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Veterans honored, sacrifices remembered Monday

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The sacrifices and service of local veterans was honored and celebrated Monday during the 27th annual Veterans Day Program.

Held at the HJDB Event center in Bassett, the event recognized all service members, and coincided with the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, "the war that was to have ended all wars," said W. C. Fowlkes, who represents veteran service organizations in Martinsville-Henry County.

"It's a very commemorative date in our history. It also the 100th anniversary of the American Legion, and the 100th year anniversary of the Pannill Chapter in Martinsville-Henry Coun-



Lucy Wilson and Franz-Hahr Phillips place a wreath to honor veterans George Edward Pannill (1896-1918) and Jeb Stuart Pannill (1897-1918). Both served in WWI.

ty," he added.

Fowlkes recognized Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District and chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors

and Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District and vice-chairman; Martinsville Mayor

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Charles Washburn was named Veteran of the Year at a ceremony Monday. (Right to Left) Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson, Washburn, Debra Buchanan and Jim Adams, respectively vice chairman and chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, presented the award.

Family may move into new home by Christmas

A mother and her two children may be in their own home for the holidays.

Work by Habitat for Humanity of Martinsville and Henry County is progressing at a local house. The organization is rehabilitating a Wilson Street house to provide a home for a local family which will occupy the home once work is completed.

A crew of volunteers, led by board members John Collins, Johnny Pinkard and CJ Robertson, have worked on the home since September.

The agency hopes that the family will be able to move into the house by Christmas, said Meredith Vaughn who is the executive director of the local organization. The move in date will depend on local donations the organization receives and the willingness of volunteers to help with the rehab.

Anyone interested in donating or volunteering can contact Vaughn at executive-director@habitat-mhc.org or

at 638-6484.

Another way to help Habitat's efforts in Martinsville is through a "Save Big, Give Back" sale that Martinsville Eyecare Center, 1099 Brookdale Street, is partnering with Habitat on Nov. 21. Eye glasses will be 30 percent off regular price, and a portion of all eye glass sales will benefit Habitat.

Habitat for Humanity is an international, nonprofit, Christian housing ministry driven by the vision for "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

To qualify for a Habitat house, a family must be living in substandard housing and show a financial need. A Habitat home is not a free home. The family must be able to pay an interest-free mortgage, and family members must be able to contribute at least 200 hours of volunteer service toward the rehabilitation. Habitat is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



Board member John Collins takes measurements in preparation of appliance installation.

Henry County Schools go green and save green



Meadow View Elementary School in Henry County was constructed intentionally with lots of windows and skylights to cut down on electric lighting costs. The glass is coated and features removable shades to prevent energy from escaping.

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

Ten years after Henry County Schools launched an energy savings program, the results have paid off for both the planet and the school budget.

Conservation efforts have saved the school system about \$5.94 million in avoided energy costs between February 2010 and October 2019. This figure is even better than the \$4.29 million in anticipated savings over 10 years that led Henry County Schools to approve the program in 2009, school board documents show.

The success of these energy efficiency measures shows that organizations don't have to choose between going green and saving green, a school spokesperson said.

"I think our team has done a great job showing that it doesn't have to be one or the other," said Monica Hatchett, Communications Director for Henry County Schools.

Since early 2010, the schools have reduced energy use by almost 29 percent. This has prevented 28,420 metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution from being released into the atmosphere, equivalent to taking 5,569 cars off the road. These figures and energy savings are tracked monthly in the district's energy and facilities report.

Increased efficiency has allowed the school division to reduce its utility budget by \$200,000 since starting the project, school Facilities and Maintenance Director Keith Scott said.

Cutting utility costs was the original goal when the Henry County School Board approved a four-year contract with an energy efficiency company, then called Energy Education, Inc., in fall 2009. The move was in response to Appalachian Power rate hikes of 31 percent between September 2008 and January 2009, according to board documents at the time. The

See Going Green, page 10

Gunshot detection system to be installed in city schools

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

Martinsville City Schools will be one of the first school divisions in Virginia to install a gunshot detection system, the school board learned Monday evening.

School Safety Director T.J. Slaughter shared details of how a recently awarded state grant will be used to improve school security in a presentation to the Martinsville School Board during its regular monthly meeting Nov. 11.

Martinsville City Schools has received \$80,553 through the School Security Equipment Grant program to make security upgrades at Albert Harris Elementary, Martinsville High, Martinsville Middle, and Patrick Henry Elementary schools. The division must provide 25 percent in matching funds, or \$20,138.

Slaughter said the gunshot detection system is "something new that school divisions are exploring," and he only knows of two other districts that have it in Virginia. If shots are fired at a school, "the system can

actually tell what caliber of weapon is being fired" and it automatically calls 911, he said. "It takes out the human element and allows a faster response time from law enforcement."

The system will be installed at every school except Clearview Early Childhood Center, which was not eligible for the grant. Remaining grant funds will be used to add and upgrade cameras, secure doors, and install new ID check software for

See Gunshot Detection, page 3

Partnership at heart of new program

Beginning in January, Piedmont Arts will host Stay Anchored Art, a series of art classes for residents of ANCHOR Commission's group home and area youth on probation.

Piedmont Arts is partnering with the ANCHOR Commission and the 21st Court Service Unit to offer the classes. Youth ages 10 - 17 may participate in the program that will be led by instructors Jessie Ward, president of Lynwood Artists, and Karen Conner of the 21st Court Service Unit. "Youth arts programs are powerful crime prevention tools," said Piedmont Arts Executive Director Heidi Pinkston. "They offer safe, engaging and constructive environments for young people who lack adult supervision during non-school hours, a time when they are most vulnerable to community violence and gang recruitment. Through Stay Anchored Art, Piedmont Arts, ANCHOR Commission and the 21st Court Service Unit hope to show these kids the healing powers of the arts, and help them build skills that will allow them to 'stay anchored' in school and in life."

Founded in 1972 to help troubled youth and keep them in the community, close to their families and support systems, the ANCHOR

(A New CHance ORganization) Commission provides outreach services that help youth find motivation for change, make informed decisions and develop effective coping skills for life changes. ANCHOR hopes to impact the lives of its group home residents by exploring the arts as an important outlet for creativity and emotion. "ANCHOR is excited about the partnership with Piedmont Arts to bring Stay Anchored Art classes to our group home residents," said ANCHOR Commission Director Ricky Walker. "This will provide the youth with an opportunity to explore creative opportunities and build positive self-esteem in their lives. We are pleased to work with Piedmont Arts and the 21st Court Service Unit to provide this exciting art program. Stay Anchored Art allows youth in our community, who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in such a program, to be involved and engaged in the arts. This program can open up opportunities to these young people that they might never have realized were possible."

Stay Anchored Art classes will meet Tuesdays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 11 at Piedmont Arts.

For more information, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Schools may receive more state aid if funding changes are approved

Kim Barto Meeks
Staff writer

Local school districts could receive millions of dollars in new state aid if proposed changes to Virginia's public school funding and staffing formulas are approved in the 2020 budget session.

The Virginia Board of Education has recommended changes to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) that would increase minimum staffing requirements for certain school positions, such as counselors, while also allocating an extra \$131.9 million in state aid to high-poverty school divisions. These additional dollars, called "equity funds," are based on the percentage of students in the district eligible for free school meals due to low family income.

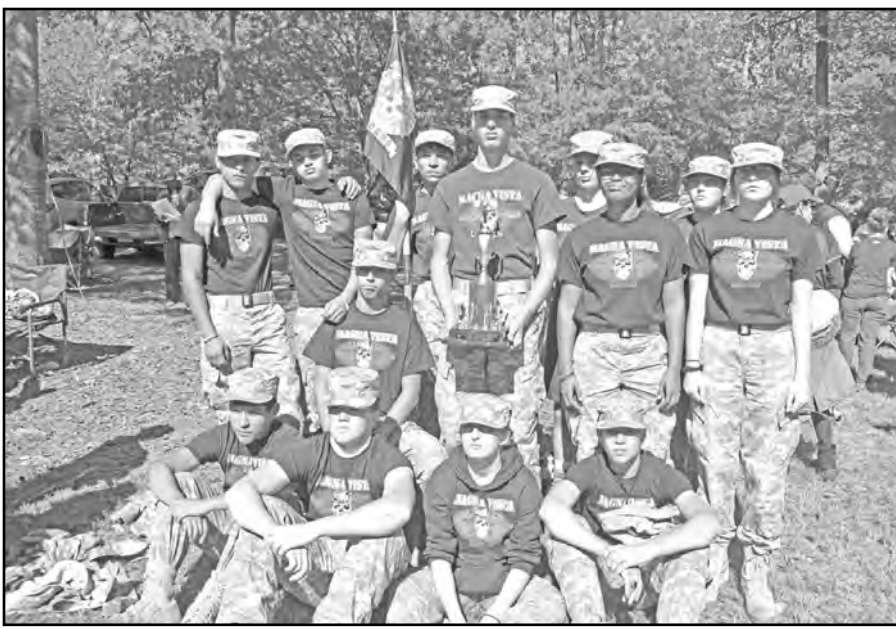
Under the proposed new guidelines, Martinsville City Schools could

receive an additional \$1.07 million on top of other basic state aid, according to board meeting documents from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). With 71.6 percent of Martinsville students qualifying for free school meals, the division has the fourth-highest poverty rate in Virginia. Henry County Schools would receive an additional \$2.54 million based on its free lunch rate of 56.4 percent.

However, this new funding is not guaranteed -- the proposal must go before Gov. Ralph Northam and the Virginia General Assembly for approval as they decide the state budget in the first part of 2020. The education board

See Funding, page 4





Seated (left to right): Jose Angeles, Mathew Powell, Kaitlyn Silvers, Aaron Wood Kneeling: Marco Duarte; Standing (left to right): Nolbert Luviano-Bustos, Marky Martinez, Enrique O'Campo-Suarez, Kolby Quigg, Caleb Motley, Victoria Pritchett, Trinity Davis, Amelia Hubbard.

