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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS



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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, December 21, 2019

Vol. 1 No. 17

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

Loss of community servant, wife mourned



Charles "Charlie" and Sherri Bradshaw PHOTO FROM DIGNITYMEMORIAL.COM

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The funerals for Charles and Sherri Bradshaw were held Thursday, but the emptiness and shock left in the wake of their untimely and tragic deaths will continue to

about it all is that I'm going to miss my friends. There is a hole left in the community."

The couple died Dec. 13, according to a release from the Virginia State Police. Then, a 2017 Ford Explorer traveling on Virginia 173 was struck by a falling tree. The vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway and struck a utility pole and several trees, the release stated.

Charles Howard Bradshaw, 62, and his wife Sherri Gordon Bradshaw, 63, both of Ridgeway, died at the scene.

Two children were also in the vehicle but were not injured, the release stated.

"It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the untimely deaths of our mother and father, Sherri G. and Charles H. Bradshaw from a tragic motor vehicle accident," Michael Bradshaw, the couple's son, wrote in a statement to the community.

"The past few days haven't been easy on our family or our families at Triangle Electric Corporation as well as the volunteers at Horsepasture Fire Department and Rescue Squad. We would like to thank the community for the outpouring of love and support. Triangle Electric also would like to thank everyone that has reached out to offer help and support," Michael Bradshaw wrote in the statement.

Other members from the community also conveyed their condolences to the family and their appreciation for their service to the community.

"The county is saddened to learn that Horsepasture Fire Chief Charles Bradshaw and his wife Sherri died as a result of injuries sustained during a motor vehicle crash," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams said in a

statement. "Chief Bradshaw loved our community and served it well. We are grateful for Chief Bradshaw's service, unwavering courage as a first responder, and his dedication to protecting citizens. We are also very grateful for the sacrifices made for our community by his wife Sherri. We offer our prayers and condolences. I ask our entire community to pray for Bradshaw's family, friends, employees, and fellow firefighters."

Debra Buchanan, vice-chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and also a life-long friend, said that she was shocked "when I heard about the situation. I had just talked to Charles the night before at the Horsepasture Ruritan meeting. We have been members of the Ruritan Club for many years and we joked and carried on."

See **Loss of Bradshaws**, page 4

Martin hands over reins, says PC schools are best kept secret

Debbie Hall
dhall@theenterprise.net

Acting Patrick County School Superintendent Dr. J. David Martin hailed his six-month tenure at the helm of Patrick County Schools as the "experience of a lifetime."

Martin, of Henry County and a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, began his tenure in Patrick County on July 1. His consulting firm, Real Synergy LLC, also was retained to help recruit a new school superintendent.

The board appointed Dean Gilbert to lead the division, beginning Jan. 1.

As his final school board meeting neared an end Dec. 12, Martin thanked the community and school division "for welcoming me. I knew I had arrived when I was not treated as someone spe-

cial but simply as another set of hands to help with the heavy lifting.

"I've learned a great deal about Patrick County over the last six months. First and foremost, Patrick County schools can teach 132 other school divisions in the state how to get remarkable results and full accreditation with the least amount of funds required by the state. I have learned it is the best kept secret," Martin said.

"Second, the students are different. What I mean by that is, imagine my surprise walking into a kindergarten classroom three months after visiting during the first (part) of the school year, and being welcomed by the students, 'Good Morning Dr. Martin; or walking down the hall in the high school and actually have students to make eye contact with me and greet me."

"Third, the students in the



Dr. J. David Martin

school division like coming to school because they feel safe, but more importantly, they feel loved," Martin said. "No matter which of the seven schools I am

See **Martin Steps Down**, page 6

Collinsville business salvaged by county fire crews

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Emergency responders extinguished a fire that broke out at the FasMart/Valero gas station on Virginia Avenue in Collinsville on Dec. 17.

The call was received at approximately 9:40 a.m., and the cause has yet to be determined.

"The area of origin was in the back office," said Kiah Cooper, assistant fire marshal for Henry County Public Safety.

The blaze was contained to the attic. There were no injuries, and

everyone evacuated from the store. The building sustained damage, but is salvageable, officials at the scene said.

"There was heat, smoke and water damage to the building. About a quarter to half was damaged by flames but the structure was saved. All product and the ceiling will probably have to be replaced."

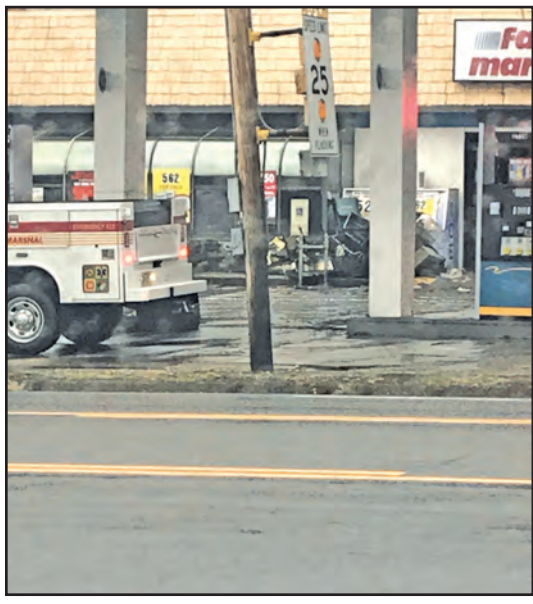
There were no injuries and the fire was contained to the building.

Cooper said that fire crews' execution led to success in extinguishing the blaze.

"Our biggest need was manpower," he said. "We had plenty of

water supply. We were able to successfully eliminate oxygen for the fire. Our main objective was doing that and making sure our responders were safe. At the end of the day, it's just a building and I'm glad nobody was hurt while extinguishing the fire."

Crews from Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department, Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department, Ridgeway District Volunteer Fire Department, Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, Martinsville Fire and EMS Department, Bassett Rescue Squad and Henry County Public Safety also responded.



PHOTOS BY BRANDON MARTIN

Fire damage to a FasMart/Valero on Virginia Avenue in Collinsville on Dec. 17.



Dean Gilbert (center) was appointed as the new superintendent of Patrick County Schools during a meeting of the Patrick County School Board on Monday. Gilbert is flanked by board chairman Brandon Simmons (left), and vice board chairman Walter Scott (right).

Gilbert tapped to lead school division

Debbie Hall
dhall@theenterprise.net

Dean Gilbert was selected by the Patrick County School Board as the new superintendent of schools.

The board unanimously adopted a resolution appointing Gilbert to the post effective Jan. 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2023.

Acting Schools Superinten-

dent Dr. J. David Martin, said the selection was based on a profile created by community input. He also noted that school board members elect were involved in the selection process.

Before Brandon Simmons, board chairman, finished reading the resolution appointing Gilbert to the post, many of those attending the meeting

See **Gilbert to Lead**, page 5

County audit presented at year end meeting



PHOTO BY BRANDON MARTIN

Sheriff Lane Perry is among those sworn into office during a ceremony held at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Dec. 17. Perry won his re-election bid in November.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors received the county's audit report at the final meeting of 2019.

The audit was conducted by Creedle, Jones and Alga, P.C., and was for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

A representative of the firm apprised the board of the report,

which stated in part that "the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, and each major fund of the County of Henry, Virginia,

See **County Audit**, page 10



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Martin’s life, legacy honored by state officials



Virginia Del. Les Adams, R-Chatham, presented a Memorial State Resolution to the family of Fred Thomas Martin, Sr., in front of Martin Plaza on Dec. 17.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Del. Les Adams, R-Chatham, honored the family of the late Fred Thomas Martin, Sr., with a resolution in front of Martin Plaza in uptown Martinsville on Dec. 17.

Addressing the family and lo-

cal representatives, Adams said “One of the more enjoyable things in the General Assembly is the opportunity to champion notable citizens in the district. Memorial resolutions are one of the ways that we get to do that. It’s great that we do it here. When I was first married about 20 years ago, we bought some

of our furniture here. It’s a real privilege for me to be able to do this.”

Lowanda Martin, Fred Martin’s wife, expressed her gratitude to Adams.

“It’s an honor that (Adams) would even think about us and we appreciate it,” she said. “I know he (Fred Martin) would



PHOTOS BY BRANDON MARTIN

A Memorial State Resolution recognizing the efforts of Fred Thomas Martin, Sr., was read by Del. Les Adams, R-Chatham, at a Dec. 17 ceremony.

be grateful.”

According to his obituary, Martin was a successful businessman who loved the City of Martinsville. He was passionate and committed to bringing Martinsville back to life through investment in its revitalization and its future, and he was instrumental in bringing many

businesses to the area.

Fred Martin was selected as Martinsville’s City Citizen of the Year in 1997. He also founded Martin Staples and was a lover of farming.

Martin was Korean War era veteran and active member of the McCabe Memorial Baptist Church.



