

## HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, January 30, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Frontline healthcare workers receive the 2020 Jack Dalton Community Service Award from the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Front row, from left to right, Tory Shepherd, chief operating officer of Sovah Health; Mary Campbell, from the environmental services division; and Vice-Chairman Debra Buchanan. Second row: Kelly Fitzgerald, marketing director at Sovah Health-Martinsville; Tonya Covington, from the emergency department; and Beverly Lawton from the respiratory therapy department. Third row: Chairman Jim Adams and Board Members Tommy Slaughter, David Martin, Ryan Zehr and Joe Bryant.

## Healthcare workers receive Jack Dalton Community Service Award

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Jack Dalton Community Service Award was presented to a group rather than an individual.

This year, the Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized all frontline healthcare workers with the honor.

"It takes leaders, it takes courageous people, and it takes a commitment to your job and what you do to be out there on the front lines, so we really appreciate all that you do for us," said Vice-Chairman Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepas-

ture District.

Before presenting the award, Buchanan read a resolution thanking all "local hospital, urgent care facilities, physicians' offices, nursing homes, and other healthcare outlets and the physicians, nurses, assistants, and other healthcare workers" for "their heroic and selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Representatives from Sovah Health-Martinsville were present at the ceremony to accept the award.

Tory Shepherd, chief operating officer at Sovah Health-Martinsville, said she was grateful for the support of the board and the community.

"It has been a challenging year

for all of us, no doubt, but I often feel and say that in healthcare there are some of the most brilliant minds with the biggest hearts," she said. "These folks show unyielding compassion and dedication to their work every day. They literally give blood, sweat and tears to everything that they do."

Others present from Sovah Health-Martinsville were Tonya Covington, who works in the Emergency Department; Mary Campbell, from the Environmental Services Division; Beverly Lawton, from the Respiratory Therapy; and Kelly Fitzgerald, market director.

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## Opinions on tax rates differ as city mulls cost of reversion

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

While the city's reversion legal team projects "modest" or "inconsequential" tax increases under a town status, data provided by the Commissioner of Revenue Ruth Easley suggests a higher tax burden for both town

and county residents.

During a Jan. 26 meeting, city council received a brief from Stephen Piegrass, of the city's litigation counsel Troutman Pepper, in which he discussed the tax implications of a city reversion.

"In general, tax rates would remain about the same. There may be

modest increases but

most of those are inconsequential," Piegrass said. "With respect to the property tax, the auditors projected that Martinsville residents would see a 60.5 percent decrease in real property tax. That 60.5 percent would be made up with the Henry County tax, resulting in

no change."

According to data provided by Easley, this wouldn't be the case.

Localities each receive a share of the Commonwealth's annual \$950 million personal property tax relief based on the effective rate of the respective locality as of July 1, 1997. At the time, the effective

rate in the city was \$1.92 for every \$100 of assessed value. This equates to an annual relief allocation of \$626,428. If the city wishes to continue to receive this relief, the newly formed town would have to keep collecting a personal property tax.

The proposed rate given by the firm on Dec. 19,

2019 was \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed value. To receive 100 percent relief on the first \$20,000 of assessed value for qualifying vehicles, this rate cannot fall below \$1.0583 per \$100.

The current city tax rate is \$2.30 per \$100

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## Teacher pay at the forefront of county school budget discussions

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

A Ridgeway resident called on the Henry County School Board Thursday to pursue salary increases for teachers.

"Teachers leave this area because there are wages in neighboring counties that are higher than ours. This is not acceptable," Ron James, a parent, said at the Jan. 21 public hearing on the division's proposed fiscal 2022 budget. "We need to get our teachers more salary."

Comparing the salaries of teachers to other professions in the fast food and retail industries, James noted the disparity.

"We've got teacher aides that are barely getting by. We've got teachers that are suffering. This is an important part of this entire budget that step," he said of proposed step or pay increases.

"Give our teachers what they need so that way we don't have a substitute shortage, so we don't have a teacher shortage," James said, and added that "only four other states pay less than we do" and even in Virginia, teachers are paid less than in other localities, which underscores the need "to push for more wages for teachers."

Francis Zehr, vice chairman and of the Ridgeway District, said James "did



Ron James, a parent in Ridgeway, discussed teacher salaries during a public hearing last week on Henry County Schools proposed budget.

his homework. "Virginia ranks 46th out of 50 states. Our hands are tied somewhat and hopefully the General Assembly and the governor pick it up in some way.

"Virginia is one of the top 12 richest states. It's not acceptable that we are in the top 12 or 13 and we are 46 out of 50," Zehr said.

Before the public comment period,

David Scott, assistant superintendent of Operations and Administrative Services, highlighted some portions of the proposed budget.

"We are looking at, for next year, a budget in state funds that is approaching \$60 million and a local required effort of \$13 million. That's what we'd ask our Board of Supervisors to fund," Scott said.

Compared to the previous fiscal year, there is an increase of approximately \$1.4 million expected from the state.

"For all of our fears about the pandemic and what that has done to statewide revenues, to show any growth is a good sign," Scott said. "I've heard some reports that this is still lower than what can be expected."

During fiscal year 2021, the division received approximately \$19 million in local effort. Of that amount, approximately \$13 million is required from the locality while the rest is referred to as "leeway" or discretionary funding.

"That would represent level funding," Scott said. "As we go into the next year, that is usually our target. If we need to ask for more than that then we will be willing to do that. We know

See Budget, page 3

## Barber hangs up cape after 60 years behind chair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coy Young (right) and Earl Cobler, a shoeshine boy at Young's Barber Service, pose for a photo in the early 60s. Before becoming a barber, Young was a shoeshine boy in his father's barber shop.

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

People visit barber shops for two reasons the haircuts and the conversation. For 60 years, Coy Young provided customers at Young's Barber Service with both.

"I think some of the customers like his storytelling personality," said Cindy Smith, Young's daughter. "It's the atmosphere in the barber shop too, the conversations that people have with each other. Dad could be your barber, your counselor, and your comedian. He did it all."

Recently, Young decided to put down his shears because of ongoing shoulder pain, but the conversations he started at the shop are ongoing. This time though, the discussions are about him and his legacy.

Smith said her grandfather, William "Ralph" Young, originally opened Young's Barber Service in 1927 at a different location. The shop later moved to 3801 Fairystone Highway, across from the old Bassett Furniture Central Warehouse.

Coy Young joined the family trade in 1961.

"Grandpa started it, and other barbers have been in

and out, but dad came along and since he started, he's been at its current location," Smith said. "Dad went to barber school in Roanoke and began cutting hair in 1961. In the beginning, he was also serving in the National Guard, so he'd juggle both."

Since starting, Coy Young has been a mainstay in the community, with many patrons dropping by at the crack of dawn.

Josh Marlowe, a barber at Young's Barber Service, said Coy Young opened the doors at 4 a.m., and customers soon followed.

"He felt like it was impor-

See 60 years, page 5

## Godwin to retire as president of PHCC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Angeline Godwin will step down from her post as president of Patrick Henry Community College on July 1. After retiring, Godwin will return to her family home in Mississippi.

After nine years as president of Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC), Dr. Angeline Godwin announced that she will retire.

In the announcement made during the college's board meeting Monday, Godwin said she plans to finish the academic year before retiring on July 1. Until then, Godwin said she would remain focused in this final semester on PHCC's many on-going initiatives, and the continued safety and success of the PHCC family.

During Godwin's tenure at PHCC, the college has continually grown and prospered through a myriad of challenges.

Over the years, the college's footprint has grown significantly with the addition of the Dalton IDEA Center in uptown Martinsville; the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex in the Patriot Center; as well as two different training facilities in Patrick County.

Under her leadership, the college received several national distinctions including the Community Colleges of Appalachia's Workforce Development Award in 2014 and Achieving the Dream's Leah Meyer Austin Award in 2015. PHCC was recognized as an NC3 Leader School in 2018 and then in 2020 became the first institution in the nation to be named an NC3 Festo Center of Excellence in Industry 4.0 Advanced Manufacturing.

PHCC also received several competitive national and regional grants that enabled the college to launch many unique programs. One example would be grants from the National Science Foundation and the American Association of Community Colleges that together enabled PHCC to establish the IDEA Academy. Another grant from the Verizon Foundation established the Verizon In-

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Saturday, February 6

Spencer Ruritan Stew returns, \$30 per gallon and \$8 per quart. Pre-order by calling Terri at 276-340-1615. Stew will be delivered to vehicle.

Patrick Henry Community College will be offering a family day at their Fab Lab from 10 a.m. until noon, where families can use the laser engraver to create custom Valentine gifts. Admission is \$15. To pre-register, call (276) 656-0260 or sign up at ph.augusoft.net.