Magna Vista JROTC Raider Team brings award home from Nationals Raider Championship

The Magna Vista JROTC Raider team attended the Army Raider National Championship on Nov. 2 in Molena, Ga. The Warrior Raiders had a respectful showing, finishing in the top 15 of the 4 events they entered and bringing home an award for finishing 5th in the nation on the Gauntlet Course.

The Gauntlet is an obstacle course which the 10-person Raider team must negotiate. They must first dive through a tire approximately 4 feet off the ground; once through the tire, they are passed two ammo boxes and four ruck sacks through the tire. The ammo boxes each weigh approximately 50 pounds. The ruck sacks each weigh 35 pounds. The ruck sacks and ammo boxes must be carried through the entire ¾ mile course. After the tire, the Raiders -- with ammo boxes and ruck sacks -- must negotiate an 8-foot wall. Once all are over the wall, the team must crawl through (2) 30-foot culvert pipes, 23 inches high with all the equipment. The remainder of the course involved running to the finish line. The Warrior

raiders finished with a time of 8 minutes 3 seconds, 5th best in the country.

The Warrior Raiders brought home an 8th place finish in the rope bridge event with a time of 3 minutes 21 seconds. The first person had to run across an 84-foot body of water about a foot deep. The team then constructed a one rope bridge and 8 members crossed the body of water on the rope bridge. After 8 members crossed the bridge, the last member takes out the knot and runs across the body of water.

The Magna Vista Raiders finished in the top 15 of the 5K and the Team Physical Fitness Challenge. They could not compete in the last event, the Cross-Country Rescue, due to an injury to one Raider and illness to another. Because of this, they were not qualified for a placement of the overall standing.

Even though the Magna Vista JROTC Raider has qualified on many occasions for the National Championship, this was the group's first trip. It was a great experience and learning opportunity for the 12-member team. The underclassmen vow to attend again.



Crossing 84 foot creek on one Rope Bridge: On the bank far shore: Trinity Davis; On rope (farthest away to closest): Marco Duarte, Aaron Wood, Amelia Hubbard.

Harvest Youth Board plans fourth annual Thanksgiving Eve Dinner



Former Harvest Youth Board Chairperson Elli McGovern (left) sits with guests at the 2018 W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner.

The Harvest Youth Board is seeking diners, drivers and other volunteers for its fourth annual Thanksgiving Eve dinner.

The event, called the W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner, will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Martinsville High School. The free traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served to diners eating at the school cafeteria, available for take-out or delivered to Martinsville and Henry County residents, all thanks to the 13-member Youth Board and about 300 volunteers. Residents may order meal deliveries until midnight on Nov. 24 by calling (276) 403-9070. No reservations are needed for people coming to the school to share the meal and fellowship. At the start of the meal, take-out orders will be limited to six per order. Toward the end of the meal larger orders will be filled if there is enough food, according to Will Gardner, special events chairman for the Youth Board. The dinner will be the traditional Thanksgiving menu of turkey, green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberries, bread and cookies for dessert, according to Zariah Scales, chairperson of the Youth Board. In 2017 when more than 2,400 dinners were served, cooks prepared about 530 pounds of turkey, 560 pounds of ham, 90 No. 10 (roughly gallon size) cans of green beans and 10 cases (roughly the size of a laundry basket) of stuffing as well as potatoes, desserts and more. In 2018, just fewer than 3,000 meals were served. This year, Scales said the board hopes to top that figure. To do that, it is sending out fliers to hosts of community meals, churches and other outlets; posting notices on social media; conducting media interviews; and more. After the dinner ends each year, the Youth Board meets to discuss what went right, what went wrong, what can be improved and what should be retained, said Gardner, whose role is to assign Youth Board members their responsibilities for the event and make sure it runs smoothly.

As a result of the post-dinner discussion, a recycling station is being added this year to collect aluminum cans and recyclable plastics, Gardner said. Also, many of the paper products to be used this year will be biodegradable, he said. Recycling and the environment are a large focus of young people today, one the Youth Board talks about frequently, Gardner said. The changes at the dinner may be a small step "but it is one way we're moving forward" on that issue, he added. "Our focus is one being more earth friendly," Scales said, adding that improvements also have been made in the delivery drivers' station. Gardner also said a security officer will be stationed at the high school during the dinner. At last year's dinner, about 30 to 40 drivers delivered meals. This year the drivers will follow routes that are coordinated by neighborhoods and communities, Scales said. Coulson Call Center in Collinsville has assisted the Youth Board with this, she added. Most drivers, who must be 18 years of age or older, will deliver meals on one route and then most return to the high school to get another route to deliver. The process runs smoothly, Scales said, adding that last year all the meals were delivered about an hour before the meal ended at the school. In all, about 300 volunteers helped with the event last year, Scales said, and those willing to help this year can sign up online at theharvestfoundation.org/thanksgiving-eve-dinner. There will be three shifts of volunteers at the school on the day of the meal, plus some who will help set up the cafeteria the night before. Many of the volunteers at the school are teens. Scales said Youth Board members go into the area high schools to spread the word and encourage students — and teachers and any other interested people — to help out. The involvement of the area's young people in the dinner is one reason the event is special for Scales. "For me, it's a great experience not only helping the community, but it's such a youth-led opportunity and it's really cool to see a majority of

volunteers are teenagers and students. The Youth Board is entirely student-run, and it's cool to see that the youth in the community can lead the charge on that," she said. Others help out as well. Scott Norman will be the head cook for the event, as he has in the past. Norman also heads the cooking for Richard's Dinner, the community Christmas meal, and any items left from the Thanksgiving Eve dinner will be given to the Christmas meal, Scales said. Martinsville City Schools allows the use of the school cafeteria and kitchen and staff. While the food is the main attraction, fellowship plays a supporting role. Gardner said his favorite part of the event, and one that separates it from other local community meals, is that when volunteers have free time they are encouraged to sit with diners and talk with them. Sometimes those diners are alone, and the volunteers will make small talk with them, he said. Those conversations show him the impact of the event in terms of the food they are serving but also in terms of the people they are serving, Gardner said. "They are very, very appreciative," he added. This is the fourth year of the event, which the Youth Board began as its signature event. Its members learn lessons each year, Scales said. For instance, as special events chairman, Gardner said he has learned how to delegate responsibilities, time management, organization, budgeting, finance and other skills, "things I never thought I would talk about in high school." As a result, "it gets easier every year. Every year it runs more smoothly," Scales said of the dinner. The Harvest Youth Board is dedicated to creating leadership opportunities for the youth of Martinsville / Henry County through health, education and community initiatives, according to the Harvest website. In addition to the Thanksgiving Eve dinner, the board provides grants of up to \$5,000 for programs in Martinsville-Henry County that affect the youth.



Nearly 300 volunteers served almost 3,000 meals during last year's event.



Members of the Harvest Youth Board addressed volunteers during the 2018 W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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62					63					64		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Shelter for pigeons
 - Popular lit genre __-fi
 - Used to harvest agave
 - Wintertime accessory
 - "Gandalf" actor McKellen
 - Taxis
 - Political plot
 - Public television
 - Nigerian ethnic group
 - Informal loan clubs
 - "Wheel of Fortune" host
 - C C C
 - North, South and Central make them up
 - In an early way
 - Lied down in rest
 - Female hip-hop trio
 - Improves
 - Genus of mackerel sharks
 - Electronic countermeasures
 - Emerging
 - Balkan body of water
 - A type of delivery
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - Title given to a monk
 - Partner to "oohed"
 - "Luther" actor Idris
 - Supporting pin (nautical)
 - Golden peas plant
 - Where clothes hang
 - Opposite of night
 - A way to change color
 - Korean independence proponent Syngman
 - Reciprocal of sine
 - Political organization
 - Defunct funk record label
 - Geological times
 - One who drinks slowly
 - Nightclub entertainment
 - Establish in one's mind
 - Restaurants
 - Off-Broadway theater award
 - Requests
 - You don't watch to catch it
 - Intestinal pouches
 - Satisfy
 - Wet dirt
 - Regularly repeated
 - Before
 - The color of Valentine's Day
 - Indicates near
 - Bon __: witty remark
 - One's holdings
 - Request
 - Prefix meaning "badly"
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - Ottoman military title
 - Teased
 - Happily
 - Pie __ mode
 - Mars crater
 - Sports TV personality
 - Taxi driver
 - Abba __, Israeli politician
 - The sick are sometimes on it
 - Relating to olives
 - Swiss river
 - Grayish white
 - A way to engrave
 - Where Coach K. works
 - Midway between south and southeast

Magna Vista JROTC Raiders Bring Home 12th State Title



Kneeling (left to right): Enrique O'Campo-Suarez, Kaitlyn Silvers, Kolby Quigg, Mathew Powell, Marky Martinez. Standing (left to right): Jose Angeles, Aaron Wood, Marco Duarte, Bryan Villalobos, Victoria Pritchett, Alex Powell, Trinity Davis, Eyad Hamdy, Amelia Hubbard, Evan Clark, Caleb Motley, Arturo Noyla-Hernandez, Nolbert-Luviano-Bustos, SFC John Truini.



(Front to back): Behind the tree Victoria Pritchett, Amelia Hubbard, Trinity Davis, Kaitlyn Silvers, Kolby Quigg, Enrique O'Campo-Suarez, Aaron Wood and Marco Duarte.

After traveling to the National Meet in Molena, Georgia last weekend, the Magna Vista JROTC Raider Team traveled to Chesterfield, Virginia on November 9, 2019 for state competition.

