projects being developed across the Commonwealth. We are focused on pursuing economic growth that is inclusive and equitable, not just market-driven, and this partnership will bolster our efforts to improve

economic opportunity for people in communities that have traditionally been underserved."

Virginia Community Capital (VCC), with leadership from LOCUS Impact Investing and in partnership with the Northam administration, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), developed Opportunity Virginia—a marketplace to help connect communities in Opportunity Zones with investors. Opportunity Virginia's mission is to encourage and enable investments with positive impacts in communities by ensuring fair and equitable access to resources and facilitating productive connections between investors, project sponsors, and communities throughout the Commonwealth.

"The Opportunity Zone program rewards stakeholders who invest in, and maximize, Virginia's assets," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "Opportunity Virginia is an innovative approach to building a marketplace for investors and communities to connect, and we look forward to working alongside them to attract impactful investments to the Commonwealth."

Since the initiative was first announced, Opportunity Virginia has held townhalls, workshops, and seminars across the Commonwealth to build awareness and activity. Opportunity Virginia has also developed a virtual marketplace to help educate stakeholders about the program, share project ideas and pipeline, and connect investors to businesses and property in Virginia's Opportunity Zones. In addition, tools and investment resources are being made available to help projects achieve the best outcomes for all partners.

"We are thrilled to formally launch this effort with the major foundation set," said Opportunity Virginia Executive Director Adam Northup. "We have an experienced team in place, the online exchange is live, and we are actively inventorying potential investments and pooling investor interest. Virginia has so many wonderful communities, ripe for continued investment and we hope the investment community will see the potential for great success. As part of Virginia Community Capital and LOCUS Impact Investing, we were able to hit the ground running and are finding new and exciting opportunities daily."

To learn more, visit opportunityva.org.

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

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Sheriff Debate

from page 1

The main points of difference that emerged during the debate were disagreements over placing School Resource Officers (SROs) in county schools and questions about the number of recent arrests made by the Sheriff's Office.

Cassell and Farmer both criticized Perry's administration for its number of drug arrests, which they said is lower than in neighboring Franklin County, despite Henry County having more deputies. However, they could not agree on a figure, with each citing a different statistic for the number of arrests in Henry County. Meanwhile, Perry defended his record and countered with a much higher number of arrests he said have occurred during his current term. The number is higher than the state average, Perry added.

"One of the main reasons I believe we need a change is our high crime rate. It is still higher than our surrounding jurisdictions," Farmer said. Compared to Franklin County, which he said "is almost identical in population," Henry County has a higher rate of murders, assaults, breaking and entering, robberies, etc., he said.

Farmer also said that in 2018, Franklin County had more drug arrests, "over 586," working with 80 sworn officers versus 288 arrests in Henry County working with 122 officers. "We can do a lot more," he said.

Later in the debate, Cassell echoed this sentiment, but claimed Franklin County made 533 drug arrests last year, as opposed to 60 in Henry County, "and they're doing it with less deputies."

Perry shared different figures in his response.

"We've made over 1,000 drug arrests in this term, so we've had more than 60 in a year," Perry said. "We're fighting this drug problem as seriously as we can. We've changed the way we do our drug arrests so that the next time we catch these people, they serve automatic minimum time."

He also said the Sheriff's Office has a 48 percent clearance rate, which is 12 percent higher than state average. He cautioned against using crime statistics from the Uniform Crime Report because they do not show which cases were solved, and many are solved after the report is printed.

Perry touted his administration's use of cutting-edge technology to prevent and address crime, and the use of grant funds to minimize the cost to the county. "Technology is really bridging some gaps in leading to big drug arrests," he said.

Responding to a question from Gardner on how to handle drug crime in the community, Cassell criticized Perry's actions in a recent raid on a grow house in Bassett that seized \$1.3 million worth of marijuana.

Cassell said authorities should have waited to conduct the raid, and said the timing of it was "just for publicity. ...What you're seeing in this administration is they're reacting to this election."

Perry responded that the bust was the result of "very good investigative work. There are certain things that when you get the opportunity, you have to act within certain time frames."

