

Howell's Wholesale

Thanksgiving items for sale:

- Roasting Pans
- Thanksgiving trimmings
- All special items for


Thanksgiving family dinner

617 A Liberty Street

Martinsville, Va

276-336-4525

Perry wins reelection bid, at-large seat on school board filled

DISTRICTS	BLACKBERRY		HORSEPASTURE				IRISWOOD		COLLINSVILLE		REED CREEK		RIDGEWAY																
	BASSETT #2	CUNVILLE	SCOTT'S TANVARD	FIELDALE	HORSEPASTURE #1	HORSEPASTURE #2 (10)	HORSEPASTURE #2 (10)	SPENCER	AXTON	RIBBURG	MT. OLIVET	MOUNTAIN VALLEY	COLLINSVILLE #1	DANIELS CREEK	COLLINSVILLE #2	MOUNTAIN VIEW	BASSETT #1	FICHBORO	STANLEYTOWN	OAK LEVEL	DYERS STORE	FONTAINE	HILLCREST	RIDGEWAY #1	RIDGEWAY #2	ABENTEE	TOTAL		
	SENATE																												
	William M. Stanley Jr.	174	484	821	239	489	62	156	520	228	450	496	260	356	319	631	303	215	426	645	226	263	521	182	568	450		374	9858
	Sherman D. Witcher Sr.	77	84	155	70	165	34	218	113	156	221	343	104	73	102	166	121	78	86	80	48	73	135	61	136	104		111	3114
	HOUSE OF DELEGATES																												
	Charles D. Poindexter -9th	198	528	891		563			546									247										83	3056
D. W. "Danny" Marshall III -14th						55				440	473											530	172	567	435	113	2785		
Eric W. Stamps -14th						47				247	395											135	82	155	126	54	1241		
Les R. Adams -16th				242		163		233			262	356	297	619	305		418	628	225	262						179	4189		
Dustin W. Evans -16th				63		192		128			98	67	121	160	110		85	90	44	67						48	1273		
COMMON WEALTH'S ATTORNEY																													
M. Andrew Nester	231	503	853	268	595	85	336	534	336	591	750	324	381	376	728	390	254	414	665	230	297	580	197	619	440	443	11420		
SHERIFF																													
Lane A. Perry	140	272	536	150	363	50	264	349	244	403	535	194	239	227	448	221	186	278	408	151	187	362	138	345	286	311	7287		
John W. Cassell	118	292	456	152	291	52	143	300	149	257	304	185	178	188	335	213	113	232	335	126	152	278	103	312	228	191	5683		
Jerry W. Farmer	20	33	23	18	27	3	15	21	13	35	37	13	19	20	29	14	10	18	19	9	13	35	20	74	68	19	625		
COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE																													
Linda N. Love	244	531	887	276	608	88	355	559	355	622	762	332	381	384	731	391	271	408	676	240	310	605	198	638	449	466	11767		
TREASURER																													
Scott B. Grindstaff	240	522	880	277	612	85	364	558	350	603	759	332	386	386	728	388	261	415	671	240	316	598	211	635	444	462	11723		
SOIL & WATER																													
R. Darryl Holland	186	331	610	197	508	64	233	472	263	453	565	260	310	280	558	338	183	320	472	173	257	553	161	498	388	367	9000		
Andrew L. Barker	165	273	396	137	277	29	142	230	168	333	439	162	207	225	407	288	141	229	372	126	190	416	131	306	214	267	6270		
SCHOOL BOARD																													
Terri C. Flanagan -HP				259	579	78	338	537																		64	1855		
Teddy Doyle Martin II -RC																242	380	641	219	287						97	1866		
Francis E. Zehr -RW																					581	217	639	449	90		1976		
Cherie Joyce Whitlow -AL	168	523	681	230	433	42	159	460	186	367	385	202	325	296	542	230	195	350	545	191	203	421	164	423	340	331	8392		
Shelira D. Morrison -AL	78	93	215	63	157	42	222	117	187	281	417	129	61	92	201	172	86	103	116	51	102	184	57	222	129	94	3671		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS																													
Debra Parsons Buchanan -HP				270	611	86	349	557																		63	1936		
Tommy J. Slaughter -RC																	250	414	664	223	317					103	1971		
Ryan F. Zehr -RW																					592	216	646	456	91		2001		

Kim Barto Meeks Staff writer

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry has been re-elected to a fourth term with more than 53 percent of the vote.

Unofficial election results Tuesday evening showed Perry winning with 7,287 votes. This made for a comfortable lead of about 1,600 over challenger John W. Cassell, who garnered 5,683 votes or 41.78 percent. Candidate Jerry W. Farmer trailed with 625 votes, or 4.6 percent.

Cheered by his supporters as he watched the election results from EMI in Bassett, Perry thanked God, his family, and voters for their support.

"It's a blessing to have this behind us, and I just look forward to serving people, and serving with y'all, for the next four years," Perry said.

Tallies on the Virginia Department of Elections website on Tuesday night showed a total of 13,601 votes cast in the county sheriff's race, including six write-ins. Perry took all but two of the 25 county precincts. Cassell received 152 votes in Fieldale, just two more than the incumbent; as well as 292 votes in the Gunville precinct, for a

lead of 20.

Perry called his win "a good solid victory. I felt like we had the public confidence, and this solidifies that."

He added that "as I've been out and about in the community, I regularly hear positive comments. People commend our office for professionalism and good work. I think this is just a continuation of that earned trust."

Perry's immediate priority as sheriff will be construction of a new county jail facility, a major undertaking he said will fill the next four years.

"The next two years will be full with construction starting. We'll be starting the hiring process within the next year," he said.

In his campaign, Farmer questioned the need for the jail and the \$67 million price tag. Perry has said during the campaign that a regional jail would not save any money on housing inmates, and keeping the facility nearby allows the community and family members to be more involved in helping inmates turn their lives around.

Unlike in the current jail, "in this new facility, we can separate people. There'll be a mental health wing, minimum and medium security."

See **Election Results**, page 10

Southside Republicans survive "Blue Wave" on Election Day

Kim Barto Meeks Staff writer

All of the Republican incumbents representing Martinsville and Henry County in the state legislature kept their seats in the Nov. 5 election, as a "blue wave" of Democrats took control of the General Assembly.

Democratic lawmakers now hold majorities in both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate. Under Gov. Ralph Northam, also a Democrat, this marks the first time the party has held unified power in Virginia in more than 20 years.

Southside's state representatives won their districts by wide margins. State Sen. William M. Stanley, Jr. (R-20) won 70 percent of the overall vote over newcomer Sherman D. Witcher, Sr., who ran as an independent. The 20th district includes Henry County, Martinsville, Patrick County, and Galax, as well as parts of Carroll, Franklin, Halifax, and Pittsylvania counties, and parts of the city of Danville.

Nearly 76 percent of voters in Henry County supported Stanley. In the city of

Martinsville, the Republican incumbents still received the majority of votes, but by a much slimmer margin. Stanley received 50.34 percent of the city's support, winning by less than 30 votes.

The only other state race on the ballot in Martinsville was the 16th district of the House of Delegates between incumbent Les R. Adams (R) and Libertarian challenger Dustin W. Evans. In Martinsville, Adams won 51 percent of the vote versus 48 percent for Evans. In contrast, Adams received 76.5 percent of the vote in the parts of Henry County he represents.

In the 14th district, representing parts of Henry and Pittsylvania counties, Del. Danny W. Marshall (R) was re-elected with 61 percent of the overall vote versus Democratic candidate Eric W. Stamps.

Del. Charles D. Poindexter (R-09), who represents parts of Henry and Patrick counties, ran unopposed. He was re-elected with more than 96 percent of the vote. The remaining ballots were cast for write-in candidates.



Mothers and friends from high school, Lucy Overstreet, Emily Wade, and Lindsey Hawkes were among attendees trying out the new trail with their children on Monday afternoon after a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new section of the Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail.

New trail section now open

Kim Barto Meeks Staff writer

The newest section of the Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail has officially opened to runners, cyclists, and nature lovers after nearly two years in the making.

Flanked by bicycles on either side of the paved trail, officials gathered Monday afternoon at the Smith River Sports Complex to cut a ribbon signaling the opening of section

6B. The 2.5-mile route connects the sports complex to Spruce Street, where it ends with a trailhead near the city/county line that includes a paved parking lot and restrooms.

Henry County Administrator Tim Hall said the trail network is just one way the city and county are "literally and figuratively connected." The two localities collaborate on many projects, and "this is just the latest and the prettiest," he said.