## Tuesday, February 16

Patrick Henry Community College will hold a virtual session on "Effective Communication for Virtual Teams" from 3-5 p.m. Admission is \$59. To pre-register, call (276) 656-0260 or sign up at ph.augusoft.net.

## Monday, February 22-23

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) will host the 2021 Industrial Hemp Summit - Virtual Edition over the course of this two-day period. Registration is now open at www.industrialhempsummit.info. Tickets are \$50 through February 19. For questions or more information, please contact (434) 766-6605.

## Thursday, February 25

Longwood Small Business Development Center will hold a virtual "Start-Up Workshop" for those interested in starting their own small business from 6-7 p.m. For more information or to register, visit <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?key=91410002>.

## Friday, February 26

Patrick Henry Community College will be holding a virtual session titled "Telework Plus Virtual School...Oh My!" from 12-1 p.m. The discussion is designed to assist working parents balancing work and daily life stressors. Admission is \$29. To pre-register, call (276) 656-0260 or sign up at ph.augusoft.net.

## ONGOING

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact application assistance for Virginia's free or low-cost Medicaid plans (Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care (birth to 64-years-old). Applications completed by phone (no contact). Call or text Ann Walker (276) 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

Danville Community College: The TRiO EOC (Educational Opportunity Centers) is a federally funded grant program to assist high school seniors and adults attending college. Free assistance ranges from selecting a career path and potential college to applying for financial aid and scholarships. Contact your local TRIO EOC today for your confidential appointment at (276) 694-8778 or eoc@danville.edu.

Southern Area Agency on Aging: SAAA is offering a series of "Fearless Caregiver Guides" from the publisher of "Today's Caregiver Magazine" free to caregivers. Those interested can request all three titles "Successful Respite Solutions," "Holiday Caregiving" and "Getting Friends and Families to Help" by calling SAAA at (276) 632-6442 or 1-800-468-4571. SAAA can also be reached by email at info@southernaaa.org.

# FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 31 Portia de Rossi, Actress (48)	FEBRUARY 2 Shakira, Singer (44)	Clint Black, Singer (59)
FEBRUARY 1 Harry Styles, Singer (27)	FEBRUARY 3 Amal Clooney, Attorney (43)	FEBRUARY 5 Cristiano Ronaldo, Athlete (36)
	FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 6 Rick Astley, Singer (55)

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your ideas may seem a bit fantastical to the people who are closest to you. It could be time to expand your reach a little bit and pitch your thoughts to others.

## TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

A financial surprise may require extra attention early in the week, Taurus. Take a step back and look at things from a new perspective as you try to adjust.

## GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, expressing how you feel to someone special is key to your personal growth this week. Don't hesitate to share your thoughts and open yourself up.

## CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, sometimes routines can be a good thing - even if you feel as though change is needed. Knowing what to expect when other things are off-kilter can be comforting.

## LEO - July 23/Aug 23

A supervisor may ask you to take the lead on a project that is right in your wheelhouse, Leo. Put in the extra effort to help ensure the results will be top notch.

## VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Your perception may be altered through a sudden modification in the way you think, Virgo. This can be a refreshing change for you and open up new possibilities.

## LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, facilitate conversations with new people to broaden your opportunities for social interaction. This may lead to friendships or even promising business opportunities.

## SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Thoughts may pop in and out of your mind, Scorpio. The trick is to figure out how to weed out the pertinent ideas from the fluff. Ask others to weigh in if need be.

## SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Emotions run high between you and your partner this week, Sagittarius. Enjoy the ride as this outpouring of emotions will strengthen your bond.

## CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Sometimes others do not even need to speak for you to infer what they are feeling, Capricorn. This is a good gift to have and can bring you closer to those around you.

## AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a recognition of your specific talents and skills is conveyed to you by others. It may inspire you to work on a new project or change departments.

## PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Knowing and expressing just how you feel can help you to trouble-shoot areas that need a bit of modification, Pisces. Be honest with yourself.

# City school board approves budget

The Martinsville City School Board approved their fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget following a public hearing on Jan. 25. The approved budget totals approximately \$23 million and requests an additional \$537,014 in local funds.

With enrollment numbers higher than expected, the division is also requesting \$477,247 more in state funds.

According to Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr., the additional funds would go to cover requests at both the school level and the division level to address capital needs and instructional goals mandated by the state.

The final requests listed in the budget are a two percent raise for all employees (\$298,898), a step increase (\$64,304), hiring two special education teachers (\$132,752), hiring an additional licensed teacher (\$66,376), cover eRate (\$35,100), hire two counselors

(\$132,752), hire a nurse (\$49,458), and other salary/benefit adjustments (\$75,053). In total, the final requests amount to \$854,693.

Capital items deemed necessary are a roof repair (\$51,150), handicap elevator repair (\$35,746), and chiller replacement (\$184,366) at Albert Harris Elementary School; pipe rehabilitation and lot repair (\$51,040) and culvert repair (\$51,040) at Druid Hills; and bus replacements (\$160,000).

The division currently projects that total enrollment for next year will be 1,905 students, including K-12, pre-school and adult education.

While the approved budget accounts for a decrease in state sales tax by \$71,662 and a decrease in state grants of \$27,170, Talley said the latest figures on sales tax indicates larger returns than originally forecast.

# Exhibit packet released for upcoming fair

The Competitive Exhibit Packet has been released for the various contests that will be held at the Henry County Fair, presented by Visit-Martinsville.

The fair will offer a variety of categories that offer an opportunity to win ribbons and prizes.

Categories include fresh fruits and vegetables, canned fruits, canned vegetables and meats, pickles and rel-

ishes, bread, candy, pies, flowers and plants, quilts, crocheting, knitting, textiles and artwork by children.

"These contests are a staple feature of many county fairs across the country and will give people in our region the opportunity to showcase their agricultural, home-making and crafts skills," said Roger Adams the county's director of Parks and Recreation and also

director of the fair.

The packet, along with the rules, categories and registration forms, can be download from the fair website or picked up at the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office.

The fair will be held September 22 - 25 on the grounds at Martinsville Speedway. For more information, call (276) 634-4640 or visit www.henrycountyvafair.com.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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50						51				52	53	54
55										57		
58										59		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Warm-blooded vertebrates

8. Semitic peoples

13. Supervise

14. Historical German territory

15. Sweat

19. The Wolverine State

20. China

21. Violent disturbances

22. A way to commemorate the dead

23. Midway between east and southeast

24. Bird genus

25. Trim

26. Disparaged

30. More coherent

31. Abnormal rattling sounds

32. Healthy appetizers

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Wiped up

2. Opposed to

3. Macon, GA, university

4. Wife

5. Small viper

6. Polynesia garland of flowers

7. Saw-like

8. Maltese-Italian composer

9. Moved faster than walking

10. Commercial

11. Covered with mud

12. Marksmen

16. Buenos

17. Tailless amphibian

18. Belonging to a thing

22. Mars crater

25. Most fair

27. Citrus fruit

28. Awkward

29. Brews

**CLUES ACROSS**

33. Partner to "shocked"

34. French pianist Pascal

35. Jokes

38. Marks to omit print

39. Tall

40. Coverage

44. "A Death in the Family" author

45. Role of highlights

46. Fixed-radio access

47. Partly digested food

48. "Lamb Chop" puppeteer Lewis

49. In support of

50. Aluminum

51. Reduction in value over time

55. Running events

57. Portuguese region

58. Slovenly women

59. Strongly criticized

**CLUES DOWN**

30. Beloved late broadcaster

32. All alone

34. Copies

35. Poster

36. Symmetrical

37. Grew older

38. Makes tractors

40. Not the front

41. State as fact

42. Long, narrow cut

43. Worked hard for

45. Indicates position in a box score

48. Tax


51. "Lookout Weekend" singer Debbie

52. Unhealthy

53. Imam name

54. A woolen cap of Scottish origin (abbr.)

56. The Golden State



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# First case of COVID-19 Variant Identified in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) announced that the first case of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in a sample from an adult resident of Northern Virginia with no reported recent travel history.

The B.1.1.7 variant, which first emerged in the United Kingdom in late 2020, is associated with increased person-to-person transmission of COVID-19.

DCLS confirmed the case using next-generation sequencing that provides a genetic blueprint of the virus that causes COVID-19. DCLS has informed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) of the case.

“Viruses change all the time, and we expect to see new strains as disease spreads,” said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA. “We know this variant strain spreads more quickly between people than other strains currently circulating in our communities, but we still have more to learn about whether it causes more severe illness. As our state public health officials closely monitor the emergence of the B.1.1.7 variant in our Commonwealth, it is important that all Virginians continue following mitigation measures.”