The topic of School Resource Officers (SROs) also came up several times in the debate.

Cassell and Farmer are both campaigning on a platform of placing SROs at all Henry County Schools. Currently, there are deputies at five schools who are employees of the Sheriff's Office but paid through the county school budget. Perry questioned how the nine additional SROs would be funded.

"At the end of the day, it has to be paid for somehow, or you have to pull from existing staff," Perry said, adding that his office already takes measures "to safeguard our schools. We work closely with our schools on anything that may be a threat."

Ultimately, the Henry County School Board and the Henry County Board of Supervisors must participate in those discussions, Perry said.

Cassell said, if elected, he will bring former SRO T.J. Slaughter into his administration to find grants to pay for SROs in the county. Slaughter is currently the director of school safety for Martinsville City Schools.

In the case of an active shooter, a lot of casualties happen in a short time, Cassell said. "It's seconds versus lives, which is why it's so important to have a highly trained SRO at every county school."

Farmer noted that he campaigned for more SROs in 2015, and the administration "stated we didn't have the money without raising taxes. Now we've got a \$67 million jail for 280 prisoners," he said, referring to a capital project in the county. "To me as a citizen and taxpayer, that does not make sense to me. Why aren't we protecting our children and investing money in our children?"

There are about 4,400 children attending school in the county who are not protected by SROs, Farmer said.

Two questions during the debate dealt with how the candidates will work with businesses and organizations such as churches and community groups.

Perry discussed the Sheriff's Office Community Oriented Policing (COP) program and how they work with groups such as neighborhood watches.

"We will meet with anyone, anywhere, anytime," he said. "If you're concerned about your safety, we'll come out. We are glad to meet with any group and tailor training to their specific needs."

As for businesses, he said, his office tries to share information about scams and how to prevent theft. They are also available to help advise businesses on security measures. In the case of a crime, "our patrol division responds quickly."

Referring to the Sheriff's Office and local businesses, Farmer said, "There should be a better relationship there." He recounted the story of a business owner in Collinsville who "got fed up, packed up and moved into Franklin County" after being broken into four times.

"Our population is already decreasing. Anything we can do to make these businesses safer, that's what we need to do," Farmer said.

Cassell said he wants to hire "a crime prevention specialist as a free service for our businesses," who would "give you some tips on how to secure your facility, and how to cut down on white-collar crime."

Cassell also said the Sheriff's Office needs to be more visible. "Henry County is 384 square miles. There's a lot of areas in our county that never see a patrol vehicle."

To that end, he said he would like to set up substations where deputies could go in different parts of the county throughout the day instead of going back to the main office. No estimate was given during the debate of how much this measure would cost.

Moderating the debate, Gardner praised all three men for stepping up to take on a very complicated job in public service. "I can't think of another jurisdiction that has had three such good candidates," he said.

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# SPORTS

## Bengals’ Huge Comeback Earns Rivalry Win Over Bulldogs

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) – When Bassett High School and Martinsville High School get together for a football game, the cliché ‘throw the records out the window’ applies in spades.

Coming into Friday’s contest in Martinsville, Bassett had the most to lose when it came to playoff resumes, as they look to secure their slot in the Virginia High School League Region 3D bracket.

Martinsville, on the other hand, had little to lose playing for their first win under first-year head coach Bobby Martin.

The first half saw Martinsville play free and aggressive as they turned turnovers into touchdowns and built a 27-12 lead at halftime.

However, Bassett showed their playoff mettle in the final 12 minutes, scoring three touchdowns and converting three two-point conversions in the fourth quarter to storm back and win the rivalry game, 36-27.

“We needed halftime,” Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson said. “We weren’t tackling well or playing aggressive, we weren’t doing any of the things we have been successful with this year, almost like the pressure was getting to us. We felt

like going in we were the better team but in Martinsville-Bassett there are no records.”

For Martin and his Bulldogs, the first half was evidence of Martinsville’s continued improvement.