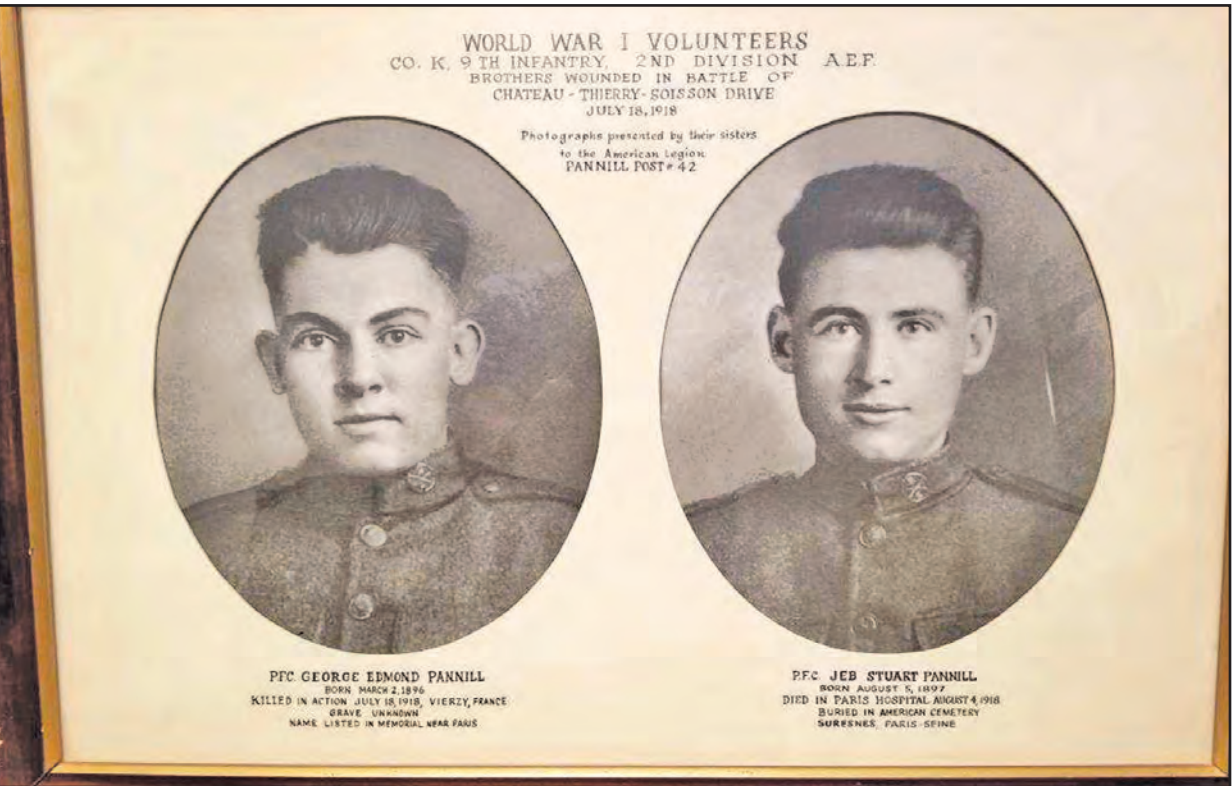
Reflecting on setbacks along the

way, Hall likened the process to a song by The Beatles, "Long and Winding Road." At times, the goal seemed unattainable.

In December 2017, The Harvest Foundation awarded nearly \$1.4 million in grant funding to Henry County to construct section 6B. Site work began in January 2018, and originally the nature trail was slated to open by the end of that

See **New Trail**, page 10

Wreath laying ceremony set to honor veterans



The Oakwood Cemetery Association will hold a ceremony Monday, Nov. 11, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. in the cemetery, which is located at 107 Cemetery St., Martinsville. Former Congressman Virgil H. Goode Jr. is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the event that also includes speakers W.C. Fowlkes and Lucy Wilson.

The ceremony will include a wreath laying ceremony at the headstone of Pfc. George Edmond Pannill and Pfc. Jeb "Stuart" Pannill.

Both served in WWI as volunteers with Co. K. 9th Infantry, 2nd Division AEF, according to Danny Turner, a member of Martinsville City Council, who also is helping to organize the event.

George Pannill was killed in action on July 18, 1918 in Vierz, France.

Stuart Pannill was injured in the same conflict. He died about three weeks later, on Aug. 5, 1918 in a Paris hospital.

Turner noted that one of the speakers - Wilson - is a direct descendant of the Pannill brothers and Confederate States Army Gen. James Ewell Brown, "Jeb" Stuart, for which the Town of Stuart in Patrick County is named.

Wright Funeral Services purchased the wreaths, according to Turner, who added the free ceremony is open to the public.



Davis to Present A.A. Burleigh: Civil War Soldier



Hasan Davis as A.A. Burleigh, Civil War Soldier

Hasan Davis brings to life one of America's overlooked heroes, Civil War veteran Angus Augustus Burleigh, during his performance "A. A. Burleigh: Civil War Soldier."

The Reynolds Homestead is partnering with New College Institute and Patrick County Public Schools to host Davis at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19 in the Patrick County

High School auditorium in Stuart.

There is no admission charge for this event.

Burleigh, the son of an English Sea Captain, was born in 1848 aboard a sea freighter on the Atlantic Ocean, according to Davis' website. His mother, Carlotta, was a woman of color.

Because of his father's status, Burleigh and his

mother lived in Virginia in relative freedom until Burleigh was two. After his father's death, Burleigh and his mother were abducted, taken to Kentucky, and sold into slavery.

After 14 years of enslavement, Burleigh escaped his bondage and at the height of the Civil War, he made his way to Frankfort, Kentucky, to join the newly formed

United States Colored Troops, ultimately earning the rank of Sargent.

Burleigh was one of the first African American males to attend and graduate from Berea College. From there he began more than four decades of education and ministry that led him, his wife and three children across the United States. In 1889 Burleigh was appointed Chaplain of the General Assembly of Illinois by the Governor. In 1939, Angus Augustus Burleigh died in a Veterans hospital in Los Angeles at the age of 91.

Davis is an internationally recognized speaker, educator and juvenile justice advocate who lives in Kentucky. He travels the country to help young people and adults find their voice, personal power, sense of self-respect, and dignity. And he uses his passion for theater to help others connect with historical African-American figures.

The program is free, but donations will be accepted to help support future programs.



Hasan Davis is a speaker, educator, and advocate for youth.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair Set for Nov. 9

The holiday spirit is in the air, and a chance to get an early jump on holiday shopping is at the Reynolds Homestead Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Community Enrichment Center.

"We have 23 vendors with 29 tables of hand-crafted items that will make unique gifts," said Becki Turner, volunteer coordinator of the event. "Local artists and crafters from Patrick and surrounding counties will have everything to fill your gift-giving needs."

Items for sale will include knitted and crocheted hats and scarves, ornaments, doll clothes, stockings, treats, Barn Quilt kits, jewelry, stained glass, handspun yarns, Native American crafts, whimsical Items, hand-painted scarves, wearable art, artisan soaps and bath products, and more.

In addition to great shopping, lunch is on the menu, too. Shoppers

can take advantage of an eat-in or take-out lunch options, featuring a full hot dog bar with all the fixings, tomato basil soup and Brunswick stew with corn muffins and crackers.

"We want shoppers to take their time and enjoy visiting with our artists and crafters, and having lunch on site provides a chance to sit down and relax while here," said Turner. "Plus, you can take dinner home, too if you like."

Doors open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9 for shoppers. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available for shoppers to enjoy while browsing the great selection of goods. Those attending are asked to enter the Community Enrichment Center through the basement and work their way upstairs.

The Reynolds Homestead is located at 463 Homestead Lane in Critz. Anyone needing directions or more information can call (276) 694-7181.



Wood artist Mark Holder is one of the many talented vendors who will be at the Reynolds Homestead's Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on Nov. 9.

Applications being accepted for Christmas Cheer

Christmas Cheer of Martinsville-Henry County is accepting applications for those in need of help at Christmas.

Applications must be completed in person and in the office, which is located at 8500 A. L. Philpott

Highway, Space #3, Martinsville. The office is situated beside Food Lion, at the intersection of Virginia 57 and U.S. 58.

The office is open Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Nov. 27.

Virginia Government Shifts With Democrats Dominating Election Day

Rodney Robinson
Capital News Service

Democrats have taken control of the Virginia General Assembly, flipping both the Senate and House blue.

"The ground has shifted in Virginia government," Gov. Ralph Northam said in a press release late Tuesday. "The voters have spoken, and they have elected landmark Democratic majorities in both the Senate and the House of Delegates."

Key House Victories

Democrats grabbed six additional seats, giving them a 55-45 lead in the House.

In House District 94, Democrat Shelly Simonds defeated Republican incumbent David Yancey in a rematch from 2017. Simonds garnered 58% of the votes for the district, while Yancey earned 40%, according to unofficial election results.

In House District 76, Democratic candidate Clint Jenkins defeated Republican incumbent Chris Jones. Jenkins tallied 56% of the vote, while Jones gathered 44%.

Democrat Martha Mugler won House District 91, an open seat

previously held by Republican Gordon Helsel since 2011. Mugler garnered 55% of the vote in the district and Republican Colleen Holcomb won 45% of the vote.

In House District 40, Republican incumbent Tim Hugo lost to Democratic challenger Dan Helmer. Helmer accumulated 53% of the vote to Hugo's 47%.

In House District 28, Democrat Joshua Cole defeated Republican Paul Milde in an open seat. Cole amassed 52% of the vote, while Milde won 48%.

Democrat Nancy Guy won House District 83, defeating Republican incumbent Chris Stolle. Guy garnered 49.95% percent of the vote, while Stolle earned 49.87%.

Key Senate Victories

In the Senate, Democrats gained two seats previously held by Republicans. They will now lead the chamber 21-19.

In Senate District 13, Democratic candidate John Bell defeated Republican candidate Geary Higgins. Bell garnered 55% of the vote in the district, while Higgins gathered 45%.

Democratic challenger Ghazala Hashmi

defeated Republican incumbent Glen Sturtevant to flip Senate District 10. It was a tight race throughout, but Hashmi garnered 54% of the vote in the District.

Though the Democrats celebrated many wins, they fell short of flipping some competitive districts. Kirk Cox, R-Colonial Heights, fought off Democratic challenger Sheila Bynum-Coleman, despite redistricting which left House District 66 more Democratic. In a competitive race not called until well after midnight, Republican Siobhan Dunnivant maintained her seat in Senate District 12, in a tight race against Debra Rodman.

The last time Virginia Democrats controlled the House, Senate and governorship was in the mid-1990s. This trifecta could make it easier for the party to pass its agenda.

"Since I took office two years ago, we have made historic progress as a Commonwealth," Northam said. "Tonight, Virginians made it clear they want us to continue building on that progress."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
			45					46		47		48	
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Punctuation mark
6. Married woman
9. Nocturnal rodent
13. Suffix
14. A way to disappoint
15. Saddle horse
16. West African country
17. Philippine island
18. "Girls" creator Dunham
19. A type of twin
21. Groans
22. Infections
23. What a beaver makes
24. Thou
25. Make a mistake
28. Receive
29. Dresses
31. Burn the surface of
33. Where coaches observe
36. Ceremonial offices
38. Paddle
39. The body's main artery

CLUES DOWN

1. Loose-fitting undergarment
2. Western Romanian city
3. Unit of length
4. Type of electricity
5. Article
6. Mothers
7. Monetary unit
8. Single Lens Reflex
9. Tan-colored horses
10. Region
11. Cautious in spending money
12. Belittle
14. Sarcastic
17. Fathers
20. Clothes
21. Opera's Callas
23. Lentil dish
25. Energy-saving module
26. Make sense of a language
27. Hurries through

29. Songs to one's lover
30. Name given to plant groups
32. Improves
34. Patriotic women
35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid
37. Instrument in Indian music
40. Request
42. Make into leather without using tannin
43. Defies
47. Neither
49. Flower cluster
50. Phonological unit
52. Leaves in water
53. Cavalry sword
55. Famed American cartoonist
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
57. Scarlett's home
58. Make
59. Stony waste matter
61. What to do at auction
65. Incorrect letters



Megan Kendrick

Spencer woman named director of STEP, Inc.