In the United States, nearly 200 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been detected in 23 states as of January 22, 2021. While scientists are working to better

understand its impact on vaccine efficacy, early data suggests currently authorized vaccines are effective against the new variant. VDH continues to work with communities across Virginia to slow the spread of all strains of COVID-19 through widespread adherence to preventive measures, supporting testing and vaccination efforts, and conducting investigations of cases and outbreaks.

As a virus spreads from one person to another, it makes copies of itself and sometimes makes small genetic changes called mutations. Because of these mutations, new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. According to the CDC, multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been document-

ed in the United States and around the world. The B.1.1.7 variant contains an unusually large number of mutations.

DCLS began sequencing positive COVID-19 samples in March 2020, becoming one of the first public health labs in the nation to use this technology to examine the genetic makeup of the virus and track how it is changing and being transmitted in the Commonwealth. To date, DCLS has sequenced more than 10 percent of positive samples tested by the state lab, and is working with other labs in Virginia to solicit additional positive samples to sequence so public health officials can get a representation of variants circulating throughout Virginia.

“Sequencing is one of many

tools we have available at the state’s public health laboratory to enable medical and public health officials to quickly identify and respond to threats such as emerging COVID-19 variants,” said Dr. Denise Toney, Director of DCLS. “We share this information not only within the Commonwealth, but with our federal and international partners to gain a better understanding of emerging genetic changes to SARS-CoV-2.”

For more information about COVID-19 variants, visit the VDH COVID-19 Testing website and the CDC New COVID-19 Variants website. For more information on DCLS and its use of next-generation sequencing, visit [dgs.virginia.gov/dcls](https://dgs.virginia.gov/dcls).

## Reward available for information in city shooting incident

The Martinsville Police Department is seeking information in connection with an alleged incident on January 23, when officers responded at 2:10 p.m. to an individual who had been shot in the 700 block of Fourth St.

The victim, Keland Oneal Shelton, told authorities an armed man kicked in his back door and started shooting. The man’s face was partially covered with a mask when he allegedly entered the home and fired shots. The alleg-

edly man fled after the shooting.

Shelton was transported to SOVAH Martinsville and then air lifted to Roanoke Memorial Hospital to be treated for his injuries.

Authorities are asking anyone with information to contact Martinsville Police Sgt. Durham at 276-403-5330 or Crime Stoppers at 276-632-7463. Up to a \$2,500 reward is offered for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of suspect(s) in this case.

## Award from page 1

Sara Padgett, who works in the COVID Unit, was also recognized but could not be present for the event.

Lawton said she was honored to accept the award on behalf of everyone involved in the fight against the pandemic.

“I feel proud to accept this on behalf of our frontline workers,” she said. “We put 110 percent into this every day, and I think COVID has caused people to rise above what they would normally do. It makes me feel good that we are able to take this with us. We might be the one’s accepting it but it’s not just us. It’s everyone that has to help keep us going.”

“It’s been a true community effort,” Fitzgerald added. “Everyone on the frontlines from people in the field to the 9-1-1 dispatchers, so the EMS is prepared when they arrive. There are so many people that have helped. It makes me kind of emotional just to talk about it.”

Shepherd said emergency medical services and 9-1-1 dispatchers are integral parts of the team.

“EMS and dispatch are an extension of the hospital,” she said. “They are the frontline that brings it into the next frontline. They are certainly part of our family.”

The Jack Dalton Community Service Award annually goes to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton’s years of public service. Jack Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years and was serving as the board chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

Nominations were solicited from community residents through local media, the Henry County website, and social media. Nominations are based on the candidate’s efforts and active involvement in promoting the quality of life in Henry County. The Jack Dalton Award is recognized as the highest honor and most prestigious award presented by the board.

Lois Dalton, the widow of

Jack Dalton, could not be present for the ceremony due to concerns about the pandemic but she expressed her congratulations to the frontline healthcare workers in her absence.

In other matters presented, the board:

\*Heard an update on economic development from Mark Heath, chief executive officer of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.

\*Heard an update on delinquent tax collection efforts from County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.

\*Approved an appropriation of \$500,000 in carry-over funds for capital projects in Henry County Public Schools.

\*Approved an appropriation of \$80,000 from carry-over funds for asbestos abatement at the former John Redd Elementary School.

\*Awarded a contract in the amount of \$178,160 to Spatial Data Consultants, Inc. for updates to the aerial photography and the Geographical Information System (GIS).

\*Appropriated \$11,863 received as a grant from the Library of Virginia. The funds will be used for preserving records in the Circuit Court.

\*Appropriated \$7,787 from the Department of

## Budget from page 1

that the local required effort has gone up but what remains to be seen is how many discretionary funds are added to that.”

According to the presentation by Scott, the amount of required effort increased by almost \$500,000 from the previous year.

Scott first detailed “budget mainstays,” which included baseline cost of compensation and benefits, baseline cost of capital improvements, baseline cost of the technology initiative, and the debt service.

Of the baselines, approximately 76 percent or \$60 million is needed for compensation and benefits.

“We have to meet what our baseline compensation is for our employees right now,” Scott said. At 76 percent, “compensation and benefits are far and away the largest part of our budget.”

Comparatively, capital improvements accounts for 2.7 percent and debt services and technology both comprise four percent of the overall budget, he said.

Over the past decade, Scott said “we haven’t always been able to give a step-wise increase on our salary scale. Last year, we were poised before COVID to take a big bite out of that, which would have put us in a position this year of talking about closing that gap once and for all. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to do that last year, so this year we are tak-

ing a close look at the cost of a three-step increase for all employees on the teacher scale.”

He added that even with the three-step increase, the division would “still be lagging by two steps going into next year but it does put us in reach.”

A three-step increase amounts to \$976,000, according to Scott. Smaller increases would amount to \$687,000 for two steps, and \$366,000 for one step.

On the classified staff scale, Scott said “we are looking at two steps, hopefully three and possibly four.”

A two-step increase would be an additional \$179,000 minimum, he said, and discussed pay raises for bus drivers, aides, and administrators.

“For bus drivers and aides, the talk on the budget committee has been to try to shoot for three percent or higher,” Scott said. “Administrators, they along with everybody except bus drivers, did not get an increase, so we think an appropriate raise there would be between one and two percent.”

According to his presentation, a three percent increase for bus drivers and aides would amount to \$76,000 and a two percent raise for administrators would be \$125,000.

Scott said school officials also cross-referenced the budget requests with the increase of \$1.4 million from the state.

Step increase for full-time and li-

censed staff would be 26 percent of the \$1.4 million for one step, 48.8 percent for two steps, and 69.4 percent for three steps. The step increases for classified staff would be 8.7 percent for one step and 12.7 percent for two steps. The percentage increase for transportation personnel would be 5.4 percent and increases for administrators would be 8.9 percent of the total \$1.4 million.

When combined, the division could afford the pay increases with the expected growth in state funds alone. This; however, does not include other school needs, such as capital improvements, he added.

“If the governor’s budget holds true, that would implicate asking more than level funding,” Scott said. “It remains to be seen what the General Assembly will do with the budget. Indications are there might be some favorable increases there that would allow us to accomplish more of these things.”

Teddy Martin II, of the Reed Creek District, said there could be some cause for optimism on the budget.

“There are favorable indicators and certainly the VSBA is pushing, I’m pushing, and I’d expect that you’ll see more favorable indicators on the budget,” said Martin, who also serves as president of the Virginia School Boards Association. “The only question is how much.”

(For more photos and content, visit [www.henrycountyenterprise.net](https://www.henrycountyenterprise.net))

Justice’s Bulletproof Vest Program. Funds in the current operating budget will be used for the required 50 percent local match.

\*Appropriated \$13,797 received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The grant funds will be used for overtime hours to provide high impact law enforcement activities in areas experiencing increases in crime.

\*Approved a resolution of support for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to fund the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center’s restoration. The projected costs of improvements to the Recreation Center are \$1,500,000. This total includes \$500,000 from the ARC grant funds, \$850,000 from federal and state grant funds, and \$150,000 from private funds. A 30 percent match is required and will be covered by private funds.

\*Approved a resolution of support for a National Park Service Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grant to fund the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center’s restoration. The projected costs of improvements to the Recreation Center are \$1,500,000. This total includes \$350,000 from the SAT grant funds, \$1,000,000 from federal and state grant funds, and \$150,000 from private

funds. A 50 percent match is required and will be covered by state grants.

\*Conducted a public hearing and approved a rezoning request for property located at 20 Water Plant Rd, in the Ridgeway District. The applicant intends to use the existing building for research, development, and assembly operations in the renewable energy industry.

\*Conducted a public hearing and approved a rezoning request for property located on the east side of Gallagher Rd in the Iriswood District. The applicant intends to construct a new warehouse on the property to be used for food distribution.