“We probably played the best we played all year in all phases – defense, offense and special teams - we played a really good half of football,” Martin said. “We’re not the same team we were when we started the season and Bassett is not bad at all, they’re a good team. We stood toe-to-toe with them when we had our chances.”

Early on, it was Martinsville’s defense, running back Jahil Martin, and quarterback Rashaun Dickerson who impressed. The Bulldogs were able to force multiple turnovers, with Jaylen Finney scoring immediately on one fumble recovery, and their offense was able to convert those turnovers into points, with Jahil Martin scoring twice and Dickerson finding Khalil Niblett for another touchdown.

“When you create turnovers, our offense was on the field more than our defense in the first half,” Martin said. “That helps your defense at any level of the game, and it helps your offense too. If you can get the defense off the field on third

down or cause turnovers, it just makes the game shorter and easier.”

“We couldn’t hold onto the football, we fumbled three times and gave up two onside kick recoveries,” Johnson said. “We were overly excited. Anytime you’re a county kid and play Martinsville, you want to perform well. They attacked our weaknesses and took advantage of our mistakes. We didn’t make stops on defense after the fumbles.”

After a scoreless third quarter, the Bengals erupted in the final frame to steal victory from the jaws of defeat.

Johnson said that getting back to the team’s identity of running the ball offensively was key at the end of the game. It showed in the statistics, with running backs Kevon Smith (198 yards, 3 touchdowns, 3 2-point conversions), Elijah Stokes (106 yards) and Simeon Walker-Muse (101 yards, one touchdown) all producing at a high level.

“Once we figured it out, we kept pounding the football,” Johnson said. “The sideline never got down. We stayed true to what we do. The kids are really starting to buy in to what we do. We got key stops and touchdowns when we needed them.”

“They made their mind

up they were going to run it no matter what,” Martin said. “We lost a couple of guys to injury on our defensive line and it went down hill from there. Then we lost two running backs and we couldn’t get over the hump offensively. If we ever could have caused a second-half turnover it could have turned the tide.”

Of the key fourth quarter touchdowns, two came thanks to the legs of Smith, with quarterback Jaricous Hairston connecting with Keshawn Valentine for the third. Smith converted two-point conversion runs after all three, giving him 18 of the team’s 24 points in the quarter.

On a personal note, the game was special for Johnson, who said that Martin has long been a mentor to him and everyone in the Figsboro community.

“It was surreal to share the field with him,” Johnson said. “Growing up in Figsboro, you know Bobby Martin and he makes himself known to you. He’s been a role model in the community for a long time. He’s a strong figure for us because of the way he lives his life. Getting into coaching and now coaching against him was pretty surreal. Bobby is a huge reason for the success of a lot of people from that community. He is and will continue to be a role model for a lot of us.”

Now, the teams both look ahead to the end of the regular season, as they both play two games and have a bye week still on the slate.

For Martinsville (0-8), having a bye week at this point in the season couldn’t have come at a better time as they look to get healthy this week before taking on Tunstall (0-7) in their next game on November 1.

“Our guys played so hard,” Martin said. “We have nothing to hang our heads down about. But, health is the number one thing for us. This bye week is not about Xs and Os. We are pretty wounded. We’re just looking to get healed up and fix little things that we can correct, not just for the last two games but looking towards next year.”

Bassett (5-3) will now turn the page to face Piedmont District powerhouse G.W.-Danville (5-2) on Friday before they get a bye.

“I’m expecting a hard-nosed football game. They love to run the football and have one of the toughest kids in the state doing it,” Johnson said. We’ve got our work cut out for us especially on defense. But, are we overmatched? No. Every Friday, we go in expecting to win the game. This week is no different. G.W. is going to be our toughest test up to this point this year.”

## Warriors Dominant in Homecoming Win

**Harrison Hamlet**  
*Contributing writer*

(RIDGEWAY, Va.) – Football fans in Ridgeway have become used to explosive offense from Magna Vista under head coach Joe Favero. Those in attendance on Friday night for Homecoming were not left disappointed; as the Warriors bounced back from a slow first half following their bye week to earn a 41-0 win over Patrick County.