They were hoping to carry the momentum from the National Competition to the state meet. Led by Commander Kolby Quigg and seniors Enrique O'Campo Suarez, Kaitlyn Silvers, and Victoria Pritchett, the Warrior JROTC Raider Co-Ed team brought home the program's 12th State Title in 16 years.

The theme of the week for practice was "Focus". After a physically demanding weekend at Nationals, the team had to focus at the task at hand, which was competing at the state level. I did not want a letdown of intensity; the team had to keep their drive, determination and focus at a high level for this week's competition," said SFC Truini.

The final results came down to the last event of the day - the litter obstacle course. With four males and four females on this event, the raiders had to beat a time of 2 minutes 51 seconds. During the event prior, (Team Physical Fitness Challenge (TPFC)), they inquired a 10 second penalty, which took them from first place to 4th place, resulting in a big shift in the standings.

The team was under pressure to perform to the top of their game and remained focused on this event. Under pressure, the group secured a time of 2 minutes 40 seconds. The event started with the males carrying the litter through a low crawl and then passing to the females over a 40-inch obstacle. They had to run through the woods with the litter, avoiding trees and other obstacles along the way. Once they approached another high obstacle, they passed the litter back to the males. The males took the litter through the remainder of the woods, passing it back to the females on the last high obstacle to go on to the finish line. There were no penalties.

With a strong performance by Marky Martinez, responsible for the nearside duties, the Warrior Raiders took first place in the one-rope bridge with a finish time of 1 minute 41 seconds, besting the second-place team by 34 seconds. The JROTC Raiders are undefeated in this event this year.

They also took first place in the Logistic Relay course. On this course, teams had to flip two big tractor tires 20 yards, carry (4) 5-gallon water jugs 80 yards, carry two litters weighing 120 pounds 200 yards and then sprint 100 yards to the finish line. The

Warriors won this event by just .06 of a second.

The team finished fourth in the TPFC due to a 10 second penalty (they finished with a raw time of 1 minute 54 seconds .03, that would have taken first place by .62 of a second, if not for the penalty). The TPFC is a course with a series of obstacles the team must execute over a ¼ mile stretch. The obstacles are negotiating (2) 48-inch walls, a low crawl, running in a zig zag pattern and carrying heavy carry as a team.

The raiders had a 6th place finish in the 5k run.

"I was very proud on the performance, drive and dedication this team has demonstrated this semester. Although the Raider meets are very physically challenging, the championship today was won on strategy. In two of the 5 events, strategy was the key ingredient for success. The day had its ups and downs, the kids learned a very valuable lesson on this day, there is always a chance as long as you remain focused, determined and don't let the last event affect your next. It was not only a valuable lesson during this meet, but also a valuable lesson in life," said SFC Truini.

The raider team now awaits Mid-Atlantic Championships to be held on April 4, 2020 in Ridgeway.



Piedmont Arts AIR Shift – Piedmont Arts received a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! grant to bring the AIR Shift Workshop to Martinsville-Henry County. Pictured from left are DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation, Holly Burton, marketing and programs coordinator at Piedmont Arts, and Heidi Pinkston, executive director of Piedmont Arts.

Piedmont Arts to bring AIR Shift Workshop to Martinsville-Henry County

With support from a \$10,000 Pick Up the Pace! grant from The Harvest Foundation, Piedmont Arts will bring the AIR Shift Workshop to Martinsville-Henry County.

AIR Shift is a multi-day, facilitated workshop that uses hands-on collaboration, design thinking, and business planning to help grow creative communities and economies, according to the AIR Institute website.

DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation, said this program is a creative way to inspire innovative thinking.

"Participants in the AIR Shift Workshop will be a diverse mix of business and industry, nonprofit, local government, education, and community leaders," House said. "We hope this program will encourage an entrepreneurial mindset that results in sustainable programs and ideas that can be implemented in our community."

The AIR program got its start in 2012 in Fort Collins, Colo. Berea College took over the program in

2016. It was created to connect artists and business people to share their strengths and collaborate.

Holly Burton, marketing and programs coordinator for Piedmont Arts, is also a trained facilitator for the AIR Shift program. She said this workshop is an amazing way to bring the community together.

"Seeing the community collaboration will be fantastic," she said. "Seeing people come together from all walks of life and backgrounds for an intensive workshop creates life-long bonds. The ultimate goal is to see solutions for the community and to work together. Participants come away with business plans, budgets, marketing plans and more. It's incredible to see this community collaboration."

There is a \$50 participation fee, although Burton says she will be reaching out to local organizations to sponsor fees for individuals if needed. The workshop is open to a wide range of participants including business leaders, civic organizations, artists and students.

Piedmont Arts Executive Director Heidi Pinkston said she is excited to be part of bringing this program to the community.

"This workshop has so much potential for our community with long-lasting benefits," she said. "We all feel and see the need for new jobs, and bringing art and business together can lend us a unique way to approach those challenges."

In the spring of 2018, Patrick County held an AIR Shift pilot program at Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Va. The workshop generated three community projects: The Patrick County Barn Quilt Trail, the Rise and Shine Market and Trail HANDS (Heritage, Arts, Nature, Dreams, Stories).

The dates for the workshop are 3-7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21; and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22. To learn more about Martinsville-Henry County AIR Shift program, email hburton@piedmontarts.org and or call 276-632-3221 ext. 23.

Gunshot Detection

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visitors at school entrances.

The School Board also heard from Martinsville High School Principal Aji Dixon about the progress of the SEED program. SEED is funded by a grant from The Harvest Foundation that provides the first two years of college tuition at Patrick Henry Community College at no cost to graduates of local high schools and homeschool programs. Graduating seniors who live in Martinsville and Henry County are eligible if they have at least a 2.5 grade-point average, enroll at PHCC right out of high school, and meet other criteria, Dixon said.

The three-year grant program

opened to high school graduates in spring 2018 and is now in its second year. Dixon said so far this year, around 72 Martinsville High School students have signed up for SEED out of about 130 seniors.

For more information, students should ask their guidance counselor or visit www.patrickhenry.edu/seed.

Also during Monday's meeting, the School Board:

- Approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the October meeting and the monthly financial report.

- Appointed board members Dominique Hylton and Emily Parker to the budget subcommittee.

- Heard from two students from Ama Waller's class at Martinsville Middle School, who presented on a recent project around the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

- Approved revisions to the School and Community Relations section of the School Board policy manual to comply with updates from the Virginia School Boards Association.

- Heard updates from Superintendent Zeb Talley, who said the division recently received a \$15,000 STEM grant from the Virginia Department of Education, and reminded the board that a gala fundraiser for the Martinsville City Public Schools Endowment will be held Feb. 1, 2020.

Martinsville man dies in crash

A Martinsville man died Nov. 11 following a traffic incident.

Thomas L. Wagner, 72, died at the scene of a motor vehicle crash that involved a pedestrian who was in the roadway and crossing the travel lane, the release stated.

The crash occurred at 8:24 p.m. on Figsboro Road, one quarter of a mile south of Quail Oaks Road in Henry County,

according to the release.

Then, a 2002 Econoline E-150 was traveling north on Figsboro Road when the vehicle struck a pedestrian who was in the roadway and crossing the travel lane, the release stated.

No charges are pending.

The crash remains under investigation by Virginia State Police Trooper T.E. Knight.



TURKEY DAY 5K
AND FAMILY FUN RUN

Martinsville SOVAH HEALTH FRIEDRICH'S FAMILY EYE CENTER the Y

THANKSGIVING DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019 @ 9AM

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OPINION

The Fall of Atlantis

At several different points in my career, I've found myself doing event planning. Usually, the experience makes me consider naming my ulcer "Event Planning."

Whenever you're planning an event, no matter the size, something always falls through. Someone will drop out at the last minute, or the thing you ordered won't arrive on time, or the caterer will inform you that she's fresh out of those stuffed mushrooms you requested.

Whenever this happens, my brain immediately latches onto the missing thing like a dog worrying a chew toy to death. "No one's going to come if we don't have those stuffed mushrooms!" my brain tells me. "Everyone will know the stuffed mushrooms were supposed to be here, and they're going to blame YOU!"

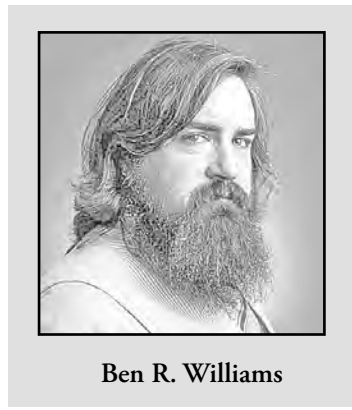
I think these feelings are universal (or at least I hope they are). We all have a tendency to focus on the negative, the elements that are missing instead of the elements that aren't. We convince ourselves that the general

public is going to have the same concerns that we do.

But whenever I find myself getting wound up about the missing elements, I just think back to Caesar's Palace.

About ten years ago, I went to Las Vegas with my pals Bradley and Justin. We spent one of our evenings strolling through The Forum, a massive shopping mall connected to the Caesar's Palace casino. The Forum is filled to the brim with high-end stores, and we figured we would see what was on offer; you never know when you'll get the sudden urge to dip into the Rolex store and buy a \$20,000 wristwatch.

Of course, even a fake Rolex costs more than I'm willing to spend on a watch, and several days spent in a city where a club sandwich costs \$18 left Bradley, Justin and myself a bit financially strapped. We were looking for some free entertainment. As we strolled through the mall, Bradley, who was the only one in our group that had visited Vegas before, mentioned that we should go see The Fall of Atlantis.



Ben R. Williams

The Fall of Atlantis, Bradley explained, is a giant fountain in The Forum that features nine-foot-tall statues of the Roman gods. Every hour, these statues come to life and regale visitors with the tale of ... well, the fall of Atlantis. Hidden smoke machines pour smoke, hidden pyrotechnic rigs shoot jets of fire into the sky, and an intricate laser light show is projected on the ceiling.