Megan Kendrick of Spencer has been named Director of Senior Services at Solutions That Empower People (STEP), Inc.

As director, Kendrick will oversee all activities and staff in the seniors programs at STEP's Patrick and Franklin county sites. Services include home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) for home-bound senior citizens, Senior Cafés (meals and activities where seniors can gather and interact with others), and transportation services to and from medical appointments and other critical needs. Transportation services are offered only in Patrick County. STEP works closely with Southern Area Agency on Aging to provide these services.

Kendrick holds a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration from the College of Public Health at East Tennessee State University. She is a Patrick County High School graduate and earned an associate degree in General Studies from Patrick Henry Community College. She is currently pursuing a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Western Governors University. Prior to joining

STEP, she worked in a variety of positions at Moses Cone Women's Hospital and Pioneer Community Hospital while a student and as part of her studies. She held leadership positions with the East Tennessee State University Women's Club Soccer and the Public Health Student Association of Tennessee.

Kendrick's office is located in STEP's Stuart office on Wayside Drive.

STEP is a multi-faceted community action agency providing services to empower low income individuals and families to overcome obstacles to economic, educational and developmental success. In addition to senior services, STEP's programs and services include early childhood education (Head Start/ Early Head Start), alternative private day school for middle and high school students (LIFES Academy), rental assistance and weatherization, supportive services (for homelessness and re-entry), and free income tax preparation assistance.

Services are offered primarily in Patrick and Franklin counties, but also in Martinsville, Danville, and Bedford; and the counties of Henry, Pittsylvania and Bedford.

Fieldale Resident Earns Degree from WGU

Stephanie Agee of Fieldale has earned their Bachelor of Science, Nursing degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university held its 71st (Cincinnati, Ohio); 72nd (Anaheim, California); 73rd (Salt Lake City, UT); and 74th (Seattle, Washington) commencement ceremonies in the spring and summer of this year to celebrate the recent graduation of more than 10,000 students from across the country. WGU has recognized 5,750 undergraduate and 4,488 graduate degree recipients, who have completed their degrees since June 24, 2019. Their areas of study include business, K-12 education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was 2 years, 3 months, while the average time to degree for graduate programs was 1 year, 7 months. The av-

erage age for those who graduated is 38 years old. WGU pioneered competency-based education, which measures learning rather than time spent in class. Designed to meet the needs of working adults, students study and learn on their own schedules with individualized, one-to-one faculty support. They complete courses as soon as they demonstrate that they have mastered the subject matter; allowing them to move quickly through material they already know so they can allocate time for what they still need to learn. As a result, many WGU students are able to accelerate their studies, saving both time and money. Established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online, nonprofit WGU now serves more than 119,000 students nationwide and has more than 158,000 graduates in all 50 states. Learn more at www.wgu.edu.

Harvest Foundation welcomes new grants administrator, program officer



Stacy Peters



India Brown

The Harvest Foundation announced a new addition to its staff: Stacy Peters will serve as the foundation's grants administrator.

Additionally, India Brown, who joined the foundation in 2016, was named a program officer. "We are delighted to welcome Stacy to the Harvest Foundation family as the new grants administrator," said Allyson Rothrock, Harvest Foundation president. "She brings a wealth of experience from the corporate sector as well as the nonprofit sector that will serve her well in this position. I believe they will make a great team as Stacy begins her position and as India transitions to program officer. India has spearheaded our foundation's policies and procedures for grants administration, and we can't wait to see her accomplishments as Harvest's newest program officer."

Peters said after working in the corporate sector for more than a decade, it's a joy to live and work in her hometown and support her community. "I've lived in Martinsville and Henry County my entire life and couldn't imagine living anywhere else," she said. "I decided to fo-

cus on helping improve and support my hometown, and working for the Harvest Foundation will allow me to do just that. I am excited and honored to be part of the Harvest team that invests in my community and will enhance the life and opportunities for my family and friends." Peters most recently worked as the coordinator of corporate and community events for New College Foundation. She previously worked at Norfolk Southern Corporation as the supervisor of purchasing and maintenance of way. She received her bachelor of business administration degree from Radford University and also completed the Martinsville-Henry County Leadership Development Program through the Chamber of Commerce. Peters resides in Martinsville with her husband J.D. and their son Luke. Brown, who previously served as the grants administrator, will move into the role of program officer. She said she's grateful to be part of the Harvest Foundation family and looks forward to supporting the community in her new position. "I am very passionate about the

work of the Foundation and excited to continue supporting its role in enhancing the lives of all Martinsville-Henry County citizens," she said. "Most of all, I look forward to cultivating relationships with new and current community members and organizations as we all work together for the betterment of our community. Brown has worked as director of the HEY (Help Engage Youth) Collaborative at the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, as an instructor for Piedmont Community Services, and career development coordinator for Henry County Public Schools. She also serves on the Martinsville City Schools Endowment Board and the Patrick County Education Foundation. She's a former member of the Piedmont Arts' Board of Directors and served on the Youth Council for the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board. Brown received her bachelor of arts in English language and literature from the University of Virginia. She lives in Martinsville with her husband Matthew, pastor of St. Paul High Street Baptist Church, and their Wheaten Terrier named Teddy.

Music Night set



Music Night at Spencer-Penn Centre is Friday, Nov. 9. Doors open at 5 p.m. Open MIC is at 5:30 p.m. At 6:20 Larry Sigmon and Martha Spencer, with their Unique Sound of the Mountains, will be on stage for a great night of music. Dust off your dancing shoes, grab a friend and come hungry. Concessions will be available. A \$5 donation is requested for admission. Call the Centre for more information, (276) 957-5757.

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net

**PASTOR
JASON KERR
IS BACK!!!**



**Camp Meeting Ministries
4234 Abram Penn Hwy., Critz, VA 24082**

**Friday, November 8th
SPECIAL FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE!**

**Youth, Teens, & Adults
Everyone is Welcome!
Hot Dog Cookout - 6:00pm
Service @ 7:00pm**

**Saturday, November 9th
7:00pm Service**

"TEEN CHALLENGE FRIDAY"

Bring your friends! Teen who brings the most friends (bringing more than 3 friends), will receive an **eX-Tra Special Gift!!**



**LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.**

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OPINION

In memory of a true southern gentleman

You don't need me to tell you that the late Gov. Gerald Baliles was a great man.

During his tenure as Virginia's governor in the late 1980s, Gov. Baliles proved himself a visionary. He revitalized the Commonwealth's roadways. He grew Virginia's international trade. He appointed Elizabeth Lacy, the first woman to serve on the Virginia Supreme Court. His across-the-board popularity helped pave the way for his Lieutenant Governor Douglas Wilder to become Governor of Virginia himself, the first African-American governor of a U.S. state since Reconstruction.

Gov. Baliles was a great man. He was also a friend.

Now, I don't want to overstate the case. I only encountered the man four or five times. I never helped him load a U-Haul or anything. But a couple of years ago, Gov. Baliles did something that meant the world to me, something that I will never forget.

I will preface this story by saying that I don't like to air dirty laundry, but it's impossible to tell this one right without cracking the hamper open a couple inches.

About two years ago, I was working for another local newspaper. I won't name the publication, but it's a bul-

letin of sorts concerning the goings-on in Martinsville. In addition to writing news stories, I wrote a column – basically this column – which was my favorite part of the job.

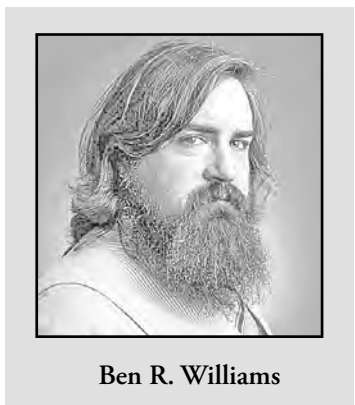
I received a lot of positive comments on this column, and it even won a Virginia Press Association award. Nonetheless, I arrived to work one day to be told that I was no longer allowed to write my column.

You see, the publisher at the time did not like this column. She did not like me. I expect she had some strong feelings about the horse I rode in on. And so my column was banned, and I had a strong suspicion that my days were numbered.

I'll admit, it was a depressing time. I had grown to enjoy writing my column and I enjoyed hearing from the public. One very sweet lady told me that she clipped all of my columns out of the paper and put them in a little box so she could read them when she was feeling blue. When I lost my column, I felt like I'd let her down.

When The Powers That Be decide that you're persona non grata, there is a dark tendency to just shrug your shoulders and give up. You can't fight city hall, as the saying goes.

It was during this dark pe-



Ben R. Williams

riod that I received a phone call from the head of a local organization. She told me that Gov. Gerald Baliles was in town and she asked me if I'd like to have lunch with him.

Of course, I told her that I'd love to have lunch with Gov. Baliles.

"Great!" she said. "He wants to meet you."

As the phone call ended, I was baffled. Why on Earth would Gov. Baliles want to meet me? I could only assume that he had me confused with a much more respectable Ben R. Williams, perhaps a former fighter jet pilot who had branched out into a career of running soup kitchens.

A couple hours later, I stepped through the front doors of the organization and met Gov. Baliles. He was wearing a suit, of course – I

wouldn't be surprised if he did yard work in a suit. He shook my hand and offered me a warm smile.

When we sat down for lunch, I realized that I had been mistaken. Gov. Baliles really did want to meet me. As it turns out, he was a fan of my work, and I told him I was a fan of his work as well.