Pictured left to right: Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District Supervisor; Corey Middleton, guidance counselor at Carver Elementary School; Fieldale Methodist Church Pastor Andy Brock; Jane Richardson, of Fieldale Baptist Church; Fieldale Baptist Church Pastor Alan Jackson; Mt. Olive East Christian Church Pastor Kenneth Davis; Hillcrest Baptist Church Pastor Clyde Murray and Jill Thompson, manager of the shoe department in Walmart.

Carver Elementary students receive new shoes

Some children at Carver Elementary School were among those to receive new shoes, courtesy of the 19th annual ‘Shoes For The Soul’ program.

Debra Buchanan, who represents the Horsepasture District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors and also

serves as its vice chairman, started the outreach program in 2000.

The program partners with community churches and others, and recently collected 36 pairs of brand-new tennis shoes for youngsters at Carver Elementary School.

DMV encourages safe celebrations for drivers, pedestrians

As law enforcement officers crack down on drunk driving across the Commonwealth as part of the semi-annual “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is also calling attention to another alcohol-related danger – impaired walking.

Over the past three years, 36 percent of the pedestrians killed in Virginia crashes had been drinking prior to the crash. So far this year, 25 pedestrians who had been drinking have been killed in crashes (as of Dec. 6, 2019).

Between 2016-2018,

among fatalities in which the pedestrian had been drinking:

- * 39 percent occurred on a Friday or Saturday;

- * 80 percent occurred between the hours of 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.;

- * 71 percent occurred in urban areas.

“Drunk driving is an epidemic on our roadways, and our hats go off to the men and women of Virginia law enforcement who tirelessly search for drunk drivers this holiday season and every day to make our roads safer for everyone,” said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor’s

Highway Safety Representative. “We also think it is important to remind folks of the importance of being alert and aware of your surroundings while walking. Walking is seen as a safe mode of transportation after imbibing, but we know that alcohol consumption can put pedestrians at risk. Driving yourself isn’t an option, but plenty of great alternatives exist, such as public transportation, taxis, app-based transportation services, or a designated driver. Celebrate the holiday season safely by making a plan for a sober ride home before you start drinking.”

More pedestrians are dying on Virginia’s roads

Kelly Booth and Judi Dalati

Capital News Service

On a Friday night in October, Katelyn Tilts was walking to a convenience store with a group of friends when she saw headlights coming at her.

“A car came around the corner really quickly and was swerving. The driver was swerving but started going directly at me and hit me head-on,” Tilts later told WTVR. “I remember thinking that it hurt so bad that I didn’t know how I would be able to make it until the ambulance got there.”

The hit-and-run incident left Tilts, a freshman at Virginia Commonwealth University, hospitalized and on crutches. She survived, but many pedestrians hit by vehicles do not.

According to data from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles, 123 pedestrians died on the state’s roads in 2018 — the highest death toll in 10 years. 2019 also has been deadly: As of mid-December, 112 pedestrians have been killed in traffic accidents in the commonwealth.

Not only are more pedestrians being killed, but they also are making up a greater proportion of all traffic fatalities:

- § In 2015, 10% of the people killed in roadway accidents in Virginia were pedestrians.

- § That figure jumped to 16% the following year. Last year, it was 15%, according to VDOT and DMV data.

“The vast, overwhelming majority of people who die on our streets are killed by drivers of cars,” noted Ross Catrow, executive director of RVA Rapid Transit, an advocacy group for regional public transportation.

“And the further sad truth is that these deaths and serious injuries often go unnoticed, underreported, and, even worse, usually nothing is done to build better streets and make them safer for people,” Catrow wrote on Streets Cred, his website about urban issues affecting mid-sized American cities.

Catrow has pointed out that some people say pedestrians are at fault for the rising number of traffic accidents. He rejects that notion.

“I’m so ultra-tired of engineers, elected officials and everyone else blaming ‘distracted pedestrians’ for the increase in injuries on our roads,” he said on his “Good Morning, RVA” podcast.

Catrow advocates traffic-calming measures such as painted curb bulbs and posts that can narrow intersections, increase visibility and slow down drivers to prevent pedestrian accidents.

Some people blame elderly drivers for causing accidents. But 25% of the motorists involved in traffic accidents that have killed pedestrians since 2013 were in their 20s — and half of them were under 40. About 22% of the drivers involved in pedestrian fatalities were 60 and older.

Ralph Aronberg, a traffic engineer consultant in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said some people in their early 20s have poor driving habits.

“Drivers in that age group are more likely to use social media such as Instagram on their cellphone, are more likely to have groups in vehicles leading to distractions and are less likely to realize the consequences of taking their eyes off the road,” he said.

Aronberg, whose firm focuses on accident reconstructions, said people in their early 20s are also more likely to drive at night, drink and drive, or be under the influence of THC or other mind-altering substances while operating a car.

Pedestrians killed in traffic accidents in Virginia since 2013 have ranged in age from infants to 96. About a third of the victims were under 30; slightly over a third in their 40s and 50s; and the rest 60 or older.

Since 2013, Fairfax has had the most pedestrian deaths — more than 80, according to VDOT data. Then come Henrico County (43), Norfolk (40), Richmond (31) and Newport News (27).

Weather was not a factor in most pedestrian deaths.

“Most vehicle-pedestrian accidents happen in good weather,” said Daniel Vomhof, a traffic safety expert in California and a member of the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstructionists.

More than 85% of the pedestrian fatalities in Virginia happened in clear or cloudy weather conditions, the VDOT data showed. About 13% occurred in rain, mist or fog, and 1% in snowy weather.

To stay safe, Vomhof recommends that pedestrians wear white or reflective shoes at night and light-colored clothing that doesn’t blend in with the surroundings.

“Visibility increases when the object is in eye contrast to the background,” Vomhof said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| | 58 | | | | | | | | 59 | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

1. No longer on the market

5. W. African language

9. A way to open

11. A type of pigeon

13. Japanese warrior

15. Pelvic areas

16. No seats available

17. Not working

19. In a way, soaks

21. Growing outward

22. Ritzy local ___ Air

23. Telegraphic signals

25. Metric units

26. Large wine cask

27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut

29. Gets up

31. French river

33. Witnesses

34. They make great neighbors

36. The sun does it

38. Used to store ashes

39. First Chinese dynasty

41. Network of nerves (Brit.)

42. Word element meaning ear

44. Metric unit of length (Brit.)

46. Tributary of the Danube

48. Off-limits

52. Appeal earnestly

53. It's good to have them

54. Commercial flying company

56. Acted out in protest

57. Took to the sea

58. Cuckoos

59. Drove fast

CLUES DOWN

1. Trapped

2. About osmosis

3. Romanian monetary unit

4. Form of Persian

5. Cold wind

6. Leave out

7. Small vehicle

8. A little off

9. Soviet Union

10. A narrow path or road

11. Contrary beliefs

12. One who speaks Gaelic

14. Private school in New York

15. Jackson and Townshend are two

18. Soldier in an airborne unit

20. Taken illegally

24. Capital of Valais

26. Male reproductive organs

28. State capital

30. One with supernatural insight

32. Starts all over again

34. Jai alai arena

35. Star Wars antagonist

37. Freestanding structure

38. The ideal place

40. The extended location of something

42. Made level

43. Distinctive smell

45. Greek goddess of discord

47. Got older

49. Type of monkey

50. Travels to

51. Geological times

55. Edge

DRBA receives \$700,000 challenge grant from The Harvest Foundation

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) received a five-year \$700,000 challenge grant from The Harvest Foundation to assist with resource development for the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Master Plan for Rivers and Trails, which includes numerous outdoor recreational projects in Martinsville and Henry County.

Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation, said the challenge grant will provide operational support for DRBA as they work to leverage the needed \$7 million in funding and resources to fully implement the master plan. The challenge grant will provide two years of funding to the organization for the initial start-up, with additional support made available in years three through five contingent upon the organization achieving annual fundraising goals.

“This was a strong and aggressive proposal from DRBA that ties back to what Harvest and the entire community has been working on for the past decade,” Agee said. “Developing trails, blueways, and other outdoor amenities is a key component to revitalization for Martinsville and Henry County because it attracts new businesses and industry as well as a younger workforce. This is a different type of investment for us, and we are excited to extend this challenge to DRBA as the return on investment could mean leveraging

millions of dollars to our community to fully implement the master plan.”

The Master Plan was adopted by Henry County and the City of Martinsville earlier this year. Both municipalities have made a commitment to provide substantial in-kind resources for plan implementation that include trail construction, engineering, mapping, permitting, blueway improvements and more totaling nearly half a million dollars.

“Based on the success of the 2008 plan, I believe the implementation of the 2019 master plan will further the economic development strategy for driving business, retirees, millennials, tourists and other visitors to our region,” said Tim Hall, Henry County administrator, in a letter supporting the initiative.

The master plan includes seventeen projects throughout Martinsville and Henry County that will improve existing amenities and develop new ones. Major projects include the development of a Fieldale extension of the Dick & Willie Passage Rail Trail, trails in Bassett, Stanleytown and Fieldale connected to the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative work, and numerous trail and river enhancements along the Smith River. Local parks and ballfields also are marked for improvements.