“After the bye week, we stepped off the gas mentally a little bit,” Favero said. “We got together at halftime, regrouped and played really well in the second half.”

Louis Taylor and Ty Grant found pay-dirt for Magna Vista in the first half, Taylor on a two-yard rush and Grant on a 30-yard pass from Dryus Hairston, but Patrick County just missed two chances to score themselves, leaving the Warriors with a precarious 14-0 lead at halftime.

The Cougars came within a foot of tying the game at seven, but Magna Vista defensive standout Dekavis Preston forced a fumble on a rush by Patrick County’s Jonny Crowell, and Taylor recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchback.

“That was a big one,” Favero said of Preston’s play. “It would’ve been 7-7 and they fumbled into the end zone and we got a stop there. That was really their only threat to score, but luckily we were physical and got the ball out.”

Patrick County just missed a wide open pass play on their next possession, and the “what-ifs” left Cougars head coach David Morrison wondering what could have been.

“We let some opportunities slip through our fingertips. We fumbled in the end zone, that was a tough one to swallow, then we missed a few open pass plays and have a couple of mental breakdowns on defense,” Morrison said. “We can’t beat ourselves, and that’s what we did. I give all the credit to Magna Vista, they did exactly what they needed to do tonight to win. That is a fantastic program, those guys work hard, play hard and are a well-coached team. We didn’t take advantage of the situation when we needed to in order to stay close.”

See **Warrior Win**, page 9



Magna Vista wide receiver Tyler Johnson (6) scores a touchdown during Friday’s 41-0 homecoming win over Patrick County.



Magna Vista tailback Louis Taylor (4) rounds the edge during Friday’s 41-0 homecoming win over Patrick County.



Magna Vista quarterback Dryus Hairston (2) fires a completion during Friday’s 41-0 homecoming win over Patrick County.

### MAGNA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL 41, PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL 0

**MVHS** – 7 7 14 13 - 41  
**PCHS** – 0 0 0 0 - 0  
**SCORING SUMMARY**  
**FIRST QUARTER**  
6:50 – MVHS – Louis Taylor 2 rush (Cory Osborne PAT good)  
**SECOND QUARTER**  
3:19 – MVHS – Ty Grant 30 pass from Dryus Hairston (Cory Osborne PAT good)  
**THIRD QUARTER**  
11:02 – MVHS – Tyler Johnson 30 rush (Cory Osborne PAT good)  
2:50 – MVHS – Tyler Johnson 67 pass from Dryus Hairston (Cory Osborne PAT good)  
**FOURTH QUARTER**  
10:46 – MVHS – Louis Taylor 2 rush (Cory Osborne PAT good)  
4:19 – MVHS – Isaac Ellison 25 pass from Dryus Hairston (PAT fail)  
**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**MAGNA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL RUSHING**  
Louis Taylor, 21 for 133, 2TD; Tyler Johnson 2 for 38, TD; Dryus Hairston 3 for 21;

Kylan Brown 3 for 10; Andrew Santoemma 1 for 5; Isaiah Neal 1 for -1. Total: 31 for 206, 3TD.  
**PASSING**  
Dryus Hairston 11-21 for 185, 3TD.  
**RECEIVING**  
Tyler Johnson 4 for 89, TD; Isaac Ellison 3 for 52, TD; Ty Grant 2 for 35, TD; Andrew Santoemma 1 for 11; Louis Taylor 1 for -2.  
**PATRICK COUNTY HIGHSCHOOL RUSHING**  
Dae’Shawn Penn 18 for 52; Carson Merriman, 6 for 26; Jonny Crowell 6 for 14, fumble; Will Sprowl 7 for 9, 2 fumbles. Total: 37 for 101, 3 fumbles.  
**PASSING**  
Will Sprowl 8-15 for 105; Dae’Shawn Penn 0-1 for 0.  
**RECEIVING**  
Dae’Shawn Penn 4 for 61; Bryson Fulcher 2 for 21; Wyatt Argo 1 for 16; Jonny Crowell 1 for 7.