As we shared lunch, Gov. Baliles asked me a host of questions. He asked me what had happened to my column (and was not terribly pleased with the answer). He asked me about the newspaper industry. He asked me about the challenges that Martinsville was facing and how I thought they should be tackled.

I asked Gov. Baliles a few questions as well, but he seemed more interested in picking my brain. It struck me as unusual to have someone of Gov. Baliles' stature be so curious to hear my input on politics, business and economics. It was sort of like Buzz Aldrin asking a 10-year-old model rocket enthusiast for a few pointers on space travel.

Yet from Gov. Baliles, it was completely sincere and genuine. We discussed the issues facing southside Virginia for the better part of an hour and a half, continuing long after our sandwiches had disap-

peared. I had a fantastic time.

After we parted ways with a handshake, I felt a spring in my step. Sure, my column was still banned, but now I knew that one of the most esteemed figures in the history of the Commonwealth was a fan and supporter. I knew I wasn't going to just shrug my shoulders and give up. To paraphrase a great American philosopher – Al Bundy from "Married with Children" – I was a loser, not a quitter.

I ran into Gov. Baliles several more times after that. Each time, he greeted me as you would an old friend. We talked about the future of I-73, the importance of the Patrick County Bookmobile, and economic inequality in different regions of Virginia.

Whenever I saw Gov. Baliles, I was struck by his kindness, his genuine nature and his gentle wisdom. He was a true southern gentleman, the rarest kind of politician. He did not divide and tear down; he brought people together and elevated them. The respect he still receives from both sides of the aisle is a testament to his courage and integrity.

That lunch meant a great deal to me – more, I suspect, than Gov. Baliles ever realized. It was an honor to know him.

The Chrismon Tree

Fran Snead

With December rapidly approaching, many of us are preparing for the busy holiday season. This includes practicing for a Cantata, preparing food, buying gifts, and, of course, decorating. In the winter issue of "Homestead: An Anthology of Historical Facts and Folklore of Western Henry County," published in 1976 by the Folklife Club of J.D. Bassett High School, there is a wonderful story about how the Chrismon Tree at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church came to be. Here is the story.

The church lights fade out and the lights of the Chrismon Tree come on. The only sounds are the sighs that ripple over the congregation. "You have just the tree to look at. It's just such a glow inside... you can't explain it ... a

feeling of maybe ... Moses' face glowing." This is how Pauline Wells described the climax of the Chrismon Tree Service at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church.

The concept of the Chrismon Tree originated in 1957 through the efforts of Mrs. Frances Kippa Spencer of Danville, Virginia. Feeling that traditional Christmas tree ornaments were too gaudy and inappropriate for a church service, Mrs. Spencer devised the Chrismon Tree as part of Christmas worship in her church, the Lutheran Church of Ascension. She owns the copyright for the Chrismon instructions because she feels that if they were offered for sale, it would cheapen the meaning and intent of the Chrismon Tree. This year, the Chrismon instructions have been sent out to every state in the United States and to some

sixteen foreign countries.

Mrs. Wells first learned of the Chrismon Tree from her daughter, Martha Jane, who saw the service in Liberty, N. C. Further inquiry revealed the instructions for making the Chrismons could be obtained from Mrs. Spencer in Danville, and thus the first Chrismon service in Henry County was presented in 1967 by the Rev. William H. Hales of Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church.

Women of the church began working on the program in March of that year. Mrs. Wells recalls the first symbol that was made was the 'Crown of thorns.'

"Martha Jane (Wells Clark, daughter of Mrs. Wells) brought me some branches, eighteen inches long. I made a board, hammered nails on it in a circle and entwined the branches among the nails. It had to be weathered so I put it on top of the garage, where it remained until December." Mrs. Wells related that a little humor surrounded the making of that first symbol – men who came to work at her house on the air conditioner were afraid at first to go on the roof when they saw the board with thorns woven around it until they were assured it was harmless. Could they have thought that perhaps it was a hex sign?

The Chrismon itself is a monogram of Christ: the Chrismon ornaments are symbols for Christ, symbols passed down through the ages, emphasizing the miracle of that first Christmas. The green tree means life. The color gold signifies the Father; pearl, the Son; and crystal, clear or illusion represents the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Year, represented by the two circles, one above the other, adorns the heart of the tree. The upper circle tells about God; the triangle in the center symbolizes the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The lower loop, read counterclockwise, depicts the life through which God was revealed to all mankind for all time. Each symbol depicts a certain period in Christ's life.

Various crosses, such as the St. Andrew's, the Cross in Glory, and the Cross Treflee, remind us of our Lord's redeeming sacrifice. Letters seen on the tree are Greek, the earliest monograms of the first Christian churches.



Sanctuary of Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church with Chrismon Tree, taken in 1984.

These are the most familiar monograms of the first Christian churches. The most familiar monograms are HIS, A, and INRI. The stars symbolize the close relationship between the birth and death of Christ. Also of special interest are the "parable balls" that depict the teachings of Christ. Lights on the tree represent the life of every member of the church.

Mrs. Wells related that a little humor surrounded the making of that first symbol – men who came to work at her house on the air conditioner were afraid at first to go on the roof when they saw the board with thorns woven around it until they were assured it was harmless. Could they have thought that perhaps it was a hex sign?

The Chrismon worship service is followed at Easter with a cross made from the trunk of the Chrismon Tree. On Palm Sunday, the bare cross, with its Crown of Thorns at its top and rocks at its base, sits in the sanctuary. Then on Easter Sunday everything comes alive. Greenery, such as flowers, and the Holy Crown (taken also from the previous Chrismon Tree) are added to the cross to climax the end of the Chrismon ceremony.

The beauty of the service is the interpretation each individual puts into it. It means something different to each member of the congregation. Mrs. Wells also explained that each year a new symbol is added and this year one of the three fish will be included. The fish itself is a significant symbol because it goes back to the catacombs and was a means of identification for Christians in hiding.

"My favorite ornament from the Chrismon Tree," related Mrs. Wells, "is the symbol used on the Liturgical Year, the only symbol that has any color to it ... the pelican who pierced her breast and fed her little ones with her blood.

"It would be wonderful to work on the Chrismon and study the symbols at the same time for a whole year, and highlight that study with the Chrismon Service."

Mrs. Wells, who had just finished teaching a Chrismon Class at the Lynwood Art Center, worked in two 10-hour sessions with various members from area churches who plan to go back and teach the instructions to leaders in their churches.

The Chrismon can even be cut smaller and used for a family tree. From the very first Chrismon Service at Pocahontas, the Chrismon worship was not just a Pocahontas endeavor or the work of any one individual, but was a program worked up by many members of the church to be presented for the entire community. Over the years many people have enjoyed the experience of working with the Chrismon Tree, especially women in the church like Naomi Thacker (Manning). Mrs. Wells commented "The service is everybody's – it belongs to the Lord.

"Each year, there is that same impression when the tree is turned on ... that sucking in of air, the 'oohs' and 'aahs', the moments of personal reflection - which light is mine? What does the tree mean to me? Who made the symbols? How much work went into the decoration of that tree? It is the most touching, most fascinating experience. It

has such deep meaning ... when I think about it, I cry."

People did not realize and/or did not know of the preparations taken for finding just the right tree that would be the Chrismon Tree at Pocahontas. Lloyd Wells was always in charge of finding that "perfect" tree with his right-hand man, Otis Griffin, always alongside. During the year, someone would tell Mr. Wells that he could check out a tree in a certain area or check with someone who probably would have a tree that would and could serve as the Chrismon Tree for that specific year. The entourage to find that certain tree included other men from the church, young men from the youth group at church, and other persons who were interested in participating. Years later, when Mr. Wells passed away, and with Mr. Griffin still serving in his same capacity, Paul Ross helped Mr. Griffin continue the tradition with locating and preparing the tree that Mr. Wells had started years before. It was several years later that a new tradition began in the church in using an artificial tree because of the tree possibly being a fire hazard. Paul Ross and Creed Maxey chose an artificial tree to resemble the beautiful living trees that had been used in the past. This tradition remains today.

No matter how old you were, seeing a twenty something foot tall tree light up with thousands of lights was simply astounding! After rereading this article, it is amazing at how much time, effort, and preparation went in to finding just the perfect tree.

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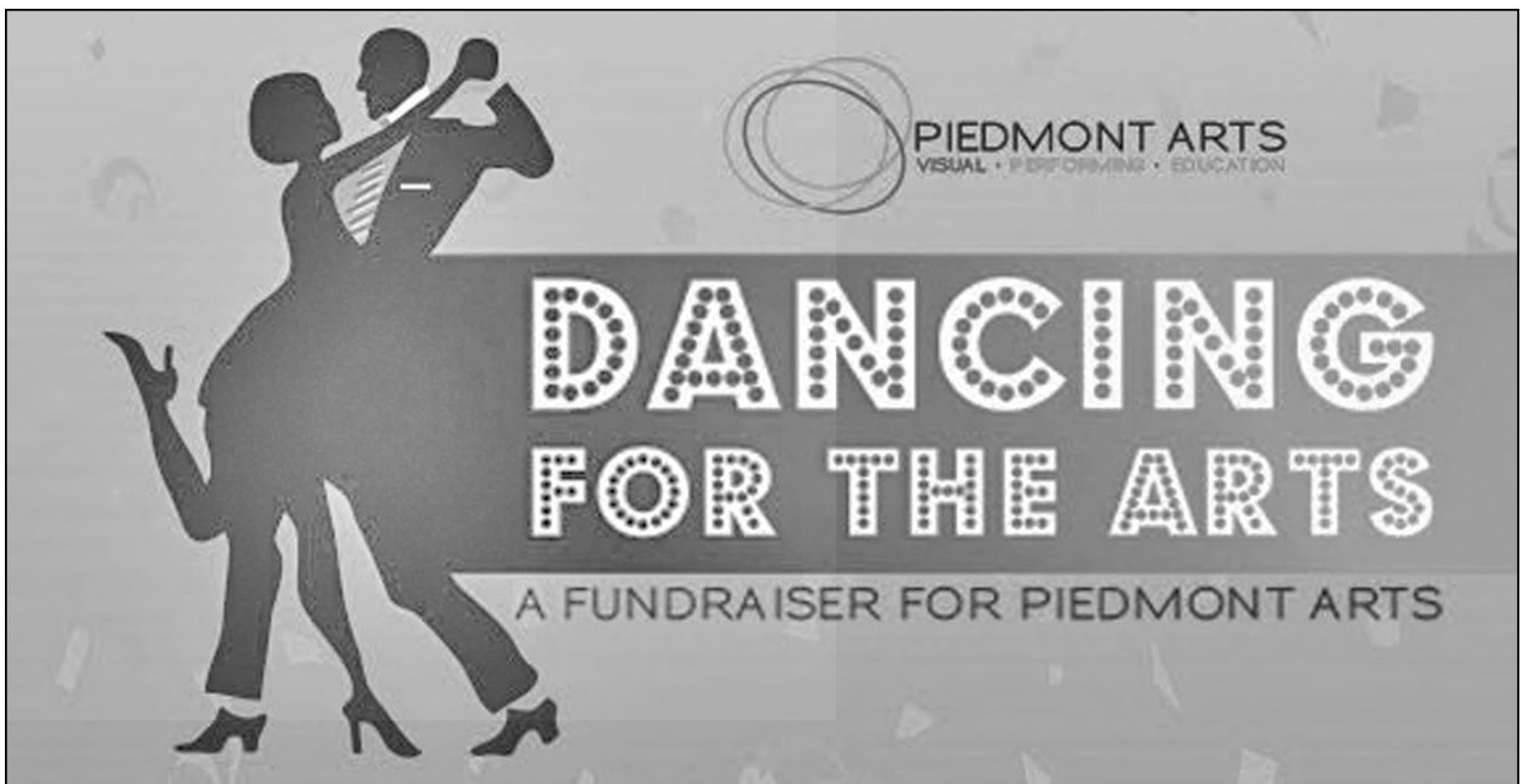
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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