All of that sounded pretty entertaining, and also free, so we gathered around the fountain with a bunch of other tourists,

checked the time on our cheap non-Rolux watches, and waited for the show to begin.

On the hour, Jupiter, the King of the Gods, came to life. A towering animatronic marvel, he beckoned us to come close and hear his tale. We crowded around the huge fountain.

I don't know exactly when we realized that something had gone horribly wrong, but I think it only took a minute or so. There was no smoke issuing forth from the smoke machines, no jets of fire shooting to the ceiling, no laser light show playing out on the domed roof above. There were just the voices of the animatronic gods and one tiny green laser, the only one still functioning, etching a very slow, very small circle on the ceiling.

When The Fall of Atlantis is functioning properly, I'm sure it is a very impressive sight. However, when it's malfunctioning horribly, it is much, much funnier.

"BEHOLD!" Jupiter belted, his mighty animatronic arm gesturing above. "MARS,

GOD OF WAR, RIDES HIS CHARIOT ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD!"

Above, the tiny green laser drew its tiny green circle.

"VULCAN LABORS IN HIS SMITHY," Jupiter intoned weightily. "WATCH OUT FOR THE SHOOTING FLAMES!"

The green laser silently rotated.

"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH SIGHTS?" Jupiter shouted.

The green laser flickered, then continued drawing its small circle.

Bradley, Justin and I were hysterical.

At the end of the show, Jupiter bid everyone farewell and the crowd began to break apart. As we were getting ready to leave, a couple who had just seen the show walked past us.

"Well," the man said, a confused expression on his face, "the show was pretty good, but I guess I expected more."

It was then that I realized: No one's going to care if the stuffed mushrooms don't show up.

Funding

from page 1

proposed similar school staffing increases in 2016, but state lawmakers did not approve full funding.

The SOQ prescribe basic requirements for Virginia public schools and determine about 85 percent of state funding for local districts, according to a VDOE press release. Among other guidelines, these standards dictate the minimum number of teachers, administrators, and support staff that must be in place based on the number of students in the school or division.

The Virginia Board of Education reviews the standards at least every other year. Any revisions to the SOQ and public education budget must be approved by the state legislature.

If approved, the new equity funds would cover the equivalent of 110.76 additional positions in Henry County and 44.36

in Martinsville, board documents show. Funds may be used for instructional or specialized student support positions, such as school nurses, social workers, or school psychologists. School districts will have the flexibility to use equity funds for "compensation adjustments to attract and retain experienced teachers in high-poverty schools," according to VDOE Media Relations Director Charles Pyle, and up to 70 percent can be used "for general at-risk or remediation services."

At its October 2019 meeting, the state SOQ committee recommended a number of changes to minimum school staffing requirements. On the table for the third time is a proposal to increase the ratio of counselors in Virginia schools to one per 250 students.

The board first proposed this change in

2016, noting the "increased responsibilities" on school counselors related to academic and career planning, dropout prevention, and non-counseling duties such as attendance and testing, according to meeting documents.

Then, in December 2018, Gov. Northam pushed for increased funding for school counselors in his budget proposal as a response to the Parkland school shooting earlier that year. Northam said in a press release at the time that more counselors are needed to enhance school safety and improve student access to mental health professionals.

The General Assembly did not fully fund the proposal in the 2019 budget session. Instead, the state agreed to pay for one full-time counselor per 455 elementary students, 370 middle

school students, or 325 high school students.

Many school systems, including Martinsville, are already close to meeting or exceeding SOQ staffing requirements. However, districts must use local funds to make up the difference. The proposed increase in state funding would remove some of the financial burden on localities.

In Martinsville City Schools, the division-wide staffing ratio for school counselors is currently one per 254 students, according to schools spokesperson Sarah Byrd. At the individual schools, they meet the 1:250 ratio at the middle and high schools but not at the elementary level, she said.

"School counselors play a vital role in identifying and addressing mental health issues, assisting in threat assessments, and detecting early warning signs in

order to prevent issues," Byrd said.

Staffing numbers in Henry County Schools were not immediately available.

The new SOQ proposal would also increase the staffing of assistant principals to a minimum of one per 400 students. The board has proposed this requirement to the General Assembly since 2003 without success. Due to an increased workload for school administrators, Virginia school districts have been staffing assistant principals at an average rate that is three times higher than the required minimum, according to board meeting documents. Thus, the board recommends that the standard be changed to more accurately reflect school funding needs.

Other proposed SOQ changes include increasing the number of school reading specialists; set-

ting a staffing ratio for positions such as school nurses, social workers, and school psychologists; and revising the guidelines for placement of English language learner teachers based on student language proficiency.

The education board is also reaffirming its 2016 request to the General Assembly to remove a limit on state funding for support staff. The so-called "support position cap" was enacted in 2009 as a cost-saving measure during the recession. "Support positions" include assistant superintendents, department directors, secretaries, attendance clerks, custodians, maintenance workers, and school transportation staff, according to board documents. Removing this provision would allow school districts more flexibility in how they use state funding for non-teaching positions.

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

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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

Campaign kicks off for Small Business Saturday

For the second year, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will be sponsoring the #DineSmall campaign on Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30.

The #DineSmall campaign was created to encourage residents and visitors to eat at small locally-owned restaurants in Martinsville and Henry County, especially on Small Business Saturday. That day also falls on one of the busiest shopping days of the holiday season, the

day after Black Friday.

Essentially, the EDC will be offering \$10 vouchers towards food purchases at participating local small restaurants. Most of the restaurants that have agreed to participate have menus with meals less than \$10, thereby allowing the customer to eat for free or very little cost. If a diner's meal costs more than \$10, the diner is responsible for the difference. It should be noted that the voucher amount cannot be used toward alcohol purchases or non-food/

non-beverage items.

EDC Business Development Director Valerie Harper said "This campaign is a win-win for the diners and restaurants. The diners get a free or discounted meal, and maybe experience going to a different restaurant from their norm. The restaurants get customers through their door that may even spend more than the voucher's value. Last year #DineSmall was a huge success. We exhausted our supply of vouchers in only two days."

Vouchers will be available at the Martinsville-Henry County Visitor Center located inside New College Institute Baldwin Building (191 Fayette Street, Martinsville). There is no cost for the vouchers, but they must be picked up in person (one per person, no holds). Residents are encouraged to act quickly as only 150 vouchers will be available.

A list of participating restaurants can be found here - <https://bit.ly/2JY3zok>.

Congressional staff to visit Henry, Patrick counties

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be available locally on Nov. 22.

In Patrick County, staff members will be in the Patrick County Veterans Building,

Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

In Henry County, staff will visit the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Parkway

Bassett, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

County School Board Appoints Diagnostician

The Henry County School Board approved the assignment of Dr. Sherri Lewis to the role of Educational Diagnostician, effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Lewis, who assumed the role as principal at Drewry Mason in 2013, said, "I will miss my alma mater and the students, faculty, staff, and families of Drewry Mason. However, I am excited to have the opportunity to continue to work with students and parents across several schools, including

Drewry Mason. I have always had the desire to use assessment to pinpoint and diagnose the learning needs of students and find ways to support them in their learning."

Lewis has served students as a teacher, reading specialist, administrative intern, and principal. Additionally, she has served as an adjunct faculty member for University of Virginia and Longwood University, teaching Word Study and Assessment in the Classroom.

"Dr. Lewis' wealth of knowledge regarding student development and success is a critical asset to students and teachers across the division. We are so pleased that she will have the opportunity to support even more Henry County students as they work to achieve their learning goals," said Sandy Strayer, division superintendent.

Bill Bullins, retired Assistant Superintendent, will serve as interim principal during the spring semester.

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

Patrick's search for new superintendent may meet deadline

Cory L. Higgs and Debbie Hall
Staff Writers

A new school superintendent of the Patrick County School Division may be hired by the Thanksgiving deadline.

Brandon Simmons, chairman of the Patrick County School Board said "It's possible we will meet it. I am hopeful we will meet" the deadline that was set by those leading the search.

Acting Patrick County School Superintendent Dr. J. David Martin, who was tapped to fill the post in June, also has spearheaded the search through his consulting firm, Real Synergy LLC.

Martin said the search committee has completed the first round of interviews.

The committee is made up of Martin and members of the Patrick County School Board, Simmons said.

He estimated five people applied for the position, including three in-state applicants and two out-of-state applicants. Simmons added that none of the applicants were from Patrick County or the local school division.

"I was hoping for a lot more applicants" and a larger pool of potential candidates, Simmons said. He speculated that the county's public image

may have been a factor in the low number of applicants. "Of course, we always want more, but I'm pleased with the results we've had."

Besides, Martin said, "It only takes one candidate to match the profile the community built." Data collected from surveys and from interviews with stakeholders, county residents and others in the community, was used to build the profile, which is being used in the selection process.

Among those to apply was a former superintendent, central office employees, and those holding doctorate degrees, Martin said. He added that a doctorate was not a requirement but was preferred.

The second round of interviews has been slated for the second week of November, Simmons said.

Additional details of the superintendent search may be discussed, along with other school board matters, at the next Patrick County School Board meeting, Martin said.

The meeting is set for Thursday, Nov. 14 in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Memorial Building in Stuart. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m., with open session to follow.

Congressional Gold Medals awarded for groundbreaking contributions

Bipartisan legislation cosponsored by U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine to award four African-American women scientists the Congressional Gold Medal for their work at NASA Langley recently was signed into law by President Trump.

The award distinguishes Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, posthumously awarding the medal to the latter two. It serves to commend these women for their contributions to NASA's success during the Space Race and highlight their broader impact on society — paving the way for women, especially women of color, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

"We are thrilled that these four trailblazers are being recognized with this honor," the Senators said. "Their engineering and calculations were essential to our nation's success in the Space Race, but for too long, they didn't receive the acknowledgment they deserve."