PHOTOS BY HARRISON HAMLET



# Warrior Win

from page 8

After halftime, Magna Vista erupted. Sophomore standout Tyler Johnson scored twice in the third quarter and Taylor put the game out of reach with a score to open the fourth quarter. Hairston found Isaac Ellison for a late score that emphasized the Warriors' offensive achievement.

"I thought we just played harder in the second half," Favero said. "We played a lot smarter and quit making mistakes. We had a lot of mistakes in the first half, a lot of

drops, we missed some easy reads offensively and missed some tackles defensively. The second half was different."

Johnson, in particular, impressed on the night, tallying 127 total yards with a receiving touchdown and a rushing touchdown to his name after a trio of drops in the first half. The sophomore is coming into his own at just the right time, according to Favero.

"I think he has a huge future," Favero said of Johnson. "He is quick as lightning and

seems to make big plays when we need him to. He doesn't mind putting that pressure on himself to make a big play when we need one. I'm glad he could not play his best in the first half, then find a way to bounce back and play well in the second half."

Taylor continued his impressive senior campaign on the offensive side of the ball, scoring twice and gaining 133 yards on just 21 carries.

Junior quarterback Hairston also continues to impress, throwing touchdown

passes to three different receivers – Johnson, Grant and Ellison – and completing 11 of his 21 passes in the first cold weather game of the season for the Warriors.

"We didn't throw the ball very well early, we had some drops, and I think Dryus got off track mentally trying to make some throws he didn't need to," Favero said of Hairston's performance. "We got back in sync and calmed down and played well in the second half."

Not to be overlooked,

defensive coordinator Joe Fielder's unit pitched a shut-out, their second in the last three games and their fourth game of the year allowing less than 10 points.

Now, Magna Vista (6-1) must prepare for an explosive Halifax County (5-2) team coming off a loss to G.W.-Danville. The Comets visit the Warriors on Friday night.

"They played G.W.-Danville tough so we're going to have to be ready no doubt," Favero said of Halifax County.

# Austin Hill One of the Championship Favorites This Season

Georgia driver ready to add a Martinsville Speedway win to his resume

NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series driver Austin Hill knew he was getting into a good situation when the 2019 season began jumping in the seat for a championship winning team.

Now he's showing everyone it was a good decision by truck owner Shigeaki Hattori.

After winning the season opening race at Daytona International Speedway, Hill has managed to remain in the top-10 all season long in the championship standings and picked up two more wins along the way.

Hill enters Martinsville as one of the hottest drivers in the series after he picked up a win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway last month and also finished sixth in the most recent truck race at Talladega Superspeedway.

He hopes to punch his ticket to Homestead-Miami Speedway with a victory in the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200.

Hill made his first start at Martinsville Speedway five years ago driving for his family-owned team and he's learned a lot on and off the track since he moved up to the NASCAR national series in 2014.

"When I first started racing in the truck series, we were doing it with a low budget team and just trying to see if it was something we wanted to do," said Hill. "Then we decided to come up and do our own program. So, for two

years we did a partial schedule with Austin Hill Racing.

"I was in the shop working on the trucks and helping my guys out, so, you know I've learned a lot through the years to get to this point. I feel like everything I've learned and everything I've done throughout my career working on race cars and trucks and stuff like that definitely helps going in to the playoffs."

The race at Martinsville Speedway always seems to produce surprises and that is not lost with Hill heading into the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200.

"Obviously, anything can happen (at Martinsville Speedway)," said Hill. "It's just such close quarters that anything can happen at that race track. You just have to execute all day, be up front there at the end, and if you get a green-white-checkered, you just got to hope that the guy behind you don't just go down in the corner and move you away.

"In the spring race, we had really good speed in practice and in the race. We just missed the balance. I still feel like we should have had a top-10 finish. It wasn't too bad. I feel like if we can carry over what we had in practice and figure it out in the race, I think we have a real, legitimate shot at winning."

Hill was making reference to the spring truck race at Martinsville when late-race contact cost him a chance at a top-10 finish.