\*Conducted a public hearing and approved a rezoning request for property located at 3660 Old Leaksville Road. The applicant intends to construct a new convenience store on the property.

(For additional photos and updated content, visit [www.henrycountyenterprise.com](https://www.henrycountyenterprise.com))



**Tory Shepherd, chief operating officer of Sovah Health-Martinsville, was among the frontline healthcare workers recognized as recipients of the 2020 Jack Dalton Community Service Award.**

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# OPINION

## Crab mentality

There's an interesting behavior that's been observed among crabs.

Let's say you're out catching crabs and tossing them in a bucket. Crabs are pretty good climbers, and you might notice that every so often, a crab attempts to climb out of the bucket. It should be a pretty easy process.

However, the second a crab starts to climb out, the other crabs will grab it with their pincers and drag it back down. While all of the crabs could escape the bucket if they just stayed in their own lane, they're so preoccupied with keeping each other in the bucket that all of them end up doomed to the steamer.

I've been thinking about crab mentality a lot lately.

Back in 2012, a large number of minimum wage employees began what was known as "The fight for \$15." The minimum wage has been locked at \$7.25 an hour since 2009, and these folks feel that it should be raised to \$15.

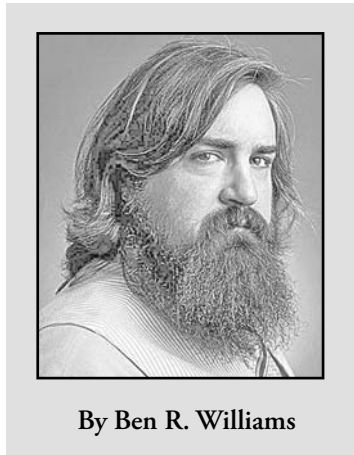
It's perhaps worth point-

ing out that, adjusted for inflation since 2012, the \$15 they originally began advocating for would be \$17 in today's dollars, but I digress.

The fight for \$15 is back in the news right now, and every time it comes up, I hear the exact same comment repeated a hundred different ways: "I'm a <insert job title here>, and I don't think any burger-flipper should be making more money than I do."

There are a couple of points to look at here.

First off, I have long believed that every single person should spend at least a few months working in the service industry. I can personally attest that just a little bit of time spent serving the public will give anyone a new appreciation of "burger-flippers." It's demanding work, both physically and emotionally. No matter where you work, there is always going to be a certain percentage of abusive customers who treat you like garbage. If you don't believe me, just ask literally anyone who's worked in the service industry for longer than an hour.



By Ben R. Williams

The pushback against the \$15 minimum wage is especially galling right now, as we're in one of the darkest periods of an on-going pandemic that's claimed more than 400,000 lives. If we can all agree that our minimum-wage employees are "essential," then we should thank them with a living wage.

Having said that, let's go back to the original point: should someone working in the fast food industry be making more than a teacher, or a social worker, or a paramedic?

Probably not. But the problem isn't that raising the minimum wage would be paying service industry employees too

much; the problem is that wages are stagnant across the board and everyone's wages need to go up.

Up until the late 1960s, the minimum wage kept pace with inflation and productivity growth. Believe it or not, when adjusted for inflation, the high-water mark for the minimum wage occurred in 1968, when it was bumped from \$1.40 to \$1.60 an hour. You might even know some folks who point to that number or a similar one, arguing that they did just fine back in the day making less than two bucks an hour.

However, when adjusted for inflation, that \$1.60 in 1968 would be equal to \$12.13 in today's money. While that's a little below the \$15 folks are asking for, it's a whole lot more than \$7.25 (and it also doesn't factor in nationwide productivity growth, which is something we used to do back in "the good old days").

"Well," those same folks you might know will probably say, "if people want to earn more than minimum wage, they should go to college like I did."

Back in 1968, the average cost of one semester at a public four-year college was \$329. Adjusted for inflation, that's \$2,323 in

today's dollars. Today, the average cost of attending a semester at a four-year public college is \$10,230. That's a 340 percent increase over about fifty years.

The problem we have is that every year that we don't increase the minimum wage, it goes down. As of today, there is not a single place in America where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford the rent on a two-bedroom apartment, and that same worker can only afford a one-bedroom rental in just five percent of counties in the U.S.

"All right," your contrarian friend may reply, "I get it. But if we start paying all of these folks more money, prices are going to skyrocket, and I don't want to have to pay an extra dollar for my cheeseburger."

To that I say the following: before being let go in late 2019, the CEO of a popular clown-affiliated fast food franchise received about \$16 million in annual compensation, which included not only salary but stock options and incentive payments.

I have never once heard anyone say that they're concerned that a CEO's pay is going to cause the price of their burger to go up. It's time we should.

## Presidential Inaugurations

**Morgan Griffith**  
*9th District U.S. Rep.*

Since 1789, the inauguration of a president of the United States every four years has functioned as an important civic ritual that transcends partisan politics.

The Constitution originally said very little about inaugural ceremonies, only stating that the president must take an oath before assuming office. The 20th Amendment set the time for the transfer of power at noon on January 20. Otherwise, the inaugural ceremonies have depended on our traditions and the individuals taking office.

As in many other things, George Washington set precedents for how inaugurations would work. He took the oath of office as

the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789 in New York City, the federal capital at the time. The former general chose to wear an American-made suit of plain brown broadcloth. He added the phrase "so help me God" to the end of the oath. Although the Constitution makes no mention of an inaugural address, he opted to give a speech lasting about ten minutes in the Senate chamber after he took the oath.

Inaugurations have followed the pattern set by Washington in the years since, with some changes. John Adams' inauguration in Philadelphia in 1797 marked the first transfer of power from one president to another. Ceremonies were moved outside begin-

ning with James Monroe in 1817 and held on the West Front of the Capitol since Ronald Reagan's first inauguration in 1981 (his second in 1985 was held inside because of extreme cold).

The inaugural addresses in particular occupy an important place in our tradition, as they have sometimes included rhetoric that earns an honored place in American history. Thomas Jefferson used his first address to say, "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists." Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural appealed to "the better angels of our nature" and his second called for "malice toward none" and "charity for all." Franklin Roosevelt declared that "the only thing we have to fear is fear

itself."

Considering the importance presidential inaugurations have in our traditions, I consider it my duty as a Member of Congress to attend regardless of the individual being sworn in. It is a matter of respect for the office of president of the United States and for our system of government.

In this column four years ago, I stated disappointment in the fact that dozens of Democratic Members of Congress had decided to boycott President Trump's inauguration. I believed their choice disrespected our institutions and the peaceful transfer of power. I said as long as I was in office absent an illness in my family, I would be at an inauguration no matter the individual being sworn in.

Therefore, on January 20, 2021 I attended the swearing in of President

Joe Biden. The 2020 election was not the first presidential election with controversy, nor will it be the last. No matter whom you supported in November or what you think about the process, Joe Biden is our president now and deserves our respect.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this year's ceremony looked different than the ones I have attended previously, but the basic outlines remained the same. New Vice President Kamala Harris was sworn in first. Chief Justice Roberts swore in the new President a few minutes before noon, and he began his inaugural address.

I expect that I will have plenty of occasions to respectfully disagree with President Biden and his Administration in the years to come, but I appreciate the tone with which he started his presidency.

The change in administration does not change my priorities: serving the needs of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. If I can meet them by working with the new Administration, I will do so. If meeting them means opposing the new Administration, I will do that as well.

But those agreements and disagreements were not the point of January 20. The inaugural ceremonies express our shared commitment as Americans to our Constitution and representative government. I think that's important. I urge the new Administration to maintain that commitment throughout its term, not only at its beginning.

For questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

## Opinions

from page 1

of assessed value and the current county tax rate is \$1.55 per \$100. For a qualifying Toyota Camry, the 2020 total tax after relief was \$53.29 for city

residents and \$43.58 for county residents.

After reversion, town residents would pay both the county rate (\$1.55) and the town rate

(\$1.0583). Provided the resident's vehicle qualifies, they would receive 100 percent relief for the town tax, but their total tax after relief would still increase by \$0.69 because of the county tax rate, even though it is technically lower than the previous city rate.

This is a by-product of adding Martinsville's fleet of cars to that of Henry County. Combining the two would drop the county's relief from 38.51 percent to 23.83 percent. The county's tax after relief would also increase from \$43.58 to \$53.98.

Town residents with vehicles over \$20,000 would also have to pay both locality taxes, meaning a \$14 increase compared to taxes of as a city resident. Owners of non-qualifying vehicles such as RVs, campers, boats, and trailers would similarly pay full property tax in both localities as a town resident which would be a 13.4 percent increase.

The data provided by Easley also indicates that business property tax will increase for businesses in the town.