Voting underway for teams competing in Dancing for the Arts fundraiser



Voting is now open for Dancing for the Arts, Piedmont Arts' biennial fundraiser, featuring local "celebrities" dancing in support of the arts in Martinsville-Henry County.

This Dancing with the Stars-style contest features eight teams competing to win the most votes, the highest judges' score and the big prize – a gorgeous mirror ball trophy.

Teams competing in Dancing for the Arts are:

Jennifer Bowles and Justin Chandler

Rebecca Crabtree and Gerald Kidd*

Lori Fox and Keith Ritchie

Ginger Gardner and Hasan Davis

Katie Garrett and Rob King

Brooke Holyfield and Brian Williams

Marlana Lackey and Ian Hogg

Sandy Strayer and Wayne Moore

Prior to and during the big event, supporters of the arts

are invited to vote for their favorite teams. Votes raise money to support Piedmont Arts programming in Martinsville-Henry County. Like Dancing with the Stars, 50% of each team's final score is tallied from votes and 50% is tallied from scores awarded by the judges during the contest. Each \$1 donation = 1 vote. You can double your votes by joining Piedmont Arts or renewing or upgrading your membership (Each \$1 donation = 2 votes).

To vote for your favorite Dancing for the Arts teams, visit Piedmont Arts or vote online at PiedmontArts.org/DFTA.

Dancing for the Arts will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 4 pm at Martinsville High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$25 for reserved seating. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and PiedmontArts.org.

* Gerald Kidd replaces Tim Martin as Rebecca Crabtree's

teammate.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit 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 PiedmontArts.org.

Eastman to recycle discarded carpet into new materials

Eastman has reached an agreement to give new life to one of the most problematic waste materials in U.S. landfills. Post-consumer carpet will now be recycled through Eastman's carbon renewal technology and converted into new materials to serve new and useful purposes.

Eastman has partnered with Circular Polymers, a company that reclaims post-consumer waste products for recycling. Through this agreement, Eastman has secured a consistent source of feedstock for carbon renewal technology, an innovative chemical recycling method that recently began commercial operation at Eastman's primary manufacturing site in Kingsport, Tenn.

The company also has a manufacturing facility in Fieldale.

"Our work with Circular Polymers will divert millions of pounds of carpet from landfills in the first year of our agreement," said Mark Costa, Eastman board chair and CEO. "Securing consistent sources of feedstock is an important element of our circular solutions platform, as it ensures we can provide Eastman customers with materials that contain certified recycled

content. This is our first announcement on sourcing feedstocks for our chemical recycling technologies, and there will be more to come."

Carpet pulled from houses and commercial buildings is a particularly problematic landfill item because transport is not easy – carpet is heavy and bulky – and there is a lot of it. More than 3 billion pounds of carpet were sent to U.S. landfills in 2018, according to Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE).

Under this agreement, Circular Polymers will collect polyester carpet from homes and businesses and recycle it at the company's California reclamation facility, where they utilize a unique processing technology that efficiently separates the PET fiber from the carpeting. Circular Polymers densifies the fiber, which enables its efficient transport by railcar to Eastman's Tennessee manufacturing site for chemical recycling, where it will produce new materials with certified recycled content. Those materials will be used to produce products used in Eastman markets, including textiles, cosmetics and personal care, and ophthalmics.

"We are excited to collaborate with Eastman on a project that benefits the planet," said David Bender, CEO of Circular Polymers. "Congratulations to Eastman on their leadership in the circular economy and upcycling carpet." CARE, a nonprofit created to support and facilitate market-based solutions that keep carpet out of landfills, partnered with Eastman and Circular Polymers to facilitate the agreement. Since its founding in 2002, CARE has diverted more than 5 billion pounds of carpet from landfills.

"CARE is proud to be part of the team bringing a solution for waste carpet to the marketplace," said Robert Peoples, executive director of CARE. "Eastman and Circular Polymers moved quickly from idea to implementation, and this is a win for all involved."

This announcement comes less than a year after Eastman first announced its intention to prioritize meaningful contributions to the circular economy.

"We're a company committed to immediate, substantive action to support a circular economy," said Steve Crawford, Eastman senior vice president, chief technology and sustainability officer.

"Finding new value in old carpet is something we can all appreciate and relate to. If we just discard the carpet and landfill it, then it's as if the valuable resources it took to make that carpet are locked up and no longer useful. Eastman is also committed to changing that story for multiple sources of mixed plastic which now are being landfilled. By collaborating with feedstock providers like Circular Polymers and others across the value chain, we are going to work together to reclaim the value of our resources."

Eastman expects to use up to 50 million pounds of waste plastic in carbon renewal technology operations in 2020, and projects are currently underway to significantly expand that amount.

"In addition to other feedstock agreements

like this one, we are also developing takeback programs in partnership with strategic customers to supply additional feedstocks for our innovative recycling technologies," Crawford said. "Our carbon renewal technology is already operating at commercial scale capacity, so we are actively pursuing additional feedstock opportunities to realize a material impact as quickly as possible."

Eastman is a global specialty materials company that produces a broad range of products found in items people use every day. With the purpose of enhancing the quality of life in a material way, Eastman works with customers to deliver innovative products and solutions while maintaining a commitment to safety and sustainability. The company's innovation-driven growth model takes advantage of world-class technology platforms, deep customer engage-

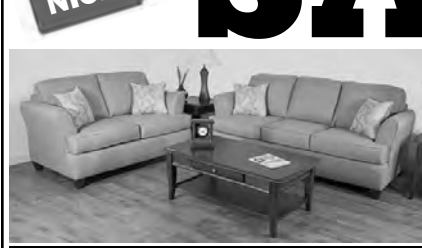
ment, and differentiated application development to grow its leading positions in attractive end-markets such as transportation, building and construction, and consumables. As a globally inclusive and diverse company, Eastman employs approximately 14,500 people around the world and serves customers in more than 100 countries. The company had 2018 revenues of approximately \$10 billion and is headquartered in Kingsport, Tenn. For more information, visit www.eastman.com

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General Assembly Reaches Highest Women Representation in History

Mario Sequeira Quesada
Capital News Service

Election Day concluded and women now have the biggest representation in the General Assembly in the history of Virginia politics.

The House of Delegates saw the biggest increase of the two chambers. Four women gained seats and pushed the total of female-held seats to 30. The Senate added two more female representatives, including Ghazala Hashmi, who is also the first Muslim woman in the history of the chamber. Now women will hold 41 of the 140 seats in the General Assembly.

Hashmi beat Sen. Glen Sturtevant, R-Richmond, by nine percentage points, turning Senate District 10 to female representation. She is the

only woman in the Senate who will take a seat previously held by a man. Republican candidate Jennifer Kiggans beat her Democratic counterpart Cheryl Turpin to fill the empty seat in District 7. Now the Senate will include 11 female representatives.

Over 85 women -- Republicans and Democrats -- ran for the House and Senate, and that is a volume never seen before, according to Deirdre Condit, associate professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"A breakthrough started in 2017, like huge cracks in the glass, and now this is the glass that shattered," Condit said. "This is monumental for moving women forward."

In the House of Delegates, Carrie Coyner, District 62,

Nancy Guy, District 83, Martha Mugler, District 91, and Shelly Simonds, District 94, will occupy seats previously held by men.

Guy defeated incumbent Sen. Christopher Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, and Simonds did the same against incumbent Del. David Yancey, R-Newport News; both represented a Democratic victory.

Coyner will replace fellow Republican Sen. Riley Ingram, R-Hopewell, who did not seek reelection. Mugler ran as the Democratic candidate for the open seat left by Del. Gordon Helsel, R-Poquoson.

In addition to representing a win for women, Tuesday also represented a step forward for religious and racial minorities.

"The election of Hashmi in defeating Glen Sturtevant is

really a landmark change in the state of Virginia," Condit said. "It's a really important descriptive representation but also policy and ideology shift for many people in the state of Virginia."

Condit said that although African American candidates did not win most races, their representation and support has increased. She pointed out to Sheila Bynum-Coleman, who challenged Speaker of the House Sen. Kirk Cox, R-Colonial Heights. Bynum-Coleman obtained 47% of the votes for House District 66, which Condit considered "outstanding" for a mostly unknown African American woman.