“We are pleased to be a part of the continuing effort in Mar-



Pictured from left are Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation, Tiffany Haworth, executive director of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), and Sonya Wolen, president of the DRBA Board of Directors.

tinville and Henry County to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for our community,” said Brian Williams, DRBA’s Virginia Program Manager. “The projects and concepts outlined in the MHC Outdoor Recreational Master Plan are designed to enhance quality of life for our local citizens and be a catalyst for tourism in our region.”

Tiffany Haworth, DRBA’s executive director, said she looks forward to working with the many partners that will help turn concepts from the master plan into reality.

“The Harvest Foundation has been a consistent strategic partner in the planning and development of the incredible assets in our county,” Haworth said. “This grant provides the

support that allows us to bring in additional resources to help Henry County and Martinsville develop infrastructure that will boost economic development, help support health initiatives for local citizens and protect our natural resources.”

Find out more about DRBA by visiting danriver.org or follow them on Facebook by searching “Dan River Basin Association.”

Democratic majority could bring monumental change to Confederate symbols

McKenzie Lambert and Susan Shibut

Capital News Service

Virginia has 110 Confederate monuments, many of which are housed in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy. Among the most notable are the five towering monuments of Confederate leaders lining Monument Avenue. Others live in neighborhoods across the city from Church Hill to Bellevue. The city is home to significant Civil War buildings, including the American Civil War Museum and White House of the Confederacy. Street names such as Confederate Avenue inhabit the Northside, while Jefferson Davis Highway, named for the president of the Confederacy, runs along the city and throughout the state. Schools such as John B. Cary Elementary — named after a Confederate soldier who later served as his district’s superintendent — and George Mason Elementary — named after a slave-owning Founding Father — still exist even though concern for renaming the schools has been articulated.

In recent years, residents have been pushing for the Monument Avenue monuments to come down. But the statues, which represent the dark and violent history of slavery for some Virginians and their families, stand tall, staring down the median of a prominent and busy avenue. This is in part because the power to remove the monuments has been denied to localities under the Dillon Rule, which allows the state to limit the powers of local governments. However, a new Democratic majority in Virginia’s state legislature may open the door to more local government control — and perhaps the removal of the monuments.

The Dillon Rule is derived from the 1868 written decision by Judge John Dillon of Iowa. Dillon identified local governments as political subdivisions of the state government. According to the American Legislative Exchange Council, 39 states apply the Dillon Rule to some capacity. Thirty-one apply it to all localities, while eight use the rule for only certain municipalities. The Virginia Supreme Court adopted the Dillon Rule in 1896.

Because Virginia law states that localities cannot remove war monuments after they have been established, the Dillon Rule has

prevented localities such as Richmond and Charlottesville from passing measures to remove their Confederate monuments.

When the General Assembly resumes session in January, a Democratic majority would make it easier for legislators to make a new law stating that local governments have the power to remove Confederate monuments, or a law that bans them outright. John Aughenbaugh, assistant professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University, said a new law is a way he could see localities gain the power to make their own decisions about the monuments.

“I don’t think many members of the General Assembly want to get blamed for upsetting those who still like the monuments,” Aughenbaugh said. “But they’ll be willing to go ahead and give the local governments the authority to make that decision on their own.”

Jim Nolan, press secretary for Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, said that increasing local authority has been a legislative priority for the mayor and will remain one heading into the 2020 General Assembly session. He said the mayor believes the General Assembly should grant authority to allow localities to determine the future of Confederate monuments.

“Cities should have the right to choose if they want to contextualize or permanently remove monuments,” Nolan said.

In recent years, the Richmond City Council voted against two resolutions brought by Councilman Michael Jones requesting that state lawmakers give the city authority on what to do with the monuments. The resolutions would have put pressure on lawmakers to give the city authority. However, the General Assembly is not the only avenue for localities to gain the power to remove their monuments. Aughenbaugh said he predicts a locality will sue for the right to remove their monuments and the Virginia Supreme Court will be the deciding body.

One city has already brought such a suit. Earlier this year, Norfolk filed a lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Virginia, arguing that requiring the city to keep a Confederate

monument was contrary to their freedom of speech. The suit has not been decided yet.

More than 1,800 Confederate symbols stand in 22 states as of February, according to a report by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Virginia, with 262 Confederate symbols, has more than any other state and has removed 17 of its symbols since the racially-charged Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting in which nine African-Americans were murdered, the organization said.

For decades, Richmond has sought to offset Confederate symbols. In 1996, a sixth statue was added to Monument Avenue depicting Arthur Ashe, an African American tennis champion from Richmond. Earlier this year the Richmond City Council voted to rename the Boulevard to Arthur Ashe Boulevard. J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School was renamed Barack Obama Elementary after a 6-1 vote by the Richmond Public School Board in 2018. Richmond’s Virginia Museum of Fine Arts unveiled Tuesday, in front of a welcoming crowd, Kehinde Wiley’s statue “Rumors of War,” which depicts a black man in classic equestrian portraiture — a response to the monuments on Monument Avenue.

Virginia has been center stage in the national debate regarding the potential removal of Confederate monuments. In August 2017, the nation was rocked with news of violent clashes in Charlottesville. A “Unite the Right” rally and counter-demonstration were the climax of a months-long battle over the fate of a Confederate Gen. Rob-

ert E. Lee statue that the Charlottesville City Council voted to remove. At the protest, James Alex Fields Jr., a white supremacist who traveled from Ohio to the event, drove his car into a crowd, killing counter-protester Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. The night before the protest, participants gathered in the park with tiki torches and chanted slogans including the Nazi-associated phrase “blood and soil.”

After the Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting, Stoney created the Monument Avenue Commission in 2017 in hopes of creating new ways to remember Richmond’s history while addressing the past memorialized on Monument Avenue. Its first meeting took place days before Heyer died counter-protesting in Charlottesville.

“Richmond has a long, complex and conflicted history, and the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue represents a shameful part of our past,” Stoney said in the commission’s 117-page report. “The majority of the public acknowledges Monument Avenue cannot and should not remain exactly as it is. Change is needed and desired.”

After 11 months of public deliberation, the commission suggested solutions, which included:

Moving the monuments to a museum and creating a permanent exhibit, including a deeper historical look into the history of the monuments by creating a mobile app and a film that ensures historical accuracy.

Adding permanent signage that reflects the his-

toric, biographical, artistic and changing meaning over time for each monument.

Erecting a monument that pays homage to the resilience of the formerly enslaved.

Having local artists create contemporary pieces that bring new meaning to Monument Avenue.

Removing the Jefferson Davis statue.

The city cannot implement these suggestions, however, if state law overrides local laws.

House Bill 2377 was introduced by former Del. David Toscano, D-Charlottesville, in the 2019 General Assembly session. It would have given localities the power to remove or add context to their monuments, but it did not pass the then-Republican majority House.

For those who oppose the monuments, hope is on the rise. Democrats hold both chambers of the General Assembly as well as the governorship after the Nov. 5 elections — a power that has not been seen in over 20 years. Several of the newly elected legislators have spoken out against the monuments, including Democratic Sen.-elect Ghazala Hashmi, Democratic Del.-elect Sally Hudson, and Del. Jay Jones, D-Norfolk. Hudson plans to introduce legislation very similar to Toscano’s bill — Jones said he will co-sponsor the legislation.

In November, Jones tweeted: “The ‘monuments’ are nothing more than vestigial symbols of oppression and hate that need to come down - ESPECIALLY if it is the locality’s choice. We’re moving VA into the 21st century rather than

‘honoring’ the failures of the 19th.”

This was not the first time Jones touched on this subject. During Black History month in February, following Gov. Ralph Northam’s blackface scandal, Jones stood in front of the House of Delegates and made a personal speech.

Jones talked about “two Virginias,” a white one and a black one, and how they have existed “in parallel along the same arc of history, frequently intersecting, but never running together as one. Two different experiences, born from the same beginning four hundred years ago and still never merged into one shared story.”

According to Jones, “glorification of the Confederacy via monuments and flags in public spaces,” are examples of how white Virginians “consciously or unconsciously attempted to demonstrate its power over black Virginians.”

In describing the racially-charged differences between Virginians, Jones said, “It seems that we have not come far enough to understand the hurt and pain and the effect on those who grew up in the shadow of separate but not equal. Thirty years on, throughout the duration of my life, we are still struggling mightily with race in our state.”

If localities are given the authority to legislate the fate of their monuments, Nolan said Stoney and his administration will ask the city’s History and Culture Commission to make recommendations and commit to following a process in accordance to solutions provided by the Monument Avenue Commission.



Food Services Manager

STEP, Inc. has an opening for a full time Food Services Manager in Patrick County. This position is responsible for the everyday management of the food services operations at our Patrick County site. Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, several years of work experience in the food services industry, experience with purchasing and inventory, supervisory experience, proficient computer skills, and excellent oral communication skills. ServSafe certification preferred. Salary range for this position will be \$12.00-\$14.00 per hour, depending upon skills and experience.