According to Easley, the 2019 study didn't account for the difference between the business depreciation schedules of the two localities. While the city has a higher tax rate, it also depreciates business property over a longer period and has a lower residual value for older property still in use by the business. This leads to a lower tax bill for businesses that keep their property for a long time. Whereas business and computer equipment stop depreci-

ating at 57 percent in the fifth year for the county, they continue to drop to 25 percent and 5 percent, respectively in the city.

In examples provided by Easley, a business that relocated to the city due to the depreciation rate could see a tax increase of \$497.45. A city manufacturer could have a tax increase of \$21,980.63 and a city restaurant could have a tax increase of \$2,211.20.

The real estate tax for town residents would remain relatively the same, according to Easley.

While the city's consultants suggested a "revenue neutral" tax rate of \$0.04571/\$100 as a town, it also requires a \$0.605 increase to the county tax rate. The county has indicated that they would need an increase of \$0.63/\$100 to cover expenditures brought about by reversion. This would mean a 13.5 percent tax increase for county residents.

Piegrass said that the proposed rates are not set in stone.

"With respect to tax rates, and again, this is an issue that I know is currently subject to study and negotiation," he said. "The county may have different views on that and that's something that would be addressed in litigation and negotiations."

Another point of contention between the localities are the many revenue sharing agreements between the two.

"We have paid millions of dollars for our fair share of economic development," said Council Member Danny Turner.



**Kris Bridges, building official for the City of Martinsville, discusses steps to become a more resilient community. Ryan Colker (on the screen), executive director of The Alliance for National and Community Resilience, discussed benchmarks established by the group.**

"We gave \$1.7 million for Commonwealth Crossing and we've just constantly pumped money into the Patriot Centre and never got a dime back for anything yet. Is it the county's position that we have to void that?"

Piegrass said that the county requested that the revenue sharing agreements become void in the Commission on Local Government proceedings.

"Whether they mean what they say is a different question and obviously subject to further litigation and negotiation," Piegrass said.

City Attorney Eric Monday added "it's our position that there is no basis in law for the three-judge panel to be able to void an existing contract."

In other matters presented, city council:

\*Conducted a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant application for the Pine Hall Road area.

\*Read a proclamation acknowledging February 2021 as Black History Month.

\*Heard an update on the city being selected for a pilot program to work through newly established benchmarks for resilience. The city has been working through benchmarks in buildings, housing, and water since October 2020, according to Kris Bridges, building official for the city. He said staff is a third of the way through the process. The three areas will be rated as essential, enhanced, or exceptional. Bridges said the city could be the first to receive a Community Resilience rating which would be beneficial for economic development.

\*Heard an update on Telecommunications Director Mike Scaffidi. The MiNet "Wireless to the Home" initiative is now serving 46 underserved school children with 45 others pending verification from landlords. Additionally, 65 other city residents and eight small businesses are awaiting connection services.

\*Heard a summary of the quarterly finance report.

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# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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## Weekly Publication

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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

# 60 years from page 1

tant for people that lived local, but worked out of town, to have a way to get a haircut in the mornings," Smith said. "He was always an early-to-bed and early riser."

"He probably has 20-25 customers a day that comes specifically for him," Marlowe said.

Marlowe said when he first started at the barber shop, most customers came to see their preferred barber, which made it difficult for him to build up his own clientele.

"Unbeknownst to me, Coy would be hiding in the back and waiting them out until they would finally take a chance on another barber," Marlowe said. "After I got them in the chair, he'd come back out. I finally realized he was doing it for that reason. I thought it was a real stand-up thing for him to do. You can't find a better man than Coy Young. He'd do just about anything for you."

With Coy Young retiring, Marlowe said regular patrons now will be split between him and fellow barber David Helms.

"It's going to be awfully quiet with Coy not here. He's the biggest joker around," said Nanny Beth, who is known around the shop as Granny. "I've been coming here since the 70s and he (Young) has always been here. You could always count on him to liven up your day with one of his many stories. It won't be the same without him, that's for sure."

Beth said it was Coy Young that first gave her the moniker 'Granny.'

"I was in here bragging about my grandbaby and Coy had a grandchild but wasn't going to tell me. His grandchild was hiding in the back when I was going on and on about mine," she said. "So, she comes out, not knowing what is going on, and tells it on him. It's been Granny ever since."

The two even had their own bartering system.

"He always liked it when I'd come in with a bag of walnuts. He said he'd cut hair any day for a pound of walnuts," she said with a chuckle.

It's not just the older generation that will miss Coy Young's presence around the shop either.

Clay Coleman, a senior at Magna Vista High School, said the barber always livened up his day.

"I was probably about 10 when I first started coming here, so it's been about eight years that I've known Coy," Coleman said. "I remember one time he gave me a buzz cut and when he got done,



**Coy Young, of Young's Barber Service, kept customers entertained while giving haircuts. Young recently hung up his cape and retired from the career he started in 1961.**

BY BRANDON MARTIN

he spun the chair around and said, 'I call that a boy scout haircut.' I just started laughing."

Coleman later achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

"You're always sure to get a story from him," Coleman said. "Usually, he waits to the very end with the punchline that'll have you about to fall out of the chair."

Smith said her father worked hard to ensure everyone was welcome in his shop.

"One thing I think is important about dad is that he said the atmosphere in the barber shop was going to be family friendly and the language clean," Smith said. "He studied his Bible when he had quiet time. I think a lot of people that stop by to talk are friends but there are those that come for counsel. He has led people to Christ there and ministered to others that people would turn away. He would stop in mid-haircut to pray for a customer that needed prayer."

The shop also seemed like a second home to Smith.

"The barber shop was just like a second home because if we had been at church, we'd swing by the barber shop and take care of business, then we'd come home. We were all in and out of it," Smith said, referring to it as "the Mayberry life."

With her father's retirement, Smith can't help but reminisce about simpler times.

"I remember going to school when it was still Bassett High School across the river," she said. "We would be at the barber shop together as a family, getting ready to go to a

football game on a Friday night."

As the area has changed over the years, the one thing that remained the same was the barber shop.

"It's been a constant in the community, as far as the businesses that are there," Smith said. "I'm a member of the group 'Bassett Looking Back, Moving Forward' and to see the businesses that are no longer there, and for the barbershop to be a mainstay, is really nice."

With Coy Young stepping away from the family business, it'll be the first time in six decades that a chair in the shop doesn't have the name "Young" above it.

"Someone else owns the shop now," Smith said. "I do have a sister but none of our children are looking to go into barbering. There were many years where daddy was the only chair in the barber shop."

Young, meanwhile, is finding ways to stay busy.

"He's a hard worker so he's staying busy around the house," Smith said. "He's also making mama very happy with things like being able to go out to breakfast and have evenings with friends. It's giving all of us more family time in the evening."

True to his personality, Coy Young still finds time to shoot the breeze in the barber shop.

"A week and a half in, he's already gotten bored," Marlowe said. "He's already been by a few times just to come by and talk."

(Visit [www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com) for more photos and stories.)

# OBITUARIES

## Betty Jo Joyce Robertson

Betty Jo Joyce Robertson, 85, of Martinsville, passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2021. She was born in Mayodan, North Carolina on June 13, 1935 to Robert Benton Joyce and Virginia Elizabeth (Merriman) Joyce.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Warren Baxter Robertson.

She is survived by three sons, Baxter Robertson (Robin), Benton Robertson (Donna), and Bryce Robertson (Karyn); five grandchildren, Bradford Aron, Chase and Arden Robertson, Taylor and Tyler Robertson. She is also survived by a countless number of friends that she also loved like family.

She was a member of the Starling Avenue Baptist Church.

She retired from the Martinsville Police Department as a School Crossing Guard. She then filled her time with



volunteering at the Hospital Auxiliary where she also served on the board.

Not only was she a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, but also, she spent a great deal of her life dedicated to taking care of friends and family. Her love, kindness, and selflessness will be dearly missed by all.

The family regretfully shares that all services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to MHMHC Auxiliary at SOVAH Health, 320 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, VA. 24112 or the Starling Avenue Baptist Church, 932 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville is respectfully serving the Robertson family. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckees-tonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckees-tonemartinsville.com).

## Robert Eugene Craig

Robert Eugene Craig, 80, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away at his home on Friday, January 15, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Lee Craig and Ada Hollingsworth Craig; four brothers, Curtis Lee Craig, Leonard Lee Craig, Percy H. Craig, and Richard Kenneth Craig.

Bob is survived by his sisters-in-law, Marie Smith Craig and Patsy Craig, both of Martinsville; five nephews; and one niece.