"She had a really strong showing against an incumbent, arguably the most powerful incumbent in the House of Del-

egates," Condit said. "I think that it's really important to see women of color leading."

House District 66 was redistricted in 2018, giving Democrats an advantage before the 2019 elections, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. Condit said despite Bynum-Coleman's loss, her performance is a step forward for the African American community.

Ghazala Hashmi celebrated her win on social media.

"This victory, is not mine alone. It belongs to all of you who believed that we needed to make progressive change here in Virginia," Hashmi said on Twitter. "Today we sent a message that the status quo is no longer accepted."

(Patricia Cason also contributed to this report.)

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau hasn't changed stance cutting payday loan protections

Ayana Archie
Capital News Service

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has not budged on its June decision cutting additional protections.

"There was insufficient evidence and legal support for these requirements," CFPB Director Kathleen Kraninger wrote in a Sep. 23 letter to Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, who is chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee and a critic of the agency's move.

Kraninger added that states should regulate payday lending, as they "have determined it is in their residents' interests to be able to use such products, subject to state-law limitations."

The 2017 Payday Rule governs "unfair and abu-

sive" lending practices, such as withdrawing money from borrowers' bank accounts without their knowledge, neglecting borrowers' "ability to pay" when approving loans, and issuing balloon loans, in which payments are consistently lower for the majority of the lending term but "balloon" to one significantly larger payment at the end.

In June, CFPB finalized a separate rule that said it is not considering the ability-to-pay requirements "at this time," and delayed the August compliance date to Nov. 19, 2020. The agency is considering loan requirements and disclosure practices for lenders.

In August, more than 100 House Democrats joined Waters in a letter asking the CFPB to abide by the

rule's initial provisions. Reps. Jamie Raskin, D-Bethesda; Anthony Brown, D-Largo; and the late Elijah Cummings, D-Baltimore, were among the signers.

In a Financial Services Committee hearing earlier this month, Kraninger said the bureau is working to define "abusive" as it pertains to lending.

The hearing lasted for more than three hours, with Kraninger in the hot seat fielding concerns from both parties.

"If you're not following direction of your staff to help consumers that are harmed, then you are absolutely worthless," Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-New York, told Kraninger.

Maloney, who left after the remark, later returned to apologize, amid outcry from Republican

committee members.

Expert: Payday loans are a "debt trap"

Payday loans are intended to be short-term, issued in relatively small amounts and due when borrowers receives their next paycheck.

However, Rebecca Borné, a senior policy counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending, told Capital News Service the terms of the loans are marketed that way, but purposely designed to keep people in debt.

Interest rates can be as high as 300%. Lenders often have access to borrowers' accounts and withdraw the money once the borrower receives a paycheck, leaving the person with little funds for other expenses, Borné said.

Borrowers may take out another loan as a result, putting them in a "debt trap," she said.

A 2014 report from the CFPB found that 80% of payday loans were renewed within 14 days, and the majority of borrowers renewed their loans so many times that they ended up paying more in fees than the principal amounts.

"The delay is the bureau's way of trying to buy time to gut the rule all togeth-

er so that it never goes into effect," Borné said.

One of the biggest takeaways of the 2017 Payday Rule is that it would cap interest rates at 36% for the length of the lending term, which is typically a few weeks.

In Maryland, payday loans up to \$2,000 have a maximum annual interest rate of 33%, and a maximum monthly rate of 2.75%. For loans greater than \$2,000, interest is capped at 24% annually and 2% monthly.

Bureau authority under court challenge

The constitutionality of the agency's structure has been questioned in recent years.

In 2017, Trump and the Department of Justice determined a statute that says CFPB directors can only be removed from their position for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office" is unconstitutional.

They argued that this restriction unfairly insulates the agency from the president's executive control.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California denied this claim in a lawsuit against the consumer bureau by Seila Law, a California law firm. The case has

since gone to the Supreme Court and oral arguments will be heard in the spring.

But in September, Kraninger, too, adopted the administration's reasoning.

"I have decided that the Bureau should adopt the Department of Justice's view that the for-cause removal provision is unconstitutional," she wrote in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky. She added that she advised the agency's lawyers not to fight the opinion in court.

Kraninger reaffirmed her decision at the October congressional hearing.

However, Maloney criticized Kraninger's stance, calling it "disrespectful" to congressional intent that the CFPB should an independent regulator.

But several House Republicans applauded the decision.

"When you have an unaccountable organization, with a director that not even the president can remove, that is going to be problematic," Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Michigan, said. "I appreciate your efforts in trying to put this back in a reasonable box."

The CFPB was founded in 2011 in response to the 2008 recession.

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Internship Program Accepting Applicants

The "OneUSDA Internship" opportunity for Summer 2020 is accepting applications. As part of the Federal Pathways Program, the OneUSDA Internship Program will provide students a way to explore serving their country through a career in government while gaining work experience in agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and other career fields.

"Our goal at USDA is to recruit the best and retain the best through our OneUSDA Internship Program offered nationwide," said Secretary Sonny Perdue. "Today's young people are the future of America and there are few things more American than agriculture. We're aiming to find young talent, with a diverse background, across all 50 states, to begin their careers as interns with USDA."

The OneUSDA Internship Program offers Federal opportunities to students currently enrolled in qualifying educational programs or institutions, with a comprehensive developmental program intended to provide students with experience in a dynamic work environment that will enhance their educational goals and shape their career choices. An internship with USDA will involve various components of on-the-job experience, mentorship, and training tailored to the student's education, experience, and interests.

During 2019, the USDA hosted thousands of interns throughout the country, many of which were through

the Federal Pathways Program. In the Summer of 2020, USDA will hire Pathways Interns in hundreds of locations in nearly every state in the country for the following occupational fields:

- Veterinary Science
- Biological Sciences (e.g., natural resources management forestry, wildlife biology, fish biology, ecology, botany, rangeland management, recreation)
- Engineering & Architecture
- Agribusiness, Contracting, Procurement, and Industry
- General Administration and Office Support
- Financial Management
- Information Technology

The USDA is making sure the Summer 2020 OneUSDA internship job announcement is easy for students to find and apply. After choosing the geographic location of preference and the career path that best matches with student's area of study and professional aspirations at <http://www.usda.gov/> Internships, students simply follow the weblinks to <https://www.usajobs.gov/> to set up an account, then follow the prompts to apply to the internship.

When applying, students will also have an opportunity to indicate their preferred occupational area of interest and USDA Agency or office. The application window will open through Nov. 15. Application review will begin immediately

For more information, visit www.usda.gov/Internships.

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This is a full time, 40-hour week position. Occasional weekend and overtime work required. Must be able to lift and carry 20-50 pounds on a regular basis and work in all types of weather. Valid driver's license and good driving record are required. Preferred qualifications include Class B Commercial Driver's License, Pesticide Certification, and prior experience in athletic field maintenance.
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This is a full time, 40-hour week position with occasional weekend and overtime work. Must be able to work a flexible schedule. Driver's license and good driving record required. Background check required.
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BUILDING INSPECTOR

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a Building Inspector. This position includes, but is not limited to, enforcement of compliance with state and local codes and local ordinances governing all aspects of building construction, modular buildings and mobile homes – both new and existing. The candidate will work under the direct supervision of the Building Official.
Additional Duties & Responsibilities:
Inspects mechanical, plumbing, framing, and electrical systems of building structures
Enforces state and local building codes
Testifies in court in code cases, as necessary
Maintains all necessary reports and records pertaining to inspections and code enforcement work
Attends the necessary classes to maintain the required inspection certifications
Minimum Training and/or Experience:
High school diploma
3-5 years experience in construction work and/or inspections; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. (Preferably with

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experience in framing, plumbing & mechanical.) Must have electrical experience (preferably certified).
Additional Requirements:
Must have a valid driver's license along with a good driving record
Must be able to climb ladders and scaffolds and work at different elevations above grade
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Must be able to communicate effectively, both verbal & in writing, with homeowners, contractors, the general public, inter-office personnel and attorneys
Must possess the ability to read & interpret plans, specifications and blueprints
Must be able to pass all required certification exams as identified by the state and/or county and be certified within 18 months of employment in the appropriate field
Must possess the ability to enforce building codes and ordinances in a respectful manner
Must be able to conduct county business in a professional and respectful manner that reflects positively on the county
Must be able to visually distinguish differences in colors commonly used in the wiring industry

This is a full-time position with benefits that include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime and weekend work may be required. Salary DOE.
Anyone desiring to apply for the position may obtain a County employment application on the county website at www.co.patrick.va.us or from the County Administration Office, Room 218, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. Applications will be accepted until November 20, 2019.
The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age. Veterans are encouraged to apply. Published by direction of Tom Rose, County Administrator

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Harvest Youth Board helps Speediatrics race into Martinsville



Joanie Petty, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, waves at haulers with participants and Nichole Krieger, executive director of the NASCAR Foundation.

The Harvest Youth Board helped bring the Speediatrics Fun Day Festival to the Martinsville Speedway for the first time with a \$5,000 grant.

Joanie Petty, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, said NASCAR is one of Martinsville-Henry County's largest economic drivers and part of the culture throughout the community.

"It's impressive that the youth board is investing in things like this that are supporting other youth and younger youth – exposing them to things like motorsports and racing that could become future careers for them," she said. "I think it's really cool that they (Harvest Youth Board) see this as an investment. It

probably fits close to their hearts because it's so close to home."

Anne Harris, a member of the Harvest Youth Board, said she's excited the board approved this grant because of the impact it will have on the children that got to experience the Motorsport Charities Speediatrics event.

"The Speediatrics program is such a great program to show kids how to be active and healthy but still have fun while taking care of themselves," Harris said. "We had the perfect opportunity with the Martinsville Speedway being such a big part of our community to be able to host this wonderful event right here in our area. I'm so happy that the Harvest Board got to

not only approve but engage with the event also."

Harvest Youth Board Treasurer Jacob Tisdale added that the grant "aligns with our mission and our goal of promoting health and wellness for the youth in our area. We are proud to see the Martinsville Speedway engaging kids and promoting the culture of a race town as well as positive messages about living active lifestyles. We are excited to see the results and fun times that the kids gain from the experience."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge and the NASCAR Foundation have partnered together over the past year. Petty said it's a great partnership that has further solidified the strong

relationship with Martinsville Speedway.