"We were running inside the top 10 all day and the

next thing you know we have a green-white-checkered and we finish 16th cause we got moved up out of the groove," said Hill. "Martinsville is just one of those tracks that if you have speed, you can run up front and have a shot at winning, but there is no telling when something could happen."

Hill enters the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 third in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series points standings and while he's solidly in the top four for now, he knows there's a still a lot of racing to go before he can compete for a championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway in November.

"I think getting the max stage points you can is going to be huge," Hill said. "I think we saw that at Talladega. We didn't get a lot of stage points in the first stage and not getting any in the second stage kind of hurt us a little bit. That dropped us to third (in points). I feel like stage points are going to be huge these next two races. We can win either race that we go to, Martinsville and Phoenix.

"That would be the easiest thing to do, but I feel like getting the most max stage points you can possibly get in Stage 1 and 2 definitely helps you going into Phoenix." Tickets to the NASCAR Hall of Fame 200, the First Data 500 and the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Night Race at Martinsville Speedway can be purchased online at [www.martinsvillespeedway.com](http://www.martinsvillespeedway.com) or by calling 877.RACE.TIX.

# Denny Hamlin: Martinsville Is Going To Be Very Pivotal

First Data 500 Victory can lock Virginia native into Championship 4

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (Oct. 18, 2019) – Anyone who has followed Denny Hamlin's career knows one thing is certain, he loves racing at Martinsville Speedway.

Hamlin has scored 35 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series wins in his storied career and has five victories at Martinsville Speedway, which is tied with Pocono Raceway for the most wins at one track by Hamlin.

Hamlin is also focused for the fall race at Martinsville and knows all too well that winning the First Data 500 can guarantee him a spot in the Championship 4 as he continues his quest for that elusive first NASCAR Cup Series crown.

This year's First Data 500 is scheduled for Oct. 27 (3 p.m. ET, NBCSN, SiriusXM NASCAR) and once again kicks off the Round of 8 for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoffs.

"Martinsville is going to be very pivotal," said Hamlin. "We've always seen great battles there. I feel like it's the greatest race in the playoffs other than Homestead."

The Chesterfield, Va. native scored his most recent win at Martinsville Speedway in 2015 and although it's been a few years since he visited Gatorade Victory Lane and took home an iconic Grandfather clock, he still loves competing on the tight half-mile track.

"Martinsville is obviously one of my favorite tracks and a place where we've had a lot of success, so our FedEx team feels good about

what we can do there," said Hamlin.

In addition to his five wins – including three in a row from the fall race of 2009 through the 2010 season – Hamlin has finished in the top five in 14 of his 27 starts at the track with three runner-up finishes.

Hamlin once again had a strong car in the spring race at Martinsville Speedway only to have his chances for a win end after some woes on pit road.

"We had a really good FedEx Toyota," Hamlin said. "I thought we had a second-to-fourth-place car depending on the scenario. But, I lost some spots on pit road, and we had a penalty for an uncontrolled tire and had to go to the back. We had to fight back toward the front, but we made a good day out of it."

Hamlin was able to come home fifth and will attempt to tie NASCAR Hall of Famers Fred Lorenzen and Cale Yarborough with his sixth win and become the seventh driver with six or more victories at Martinsville Speedway next Sunday.

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

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 877.RACE.TIX or online at [www.martinsvillespeedway.com](http://www.martinsvillespeedway.com).



# Make safety part of cheerleading

Cheerleading can be a physically demanding activity full of stunts, dancing and tumbling. Although it was initially designed to entertain and motivate crowds during sporting events, cheerleading has become a competition in its own right and features seasoned athletes who dedicate themselves and commit to year-round rigorous training.

Active Network, a company that provides software as a service for sports activity and participant management, says that more than 3.3 million Americans participate in cheerleading each year. Sometimes referred to as spirit sports, cheerleading also is popular in Canada. Over the last 10 years, several cheerleading gyms have opened in Alberta and other areas of the country.