Qualified applicants **MUST** complete an application found on our website at <https://apply.stepincva.com/?positions=Food+Services+Manager> and complete the online testing by going to the link below <https://www.ondemandassessment.com/link/index/JB-MKZHxOVT7?u=121270> to be considered.

Deadline for applications: Thursday, December 26, 2019.

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OPINION

The Gray Ghost Vs. Seabiscuit

My friend Doug has a lot of great stories. Today I'd like to share one that's printable.

Doug lives in Roanoke, and for many years, Roanoke had mounted patrol units. Back when I lived in Roanoke, I would routinely be walking around downtown and see a police officer riding by on a horse. I never quite understood why the police department had horses, although I did notice that intoxicated people exiting bars were always really excited to pet a horse, so maybe it was a good way to nab people for drunk in public.

I'm not sure if Roanoke still has these mounted units, but they did when this particular story takes place.

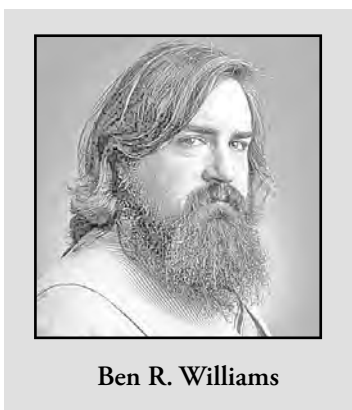
Some years back, Doug drove The Gray Ghost, a primer-gray '88 Toyota Camry with a perpetually expired inspec-

tion sticker and no cap on the master brake cylinder. I don't remember this vehicle – the only one of Doug's old rides I vividly remember is the wood-veneered Dodge Caravan that looked almost identical to the vehicle on the cover of the Black Keys album "El Camino" – but I understand it was not exactly a speed demon. I'm guessing it wasn't a stopping demon, either.

One day, Doug said, he was driving through downtown Roanoke in The Gray Ghost. He passed a patrol unit, and the female officer on horseback craned her neck, clearly noticing that his inspection sticker was expired.

To Doug's amazement, she dropped what she was doing, slapped the horse's flank, and gave pursuit.

Doug is generally a law-



abiding sort, but he quickly did the mental math that I believe any of us would do in this situation.

The base engine on a 1988 Camry was a 2.0 liter, four cylinder twin-cam with an output of 115 horsepower.

The horse, meanwhile, was powered by oats, and it presumably had an output of one

horsepower.

While the Gray Ghost was not exactly a drag racer, Doug figured it could outrun a horse any day of the week. And so he punched the gas.

The Camry's engine whirred into action as Doug pointed its nose down an open straight-away. He glanced in the rear-view mirror.

Behind him, the officer was still in hot pursuit, hunched over and bouncing on the horse's back like George Woolf coaxing Seabiscuit to victory at Pimlico.

Doug realized that he was now locked into a low-speed pursuit. Still, he knew there was no way his Toyota would be beaten by a horse.

He would have been right, if not for the train crossing.

The gates ahead lowered and the red lights began to flash,

and Doug's path of egress was blocked as the freight train roared through downtown Roanoke. He slowed the Gray Ghost to a stop at the crossing and awaited his punishment.

The horse clopped up next to the car and the rider dismounted. The officer stepped up to the car.

"License and registration," she said. Her mood, Doug said, was not particularly merry.

As she handed back his documents and began writing two tickets, one for the expired sticker and one for speeding, the horse began to relieve itself. Loudly. And prodigiously.

Doug nodded his head toward the horse.

"You know," he said, "if I did that in public, you'd write me another ticket."

This did not improve the officer's mood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bradshaw Family issues statement

It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the untimely deaths of our mother and father, Sherri G. and Charles H. Bradshaw from a tragic motor vehicle accident on Dec. 13.

The past few days haven't been easy on our family or our families at Triangle Electric Corporation as well as the volunteers at Horsepasture Fire Department and Rescue Squad. We would like to thank the community for

the outpouring of love and support. Triangle Electric also would like to thank everyone that has reached out to offer help and support.

The Bradshaw family and Triangle Electric have endured great losses over the years, beginning with the untimely passing of our past Vice President John A. Bradshaw in 2001, our past President Nancy K. Bradshaw in June 2019 and now our current President Charles and wife Sherri.

Triangle Electric will remain open and will continue to serve our community as we have for 54 years. In the coming months, Michael Bradshaw will assume the role of President. Other positions will be announced as they are filled.

Their untimely deaths have left a hole in our hearts as well as the surrounding community.

Charles Bradshaw was the face and name of the community, often referred to as the "Emperor." He has been a volunteer in emergency services since the age of 16, and has served as the Chief of the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department since 2007.

Charles Bradshaw was employed with the Fieldale Police Department in the 1980s, and also was active in Horsepasture Christian Church, where he led the Praise Team and loved to sing. He was also active with the Horsepasture Ru-

ritan, SCORE, and served on various boards and committees. He was honored with Firefighter of the Year and Fire Officer of the Year in 2010.

Sherri Bradshaw recently retired from a long career as a medical assistant. She always supported Charles in everything he did. Sherri loved her family, her pets and the beach. They both looked forward to being able to spend more time traveling and enjoying life.

The family and Triangle

Electric asks for continued respect and privacy from the media. The next few days, weeks and months will continue to be hard on us. We must pick up the pieces and continue forward honoring our family, fulfilling their legacy and continue to make them proud.

Michael Bradshaw
Vice President
Triangle Electric
Corporation

Loss of Bradshaws

from page 1

Buchanan added that "good banter" was always included in those conversations, and that also was the case during her final conversation with Charles Bradshaw.

Then, "we were talking about our upcoming high school reunion," Buchanan said, and explained that "Charles, Sherri and I all went to school together. We graduated together from George Washington Carver High School. We were talking about getting together after the first of the year with a group of people to try to get our reunion started. Charles said, 'are we really that old?' I said, 'well this is our 45th reunion.' So, we just joked about

how old we were getting," Buchanan recalled.

She also noted that Charles Bradshaw, who had the heart of a public servant, never passed up an opportunity to help.

"If there was anything that ever needed to be done, Charles would be the one to ask you 'what can I do to help?'" That's how he was known," Buchanan said. "He always helped individuals as well as participated in anything that was going on in the Horsepasture community. Charles was always the talker and Sherri was always the listener. Charles never met a stranger."

For Buchanan, there is no doubt how the couple will be remembered.

"Charles was always a very friendly, caring person," she said. "Even in high school, every time you saw him, he greeted you. He smiled. You always felt good when you were around him. He was very community-minded. Sherri was quieter in school. She never sought the limelight. She would much rather work behind the scenes, pushing somebody else forward and making them a better person. Sherri provided the support at home that Charles needed so that he could continue working and helping in the community."



PHOTO FROM CHARLES BRADSHAW'S SOCIAL MEDIA
Charles "Charlie" Bradshaw

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, December 21

Spencer Penn Centre: Basket Making Class by Hazel Coleman. Each student will take a beautiful basket home that day. The basket for the month is different and often coordinates with the holidays and seasons making each special and unique and useful. Pre-registration is required so that Hazel knows how many kits to bring. Additional kits are also sold. Address: 475 Spencer Penn Road
Spencer, VA 24165; Contact: (276) 957-5757

Blue Ridge Regional Library (Martinsville Branch): All the Whos in Whoville love Christmas, but a green, furry grouch hates it. To stop the Whos from celebrating, he decides to steal Christmas. Will he succeed? Find out at our Family Friendly Movie at the Martinsville Library. Watch this Christmas class by Dr. Seuss and see if the green grouch learns the true meaning of Christmas. Show starts at 11 am. Free popcorn provided. Address: 310 East Church Street Martinsville, VA 24112; Contact: (276) 403-5430

Mountain Valley Brewing will present a touring production of the Christmas play "Exchange of Gifts" on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. The show will be performed by 57 Hours Productions, the production arm of the award-winning Virginia playwright Dwayne Yancey, whose work has been produced in 14 different countries. Tick-

ets are \$12 and available through Eventbrite. The show is appropriate for all ages, although younger children may not understand it. Address: 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton.

Sunday, December 22

Hamlet Vineyards: Sweeten your Sunday afternoons with a trip to Hamlet Vineyards in Bassett. Every Sunday from 1-5 p.m. you can enjoy a wine tasting featuring Pinot Gris, Viognier, Petit Verdot, Old Virginia Red and others. Also offering local, freshly baked breads with gourmet spreads or lunch to complete your tasting. 405 Riverside Drive Bassett; call (276) 629-2121

Henry County Bike Club: Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails; The Henry County Bike Club will ride at the Mountain Laurel Trails in Ridgeway every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Address: 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway; Contact: (276) 618-0343

Tuesday, December 24

The Hardee Bunch: Tuesday Morning Jamboree; "The Hardee Bunch" invites everyone out on Tuesday mornings to enjoy Old Style Country & Gospel Music. Address: 933 Fairystone Park Hwy, Stanleytown; Contact: (276) 629-1122

Thursday, December 26

Spencer Penn Centre: Come and join us for on-going Chair Aerobics. Designed for those who have balance issues or strength issues but still needs to improve endurance and strength. All exercises will be done while sitting on a chair or by holding onto the chair. This class is sponsored by the M/HC Coalition for Health & Wellness and taught by Paula Battle. Address: 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer; Contact: (276) 957-5757

Friday, December 27

Henry County Bike Club: Ride 'N Dine every Friday afternoon with members of the Henry County Bike Club. Each week fellow cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the Dick & Willie Trail to put in some miles and to refuel with a delicious lunch at a local eatery. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees. Address: 699 Liberty Street Martinsville, VA 24112; Contact: (276) 358-1312

HJDB: Live Music with The Kitchen Pickers band at the HJDB Event Center cafeteria from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Admission is free to members, \$2 for non-members. Breakfast \$5 from 8:30-11. Lunch \$6 12-1 p.m. For information, call Randy Farmer 276-629-8296.