"We have a saying that NASCAR is family," said Nichole Krieger, executive director of the NASCAR Foundation. "What's better than kids helping kids? I'm so excited members of the youth board got to experience Speediatrics and what it means for the children who participate."

The NASCAR Foundation had six Speediatrics events this year and Martinsville was chosen as one of the locations, Krieger said. When an event comes to a town, she said they are in and out but try to leave something behind.

"We want to have a lasting impact on the children who at-

tend our Speediatrics events," Krieger said. "The youth board is part of bringing Fit Kits to the participants, and some of the kids are already wearing their pedometers. They've started tracking their steps and we'll continue to get reports back on how well they're doing."

Petty said more than 100 children have participated in the program, which will be a great kickoff to the Boys & Girls Clubs' fitness challenge throughout the month of November.

The goal of the NASCAR Foundation's Speediatrics Fun Day Festival is to inspire children in racing communities to lead a healthy lifestyle. To find out more, visit nascarfoundation.org.



The Harvest Youth Board supported the Speediatrics Fun Day Festival by sponsoring fit kits, to help participants live healthier lives.



Members of the Harvest Youth Board present the NASCAR Foundation with a \$5,000 grant for the Speediatrics Fun Day Festival. Pictured with the check are (from left to right) Nichole Krieger, executive director of the NASCAR Foundation, Jacob Tisdale, treasurer of the youth board, and other youth board members, Andrew Chitwood and Jarrett Pearson. Also pictured is Chase, a mascot of the NASCAR Foundation.



Participants of the Speediatrics Fun Day Festival participate in relays during the event on Oct. 25

Common signs of giving scams

Many people are excited by the prospects of supporting causes they care about. Charitable donations are how millions of people across the globe express such support, and many charities would not be able to function without donors.

Taking advantage of an opportunity to help others is fulfilling and exciting. It can be easy to get caught up in the emotion of giving let your guard down. Doing so opens prospective donors up to charitable fraud, which makes victims of both donors and the people and organizations they want to help. The Federal Trade Commission notes the following are some potential indicators of giving scams.

- Poor reports and ratings: Various organizations report on charities, sharing information about how they use donations and how successful their programs are. Give.org, GuideStar.org, CharityWatch.org, and CharityNavigator.org are some examples of organizations that vet and/or rate charities. Reports are accessible online, and donors should utilize these before giving to ensure their dollars do the most good.

- Unusual payment requests: It's a big red flag if charities ask for donations via gift card or wire transfer, or if they insist donations be made over the phone. When making donations, the FTC strongly advises donors only submit payment via credit card or personal check. In addition, donors should simply hang up the phone if organizations insist on immediate payments.

- Look-alikes: Some perpetrators of charitable fraud are successful because they set up charities with names that are only slightly different from reputable, widely recognized charities. Before making any donations, donors should make sure the charity they're giving to is the one they intend to help, and not a look-alike, fraudulent organization.

- Evasiveness about where donation dollars are going: Transparency is a good sign when it comes to gauging the reputation of charitable organizations. Reputable organizations should be willing to indicate exactly where you're donation dollars go. In fact, many take a proactive approach and include such information on their websites. Reconsider donating to any organization that appears hesitant to share how donation dollars are spent.

- Online donations: While most organizations allow donors to submit donations via their websites, before donating online, check the fine print to determine how much of your donation is going toward fees or other charges. Excessive fees is not necessarily indicative of fraud, but they can divert money from the cause you're hoping to help. Donating via personal check or over the phone using a credit card may ensure more of your money goes to the cause and not the cost of maintaining a website and processing online donations.

Recognizing signs of charitable fraud can help donors donate wisely. More information about charitable fraud is available at www.consumer.ftc.gov.



Why are food allergies on the rise

Hosting a party or a special event where food will be served has become a bit more complicated over the last several years, as hosts must now contend with food allergies when planning party menus.

According to Food Allergy Research and Education, a group that works on behalf of the millions of people who have food allergies, a food allergy is a medical condition in which exposure to a food triggers a harmful immune system response.

Allergies can range from mild reactions to death. Life-threatening reactions can be initiated even by small traces of the trigger foods. In August 2018, a six-year-old girl in Western Australia died as a result of a dairy allergy. In 2016, Natasha Ednan-Laperouse collapsed on a flight from London to Nice after eating a baguette in which sesame seeds were not listed on the food label.

Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the prevalence of food allergies in children increased by 50 percent between 1997 and 2011, and it continues to rise. The CDC estimates that one in 13 children in the United States

now has a food allergy. Food allergies also affect roughly 7 percent of children in the United Kingdom and 9 percent of children in Australia.

While no one can answer why food allergy rates are increasing, researchers have been working hard to figure that out. A number of agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, are looking into the "hygiene hypothesis." This is a link to western society's obsession with preventing and fighting germs. Researchers surmise that a lack of exposure to infectious agents early in childhood could create a situation in which a child's immune system mistakes a food protein as an invading germ, launching an attack. According to Dr. Leigh Vinocour of the American College of Emergency Physicians, being too clean may be leading to a rise in allergic reactions.

Another theory is that the overuse of antibiotics and acid-reducing medications could change the microbiome of the stomach and digestive system, potentially resulting in health-related problems like allergies.

Some other health experts say that failure to introduce

common food allergens to children early in life could set them up for a lifetime of food allergies later.

Dr. Adam Fox, a consultant pediatric allergist at Guy's and St. Thomas' hospitals in Great Britain, suggests that if parents introduce something into a young child's diet, then the child is less likely to become allergic to it. For example, Dr. Fox cites a 2008 study of the prevalence of peanut allergies in Jewish children in the UK, where the advice had been to avoid peanuts, was 10 times higher than that of children in Israel, where babies are often given peanut snacks and peanut allergy rates are low.

Many other doctors believe food allergies are still a mystery.

Dr. R. Sharon Chinthrajah of the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University believes the cause of allergies will ultimately come down to a combination of many factors. Environmental exposure and even what mothers ate during pregnancy could have implications. Until more is learned, it is important remain careful of the foods we eat and serve.



SPORTS

Warriors Bounce Back in a Big Way

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(DANVILLE, Va.) – Magna Vista’s football team suffered a loss to Halifax County last week that head coach Joe Favero felt was self-inflicted.

This weekend, travelling east on highway 58 for the annual shootout with fellow Piedmont District powerhouse G.W.-Danville, Magna Vista avoided those same mistakes and brought home a 28-14 win.

“I was really proud of the guys to put last week behind us and go out and play well,” Favero said. “The players knew we let one get away from us that we shouldn’t have against Halifax. They owned those mistakes, didn’t make excuses or blame each other and put things together this week and

got a win.”

The Warriors trailed 7-0 after the first quarter, but touchdown passes from Dryus Hairston to Ty Grand and Louis Taylor put Magna Vista in position at 14-14 entering the fourth quarter.

“We just gave up one big play early,” Favero said. “We had a pretty good first half and just needed to fix a few little mistakes.”

Late in the game, Hairston answered the bell. A short run from the junior quarterback gave Magna Vista the lead. On the Eagles’ ensuing possession, Rion Martin snagged an interception, setting up Hairston’s fourth-down touchdown-pass to Drew Santoemma to seal the win.

“That was a huge play in the game. Dryus went through his progression and Santoemma

found a hole in the zone and made the catch,” Favero said. “It put us up two scores in the fourth quarter and kind of ended the game.”

After turning the ball over several times in the loss to Halifax County, Favero said he felt Hairston bounced back and played well, finishing 18-32 passing for 265 yards and three touchdowns.

“For sure it was a bounce-back game for Dryus,” Favero said of his signal-caller. “He put the week before behind him and made the plays we expect him to make.”

As a team, Favero noted the conditioning and toughness his group showed as the crucial aspects to Friday’s win.

“I thought our conditioning has been excellent, which is important,” Favero said. “In the fourth quarter, a lot

of times, it comes down to toughness. Our kids were tough on Friday and found a way to get it done.”

Magna Vista (7-2) is not only climbing up the rankings in their Virginia High School League playoff region, they are now in position to win the Piedmont District if they can get a road win against rival Bassett (5-4) on Friday night.

“That’s a big goal for us. It is still important and still matters anytime you can win a championship in anything,” Favero said of potentially winning the Piedmont. “We have to finish out the season to accomplish that goal.”

Favero acknowledged that winning the Piedmont is a goal for his team, and the “if” in “if they beat Bassett” is a big one, as the Bengals won the rivalry contest a year ago.

“They’re definitely improved and a better team than last year,” Favero said of Bassett. “They play really hard and have some excellent players. Their coaching staff is doing a good job of putting the kids in position to be successful.”

One thing is for sure, Favero said, the environment in Bassett on Friday night will be raucous.

“It’s a rivalry week. You like playing your biggest rivals. The kids and coaches know each other and it is fun to play in front of a huge crowd,” Favero said. “We’ve played well on the road, our two losses have both been at home. We’ve played our best football away from home; so going over there I expect that we’ll travel well. We’ve had a great crowd on the road all season.”

Turnovers Cost Martinsville in Dry Fork

Harrison Hamlet
Contributing writer

(DRY FORK, Va.) – Turnovers have been the Achilles’ Heel for Martinsville’s football team in 2019. After leading for 45 minutes on Friday night on the road against Tunstall, the fourth turnover of the night for the Bulldogs proved most costly, as Tunstall turned it into points and a 12-7 win.

“It was a hard-fought game and we moved the ball up and down the field,” Martinsville head coach Bobby Martin said. “We just turned it over too much. We had four turnovers, three in the second half. We fumbled on the 10-yard-line and had three interceptions on their side of the field. It made for a long night.”

Tunstall intercepted a Martinsville pass with three minutes to play in the game, setting up the game-winning touchdown for the Trojans.

A Jahil Martin touchdown in the second quarter gave Martinsville a 7-0 lead, and the Bulldogs held a 7-6 lead at halftime.