Cheerleading teams perform tumbling, dance, gymnastics, and acrobatic stunts. Particular squad members are selected to be "flyers" who are lifted or tossed in the air by their "bases," according to Sports Medicine Update. An increasing level of complexity and stunts can put cheerleading athletes at high risk for injury.

The University of Rochester Medical Center says many cheerleading injuries now occur when athletes perform risky maneuvers. Data collected by the National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study from 2009-2010 through 2013-2014 indicates cheerleading has a disproportionately high rate of catastrophic injuries (over 50 percent of all catastrophic injuries in female high school athletes), including skull fractures, death, cervical fractures or major ligamentous injury, spinal cord contusions, paralysis, and severe head injuries resulting in permanent brain injury, compared to other sports.

To stay safe during cheerleading competitions, par-

ticipants and their parents should understand the activity is not without risk. However, certain steps can make the sport more safe.

- TeensHealth from Nemours says flyers might want to consider wearing a lightweight cheer vest while practicing to protect themselves from bruising and injuries.

- Cheerleaders should wear the proper footwear, which includes rubber-soled shoes.

- Landing mats or spring floors that absorb impact should be used during practices.

- Restrict pyramid heights to prevent falls. Children's Hospital Colorado says that pyramids may only be two levels in high school, and in college they may only be 2.5 body lengths.

- Cheerleading coaches should ensure that participants understand and can perform basic skills before introducing more advanced acrobatic/gymnastics maneuvers.

- The USA Federation for Sport Cheering mandates the use of spotters for pyramids and basket tosses, and they should be used in both practice and competition. These spotters must always be present and properly trained.

- Coaches should be certified by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisors. This program is to educate cheerleading coaches at all levels.

Apart from the AACCA, safety guidelines can be obtained from other organizations, such as the United States All Star Federation, CheerSafe, and the National Federation of State High School Associations. These are governing bodies that were established to set rules for cheerleading safety to limit risk and help protect athletes at all levels of participation.

-Metro Creative Content



# Meeting,

from page 1

dures.”

During the presentation, he shared written remarks from Michael W. Layman, leader of the accreditation assessment team that toured the Henry County Sheriff’s Office and interviewed various agency staff members.

“Every member of the agency was friendly and well-informed in every contact with the assessment team. These qualities were also observed by the team when deputies were seen dealing with the public,” Layman said in his remarks. “The strength of this agency is shown by the dedication of the members of this organization to the citizens within the agency’s service area and to the profession of law enforcement.”

Also during the Oct. 22 meeting, the Board of Supervisors learned that local households have saved \$163 each in state and local taxes each year as a result of taxes generated by tourist spending. This was presented by Martinsville-Henry County Assistant Director of Tourism Beth Stinnett, who shared figures on economic impact as well as the agency’s strategic plan for marketing the area.

She also shared goals from the tourism department’s “Destination Plan 2023” to build a brand around MHC being an “active lifestyle destination with unique cultural experiences.” This includes continuing to revitalize uptown Martinsville, because, “the consultant told us you cannot have a

successful tourism program without a vibrant downtown,” Stinnett said.

The board also heard from Lisa Watkins, head of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, who gave a presentation on the Chamber’s Partnership for Economic Growth (CEPG). Watkins shared that an 8-week entrepreneur “boot camp” program in partnership with Patrick Henry Community College has yielded 153 graduates so far.

“A lot of graduates have started their own business and are still in business,” she said. “The success rate of these businesses has been phenomenal.” Typically, Watkins said, new business ventures have a 15 percent success rate over a five-year period, whereas “we have a 85 percent success rate.”

These businesses have generated \$191,000 in revenue, \$1.1 million in new capital investment and 113 new jobs, she said. The next boot camp will be held in spring 2020.

Watkins also said the West Piedmont Business Development Center, also known as the small business incubator, is at 97 percent occupancy. The only un-occupied suite in the building is having work done to address a moisture issue, she said, so in fact all the rentable space in the incubator is being used.