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the U.S. It is awarded to those who have performed an achievement that has had an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized in the recipient's field for years to come.

The Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act will honor:

Katherine Johnson, who calculated trajectories for multiple NASA space missions including the first human spaceflight by an American, Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 mission. She also calculated trajectories for John Glenn's Friendship 7 mission to orbit the earth. During her time at NASA, she became the first woman recognized as an author of a report from the Flight Research Division.

led the West Area Computing unit for nine years as the first African American supervisor at National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. She later became an expert programmer in FORTRAN as a part of NASA's Analysis and Computation Division.

Mary Jackson, who petitioned the City of Hampton to allow her to take graduate-level courses in math and physics at night at the all-white Hampton High School in order to become an engineer at NASA. She was the first female African-American engineer at the agency. Later in her career, she worked to improve the prospects of NASA's female mathematicians, engineers, and scientists as Langley's Federal Women's Program Manager.

Dr. Christine Darden, who became an engineer at NASA 16 years after Mary Jackson. She worked to revolutionize aeronautic design, wrote over 50 articles on aeronautics design, and became the first African-American person of any gender to be promoted into the Senior Executive Service at Langley.

The lives and careers of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Christine Darden were featured in the book Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race, by Margot Lee Shetterly. That book was adapted into the 2016 film Hidden Figures, which the Senators showed at a Capitol Hill screening for hundreds of Virginia students in 2017. In addition, Sens. Warner and Kaine honored Johnson, Vaughan, and Jackson by acknowledging their achievements in an official statement that was enshrined in the Congressional Record.

Dorothy Vaughan, who



Bertha Bumiller is played by Robbie Hendrix and Vera Carp is played by Don Grayson, who are neighbors in Tuna.

Performances of 'A Tuna Christmas' set to open

Barbara Parker
Contributing writer

TheatreWorks Community Players are celebrating Christmas in November with the comedy "A Tuna Christmas," opening Nov. 14.

In February of 2010, TheatreWorks opened the Black Box Theatre in Uptown Martinsville with a sold-out production of Greater Tuna, featuring the residents of the third-smallest town in Texas. Now almost ten years later, the Tuna denizens return to the Black Box.

When asked why the production was scheduled before Thanksgiving, the answer was that the local Christmas parades are all before Thanksgiving, so why not?

The plot of A Tuna Christmas is simple - it's Christmas in the third-smallest town in Texas, and radio station WAOK news personalities Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie report on various Yuletide activities, including the hot competition in the

annual lawn-display contest and the antics of the Christmas Phantom. In other news, Joe Bob Lipsey's production of A Christmas Carol is jeopardized by unpaid electric bills, which may affect Stanley Bumiller's release from reform school probation.

Several actors who appeared in Greater Tuna are reprising their original roles in A Tuna Christmas, including Brian Williams as Arles Struvie, Betty Joe Fulcher Turner as Aunt Pearl Burras, and Max Hall as Stanley Bumiller. Many of the actors are playing multiple roles, and director Bryan Dunn, drama and forensics teacher at Magna Vista High School, used his cross-casting of male and female roles for maximum laughs.

Set designer Emma Weatherly, who has created sets for several Patriot Players productions as well as the Cabaret set for TheatreWorks, used her talents to design a set that resembles a promotional brochure for the town of Tuna and the folks who live there.

In addition to Dunn and Weatherly, the production staff includes Stage Manager Roslyn Simmons, Sound and Lighting Designer Tom Berry, and Costume Designer Barbara Parker. The cast of ten includes Don Grayson, Max Hall, Robbie Hendrix, Brayden Lynch, Maeve McCulloch, MacKenzie Morrison, Dee Dee Richardson, Betty Joe Fulcher Turner, Rick Ward, and Brian Williams.

A Tuna Christmas runs Nov. 14 through 16 and Nov. 23 through 25, with performances at 7 p.m. Shows also are set on Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 44 Franklin Street in Uptown Martinsville.

Tickets are available at the MHC Visitors Center at New College Institute and online at www.twcp.net. The production is rated PG for language and content.

Season sponsors are Martinsville Surgical Associates and Dignity Collins & McKee-Stone.



Don Grayson and Brian Williams reporting from WAOK Radio.



Cast members celebrate Christmas in November. The 10-member cast includes Don Grayson, Max Hall, Robbie Hendrix, Brayden Lynch, Maeve McCulloch, MacKenzie Morrison, Dee Dee Richardson, Betty Joe Fulcher Turner, Rick Ward, and Brian Williams.

LOVE LIGHTS AT THE COURTHOUSE

Love Lights in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones

A project of the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC

DECEMBER 6, 2019 / 6 PM
PATRICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group is excited to announce they are bringing back the Love Light Program. Purchase a Love Light in honor and memory of a loved one. An Angel Wing ornament with the individual's name will be placed on the Christmas tree at the Courthouse. Each \$5 purchase will include individual's name on an ornament and a card sent to the family. Money raised through the program will be used for Alzheimer's patients in Patrick County and the surrounding area.

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Turkey Day 5K, Family Fun Day set

The Turkey Day 5K & Family Fun Run will be held on Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, starting promptly at 9 a.m. Miles in Martinsville, under the auspices of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, is hosting the event that is open to runners and nonrunners alike. Participants may pick up their packets with race bibs on Wednesday, Nov. 27 from noon until 6 p.m. at the YMCA,

which is located at 3 Starling Avenue; and from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on race day at YMCA. Registration is also available at these times. Participants are encouraged to register online at www.milesinmartinsville.com. The races start and finish at the YMCA at 2 Starling Ave, Martinsville. Runners will follow a course that includes the Silver Bell Trail, the Uptown Connection Trail and the streets of Uptown Martinsville. Many

participants walk in the event. A course map with additional details is available online at www.milesinmartinsville.com. Thanksgiving is much about the tradition of returning to something familiar. Inherent in that celebration is families gathering from near and far to share thanks and to reconnect with roots. The Turkey Day 5K mirrors that vibe, as families come to the Martinsville-Henry County

YMCA and celebrate together by running, watching, cheering, hugging and laughing -- all as a prelude to the Thanksgiving meal. Nonrunners attend the event each Thanksgiving to spend time with runners who often include their sons and daughters, and grandsons and granddaughters. It is common see these familiar faces year after year, according to organizers. Proceeds benefit programs of the YMCA.

Miles in Martinsville conducts a series of seven races throughout the year, along with many community partners. Title sponsors for this event are SOVAH Health, Martinsville and Henry County and Friedrichs Family Eye Center Optometry. Full details about the Turkey Day 5K & Family Fun Run, plus other Miles in Martinsville events, can be found online by visiting www.milesinmartinsville.com.



Pictured are Thanksgiving memories of past Turkey Day 5K & Family Fun Day events. This year's event will be held on Thanksgiving Day. The run begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Woody's Supermarket
644 Morehead Ave.
Ridgeway</p> | <p>Martinsville – Henry County Chamber of Commerce
115 Broad St.
Martinsville</p> |
| <p>Rising Sun Breads
1049 Brookdale St.
Suite D
Martinsville</p> | <p>Old Country Store
18241 AL Philpott Hwy.
Ridgeway</p> |
| <p>Peoples Market
5780 Greensboro Rd.
Ridgeway</p> | <p>New Locations:</p> |
| <p>Circle K Store #107
6690 Greensboro Rd.
Ridgeway</p> | <p>Howell's Wholesale
617 Liberty St.
Building A
Martinsville</p> |
| <p>Eastwood General Store
1555 Irisburg Rd.
Axton</p> | <p>Walgreens
103 Commonwealth Blvd. W.

2707 Greensboro Rd.
Martinsville</p> |
| <p>Daily Grind
303 E. Church St.
Suite A
Martinsville</p> | <p>The Enterprise,
129 N. Main Street,
Stuart</p> |
| <p>JS Adams Grocery
4201 Stone Dairy Rd.
Bassett</p> | <p>Fast Mart Valero,
2170 King's Mountain Rd.,
Martinsville,</p> |
| <p>Bryant Radio Supply
3449 Virginia Ave.
Collinsville</p> | <p>1118 Memorial Blvd.,
Martinsville,

1105 Brookedale St.,
Martinsville</p> |
| <p>57 Grocery
7850 Fairystone Dairy Rd.
Bassett</p> | <p>5972 AL Philpott Hwy</p> |