A scoreless third quarter set up a dramatic finish, but it was Tunstall that made the late move, leaving Martin frustrated.

“We played hard enough and well enough to win. Sometimes we’re our own worst enemy,” Martin said. “It’s hard to come back from four turnovers. We played well on both sides of the ball. We didn’t just turn it over, we did it in scoring position. That was the frustrating part.”

Martin, Jeremiah Law and Rashaun Dickerson all gained 40 yards in a balanced offensive attack for the Bulldogs, who held an explosive Tunstall offense under 220 yards.

After a bye week, Martin hoped his Bulldogs would return to the field healthy. Unfortunately that was not the case.

“We thought the bye week helped us with injuries, but a couple of guys who had made some progress got hurt again in just a few plays at full speed,” Martin said. “We didn’t lose any more players, but our guys who we thought could come back and play the whole game couldn’t.

But, they all played hard. We played hard.”

Martinsville (0-9) will finish their season hosting G.W.-Danville (6-3) on Friday night.

“We’re going to do the same thing we’ve been doing. We have to see who we have healthy and get enough guys out there to compete,” Martin said, ruing the injuries that have derailed his first season at the helm of the Bulldogs’ program.

Martin also noted that a Piedmont District schedule is no cakewalk, with Magna Vista, G.W.-Danville, Halifax County, Bassett, Franklin County and Patrick County all playoff-bound. Martinsville’s non-district schedule included a trip to Galax, as well, a perennial power.

“G.W. has a really good team, but we’ve played some really good teams this year like Magna Vista and Galax. Every team we have played is a playoff team except Tunstall,” Martin said. “That is a heck of a schedule to play when you’re trying to get better. We have to play hard and play together on Friday and see what happens.”



Basketball: From small town to big time

When the weather cools, the action heats up on basketball courts across the country. Basketball is a popular winter sport that has been ingrained in North American culture since its inception in the late 19th century.

Basketball is believed to have originated at Springfield College (once known as the International YMCA Training School) in Massachusetts. Male students were restless once football season ended and needed a sport that could provide exercise and help them work off steam. A physical activity instructor named James Naismith was tasked with coming up with a game that students could play indoors under artificial light without the roughness of football, soccer or rugby.

Naismith came up with a game that employed peach baskets nailed to the lower rail of the gymnasium balcony N one at each end. He then came up with the initial 13 rules of moving a ball across the court and getting the ball in the baskets and what constituted fouls, according to Springfield College.

The first game con-

sisted of nine players on each team because Naismith’s class included just 18 students. The final score of the inaugural basketball was just 1-0, but over time players began to excel at basketball, and the game gradually became more popular.

Basketball is now popular across the globe. The National Basketball Association has opened 12 international offices and has started broadcasting games to more than 200 countries and territories. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in 2018 that he believes that basketball can be the No. 1 sport in the world (soccer currently holds that ranking). Young people are increasingly playing the sport, and rapid growth in China and India also has fueled basketball’s popularity.

Total NBA revenue hit \$8 billion last season, according to Forbes, and it shows no signs of slowing down. Little did James Naismith know when he put up peach baskets and tossed a soccer ball that his sport would one day become a global phenomenon.

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DGIF Issues Fishing License Advisory

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) is putting out an advisory to the public about websites claiming to sell Virginia fishing licenses.

The only official websites to purchase fishing and hunting licenses and permits are gooutdoorsvirginia.com and dgif.virginia.gov.

The Go Outdoors Virginia mobile app can be accessed on a smart phone for license purchases.

The DGIF has no affiliation with sites that include vafishinglicense.com; fishinglicense.org; fishandgamelicenses.org; recreation-alllicenses.org; licenses.org; and hunting-license.org.

According to a release, some customers have reported completing transactions on those sites believing they were buying a license or permit, when, in fact, they purchased an informational guide or

nothing at all.

Hunting and fishing digests may be viewed online or copies are available wherever licenses are sold.

To view a list of all license vendors, please check our website at <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/>.

For more information, call (804) 367-1000, or for general questions: dgifweb@dgif.virginia.gov.

Did you know?

Big game hunting is the most popular form of hunting, according to the 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the survey found there were 9.2 million hunters who pursued big

game such as deer and elk in 2016. That makes big game hunting big business as well, as the survey found that big game-related expenditures for trips and equipment totaled \$14.9 billion in 2016. As big as big game hunting is, 3.5 million hunters took time to hunt small game,

which includes squirrels and rabbits. The third most popular type of hunting in the United States in 2016 was migratory bird hunting, which attracted 2.4 million hunters and generated \$2.3 billion in bird-related trip and equipment revenue.

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Election Results

from page 1

curity sections,” Perry said. The new space will allow for more rehabilitation services to be offered. “We can have people come in and work with the inmates for counseling, life skills, and treatment for addiction.”

Perry was first appointed Sheriff in 2006 and was elected in 2007, 2011, and 2015. He campaigned on the strength of his record over the past 13 years, touting his administration’s use of technology, and statistics such as a 16 percent reduction in violent crime over the past year.

All three candidates have had

long careers in law enforcement. Cassell and Farmer are veterans of the Henry County Sheriff’s Office and have worked under Perry in the past. This was Farmer’s second time running for county sheriff, the first being in 2015.

Cassell and Farmer both criticized Perry for not placing School Resource Officers (SROs) in all of the county schools and made SROs a central plank of their campaigns. Perry countered that he supports having SROs in all schools if funding was available, but questions how the positions

would be funded.

A focus group, working with the county and the school board, would need to be created to work towards that goal, he added.

Henry County’s voter turnout was slightly higher than in the previous Sheriff’s race four years ago, said county Registrar Elizabeth Stone. Almost 38 percent of the county electorate participated in the 2019 election, or 13,123 people out of 34,686 registered voters. In 2015, turnout was 34.4 percent, according to Stone.

In other local elections, only

one other race was contested: An at-large seat on the Henry County School Board. Cherie Joyce Whitlow won the at-large school board seat with a total of 8,392 votes, over candidate Shelira Morrison, who received 3,671.

The remaining local candidates ran unopposed.

In Henry County, the following unopposed officeholders were re-elected: Commonwealth’s Attorney M. Andrew Nester; Commissioner of the Revenue Linda N. Love; County Treasurer Scott B. Grindstaff; on the Board of Supervi-

sors, Debra Parsons Buchanan (Horsepasture), T.J. “Tommy” Slaughter (Reed Creek), and Ryan F. Zehr (Ridgeway); on the School Board, Terri C. Flanagan (Horsepasture), Teddy Doyle Martin II (Reed Creek), and Francis E. Zehr (Ridgeway).

R. Darryl Holland and Andrew L. Barker were elected to the Soil and Water Conservation Director for the Blue Ridge District.

In the City of Martinsville, Clerk of Court Ashby R. Pritchett was re-elected after running unopposed.



A crowd of supporters gathered in the Historic John D. Bassett Event Center Tuesday with Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry to watch election returns. Perry fended off two challengers in his reelection bid.



Incumbent Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry celebrated his reelection to another four-year term in Tuesday’s election.

New Trail

from page 1

year.

However, nature did not cooperate. Henry County Engineering Director Tim Pace said the original trail building contract included 270 days of work, he said, “and we had 263 weather delays.”

Most of the new trail meanders through the woods along the Smith River and Mulberry Creek, though one portion follows the existing road on Country Club Drive. The original route had to be changed after some residents objected to the trail being built behind their properties.

Now completed, Section 6B brings the local trail network a few miles closer to the ultimate goal of extending the Dick and Willie Passage to 10 continuous miles in one direction. Hall said this will open opportunities to host longer races and cycling events that will draw tourists to the area.

The first 4.5 miles of the Dick and Willie Passage were built in 2010, after the nonprofit Dan River Basin Association approached Henry County with the idea to turn part of a defunct Norfolk Southern rail line into a nature trail. This section starts at Virginia Avenue in Collinsville

and stretches east through the city of Martinsville.

There is a gap of about 2.7 miles between the ending of the original trail at Mulberry Creek, and the newest section 6B. The next planned phase of construction will connect the two with a section called 6A.

Citing the weather delays that pushed back 6B’s completion, Hall said he could not give an estimate of when the project would be finished, but said, “We’re working on it. We’ve secured right-of-way, and the next step will be putting funding together and doing the design work.”

Grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program and a required local match from the county will help fund construction.

When finished, the additional length will result in “increased trail use, the ability to hold a marathon and additional races, and increased use by the local community, improving overall health and quality of life,” according to DRBA’s 2019 Rivers and Trails Master Plan.

Speakers at the ribbon cutting hailed the trail’s benefits for local residents and visitors alike.

Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said he walked the new section on Sunday and called it “the most beautiful part of the trail.”

“Now multiple generations can enjoy the trail here for many, many years to come,” he said.

Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson recalled when the Dick and Willie Passage was first proposed, some naysayers questioned why money was being spent on the trail. Now, she said in her remarks, it is used by hundreds of people and drives tourism to the area.

Sarah Hodges, Tourism Director for Martinsville and Henry County, said offering more outdoor recreation activities “increases quality of life for local residents and enhances economic development efforts.”

Hodges cited statistics from the Virginia Tourism Corporation that in 2017, 10 percent of visitors to southern Virginia traveled for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation. While in the area to run a race, watch a soccer tournament, or fish the Smith River, tourists spend money in local restaurants, shops, and hotels, she said.



Cyclists and pedestrians try out the new section of trail alongside the river at the Smith River Sports Complex after a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday afternoon.



Local officials, funders, and staff who worked on construction of the new trail section gathered Monday afternoon at the Smith River Sports Complex for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of Section 6B of the Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail



Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, speaks at the ribbon cutting for the new section of the Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail. Cyclists and walkers tried out the trail after the ceremony.



Tourism Director Sarah Hodges shared statistics about the economic impact of outdoor recreation during her remarks at the ribbon cutting for a newly constructed trail at the Smith River Sports Complex on Monday afternoon.



Henry County Engineering Director Tim Pace, with microphone, recognizes staff with the county and construction contractors who helped build the new section of the Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail during the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Smith River Sports Complex on Monday afternoon.