There are 20 current small business tenants and 35 “graduates” -- businesses that have expanded beyond the incuba-

tor. One success story Watkins shared is Perkins Medical Services, which “started out as a one-person, part-time business, and it’s created three jobs now.”

The Chamber continues to work with consulting firm Retail Strategies to generate leads on recruiting potential new retail businesses to Martinsville-Henry County, she said. Two recent examples of leads generated were Ollie’s Bargain Outlet and the recently opened Cook-Out in Collinsville.

During his remarks to the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator Tim Hall told the board there is a “pretty strong possibility” they will need a special called meeting before the next regular monthly meeting regarding jail financing. It is tentatively set for Nov. 13.

Hall also said that they are “hopeful of rescinding the burn ban” by the end of the week, thanks to recent rainfall. Hall said that those concerned about the ban affecting tourists in the area for Race Weekend, the Martinsville Speedway and RV Park have both asked for and received special permits for use of open burning.

Supervisor Debra Buchanan also shared that the Horsepasture area community meeting has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Horsepasture Ruritan Building. Buchanan encouraged local residents to “come out and find out what’s going on in Horsepasture and Henry County.”



MHC Assistant Tourism Director Beth Stinnett presents economic impact figures to the Board of Supervisors during their regular meeting Oct. 22.

# Dragon Fest

from page 2

had a lot of fun,” Brown said. “We loved it. This year it seemed like they had more to do.”

Fire performer Meli Markham, from Raleigh, N.C., drew a crowd in front of the museum as she twirled a flaming baton and blew a mouthful of liquid onto the fire that made it explode in the air. After one of her performances, kids from the audience surrounded her to ask how she does it. Markham explained that the liquid in her

mouth is very diluted lamp oil.

Michelle Witherow attended with her son, Kingston; her boyfriend, Charles McWilliams, and his two daughters: Cailyn and Charlotte. Witherow said the event was a good time for all of them.

“It’s hard to find something fun for kids of all ages,” she said. “Kingston is 3, Charlotte is 6, and Cailyn is 11, and they all had a blast.”

Cailyn McWilliams said her favorite part was “going to the mu-

seum. We got to see all the dinosaurs. We got to do crafts, and there was a game in there called Feed the Dragon.”

Her sister, Charlotte, piped up, “I liked looking at the snakes.”

Kingston was not interested in being interviewed -- he was too busy sword-fighting the other kids with a foam pool noodle -- but his mother said he enjoyed seeing the pirate band, Pirates of the Piedmont, perform throughout the day.



Audience members were entranced by a fire performance by Meli Markham during the Dragon Festival Oct. 19.



PHOTO BY THE DRAGON RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

The Dragon Research Collaborative which spearheaded the Dragon Festival held at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, looks at the influence of plant fossils on dragon lore. The prehistoric *Lepidodendron* plant left behind fossils that look like reptile scales, pictured here.

# Livy’s Lights Up Pink

If you drive on Virginia Avenue, you may have noticed that Livy’s ice cream shop is lighting up pink.

Livy’s will donate a portion of proceeds in October to breast cancer research.

“Livy’s is going pink in the month of October to recognize breast cancer awareness month. One in eight women are affected by breast cancer in their lifetime and we want to contribute to the research to find a cure,” Owner Rodney Billings said.

Billings said bringing awareness and finding a cure is a passionate and personal topic for him.

“Most of us can think of someone that is in our family or of friends that are either struggling with some type of cancer or are survivors. My father, in particular, is a survivor,” Billings added.

The ice cream shop hopes this will cause a ripple effect of other businesses in Martinsville and Henry County to do the same.

“We do feel like we are the first to light up the entire business pink. Although I know some are not lighting up pink, they are contributing to breast cancer research and breast cancer awareness month in many different ways,” Billings stated.



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## Meet Martha Cole, D.O.



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

Dr. Cole completed her residency at East Tennessee State University and received her medical degree from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her clinical interests include women’s health, pediatrics and sports medicine.

Carilion Clinic practices are medical homes, so our patients benefit from advanced primary care services, including better care coordination.

Dr. Cole welcomes new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call 276-670-3300.

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