Your Community, Your Voice!

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Debbie Hall, *Editor*

dhall@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

Brandon Martin, *Reporter*

newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager*

advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

(540) 230-1129

Liz Moonbury, *Advertising Specialist*

advertising@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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



Pictured from left are Tyler Freeland, deputy director of the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board, Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation, West Piedmont Board of Directors Chairman Adam Wright, and Guy Stanley, interim director.

Harvest provides funding to pilot workforce program

The Harvest Foundation is partnering with the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board through a \$1,079,727 three-year grant to pilot the Guided Career Exploration program to connect young adults to workforce training and jobs. West Piedmont’s pilot program will target the 17-24 age group of area residents who are unemployed, underemployed, not already attending college or pursuing a career path. The program will support participants in developing a career path, whether they directly join the workforce or need additional training and credentials to hone their skills. In September local unemployment rates were at a 29-year low with Martinsville at 3.7 percent and Henry County at 2.9 percent. With rates being the lowest since 1990, Sheryl Agee, impact officer and team leader at The Harvest Foundation, said there is a pressing need to increase local workforce numbers to meet industry demand. “Our labor participation rate, which is the total number of people who are currently employed or in search of a job, is only 51 percent compared to the state at 68 percent,” said Agee, citing reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “That number is falling and is predicted to continue to decline as our

working population ages and our labor demands go up. We have to be creative in finding opportunities for growing our workforce to meet our current and future needs.” The Guided Career Exploration is designed to help meet local workforce needs by providing individual career coaching and work experiences through an intense mentoring approach for individuals who may be facing barriers to employment or just need some assistance in developing a career pathway. “We know there are thousands of young adults in our community who could use a boost finding their career path and discovering their dreams,” said Tyler Freeland, deputy director of the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board. “We now have the opportunity and resources to serve this population better than ever before. We know the need to give people a helping hand in becoming the best version of themselves is prevalent, and we are thankful to be able to provide these services.” Freeland said that while other federal, state and local programs provide support to young adults for workforce development and credential or degree attainment, this program will go a step further by providing paid training and work experience which allows partici-

pants to bring home real dollars to meet their household expenses, allowing them to stay engaged while developing their workforce skills. Participants will be required to attend a life skills training course in addition to a workforce experience that is designed to offer hands-on training in a field of interest while further developing healthy workplace skills. Individuals will be paired with a Career Coach during the 12-week program, and for a year following the conclusion of the program to provide continued support. Goals for participants include entrance into a post-secondary educational program, full-time employment with wages of \$9.50 or more, obtaining a short-term credential that leads to employment in a designated career field, or part-time employment with a career or educational plan. Adam Wright, chairman of the Board of Directors for West Piedmont, said, “We are thrilled to be able to expand upon our traditional services. This partnership will be a lasting collaboration that will strengthen our community’s workforce and better many lives. As chairman of the board, I am proud of the hard work our organization has put into this project and I’m excited for the future.”

Early Childhood Education expert to visit Carlisle School



Dr. Jean Feldman, an early childhood education expert, will visit Carlisle School on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 5:30 p.m. to provide an interactive Family Concert. Dr. Jean specializes in teaching educational songs to enrich the minds of young children. The event is free and open to the public. Carlisle School is located at 300 Carlisle Road in Axton, and the concert will be held in the Marshall Fine Arts Center on campus. Feldman’s noteworthy educational career has spanned more than 40 years. She has served as a classroom teacher, instructor of adults, author, and consultant. She is a member of the

National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Kindergarten Alliance, and the International Reading Association. Dr. Feldman’s list of degrees includes a B.A. from the University of Georgia, a D.A.S.T. from Emory University, and both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Georgia State University. Dr. Feldman inspires teachers across the country with her engaging songs and creative activities that help make teaching and learning FUN! Among Dr. Jean’s many accomplishments is the authorship of several books, and Dr. Jean has also published a number of recordings that are used by school systems throughout the country.

Gilbert to Lead

from page 1

clapped, whistled and otherwise expressed their satisfaction.

“First of all, I appreciate the confidence,” Gilbert said, addressing the board for the first time after his appointment.

Gilbert, 52, and a Patrick County native, has been a long-time employee in the division.

“I know a lot of people in the room. I’ve known you for a long time, and yes, I am old. So, I’ve been around” and held “a lot of different” positions, he said. “I know all the administrators. I’ve known them a long time and I look forward to great things. We’re already doing great things in Patrick County and I look forward to furthering the school division as well as helping Patrick County.”

His contract with the board states, in part, that he will “fully and completely

inform the board of any and all information that is relevant to the functioning of the board;” and that “the board and its individual members will promptly refer all criticisms, complaints, and suggestions concerning the Patrick County Public Schools or its employees to the superintendent or his designee for investigation, study, review and recommendation.”

Gilbert will be paid an annual salary of \$120,000, according to the contract. His annual salary increases will “equal no less than the average increase approved by the board for instructional personnel for the corresponding fiscal year,” unless he has received an unsatisfactory performance evaluation.

The contract also stipulates that Gilbert will be paid a 5 percent annuity payment for each year that

he receives a proficient or higher evaluation, beginning in June, 2021. He also will receive the same amount of annual, personal and sick leave as 12-month administrative employees.

The division also will provide Gilbert a board owned vehicle for use on school related business only; a Smartphone device and service; Gilbert will be entitled to participate in an insurance plan on the same basis as 12-month administrators; his membership in the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and the American Association of School Administrators.

Additionally, and providing the budget allows, the board may pay for membership in other applicable professional organizations and for attendance at appropriate professional meetings held at the local,

state and national levels.

According to the terms of the contract, Gilbert will be evaluated within 60-days of beginning in the new position. His contract may be renewed within six months before it is scheduled to end.



Current and incoming members of the Patrick County School Board congratulated Dean Gilbert, who was tapped to lead the school division beginning in January. From left to right: Ryan Lawson, incoming Peters Creek District and Annie Hylton, of the Peters Creek District; Shannon Harrell of the Blue Ridge District; Brandon Simmons, chairman and of the Dan River District; Gilbert; Walter Scott, vice chairman and of the Smith River District; Michelle Day, of the Mayo River District and Amy Walker, incoming Mayo River District representative. Walker and Lawson are set to take office in January.



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Step, Inc. is needing Intake/Interviewers, IRS-Certified Tax Preparation and Quality Review volunteers for our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at our Patrick County Site. No prior experience is required. You might think “I can’t do that or it’s too hard”, but with the free training and support that is provided, you can do it. Learn new skills and/or build new skills, great resume builder, free education, CE for professionals, help people file their taxes, keep more money in their pockets and make a lasting impact in your community. Go to our website to fill out an application at: <http://stepincva.com/services-programs/financial-services> or contact Janet Schofield at (540)483-5142.

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Henry County woman wins top prize in Virginia Lottery's Cash 5 game

For nearly a month, Matilda Mullins had a ticket worth \$100,000 in her possession and didn't even know it. The Henry County woman played the Virginia Lottery's Cash 5 game but didn't immediately check the winning numbers.

Finally, nearly a month after the November 7 night drawing, she looked up the numbers and discovered she'd won the game's top prize.

"Of course, I went into shock immediately," she said as she claimed her prize.

She bought her winning ticket at the Fas Mart at 1015 Fairystone Park in Bassett.

She selected the numbers on her ticket, 6-23-24-26-32, us-

ing family birthdays.

Ms. Mullins, who works with children as a school bus aide, said the winnings will come in handy for Christmas shopping.

Cash 5 drawings are held daily at 1:59 p.m. and 11 p.m. The odds of winning the \$100,000 top prize are 1 in 278,256.

The Virginia Lottery is good fun for a great cause. Ms. Mullins lives in Henry County, which received more than \$7.4 million in Lottery funds for K-12 public education in Fiscal Year 2019. For more information and a complete list of Lottery funds distributed to Virginia school districts, visit the Virginia Lottery's Giving Back page.

The Virginia Lottery generates more than \$1.7 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. Operating entirely on revenue from the sale of Lottery products, the Lottery generated a record \$650 million for Virginia's public schools in Fiscal Year 2019. An additional \$6.5 million in unclaimed prizes was deposited in the Virginia Literary Fund in FY19, which provides low-interest loans to localities for public school construction, renovations and technology upgrades. For more info, visit our website, download our app, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and check us out on YouTube. Please play responsibly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY

Matilda Mullins is presented her check of \$100,000 by the Virginia Lottery.