He was a graduate of Martinsville High School and studied at Patrick Hen-



ry Community College. He was a former employee of E. I. DuPont. Bob was an avid reader and loved hunting for antiques and collectables during his retirement years. He always had an interesting story to tell and a keen sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

## Mary Alice Stone Stowe

Mary Alice Stone Stowe, 89, of Martinsville, Va. went to her heavenly home on Sunday, January 24, 2021. She was born November 5, 1931 in Bassett, Va. to Columbus Stone and Betty Mae Walker Stone.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband William Randolph Stowe; Sisters, Loveline Lewis, Betty Sue Sparks and Nancy Fain; Brothers Norman, Donald, and Cecil Stone.

She is survived by her daughter Sandra Barrett (Richard); sons,



Thomas Richard Stowe (Jill), Michael Randolph Stowe (Mary); three grandchildren; and five great grandchildren; sister, Shirley Tobler.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at Roselawn Burial Park, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Michael Hatfield.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA.

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckees-tonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckees-tonemartinsville.com).

# SUDOKU

			1					
	5	8	4		2			7
		4		7				
		7						1
3	6				5			
8				2				
						5		
				1			6	3
9	4	6	8				2	

Level: Advanced

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9	4	6	8	5	3	7	2	1
5	7	2	9	1	4	8	6	3
1	8	3	2	6	7	5	4	9
8	9	5	3	2	1	4	7	6
3	6	1	7	4	5	9	8	2
4	2	7	6	9	8	3	1	5
2	1	4	5	7	9	6	3	8
6	5	8	4	3	2	1	9	7
7	3	9	1	8	6	2	5	4

ANSWER:

M	A	M	M	A	L	S		A	R	A	B	S			
O	V	E	R	S	E	E		B	A	D	E	N			
P	E	R	S	P	I	R	A	T	I	O	N	M			
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R	A	C	E	S			A	L	G	A	R	V	E		
D	R	A	B	S			S	L	A	M	M	E	D		

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# Group hopes to stall marijuana legalization in Virginia

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

As the push to legalize marijuana in Virginia gains traction among Democrats in the General Assembly, a group of advocates is organizing in opposition to the legislation.

The group Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) seeks "to educate citizens on the science of marijuana and to promote health-first, smart policies and attitudes that decrease marijuana use and its consequences," according to their website.

During a Jan. 19 virtual panel discussion, the group held a about their reasons for opposing the legalization and commercialization of marijuana, Will Jones, community outreach and communications associate for SAM, said that legalization efforts are akin to a wolf in sheep's clothing.

"It's being couched in phrases as something that would accomplish social justice goals," Jones said. "Last year, Virginia decriminalized marijuana. That is an advancement of social justice goals by relieving penalties for personal possession."

Jones referred to the marijuana push as an "addiction for profit industry," adding that other states in which marijuana legislation was pushed with the intent to achieve social justice goals "have fallen short."

"It's less than four percent ownership in the industry by people of color," Jones said. "This system has been gamed time and time again by wealthy white entrepreneurs who are taking advantage of legalization and commercialization."

At the end of the day, we have to realize that is what this is about. We need to ask ourselves if we are ready for the consequences of an addiction for-profit industry proliferating in Virginia. Commercialization and legalization is another extreme on the spectrum of marijuana policy," Jones said of the push for decriminalization.

While some tax benefits may come from legalization, other group

members like Mary Crozier, the immediate past president of Community Coalitions of Virginia, said the funds likely would not be used appropriately.

"It doesn't seem enough funds are going to behavioral health and substance prevention coalitions throughout the state," Crozier said, and added it is "a false dichotomy" to funnel tax funds from marijuana into minority communities while simultaneously establishing "parity in those communities with a substance that is toxic and risky to the individuals in that community."

Regina Whitsett, executive director of Substance Abuse Free Environment, said taxation on the businesses in the industry would also be high.

"They are talking about a 30 percent tax by the time they do the sales tax and the taxes at the locality level," she said. "They are also talking about home grows. They are giving people permission to grow up to four plants in their home. There will be a black market because the product will be cheaper on the black market rather than them paying the taxes."

Members of SAM also discussed the health implications.

"I've never seen a larger gap between the science and the public's perception when it came to the harmful effects of marijuana," said Dr. James Avery, Virginia co-state director of the American Academy of Medical Ethics.

Dr. Jonathan Lee, immediate past president of the Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine, said the health effects were wide.

"The American Society of Addiction Medicine warned against cannabis use in youth, adolescents, young adults, people with a history of mental illness or substance-use disorders," Lee said. "Cannabis dependence develops in approximately 10 percent of regular cannabis users. It may be associated with cognitive impairment, poor school or work performance, and psychiatric illnesses including



**Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) seeks provide education on the science of marijuana and to promote health-first, smart policies and attitudes that decrease marijuana use and its consequences.**

anxiety, depression with suicidal ideation and psychosis or paranoia."

Linda Moore, a parent who is concerned about marijuana legislation, said her "son at age 21, developed psychosis from smoking pot. He has since been to a 90-day rehab, come off all his medication and is functioning as a normal 22-year-old boy. This has turned our lives upside down in many ways."

Moore pleaded for proponents of legalization "to do the research" before "they legalize something that is killing our children and causing harm."

Due to the impacts on youth, Octavia Marsh, the executive director of Hanover Cares, also opposes legalization.

"We primarily focus on youth prevention," Marsh said, and added marijuana legalization "simply does not consider or offer any protections against youth access. In the states that have legalized, both youth access and use have increased."

Marsh said that youth would perceive "any substance that is legal as safe, and we all know that legal does not necessarily mean safe."

Prevention strategies Marsh would like to see implemented include "an education curriculum, community and parenting education, as well as harm reduction and safeguards."

The group also warned against more traffic accidents due to use.

"Studies show that it impairs every critical skill set associated with driving a car," Avery said. "We don't have the equivalent of a breathalyzer test. Seventy percent of marijuana users have admitted to driving while high and

about the same percent said they know they won't get caught."

Noting a study of fatal car crashes in Washington pre-legalization, John Jones, executive director of the Virginia Sheriffs Association, said "8.8 percent of those people were using THC. In the five-year period after legalization, the 8.8 percent jumped to 18 percent."

After recently researching the population of all local and regional jails in the state, Jones said

"At the time, we had about 26,000 inmates serving in those local and regional jails. There were seven people incarcerated that were charged with marijuana possession only."

Jones said only about "one-tenth of one percent" of resources are used by law enforcement to combat marijuana.

While SAM opposes the legalization of marijuana, Virginians appear to largely be in favor of it.

According to a 2017 poll conducted by Quinnipiac University, 59 percent of Virginia voters supported allowing adults to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use.

The number only grew in 2019 when the University of Mary Washington conducted a similar poll that found that 61 percent of Virginia voters support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use by adults.

For more information on the current bill to legalize marijuana in Virginia, visit:

<https://www.wjhl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/98/2021/01/491069422-Virginia-Legalization-of-Marijuana-2021-Introducted-010620.pdf>

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# Warner, Kaine join effort to increase minimum wage

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine joined Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Patty Murray (D-WA) in introducing the Raise the Wage Act of 2021, which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025.

A study conducted by the Commonwealth Institute found that approximately 1,018,000 Virginians would have their wages raised under the Raise the Wage Act of 2021, while another 254,000 Virginians who make just above the new minimum would see increases as well as employers seek to maintain wage scales and reward seniority.

Combined, one in every three working people in Virginia will benefit from raising the wage. The vast majority of Virginians who would benefit are working adults helping to support themselves and their families - 92

percent are age 20 or older and 89 percent are working at least 20 hours a week. In Virginia, the General Assembly approved a gradual increase to the hourly minimum wage beginning May 1, 2021.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered the economic disparities that already exist in this country. In the midst of an unprecedented economic and health crisis that has pushed millions of workers to the brink of poverty, the least we can do is ensure that our minimum wage is a living wage that allows folks who work a full-time job to make ends meet," said Warner, D-Alexandria. "That's why I joined my colleagues in introducing a bill that will help expand economic opportunity for more families."

"Every day, millions of hardworking Americans struggle to

put food on the table or pay the rent. These hardships have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic," Kaine, D-Richmond, said. "Raising the minimum wage will stimulate our economy and give people a fair shot at economic mobility."

Specifically, the Raise the Wage Act of 2021 would increase the federal minimum wage over a four-year period from \$7.25 to \$15. It would also index future increases in the federal minimum wage to median wage growth in addition to phasing out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, youth workers, and workers with disabilities. According to an independent analysis conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, the Raise the Wage Act of 2021 would increase wages for nearly 32 million Americans.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## Les R. Adams Delegate

Over the past several days following the commencement of the 2021 regular session, the Virginia General Assembly has held numerous committee meetings and floor sessions whereby scores of votes have been cast on many issues. In the House of Delegates these proceedings are all conducted electronically online, as I described in last week's column. As expected, this disjointed process is cumbersome, at best, and seriously limits the ability to conduct a deliberative process. Instead, while public participation is diminished, the majority party is pressing full steam ahead with their exceptionally progressive agenda, with few exceptions.