Virginia to Graduate 31,000, Boost Tech Talent Pipeline

Virginia will invest in the Commonwealth's tech talent pipeline to create 31,000 new computer science graduates over 20 years under agreements Gov. Ralph Northam signed with 11 universities. The Tech Talent Investment Program will benefit students and tech employers in every corner of the Commonwealth. It grew out of Virginia's proposal to Amazon, which will locate its second headquarters in Northern Virginia. The program is a performance-based initiative designed to create at least 25,000 new bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science and related fields over the next 20 years. The agreements with the 11 universities will create 31,000 new degrees in these fields, exceeding the legislative goal. Funding for the Tech Talent Investment Program was provided in the Virginia budget approved earlier this year. "This initiative is an investment in Virginians," said Governor Northam. "Virginia's tech sector will continue booming only if we can train the workforce those jobs require. With today's announcement, we are educating a workforce that will fill jobs at hundreds of tech companies around the Commonwealth, including at Amazon, helping boost our economy and quality of life in every corner of Virginia." "The Tech Talent program creates clear pathways for Virginia students to obtain high-wage jobs by equipping them with the necessary skills to succeed in high-demand fields," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. "This agreement with many of our public higher education institutions will support business and industry in Virginia, while preparing our students to enter the 21st century workforce." The boom in tech industries in recent years has increased demand for workers, and the Tech Talent program will help Virginia keep pace. Colleges and universities applied

to the state for funding to expand their existing computer science degree programs. Subsequent agreements will be established with other institutions, including the community colleges. "These 11 institutions, and others that will follow, demonstrate the qualities that make Virginia's higher education system among the best in the nation: innovation, responsiveness, alignment with state needs and performance," said Peter Blake, Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. "As the technology industry in the Richmond region and across the Commonwealth continues to grow, so do our workforce needs," said Nick Serfass, Executive Director of the Richmond Technology Council. "This investment demonstrates Virginia's commitment to continuing the growth of tech businesses and strengthening the talent and education of its workforce." The 11 colleges that received funds in this round, and the degrees over their baseline that they have committed to produce, are: Virginia Tech: 5,911 bachelor's degrees, 10,324 master's degrees; George Mason University: 2,277 bachelor's degrees, 5,328 master's degrees; The University of Virginia: 3,416 bachelor's degrees; College of William & Mary: 930 bachelor's degrees; Old Dominion University: 765 bachelor's degrees; Virginia Commonwealth University: 722 bachelor's degrees; James Madison University: 467 bachelor's degrees; Radford University: 394 bachelor's degrees; Christopher Newport University: 392 bachelor's degrees; Virginia State University: 186 bachelor's degrees; Norfolk State University: 126 bachelor's degrees.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 19

Horsepasture District Community Meeting: district supervisor Debra Buchanan and County Administrator Tim Hall, among others will be present. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Horsepasture Ruritan Building.

SPENCER-PENN CENTRE November:

Barn Quilt Class: Nov. 17, 1 p.m., check Facebook or E-mail Susan at spc.susan@yahoo.com for details. Spots will be given on a first paid first served basis.

Third Thursday Trivia Night: Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m., Theme of the month: Classic TV, \$10 per team of no more than 5 people. Winning team will go home with a prize. Concessions will be sold - cash only.

Painting: Nov. 22, 6 - 9 p.m., Join Genie as she guides students through this three hour class. Pre-registration and payment is required. Cost is \$20/members and \$25/non-members. Call (276) 957-5757 for more information.

Snow Globe: Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 - 11 a.m. Instructor Vickie Wasoski. Make a mason jar snow globe. \$8/members, \$12/non-members.

Christmas Movie & Dinner with Santa: Friday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. Call the Centre for reservations. \$15/Adult includes dinner; \$15/child includes dinner and a photo with Santa. Must register by Nov. 29.

Open computer lab: Mondays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. High Speed Internet Access is available. Story Time & Play Date: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Carole-Anne Penn will lead story, songs, crafts and then play time with friends. Storytime and crafts are geared toward preschoolers, but all ages are welcome.

Charles & Rose Hylton Library: Open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Book Club: Meets the third Thursday at 3 p.m. Call the Centre for the book selection.

Chair Aerobics: Thursday mornings with instructor, Paula Battle. 11:30 a.m., free, M/HC

Coalition for Health & Wellness. Aerobics: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Instructor: Anita Hooker, free with the M/HC Coalition for Health & Wellness.

Yoga: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., \$40 for 6 weeks, drop-in at \$8 per class. Yoga mats provided -bring a blanket or towel. Free childcare provided for attendees. Call (276) 957-5757 to register.

HJDB Events - November:

Nov. 15 - **Friday Morning Jam Sessions.** One Day at a Time. 10 a.m. to noon. Breakfast \$5;

Bassett Music Jamboree-WOUNDTIGHT- 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets \$5. Concessions available.

Paint Night, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Paint with Genie's Art. \$25.

18 - **Game on. Games, Crafts, Fellowship.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Bible Study. 10 a.m. Pastor TBD; Bible Study. 11 a.m., led by Karl Hoyer from Orchard Drive Baptist Church.

20 - **Game on. Games, Crafts, Fellowship.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Breakfast & Lunch available.

22 **Friday Morning Jam Sessions.** 'The Kitchen Pickers.' 10 a.m. to noon. Breakfast \$5. Lunch \$6; Quarter Auction. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$5 for two paddles and one door prize ticket. Additional paddles available; Paint Night. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Paint with Genie's Art. \$25.

25 - **Game on. Games, Crafts, Fellowship.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Bible Study. 10 a.m. Pastor TBD; Bible Study. 11 a.m., led by Karl Hoyer from Orchard Drive Baptist Church.

27 - **Game on. Games, Crafts,**

Fellowship. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch available.

29 - **Friday Morning Jam Sessions,** 10 a.m. to noon. Breakfast \$5. Lunch \$6. For more information call, (276) 629-1369 or visit www.hjdbeventcenter.com/upcoming-events.

Piedmont Arts Events November:

Artspiration Senior Studio: Nov. 19 and Nov. 26, 10 a.m. to noon. Free to Members, \$5 for non-members. Offering self-guided art studio time for seniors.

Artspiration Leaves and Pumpkins: Saturday, Nov. 16, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Family-friendly Class. \$20 Members, \$25 Non-members. Create an original acrylic painting with instructor Michele Minich. All supplies provided. Guests may bring snacks to enjoy during class. Dress for mess, paint can be difficult to get out of clothing. Register at PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632.3221. Registration closes at noon the day prior to class.

Faerie Kingdom Escape Room: Saturday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Nov. 23, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Piedmont Arts. Admission free. The Faerie Kingdom Escape Room is a 30-minute real-life adven-

ture. To successfully escape from this magic realm, you and your team will have to work together to find hidden clues and solve challenging puzzles throughout the room. Everywhere you look is a potential clue or riddle waiting to be solved. Can you escape the Faerie Kingdom before time runs out? All are welcome to participate. Registration is required. To reserve a time for your team, visit PiedmontArts.org. STEAM Symposium: Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. New College Institute. NCI and Piedmont Arts are co-sponsoring the first annual STEAM Symposium for educators, students and community supporters who are interested in learning how the arts can be integrated into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines. To RSVP, contact Ruby Jones at (276) 403.5605.

Artspiration Barn Quilt Painting: Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1 to 3 p.m. Piedmont Arts. \$35 Members, \$40 Non-members. Paint a 12 in. x 12 in. barn quilt with instructor Lisa Martin. Participants choose from six design options prior to class. All supplies provided. Register at PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632.3221. Advanced registration required. Registration closes at noon the day prior to class.

Veterans

from page 1

Kathy Lawson, other local officials and veterans in attendance.

Adams, Buchanan and Lawson presented the Outstanding Veteran Award to Charles Washburn, who was judged "by the selection committee to best represent what service to our country and the community means," Adams said.

The award was created in 2009 by the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and with support from Martinsville City Council, was expanded in 2013 to include nominations of both city and county veterans, Adams said.

Washburn began training in the Marine Corps in 1972. "During his 21 years in the military, he was stationed at various bases in North Carolina, California and Japan" and held positions that included clerk and airfreight operations manager, Lawson said.

During his tenure, he received several commendations, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, meritorious Unit Commendation with two stars, the Navy Accolade with one star, sea service deployment ribbon, rifle and handgun marksmanship badges and overseas service ribbon, she said.

In addition to serving the community in various military organizations, Washburn also serves on the Children and Youth Committee for the American Legion Boy State Council, helps transport disabled veterans to medical appointments and serves with the Martinsville-Henry County Honor Guard, according to Lawson and Buchanan.

He also is active in his church, Rich Acres Christian Church, and volunteers at Rich Acres Elementary School, "but there is one project that is near and dear to his heart," Buchanan said, and added that Washburn "has dedicated countless hours to show love to children at Christmas time by his involvement and leadership with" the Martine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

S.T. Fulcher presented the Veteran of the Year Award to Leonard Boyce, who served in the Air Force. Boyce was the 28th recipient of the award that is given by the Veterans Service Organizations.

After graduating from Greta High School in 1961, Boyce then enlisted in the military. He completed basic training in 1962 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and then served as air po-

liceman at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

He was reassigned in 1963 from his policeman's post to Incirlik Air Force Base in Izmir, Turkey. He remained there four months, until returning to Scott Air Force Base, where he supervised the patrol and traffic division. Boyce then spent several years at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, where he was honorably discharged in 1968.

Lt. Col. Ray Ferguson introduced the guest speaker, retired Gen. Dennis Via.

Less than 1 percent of the nation serves in the military, Via said, and thanked those in attendance for honoring the 1 percent.

"Each November, the American people set aside Veterans Day to honor all who have served our country in uniform, in quiet tributes and grand parades, in community centers and war memorials," Via said. "Americans of all backgrounds come together across the nation on November 11th to celebrate the men and women who fought to keep our country strong and free."

Via, a native of the Preston community, was a 1976 graduate of the former George Washington Carver High School in Fieldale. He attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, where he graduated in May 1980 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Via began his career with the 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. During his 32-year Army career, his principal assignments have included Commanding General, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and Fort Monmouth, NJ.; Commanding General, 5th Signal Command, and U.S. Army Europe & Seventh Army (USAREUR) Chief Information Officer/Assistant Chief of Staff, G6 (CIO/G6); Director, Global Operations, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force-Global Network Operations (USSTRATCOM); Commander, 3rd Signal Brigade and III Corps Assistant Chief of Staff, G6; Commander, 82nd Signal Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division; Division Chief, Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G8, Headquarters, Department



Former U.S. Rep. Virgil Goode Jr. addressed the crowd gathered in Martinsville Monday during a wreath laying ceremony to honor veterans George Edward Pannill (1896-1918) and Jeb Stuart Pannill (1897-1918). Carlisle Senior Jacob Tisdale, who performed the National Anthem, is pictured at right.

of the Army; and Director for Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, J-6, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Via was elevated to the rank of four-star General on Aug. 7, 2012, and assumed duties as the 18th Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The Presentation of Colors was by the JROTC of Bassett High School, the National Anthem was performed by the U.S. Army National Guard 29th Infantry Band.