IALR shares growth across division in newly published annual report

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) has published its 2019 Annual Report, which shares significant growth and accomplishments among each of its five divisions over the past fiscal year, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.

A new Advanced Manufacturing division led by Director Troy Simpson was added to further establish Southern Virginia as the preferred site for advanced manufacturers. It cooperates with Danville Community College to develop a pipeline of skilled machinists and has secured funding from the Commonwealth of

Virginia and the Danville Regional Foundation to build a \$25.5 million Center for Manufacturing Advancement estimated to open in 2021.

Other growth included the Applied Research division's launch of the nation's first Plant Endophyte Research Center. With a library of more than 2,000 plant endophytes, or beneficial bacteria, research is being conducted on how these microorganisms may reduce chemical fertilizer use, improve soil quality and plant health, and increase crop yields. Also highlighted was the Advanced Learning division's leadership of the GO Virginia-funded Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC) project. This initiative received GO Virginia's largest competitive grant awarded to date and will help extend the region's lauded talent pipeline to middle schools with the introduction of Career Connections labs. The Institute Conference Center also experienced growth by serving 17 percent

more guests and 29 percent more programs than the previous year. Lastly, the work of the Economic Development division, thanks to the partnership with the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance, resulted in record activity over the past year – 655 new jobs and \$106.7 million of capital investment by employers.

"I am extremely proud of the progress our staff and partners made last year to help transform our communities for the better thanks to an intense spirit of collaboration," said Mark Gignac, IALR's Executive Director. "To recognize the vital partnerships with other organizations and like-minded change agents, we have titled our report 'Transforming Communities Together.'"

Select copies of the Annual Report are available in print format at IALR as well as online. The online version is accessible at <https://www.flipsnack.com/theialr/> and includes interactive elements.

The Institute for Ad-



The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research published their 2019 Annual Report, which demonstrated growth across all five divisions.

vanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation with applied research, advanced learning, advanced

manufacturing, conference center services and economic development efforts. The Institute's major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia,

including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

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JS Adams Grocery
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Bassett

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The Enterprise,
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Stuart

Fast Mart Valero,
2170 King's Mountain Rd.,
Martinsville,

1118 Memorial Blvd.,
Martinsville,

1105 Brookedale St.,
Martinsville

5972 AL Philpott Hwy

Man dead after woman alleged assault, investigation continues

Henry County Sheriff's deputies responded to Green Hill Drive in Martinsville after a Dec. 14 call at 9:58 a.m. to the Martinsville/Henry County 9-1-1 Center

At the scene, deputies spoke with Ashley Lynn Justus, 28, of the home, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Justus reported that her mother's boyfriend, Michael T. Purdue, 43, of 966 Dyers Store Rd. was at her home and allegedly became irate.

Justus alleged she was assaulted, struck in the head with a firearm and choked, according to a release.

A man in the home allegedly threatened to commit suicide and fled the home in his vehicle, but returned minutes later. Upon his return, he did not enter the home and left a second time, the release stated.

At 10:15 a.m., deputies located Purdue's vehicle at his home, located at 966 Dyers Store Road, and attempted to make contact with Purdue, but he allegedly refused to exit the home.

Sheriff's investigators obtained warrants on Purdue for felony counts of

abduction, strangulation, and use of firearm during a felony, as well as a misdemeanor count of assault and batter.

Negotiators from the Sheriff's Office made continuous attempts to contact Purdue, without success. Also during this time, investigators obtained a search warrant to enter Purdue's home. At 3 p.m., a tactical unit from the Sheriff's Office entered the home and found Purdue deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

His remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Western District of Virginia (O.C.M.E) for an autopsy. The cause and manner of death are pending the completion of the O.C.M.E. autopsy report.

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

Martin Steps Down

from page 1

in, from the custodian to the cafeteria workers, teacher assistants, teachers, support staff, everyone wants to be in the school because they like being around students and the students know it."

Noting his experiences in the 20 years he served as a superintendent in various school systems, Martin said "you can have the best equipment, the latest teaching strategies, but what matters most is having a school staff that likes to come to work every day, and creating a sense of family with themselves and the students. Now, that is the real secret behind being accredited the last four years."

He also thanked "principals and assistant principals for working with me the last six months. Each is very different, and different is

good, but they all have the common thread of being committed to the school and the students that they serve," Martin said.

He also thanked the transportation, maintenance, technology and food service departments, as well as the central office staff.

"Thank you for making me part of your extended family. Your work ethic is unmatched. You may not see the immediate impact you make with students, but it is apparent to others," Martin said.

"I have a very special thank you, to the heart and soul of Patrick County Schools: Sara Leigh Collins. She has been an employee of this school division for 60 years. I'd like to publicly thank her for her counsel, but more importantly for her friendship," Martin

said. Collins serves as clerk of the school board and in a number of other capacities.

To the school board, "well, you took a chance on me, and all I can say is thank you. I have gained so much from Patrick County," Martin said.

He became emotional when handing the reins to Gilbert.

"Dean, I trust you with this very special school division, but you have known this for a very long time. I trust you because your heart is here and you know how to make everyone feel special," Martin said, and added his comments were "not really a swansong or saying goodbye," but that he is a "colleague and friend who plans to be here. I thank you for making this the experience of a lifetime."

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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program in Patrick County, VA
serving adults with intellectual,
mental health & development
disabilities. Duties include direct
care and training in independent
living skills, personal care

HELP WANTED

skills, housekeeping skills, and
recreational/leisure activities in
the home and in the community.
This position includes some
weekend hours and second shift
hours to help with supervision
of staff in the absence of Group
Home Manager. Must have the
ability to work well on a diverse
team. High school diploma or
GED is required. Must exhibit
good documentation skills as well
as proficiency using computers.
Must have a valid driver's license
and good driving record.

A Piedmont Community Services
application is required & may be
obtained online at <http://www.piedmontcsb.org/ApplyOnline.html>

PCS is an Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action employer.

COUNTY OF PATRICK

Job Posting
Reassessment Clerk
The County of Patrick is
accepting applications from
qualified applicants for the
full-time/temporary position
of Reassessment Clerk. The
position provides data entry and
clerical support for the upcoming
general reassessment of real
estate in Patrick County. The
duration of employment will be
from January 2020 through the
completion of the reassessment
in early 2021. The position
will work under the general
supervision of personnel from
the professional firm conducting
the real estate reassessment
process. Duties of the position
will entail extensive data entry
of real estate records and will
provide general clerical support to
the staff of the reassessment firm.

The desired candidate
must possess excellent office
skills and be proficient with
the use of a computer. The
ability to set priorities, keep
confidential information, and
work cooperatively with other
members of an office staff
are essential. The successful
candidate must be able to work
with the public in a courteous
and tactful manner and to work
independently without direct full-
time supervision.

The rate of compensation for
the position is \$9 per hour. The
regular work week will be forty
(40) hours per week. Hours
will vary, however, depending

HELP WANTED

on the requirements of the
reassessment firm.

Applications are
available online at www.co.patrick.va.us and at the
County Administration Office.
Interested candidates may
submit a Patrick County
employment application and
resume to the Patrick County
Administration Office, Room
218, by mail to Patrick County
Administration, Attn: Tom
Rose, P.O. Box 466, Stuart,
Virginia 24171, or by email to
gghazelwood@co.patrick.va.us. Applications must be
received no later than 5:00 p.m.
on Friday, January 10, 2020.

Published by direction of Tom
Rose, County Administrator

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1 bath. \$395 at month.
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trproperties@mail.com

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1 regular, 2 artificial Christmas
trees- 1 small & 1 large, 2
bedroom suits - maple &
oak, queen full headboard,
Christmas decorations, 2
small children chairs, old small
school desk, daybed- white,
cabinet, 2004 Buick LaSabre
, artificial tree (goes in house),
TV Stand, White chest of
drawers, light brown chest of
drawers, Piano.
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SPORTS BRIEF

Magna Vista running back commits to Liberty University

Miranda Crockett

Magna Vista High School senior Louis Taylor received an offer to play Division I football back in May and on Wednesday, he signed his National Letter of Intent sealing the deal with Liberty University. The 6-foot, 1-inch tall senior decided in June verbally that he would take the offer to play for the Flames.

Taylor said that it was nice being able to make that early decision to continue his career at Liberty University. It made it easier for him to focus on his upcoming senior season at Magna Vista. “I didn’t have to go through any of the other stuff like choosing and picking,” said Taylor. “I knew then and they

made me feel welcome.” Taylor is the seventh Magna Vista football player in recent years to earn a scholarship from a Division I program. “It’s just special,” said Taylor about celebrating with his family and teammates. “They’re the ones that had me through all this.”

Liberty felt that it would be a good idea for Taylor to get an early start on his college career. He will be graduating in December and enrolling at Liberty University in January for the spring semester. “This is my last week of high school,” said Taylor. “I’m looking forward to the college experience altogether. You know football is not forever so getting school in is important too.”