For my part, I am again carrying a heavy workload as a continuing member of several full committees: Courts of Justice, Privileges and Elections, and Transportation. These standing committees are divided into sub-committees where most bills are first assigned. On Courts of Justice, the committee which hears the most bills of any House committee, I continue, as I have since 2014, as a member of the Criminal Law Sub-committee (the most prolific of all sub-committees). As a member of Privileges and Elections, I am part of the Constitutional Amendments sub-committee. And under Transportation, I work on two of its three sub-committees. It is a particularly busy itinerary, but one that provides insight into much of the session's legislation at its early stages.

In addition to attending this regular meeting schedule, I also recently participated in the first meeting of the Virginia Redistricting Commission. This was the first such meeting of its kind in our

state's history, following the adoption of the amendment to the state's constitution this past November whereby we instituted a new process for establishing districts for the United States House of Representatives, the Virginia Senate, and the Virginia House of Delegates. These new districts are drawn every ten years following the data collection from the United States Census. Until this year, such maps would be drawn according to the dictates of the majority party in charge at the time. This Commission process dramatically changes that practice and implements a bipartisan approach for arriving at a consensus.

The new commission consists of sixteen members, including citizens, appointed by certain members of the judiciary, and an equal number of legislators from each state house and political party. As one of the two Republican Delegates chosen by the leadership of my caucus, I was honored to accept this task and look forward to working with my fellow commissioners to fulfill the mission set before us.

Lastly for this week, you should know that the House Republican Caucus has persistently pressed the governor's administration for answers and improvement on the failure to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in an expeditious manner. From the time the vaccine became available, nearly every other state has obtained more success in this task than has Virginia. What has become clear is that an effective strategic plan was simply not sufficiently developed nor delivered by the executive branch.

For my part, our legislative office is coordinating with all possible resources to help everyone we can. If you need assistance, call us at (434) 432-1600.

## Bill Stanley State Senator

Week #2, Jan. 17-23  
We have completed the first full week of the 2021 General Assembly Session. The House continued operating virtually with its limitations and effectiveness hampered by technical issues, limited public participation, and the inability to sufficiently communicate between legislators, constituents, and stakeholders of legislation.

Your and my primary concern continues to be the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines. As best I can determine due to ever-changing Executive Branch plans and directives, the governor and his team have decided to use the local health department districts to administer the vaccine. I do not see how that can work on the scale required, especially since the districts do not have the resources required. While they are receiving excellent assistance from Franklin Carilion and SOVAH Martinsville, additional vaccine doses must be shipped and, clearly, private sector medical resources immediately added to the toolboxes.

We who reside in the 9th House of Delegates District (Patrick, western Henry and most of Franklin counties), which I represent, plus a few areas nearby, such as Martinsville City, are in the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD). It has been announced WPHD will enter Tier 1b starting January 25 and directs us to monitor the WPHD website for sign-up instructions. They warn to expect it will take some unspecified time before doses are available. Tier 1b includes ages 65 and above, those with certain underlying health conditions, and essential workers. How WPHD sorts out the order of receiving

the vaccine within Tier 1b groups is unknown.

The House Republican Caucus met virtually with Gov. Northam's vaccine leadership team the evening of January 21 to try to obtain more precise information on why the process is bogged down. I only heard excuses for why Virginia is doing such a poor job on roll-out when compared with other states. Answers were not provided as to why the elderly, who are more prone to serious complications or even death from the virus, are not receiving the next top priority status after medical providers.

One of my priorities this year is, or was, collecting the data on just how many of our rural acres of production agriculture and forestry lands are being chewed up by industrial and commercial scale solar and wind farms in Virginia. My HB2023 simply would have required reporting of that data so the state, localities, citizens, and both the agriculture and forestry industries can measure the impact as well as consider the data in specific site/permitting of these facilities. My bill was killed in subcommittee without any discussion. I thank all who supported my bill, including the Farm Bureau, whose representative managed to get into the virtual "Public Room" to testify in favor of the bill.

While this year is an unprecedented Session in every respect, I remain honored to serve as your voice in the House of Delegates. I will continue the fight for our rural and small town values and principles. To contact me during Session, call (540)576-2600 or email me at delcpoindexter@house.virginia.gov. My legislative assistant, William Pace, or I will respond as quickly as possible.

## Charles Poindexter Delegate

January 26, 2021

The second week of the 2021 General Assembly got into full swing as the various Senate committees began doing the "heavy lifting" of considering all of the legislation filed by all 40 senators, and then moving those bills that each committee approves to the Senate Chamber for a final vote. It being early in the session, a relatively small number of bills have been approved by committees and sent to full Senate for consideration. So far, about ten percent of the bills submitted by senators have been approved by the Senate and sent to the House.

Although the early days of session are usually not notable for lengthy debates, this week a topic received a lot of discussion among senators.

Virginia's disappointing performance in getting its citizens inoculated with the COVID-19 was a topic noted and discussed this week. With an issue this critical – and this important to the people we represent – it would have been unusual were it not a major topic.

Since the vaccine was approved and the federal government began distributing doses to the states, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have kept track of how states are doing in inoculating its citizens. As has been widely reported, Virginia has consistently been at the bottom of the CDC's rankings. Most of this week, Virginia was ranked 48th, which means 47 states were doing a better job than we were inoculating their citizens.

The CDC's rankings are based on how many citizens a state has inoculated per 100,000 in population. By mid-week, Virginia was still below 4,000 per 100,000. For comparison, West Virginia was over 8,500 per 100,000 citizens – more than double our performance.

Republican legislators have been asking why we are doing so poorly and what is being done to rectify the situation. This is a critical problem that must be addressed. For our most vulnerable citizens, our seniors and those at risk due to underlying medical conditions, the vaccine holds the prom-

ise of saving lives.

Disappointingly, a few of our Democrat colleagues have been more likely to assign blame for the pandemic than requiring the Northam Administration provide answers to Virginia's poor performance. In these hyper-partisan times, that response may be instinctive. But this is not a partisan issue or a philosophical disagreement over policy direction. This issue can make the difference between life and death.

This week, the majority party, which gets to decide on which committees we serve, made changes to the committee assignments of some senators. I was among the lucky few Republicans to receive a new committee assignment. Currently, I sit on the Judiciary Committee, The Committee on Local Government, and The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I have now been appointed to serve on the Senate Transportation Committee. This committee consists of 15 Senators, to consider matters concerning airports; airspaces; airways; the laws concerning motor vehicles relating to rules of the road or traffic regulations; heliports; highways; port facilities; public roads and streets; transportation safety; public waterways; railways; seaports; transportation companies or corporations; and transportation public utilities. Since much of the legislative work, especially on the intricate details of bills, is performed in committees, these assignments are of great importance to senators. I am honored to now serve on this important committee, as I believe it critical for our region, especially in light of the need to move the "Southern Connector"/I-73 project forward as a part of re-building our regional economy. Coincidentally, I have filed a legislative budget amendment in this year to secure the financing for this important VDOT project. I will continue to be a strong voice for our region to ensure that we receive transportation dollars necessary to for road projects such as this one.

To comment, call the Senate Message Center toll-free at (833) 617-1821, or email district20@senate.virginia.gov.

## Snow forecast for weekend

More snow is forecast for the weekend, according to the National Weather Service in Blacksburg

Saturday, the NWS forecast a chance of rain showers before 8

p.m., then a chance of rain and snow showers between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., with snow showers likely after 9 p.m. A low of 29 is predicted, with a 70 percent chance of precipitation and new

snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

On Sunday, the chance of precipitation is 80 percent, with snow showers are forecast before 10 a.m., with rain and snow through noon,

before transitioning to rain Sunday afternoon. The high is expected to be near 39 degrees.

Rain and snow showers continue to be forecast Sunday night and into Monday, with lows in the 30s and little accumulation expected.



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# PHCC

from page 1

novative Learning Camp. With a \$3.1 million grant from Harvest Foundation, PHCC established the SEED program which has enabled hundreds of students to attend PHCC for free.

Godwin had a significant influence on the growth of the college's athletic program as well. Over the last nine years, the college added a number of new sports and served more than 1200 student-athletes including numerous athletes from a variety of different countries.

Dr. Godwin has always said 'but for PHCC, many student-athletes would not have the opportunity to pursue a degree while playing a sport they love.' In so many ways, we're able to provide this opportunity because of her leadership," PHCC's Athletic Director Brian Henderson said. "Without Dr. Godwin, I do not know where PHCC Athletics would be. In fact, I'm not certain where I would be. One thing that I am certain of is that I'm honored to have worked for, learned from, and built a

PHAMILY alongside Dr. Angeline Godwin."