Several other organizations also supported the event, including AM-VETS, DAV Chapter 52, Homer Dillard Post #78, Marine Corps League, Martinsville-Henry County honor Guard, Pannill Post #42, Ford-Stewart

VFW Post 4637, VFW Post 10840 and Wright Funeral Service.

A wreath laying ceremony was held in Martinsville Monday to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and honor veterans George Edward Pannill (1896-1918) and Jeb Stuart Pannill (1897-1918). Both served in WWI as volunteers with Co. K. 9th Infantry, 2nd Division AEF, according to Danny Turner, a member of Martinsville City Council.

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

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

Former U.S. Rep. Virgil H. Goode Jr. was among

the speakers at the event, along with State Sen. Bill Stanley, Bishop Joe Gravelly, Jr., Lucy Wilson and

Fowlkes. Students from Carlisle School also participated in the event.

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SPORTS

'Toughness Matters' in Smith River Classic as Bengals Win Rematch Up Next in Opening Round of VHSL Playoffs

Harrison Hamlet
Staff Writer

(BASSETT, Va.) – It's that time of year. Trophies are on the line. Seasons are winding down. For Bassett and Magna Vista, that means football teams facing each other in the Smith River Classic.

On Friday night, in front of a near-sell-out crowd in Bassett, the Bengals and Warriors faced off and added to the legacy of the most intense local football rivalry with Bassett winning 16-12.

"A lot of emotions are running through my head right now," Bassett head coach Brandon Johnson said on the field after the game. "We drive our own bus. We're going to put our energy into us and not anybody else... We knew what kind of game this was going to be and I am so proud we pulled that win out with the grit and the energy we showed. It just means a lot."

Magna Vista head coach Joe Favero summed it up best, saying simply "toughness matters."

"It was a tough football game, a physical football game and toughness matters," Favero said. "We talk about that all the time. It was a cold night and toughness matters and I thought they were just a little bit tougher than us tonight."

After taking a 10-0 lead courtesy of a first-half field goal from Freddi Lopez and a juke-filled, third-quarter touchdown run from sophomore Simeon Walker-Muse, Bassett looked like they could control the clock and secure the Smith River Classic trophy for the second-straight season.

"I thought we played tight for more than a half. When we play loose, we play well," Favero said. "When we play tight, we just don't play very well. We have to find a way to play relaxed and play hard."

Magna Vista's hibernating offense emerged in the final minute of the third quarter. Junior quarterback Dryus Hairston found senior receiver Drew Santoemma for two consecutive touchdowns to give the Warriors a 12-10 lead.

That was a key moment in the game, according to Johnson.

"We went down right there and in the past, 12-10 against Magna Vista, that late in the game, heads would have dropped and the game would've been over," Johnson said. "That never happened, Bassett took over, down two, and was forced to punt after just three downs."

Magna Vista took control of the ball with 6:10 to play and momentum on their side. Uncharacteristically, star Warrior running back Louis Taylor fumbled the ball near midfield, Bassett senior Dominic Gill came up with the ball, and the Bengals were in business late in the game.

"A lack of ability to make plays when we needed to tonight. Kind of opposite of the way we've been most of the year, but that was up to them (Bassett)," Favero said.

"I thought they played great and we played OK. Some of that was them, some of that was us."

Bassett freshman quarterback Jaricous Hairston then engineered the best drive of his young career, handing off to Kevon Smith and Walker-Muse five times to set up a 36-yard touchdown pass to Demetrius Gill with 3:07 to play.

The Bengals defense stood strong over the final three minutes, forcing a turnover on downs and knocking down a Hail-Mary attempt on the final play of the game to secure the 16-12 win, and retain the Smith River Classic trophy.

"We had a freshman (Hairston) and a sophomore (Walker-Muse) that made huge plays. I tell them all the time that they are young in age, but in football games played they aren't young anymore," Johnson said. "I'm just super happy and emotional for my guys and the people who have been around this program the last three years... This game means a lot on both sides."

Bassett's win saw them finish the regular season with a 6-4 record and secure a Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 3 playoff bid, their first trip to the playoffs since 2012.

The loss dropped Magna Vista to 7-3 for the regular season, but they had already mathematically secured a VHSL Class 3 playoff bid, as well.

Now, Henry County residents will be treated to the rarest of rivalry games: A playoff rivalry game.

Magna Vista, the third seed in Class 3 Region D, will host Bassett, the sixth seed in Class 3 Region D, on Friday night in 'The Hole' with a season on the line. The loser will hang up their helmets for eight months. The winner will go on to face the winner of Northside (7-3)-Abingdon (5-5) in the second round of the playoffs.

When asked if the Warriors would be looser in a rematch on their home field, Favero was unsure.

"I don't know, I hope so, we'll see," Favero said. "It's a great atmosphere. I'm glad we got to play in a big game. This is awesome for Henry County to have a great crowd to come out and see a good football game and a clean football game. The kids came out and handled the big game and the emotions very well."

Johnson said some time with the Smith River Classic trophy was in order before preparations for the playoffs began on Monday.

"All this excitement is going to last until Monday. The playoffs is something we've never had a chance at. We've never played past game 10. Next week, records are erased, let's go out and play football," Johnson said. "We're going to prepare for whoever is next, but we're going to enjoy this first. It is nice to keep that (trophy) for another year."



Bassett freshman quarterback Jaricous Hairston (left) threw the game-winning touchdown pass to Demetrius Gill on Friday night. Bassett beat Magna Vista 16-12 on Friday night in Bassett. The teams will play again on Friday night in Ridgeway in the first round of the VHSL Class 3 playoffs.



Bassett sophomore running back Simeon Walker-Muse (24) scored on this run in the third quarter on Friday night. Bassett beat Magna Vista 16-12 on Friday night in Bassett. The teams will play again on Friday night in Ridgeway in the first round of the VHSL Class 3 playoffs.



Bassett's football team celebrates with the Smith River Classic trophy for the second consecutive season after defeating Magna Vista 16-12 on Friday night in Bassett. The teams will play again on Friday night in Ridgeway in the first round of the VHSL Class 3 playoffs.



Magna Vista senior receiver Drew Santoemma (left) scored both Magna Vista touchdowns on receptions from Dryus Hairston on Friday night. Bassett beat Magna Vista 16-12 on Friday night in Bassett. The teams will play again on Friday night in Ridgeway in the first round of the VHSL Class 3 playoffs.



Magna Vista senior running back Louis Taylor (right) led all rushers with 69 yards on the ground on Friday night. Bassett beat Magna Vista 16-12 on Friday night in Bassett. The teams will play again on Friday night in Ridgeway in the first round of the VHSL Class 3 playoffs.

Bassett High School 16, Magna Vista High School 12

SCORING SUMMARY

FIRST QUARTER

3:57 – BHS – Freddi Lopez 24 field goal

THIRD QUARTER

8:51 – BHS – Simeon Walker Muse 36 rush (Freddi Lopez PAT good)

0:49 – MVHS – Drew Santoemma 14 pass from Dryus Hairston (PAT fail)

FOURTH QUARTER

7:55 – MVHS – Drew Santoemma 41 pass from Dryus Hairston (2 pt. conversion fail)

3:07 – BHS – Demetrius Gill 36 pass from Jaricous Hairston (2 pt. conversion fail)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

MAGNA VISTA

HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Louis Taylor 18 for 69, 2 fumbles; Tyler Johnson 1 for -2; Dryus Hairston 6 for -17, 2 fumbles.

TOTAL: 25 for 50,

4 fumbles.

PASSING

Dryus Hairston 13-23 for 124, 2TD, INT.

RECEIVING

Drew Santoemma 6 for 67, 2TD; Louis Taylor 2 for 32; Tyler Johnson 3 for 17; Isaac Ellison 1 for 5; Ty Grant 1 for 3.

BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL

RUSHING

Simeon Walker-Muse 11 for 60, TD, fumble; Kevon Smith 23 for 58; Jaricous Hairston 3 for 27; Ty Cline 2 for 9; Jalyn Turner 1 for 0.

TOTAL:

40 for 154.

PASSING

Jaricous Hairston 5-9 for 82, TD.

RECEIVING

Demetrius Gill 2 for 39, TD; Simeon Walker-Muse 1 for 19; Kevon Smith 1 for 19; Jalyn Turner 1 for 5.

PHOTOS BY HARRISON HAMLET

Bulldogs Fall to G.W.; Look Forward to Offseason

Harrison Hamlet
Staff Writer

(MARTINSVILLE, Va.) – Martinsville’s football team is laying a foundation for a brighter future. The difficult part, according to head coach Bobby Martin, is that sometimes the progress on a foundation is difficult to see from above ground.

G.W.-Danville came to Martinsville on Friday night and handed the Bulldogs a 49-0 loss to close out the regular season. Martin elaborated on the near misses, close calls, and first-half mistakes that created a tough situation for his team looking to earn their first win of the season.

“We were there in scoring territory a couple of times early,” Martin said. “We got to the five-yard-line and the 10-yard-line when it was 0-0 and 7-0. They scored right before the half to make it 21-0 and if we had just made a play we would’ve been right there with them.”

The Eagles turned on the jets in

the second half, closing out Martinsville’s season in a disappointing fashion.

Consistency from drive-to-drive, and therefore game-to-game, has been a difficulty for the Bulldogs this season, Martin’s first at the helm of the historic program.

“We’re trying to win some games but consistency has been our issue all year,” Martin said. “We can move the ball, but we have to make plays and score points, and make plays and get our defense off the field, if we want to change the win column.”

Despite finishing the season with an 0-10 record, Martin is not distraught about the future of his program. Rather, he sees potential in his current team and the future.