New exhibits announced at Piedmont Arts

Portraits by Tawny Chatmon and large-scale abstract paintings by Halide Salam will be on display at Piedmont Arts from Jan. 18 through March 7, 2020.

Fragile, Handle with Care features portraits by Tawny Chatmon that capture the beauty, innocence and hope of black childhood. Chatmon is devoted to creating portraits that are loosely inspired by works painted spanning from the 15th to 20th centuries, with the specific intent of bringing to the forefront faces that were often under-celebrated in this style of work.

Her works almost always begin as photographs she has taken of someone close to her. She then alters her photos in diverse ways, creating a depth of layers. She chooses to frame her work in gold vintage, antique and baroque frames that she collects from estate sales, galleries, auctions and private sellers. These frames were constructed during (or are reminiscent of) an era in which framing subjects such as hers wasn’t a consideration.

Recently, Chatmon discovered a common theme amongst the sellers of these frames. Something that is often expressed is their concern

over the fragility and the importance of the frames. Retrospectively, she realized that the sellers’ concern over the fragility of these previously loved frames, was her wish for the subjects she was placing inside of them.

Chatmon’s photography has been featured in Vogue Bambini, Parenting Magazine and Babytalk Magazine. Her commercial clients include YMCA, Until There’s a Cure, National Education Association and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

TransLight/TransPlace features large-scale abstract paintings by Halide Salam. Like a shaman, Salam dances on surfaces to open passages into the undiscovered world within, and to make meaning of the world without. Her paintings are neither visions nor memories. She paints in silence with no preconceptions, drawings or ideas, relying on what she knows and feels about the natural world and her place in it. Salam moves the paint, through unspoken words as tones, lines and hues, connecting images that arise through a sense of unison within patterns and structures that evolve and emerge

through the process of call and response. It is a rhythmic dance on the canvas that opens up various forms of consciousness making visible the invisible, finding harmony through a passage of consciousness.

Salam received a Masters of Art in painting from New Mexico Highlands University and a Ph.D. in fine arts from Texas Tech University. She is a professor of art at Radford University.

An Opening Reception in honor of these exhibits will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the museum. The reception is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

The reception is sponsored by Jerri and Joe DeVault, Jill and Jay Dickens, Imogene and Isadore Draper, Cindy and Steve Edgerton, Joyce and Kenneth Staples and Lynwood Artists. RSVP attendance to 276-632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Piedmont Arts is located at 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.



Elizabeth Motley

Principal selected for Drewry Mason Elementary School

The Henry County School Board at their Dec. 12 meeting approved a recommendation from Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer to fill one administrative position for the 2020-21 school year.

Elizabeth Motley was named to serve as principal at Drewry Mason Elementary School. Currently, she serves as principal at Sanville Elementary School. Motley previously served Henry County students as an assistant principal, curriculum coordinator and an elementary teacher.

“I am so honored to join the Drewry Mason community this summer and I look forward to working closely with the

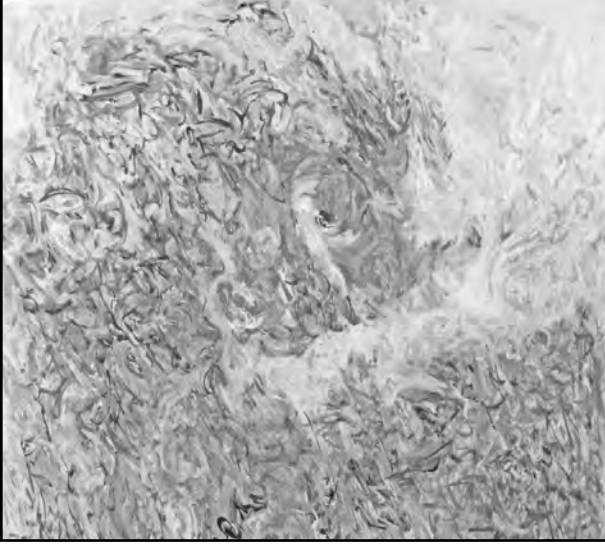
students, staff and families as we collaborate to support students in their growth and development,” Motley said, adding, “I am excited to be part of educating students in the community where I grew up and look forward to building strong relationships as we work to ensure the success of all students.”

HCPS will solicit applications of interest for the Sanville Elementary principal position.

Motley “has worked closely with the team at Sanville to help students excel and her expertise will certainly be an asset to the Drewry Mason community,” Strayer said.



Windows of the Soul, featuring work by Loretta Joy Crossman, will be on display in the Lynwood Artists Gallery.



TransLight/TransPlace features large-scale abstract paintings by Halide Salam

Two charged in connection with incident at hotel

Two men are awaiting extradition to Henry County after an alleged Dec. 12 incident in Ridgeway, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office.

Diagano Bellano, 49, of 415 Virginia St., Martinsville, and Thomas Eugene Doran, 67, of 3615 Cash Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C. were arrested on Dec. 13, in Winston-Salem, N.C. in connection with an alleged burglary and robbery at

Kings Court Motel, 6570 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway.

William Gray Phillips, 39, of Ridgeway, told authorities that around 9 p.m., two men broke the door open and entered his motel room.

Phillips alleged he was assaulted by one of the men and suffered minor injuries.

After taking a cell phone, tablet, computer, television, Bluetooth speaker and \$15 in U.S. currency, the men allegedly left the motel and fled

in a vehicle.

Bellano and Doran each were charged with felony counts of break and enter with intent to commit robbery, robbery and grand larceny in connection with the Dec. 12 incident, according to the release. Each of the two men also were charged with a misdemeanor count of petty larceny.

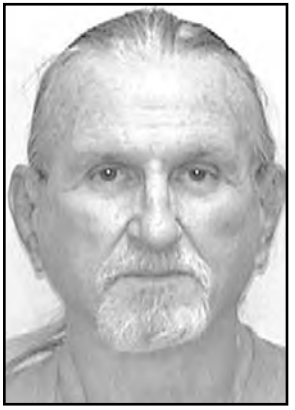
The two are currently being held in North Carolina, while awaiting extradition to

Henry County.

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



Diagano Bellano



Thomas Eugene Doran

Martinsville Christmas Parade showcases local holiday spirit

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The spirit of Christmas was alive in Uptown Martinsville on Dec. 15. The parade, sponsored by Ameristaff, was themed “The Magic of Christmas” this year.

“The weather was fantastic. We were rained out in November but we picked the perfect time, perfect day and this is probably one of the smoothest parades that

we have ever put together,” said Charles Roark, coordinator for the parade.

Hundreds of people gathered as plenty of bands, vintage vehicles, dancers and holiday-themed characters pranced down Church, Main and Broad streets.

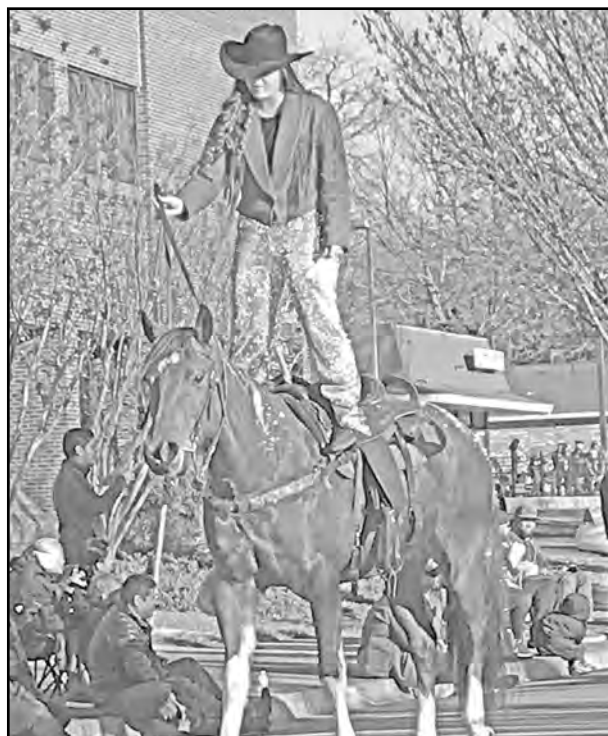
Check out the winner “Pirates of the Piedmont,” the runner-up “Clarence’s Steakhouse,” and other highlights from the parade.



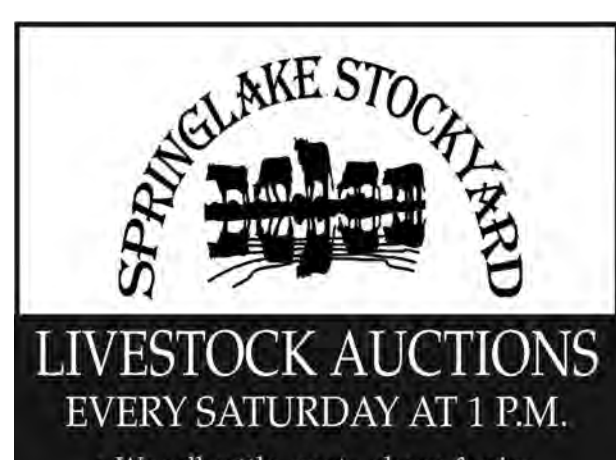
Pirates of the Piedmont



Clarence's Steakhouse



PHOTOS BY BRANDON MARTIN





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Revitalization continues in Bassett with Harvest grant award



Pictured from left are Rob Spilman Jr., Randy Hatchett, director of engineering and facilities for Bassett Furniture and manager of the Bassett Train Station Event Center, Jeb Bassett, Edward H. White, and DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation.