“We played Bassett as well as you can play them without winning, and they just beat Magna Vista,” Martin said. “We’re not far away.”

Martin’s refrain this season have been to “keep fighting” and

“get better,” a message he gave each week to his team.

So, did the Bulldogs fight? Did they get better in 2019?

“Yes sir, we definitely fought. A friend of mine came to the game on Friday, he didn’t tell me he was coming. He said he came just to see if they kept fighting. He said we were overmatched, but we kept fighting. I’m glad people can see that,” Martin said. “I thought we got better at things as individuals. I think, if anybody watched us all year, they saw us get better as the year went on.

“Wins are for the kids. I don’t want them to accept losing,” Martin continued. “They work hard enough to win. If we keep working and stay focused it will change.”

Martin faced a difficult situation based on his hire date in 2019. He only had a fall camp to prepare his team for the season. Now, he has eight months to get ready for 2020, when he expects things will

be different.

“That’s a major deal for us: Having time to work this offseason,” Martin said. “These next eight months are crucial for us. It will tell the story of our season next year and how much we improve. We’ve just got to improve everywhere - bigger faster stronger at every position. The lines are a focal point. I’m excited about the next eight months. That time will be important for us as a team.”

Fans could be forgiven for thinking that Martin has been frustrated, disappointed, or unhappy as head coach of the Bulldogs after the success he enjoyed at previous coaching stops.

According to Martin, they would be wrong.

“I love what I do. I was hurting for the kids at times this year. You hurt for them, not for yourself,” Martin said. “They (the players) can’t see the things that I see, they only see the scoreboard. I hurt for

them bad because they were trying. I’m healthy, I’m doing what I enjoy doing and trying to help these kids become better people. Yes I want to win, but the greatest goal is for our kids to become winners. The scoreboard doesn’t decide if you’re a winner or not. That’s why I still enjoy every day. I choose to be positive in spite of games and scoreboards. I decide to be positive and speak that to these kids.”

When asked for a realistic description of the winless season, Martin again wielded an optimistic tone with an eye towards the future.

“The reality is we were in some games and not in others. They were fighting, they believed and they believed they were somebody. That’s what I asked of the players,” Martin said. “We already have meetings scheduled to set up the next eight months. We’re building a foundation for 2020.”

OPINION: ‘The Hole’ is the Place to be on Friday



Harrison Hamlet

When making plans for this weekend, consider this:

Consider that Magna Vista (7-3) and Bassett’s (6-3) football teams are both good. Like, really good.

Consider that the Warriors and the Bengals played

one of the best games in the Piedmont District against each other just days ago in Bassett.

Consider that the regular season finale in Bassett felt more like a college game than a high school contest, with an incredible atmosphere and two stellar bands punctuating the cold November air.

Consider that either Bassett’s Kevon Smith or Magna Vista’s Louis Taylor will see their season, and high school career, come to an end. Both are remarkable players on both sides of the ball.

Consider that Bassett’s Austin McDaniel and Dominic Gill or Magna Vista’s Logan George and Freddie

Roberts will see their season, and high school careers, come to an end. All are remarkable, and underappreciated, defenders.

Consider that Bassett’s Jaricous Hairston or Magna Vista’s Dryus Hairston will make a throw that they will brag about when they are sitting in a rocking chair with a grey beard. Both are remarkable quarterbacks.

Consider that Bassett’s Simeon Walker-Muse or Magna Vista’s Tyler Johnson could write their first chapter in the VHSL playoff record book. Both are remarkable sophomore playmakers.

Consider that I could make a case that every player

that steps on that field on Friday night is remarkable. I have watched them, trust me, they’re all good at what they do.

Consider that we are lucky to have the coaches on either sideline. Staffs led by Brandon Johnson and Joe Favero shaping the next generation in a positive way.

Consider that local sports, so long a positive stalwart in a community plagued by an inferiority complex when it comes to the economy, are once again on the radar of more than just local students and parents.

Consider that Friday night’s contest in Ridgeway, slated for a 7 p.m. kickoff at

Magna Vista, is likely to be sold out.

Consider that, years from now, this could be the game that 3,000 saw and 30,000 claim to have attended.

Consider that we are lucky to have this event in our community, where 90 boys, and one girl, will trot out onto the field and give their best effort to show they are the roughest, toughest, rootin’-tootin’-est, baddest team in Henry County.

Consider that no matter which side of the rivalry you are on, you have family that wears the wrong shade of blue.

Consider that no mat-

ter which shade of blue you wear, a team from our community will likely keep winning after Friday night and represent us all deep into the playoffs.

Consider that Magna Vista and Bassett’s football teams are both good. Like, really good.

Now, cancel those other plans. Then, on Friday night at about 6:15 p.m. (because we all know it takes 20 minutes to drive anywhere in this county), bundle up in your warmest clothes (hopefully in the right shade of blue), and drive down towards ‘The Hole’ and watch this game. Because ‘The Hole’ is the place to be on Friday night.

Going Green

from page 1

school administration projected overall energy costs would continue to climb, while at the same time, the local population and school budgets were shrinking due to the recession.

Henry County Schools committed to pay almost \$1 million total over four years to implement the program, with the understanding that it would pay for itself in energy savings. Energy Ed, which is now called Cenergistics, provided a 10-year projection of savings, estimating more than \$700,000 net savings in the first four years after covering the program costs.

Under the agreement, Henry County Schools agreed to pay the company \$159,600 per year for its “Transformational Energy Management Process,” or a total of \$638,400 over four years; plus software to track energy consumption at a cost of \$12,000 the first year and \$1,200 each year thereafter. They were also required to hire an energy manager at a salary range of up to \$65,000 a year.

Henry County Schools hired Ken Adkins as its Energy Education Manager, and the energy efficiency program began in early 2010. While the formal contract ended after four years, Cenergistics will continue to provide free consulting services as long as

Henry County Schools keeps staffing this position, Scott said.

Adkins has worked with Cenergistics engineers and school staff to conduct energy audits, looking for opportunities to make building operations more efficient. This includes everything from making sure doors and windows seal all the way, to turning down lights and thermostats when school buildings are not in use.

For example, all building heating and cooling systems across the district are now monitored and controlled from an app on the facility manager’s phone. This allows problems with the temperature to be caught and corrected sooner, in many cases without requiring a technician having to physically come to the school, Hatchett said.

In addition, “our maintenance crew is very intentional,” she said. “If we have to replace a piece of equipment or lighting, we look for energy efficient versions.”

The district put these environmental principles into practice on a larger scale when constructing Meadow View Elementary, its first new school building in 30 years. The school, located off Kings Mountain Road, opened to students in August 2018.

Meadow View was intentionally designed with windows and skylights to maximize natural daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting, Hatchett said. But while the windows let in light, they can also affect the inside temperature and raise energy costs. The U.S. Department of Energy states that in cold months, about 30 percent of a building’s heating energy is lost through windows. Summer presents the opposite problem: When the air conditioning is running, about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters to become heat.

To prevent this energy loss, windows throughout Meadow View are coated and use removable window coverings. The coverings can also be used to darken the room during naptime for younger children, Hatchett said.

Classrooms feature bulkheads in the ceilings to partially shade electronic screens from the sunlight. Motion-activated lights automatically turn off when no one is in the room. Restrooms save water with low-flow toilets and motion-activated sinks, while the kitchens are equipped with energy-efficient machines.

The school’s floors are made with polished concrete instead of the usual PVC

tile because it can be cleaned “without using all the harsh chemicals,” Hatchett said. In addition, throughout the school are reclaimed wood benches, made from trees cut from the property when construction began.

Efforts to reduce waste across the school system go beyond saving money on utility bills. Students and school staff also try to conserve food, paper, and other resources. Appreciation for the environment starts in the classroom, with lessons on recycling, repurposing, agriculture, clean water, and more.

“Everyone does their part,” Hatchett said. “We talk to students a lot about how being a good citizen includes taking care of the gifts we’ve been given, like our natural resources. We ask students and staff to think, do we really need to do this on paper, or can we do it online?”

Many operations in the school division are now paperless, with lessons taking place

on iPads or computers instead of on worksheets, and grading done online. The schools work with EMI in Bassett to recycle office paper and cardboard, but they also try not to use as much paper in the first place, Hatchett said.

“Parents say their kids come home and give them a hard time about not recycling,” she said.

Furthermore, a new program to prevent food waste in the schools not only cuts down on the amount of garbage produced in the cafeteria, it also helps feed both hungry students and needy people in the community.

Every school cafeteria now has a “share table” where students can leave any unwanted food for other students to take and eat, instead of throwing the food away. Items must be unopened and pre-packaged, Hatchett said.

Any usable food the students don’t claim is then collected and donated to Grace Network and the Salvation

Army for their food pantries. A small Harvest Foundation grant provided a fridge to each school to store the extra food. Since the partnership started in January 2019, the schools “have returned several thousand pounds of food to the community,” Hatchett said. “We’ve been very excited about the program.”

All in all, the district’s green focus has earned Henry County Schools numerous awards for sustainability at the state and national levels.

The school system has been an Energy Star partner since 2010 and was named a Top Performer for ranking among the top 25 percent most energy-efficient districts in the country. Martinsville was ranked ninth among all American small cities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on the number of Henry County schools that earned Energy Star certification. Henry County Schools has earned Platinum Certification each year since 2012 in the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Green Schools Challenge.

Most recently, Henry County Schools was one of only six national winners of the Green Ribbon School District award for sustainability by the U.S. Department of Education in 2018.

Both county high schools are U.S. DOE Green Ribbon Schools, with Magna Vista High School achieving the recognition in 2013 and Bassett High School in 2015. Eventually, the district plans to nominate all of its schools, but is doing so gradually because of all the paperwork required, Hatchett said.



Meadow View features low-flow toilets, motion-activated sinks, and automatic water fountains to conserve water.

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