The Henry County Furniture Museum received a \$35,900 grant from The Harvest Foundation to continue improvements to the Bassett area

that aim to attract visitors and new businesses creating a vibrant community. The vision began with the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative and that

group's mission to revitalize Bassett, Fieldale and the surrounding communities. Many projects have taken place, including renovations to the Fieldale

Community Center and grounds, façade improvements along Marshall Way and Reed Stone, in addition to an overhaul of the grounds and structure at the Bassett Train Station Event Center, formerly the Bassett Train Depot. Grant funding from The Harvest Foundation primarily will be used to update the building at 188 Reed Stone Street in Bassett, owned by the Henry County Furniture Museum. Harvest funding encompasses 20 percent of the total project budget. The building is planned to house a sandwich shop or café to provide dining and retail options for local residents and visitors to the area. "The Bassett area is full of potential tourism growth from visitors and patrons because of the bustling activity from area industry and the recreational opportunities at Fairystone Park and Philpott Lake," said

DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation. "Supporting revitalization in Martinsville and Henry County only helps our community grow and benefit from increased sales, meals and lodging tax. When we develop and grow our local amenities, residents feel good about where they live, and in turn, we increase our attractiveness to potential employers and new residents." Jeb Bassett, of the Henry County Furniture Museum organization, said he believes an attractive storefront and outdoor patio yields many benefits to the area. "With the Bassett Train Station Event Center located just across the street, and the success of the GBAC (Greater Bassett Area Community) cruise-ins, having dining options nearby will keep patrons in the immediate area for longer periods of time," Bassett said. "The

coffee/sandwich shop will be another dining option for local businesses and their employees, targeting the northern end of Henry County. It will be another option for dining for visitors passing through the area on the way to Philpott Lake, the marina and Fairystone Park. The Harvest Foundation's support with this grant assists in making a vision that was created six years ago a reality," Bassett said the Bassett Train Station Event Center will be open for business in early 2020. He said the clock garden, landscaping and curb in gutter create a "fresh look" for the Bassett downtown area. There also are arrangements in place for a local Henry County resident to open a café in the area soon. The Henry County Furniture Museum leadership includes Robert H. Spilman Jr., Bassett and Edward H. White.

Set your sights on a healthy 2020 with a hike in a Virginia State Park

Start a new tradition on New Year's Day with a special First Day Hike in a Virginia State Park.

All state parks offer free parking all day, while the first 100 visitors to each park will receive a commemorative bumper sticker.

Two contests give visitors opportunities to win gift certificates valued at up to \$500.

Participants can be eligible to win prizes by simply registering, hiking and then recording the hike on Jan.

1. An annual photo contest is also an opportunity for visitors to win gift certificates that can be used for camping and cabin reservations or to purchase annual passes.

For complete contest details, visit <https://vasp.fun/2020firsthike>.

For a list of scheduled hikes and programs, visit <https://vasp.fun/2020FDH>.

Some of the choices include:

Natural Bridge State Park will offer two special hikes

around the legendary landmark, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield offers a special New Year's Eve night hike celebrate the countdown. The park also offers a variety of special hikes for different ages and capabilities throughout New Year's Day.

Fast becoming a New Year's tradition, the whole family will enjoy finding the hidden ornaments left by the legendary Christmas Opos-

sum at Caledon State Park in King George.

Hungry Mother State Park in Marion will host several special hikes, including a wheelchair-accessible forest therapy walk.

For First Day Hike 2019, Virginia State Parks hosted more than 13,000 participating in guided activities and tens of thousands more visitors explored the parks on their own.

The 38 award-winning Virginia State Parks are man-

aged by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more infor-

mation, or to buy an annual pass or gift certificate, visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.



County Audit

from page 1



Boy Scout Troop 167 led the Pledge of Allegiance during the Dec. 17 meeting of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

as of June 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted."

In other matters at their meeting Tuesday:

Supervisors and school board members who emerged victorious in the November election were sworn into office, including supervisors Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District; Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, and Ryan Zehr, of the Ridgeway District were all sworn-in. School board members included Francis Zehr, of the

Ridgeway District; Cherie Whitlow, At-large member were sworn into their respective offices. Terri Flanagan, of the Horsepasture District, and Teddy Martin II, of the Reed Creek District also won their reelection bids, but could not attend the ceremony. Also sworn in were Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry, Commissioner of Revenue Linda Love, Treasurer Scott Grindstaff, and Soil and Water Conservation Directors Darryl Holland and Andrew Barker.

A representative from the National Weather Service followed the audit

presentation by explaining the steps that the county took to become a "Storm-Ready Community," a community preparedness program that encourages government entities to prepare for severe storms.

Grindstaff briefed the board on tax collection efforts for the year. As of Nov. 27, 93.48 percent of personal property taxes to the amount of \$46,024.71 have been collected along with 95.32 percent of real estate taxes which totaled \$66,387.08. He also delivered the monthly reports which included information on the fund summary of expenditures, the summary of expenditures by cost center and others.

Supervisors also heard financial matters from staff, that included a request for the appropriation of additional funds for the 2020 Census, a section of the Dick and Willie Passage, the Commonwealth Attorney's office and the Sheriff's Office.

Staff asked the board to appropriate grant funds of \$10,000 received from the Harvest Foundation to promote participation in the 2020 Census. The grant will allow the county to collaborate with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and

Director of Parks and Recreation Roger Adams unveiled the logo for the 2021 Henry County Fair at a Dec. 17 meeting.

the City of Martinsville to encourage residents to complete the 2020 census.

Grant funds of \$320,600 from the Harvest Foundation are being sought for the planning, designing, and engineering Section 6A of the Dick & Willie Passage Trail. This section of the multi-use trail will extend from the end of the trail near Mulberry Creek to the trailhead on Spruce Street. Once this section is complete, the Dick & Willie Passage Trail will be more than 10.5 miles of continuous paved trail.

Nester also requested additional funds. "I am requesting that \$650 be appropriated from my asset forfeiture account into the professional services... to cover the cost of a real estate title search by Land Records Research, LLC," said Nester in a letter to the Henry County Board of Supervisors. "I would also like to request that \$1,416 be appropriated to my ADP Equipment... to cover the cost of a new desktop computer, Microsoft Office license, and Adobe Professional license for one of the new attorneys that my office anticipates hiring in the very near future."

The Sheriff's office is

looking to use grant funds to contact out \$196,106 to Safeware, Inc. for the purchase of a mobile elevated surveillance platform. The Sheriff's office had previously been awarded an FY2019 State Homeland Security Program grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. "It's completely portable, pulls behind a truck and you bring it in like a trailer frame," said Perry. "You can raise it up and I'd say you're about 30 feet in the air. It gets you to the point where you can see fights in the area or people moving from one area to another. You can radio this information and watch traffic in-and-out."

The Animal Control division is also slated to acquire \$29,494 for a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Truck. Matt Tatum, director of Henry County Department of Public Safety, requested a \$139,915 contract be awarded to Vest Sales and Service, Inc., for the re-chassis of an existing ambulance module. Tatum also asked the board to adopt a resolution for the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is

required by state law to be updated by the end of the year. The plan has been updated to reflect changes recommended by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and other best practices.

Roger Adams, director of Parks and Recreation, provided an update on the plans for a county fair in 2021. He used the meeting to reveal the logo that will be used to help market the event.

The final agenda item before closed session was to approve the school board's request that the county take ownership of the parcel where John Redd Smith Elementary School is located, dependent on the school board's conveyance of the deed on the property and authorizing the county administrator to execute the deed. The goal is to see if the facility can be redeveloped for residential use, which would help address the ongoing shortage of suitable workforce housing in the community.

The board will hold its 2020 Organizational Meeting on Jan. 2 at 5 p.m., to schedule the year's meeting dates and elect a chairman and vice-chairman for 2020.

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Ridgeway woman died in crash

A single vehicle crash resulted in the death of a Ridgeway resident, according to a release from the Virginia State Police.

Sarah Cecelia Ferguson Taylor, 78, of Ridgeway,

was pronounced dead at the scene of the Dec. 14 incident.

The crash occurred at 9:35 a.m. on Virginia 687, one tenth of a mile north of Route 641 in Henry

County.

A 2008 Toyota Highlander was traveling south on Route 687, when the vehicle crossed the center line, ran off the left side of the roadway, striking a

large boulder and a tree.

Taylor was wearing her seatbelt

The crash remains under investigation by Virginia State Police R.S. Lawson.