Upon learning of Godwin's retirement, one of her close colleagues, PHCC's Vice President of Finance and Administration Jack Hanbury, said, "I have known Dr. Godwin for over 20 years, and she has always been a successful leader. Her leadership at Patrick Henry during difficult times has been exemplary, and I am honored to consider her my good friend."

Godwin's positive impact stretches beyond the PHCC family and into the surrounding community as well.

"While Dr. Godwin has certainly contributed to the growth of this college, she almost made notable contributions to the economic development of the community. The communities served by PHCC have benefitted tremendously from her vast knowledge and experience in economic and community development," PHCC's Vice President of Workforce, Economic and Community Development, Rhonda Hodges who works daily with lo-

cal business and community leaders said.

Godwin has had an active role in the Martinsville - Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), and with the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Start-Up and Grow Martinsville programs.

She regularly welcomes potential business prospects for tours of the college campus and is active in discussing training opportunities that could further economic development opportunities for local and prospective businesses.

"Dr. Godwin has made a tremendous impact on this community since she joined us in 2012. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of PHCC but also for the entire community. She is a consummate team player and one of the smartest people I've ever met. She always knew what buttons to push to get things done but never sought the attention or the credit. I think one of the best standards by which a person can be measured is to ask, 'Did they leave us bet-

ter than they found us?' With Dr. Godwin, there is no doubt - that's exactly what she did for this community," Henry County Administrator Tim Hall said.

Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said "there is no question that Dr. Godwin will leave big shoes to fill. Henry County has been blessed greatly by the contributions of Dr. Godwin, and we congratulate her on the upcoming and well-deserved retirement. On behalf of the entire board, we thank her for a job exceptionally well done."

"I have heard Dr. Godwin say many times that the legacy of a leader is, in reality, the things that are still flourishing a decade after the leader departs," said Greg Hodges PHCC's Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services. "If that is the case, then we will be celebrating Dr. Godwin's legacy at PHCC and within our service region for generations."

Even after Godwin's retirement, members of Martinsville's Start-Up

and Grow Programs will likely continue to benefit from the entrepreneurial guidance she offered them. Likewise, PHCC's students will likely continue benefiting from the work Godwin accomplished on the Phi Theta Kappa National Honors Society Presidential Advisory Board. The many students and employees who participated in the Presidential Leadership Programs which she established will continue to benefit from the advice she provided in those meetings.

"Throughout my career, I've worked closely with many community college presidents and Angeline Godwin is among the very best. For nearly a decade now, her leadership has advanced not just the college, but also the broader community it serves. Angeline is a difference-maker, and she will be missed. That said, I wish her all the best in a well-earned retirement," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges.

After retiring, Godwin plans to move back to her

family home in Mississippi. With her new-found free time, she plans to enjoy her favorite hobbies that include songwriting, painting, and reading. Although she may pick up an odd job here or there, she intends to enjoy retirement to its fullest.

"I've got a bucket list so full, it's really more of a barrel now," Godwin said. "My mother always said, 'you'll know when it's time-- you'll just know that you know.' Over the last several months, I've come to know it. It's time to retire."

The process for selecting a new president will involve a nationwide open search and often takes many months. The search will begin promptly, led by the PHCC College Board and DuBois. Those familiar with the process expect that PHCC may be ready to welcome a new president before the Fall 2021 semester begins.

Before the new president is selected, PHCC faculty, staff, and students will have the opportunity to meet the prospective candidates and provide feedback for the decision.

## High school teacher appointed to state committee works to identify best education practices in future

**Brandon Martin**  
Staff writer

A Bassett High School history teacher was tapped to serve on the newly formed Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education Practices Advisory Committee, which will make recommendations to Gov. Ralph Northam and other state-wide governing bodies on best education practices for Virginia's public schools.

Kathryn Adkins, who has been teaching history for seven years, said her passion for the subject and her students led her to apply for the committee assignment.

"I feel passionately that all students should see themselves as an integral part of our country's history," she said. "In the last few years, I committed to being an anti-racist and inclusive educator, which means that I have been seeking opportunities such as this one to disrupt institutions that perpetuate racism, bigotry, and purposely leave out groups of people. I see this as an opportunity to act on the love that I have for all of my students."

In her new role, the Henry County teacher will focus on creating a more inclusive history curriculum.

"For too long we have ignored these narratives as 'their' history and it is important to come to an understanding that it really is 'our' history - American history," she said.

Adkins said the first step in accomplishing this is arming teachers across the state with knowledge about marginalized groups.

"Maya Angelou said 'when you know better you do better.' The next step would be to ensure that the narratives of marginalized communities are present in our classrooms. This can be as small for elementary teachers as teaching Juneteenth in addition to July 4th," she said. "Teachers can take those steps to be more inclusive right now."

So far, the biggest impediment to having a culturally inclusive curriculum simply has been a lack of available resources, according to Adkins.

"For many teachers, this will be an opportunity to learn more about how to effectively reach students with which they may have had trouble engaging before," she said. "The difficulty will lie in ensuring that all teachers have the information necessary to become culturally relevant teachers that have background knowledge of the history of marginalized communities."

Adkins added that the changes should be conveyed to the community since "this will be a departure from the way that many of our parents, guardians, and community members were taught."

During the committee's first meeting on Jan. 6, much of the discussion centered around the importance of having a culturally relevant approach or pedagogy.

"Culturally relevant pedagogy is teaching that recognizes the diverse cultural backgrounds of students and actively seeks to engage with those cultures in the classroom," Adkins said. "A culturally relevant teacher is us-

ing student centered instruction that actively holds high standards for all students, engaging positively with all parents and community members, being inclusive of the narratives, ways of knowing, and cultural practices of all students."

She added that concept is particularly relevant in history class.

"It is important especially in history because that subject area has been dominated by a predominantly white narrative" before changes "proposed by the African American History commission and the Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Practices committee," she said. "History tells students where we have been and unless they have a full understanding of everyone's history, they can't critically think about where we are going because they are missing information."

Adkins said a culturally relevant approach also should strive to go beyond history class.

"Culturally relevant pedagogy should be implemented in pre-K through 12th grade "in all subject areas," she said.

Adkins has been teaching a class throughout the current school year to include more perspectives under a pilot program authorized by the Commission on African American History in Virginia.

"We began teaching the African American history course under the pilot program this semester. However, the work that the pilot is doing will be to help teachers around the state to implement the curriculum in their own classrooms," she said.

The class has been popular,

according to Adkins.

"When asked 'why did you take this class,' all of the students responded that they wanted to learn about their own culture and history. One hundred percent of my students in the class are attending zoom sessions and participating in the course so far," Adkins said.

She said the course focuses on the question "What is freedom?"

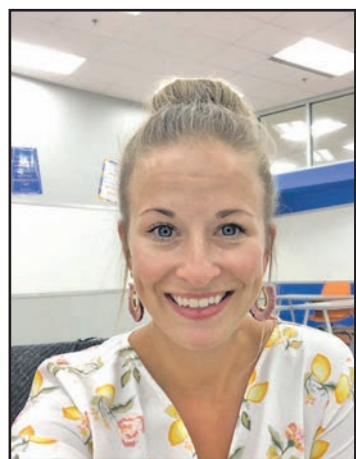
"One of the most profound replies from one of my students was that 'freedom to me would be not being judged by the color of my skin,'" Adkins said. "Another student replied, 'growing up as an African American teen in today's society, I often feel like I don't have the freedom to present myself as others do just because of the color of my skin.'"

Adkins said students have formed a "sense of community" in the class that is solely students of color.

"There is a lot of 'we' and 'us' language that shows that this class is empowering our students in ways that they have not been engaged in in other classes where they are the minority," she said. "This brings it home for me how important it is for our students to see themselves in their study of history but also to have teachers who are trained and actively working to provide culturally relevant teaching practices."

While African Americans are already beginning to see inclusion in the history curriculum, Adkins said her new committee will work to widen the umbrella.

"This committee will be con-



**Kathryn Adkins was tapped to serve on the newly formed Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education Practices Advisory Committee. She is a history teacher at Bassett High School.**

tinuing the work of that (African American History) commission to include other groups that have been marginalized in the teaching of history including Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, LGBTQ+, Jewish Americans, Muslims, and other minority groups in America," Adkins said. "We are proposing changes to the social studies standards for K-12 to be more inclusive of those narratives."

Adkins said she will serve on the Social Studies Standards sub-committee. However, the Professional Development sub-committee will focus on culturally relevant professional development for re-licensure.

That work will include "preparing a roadmap and resources for districts to be prepared to implement that requirement," she said.

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

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

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:  
[www.springlakeauctions.com](http://www.springlakeauctions.com).

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

*We appreciate your business!*  
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

## PET OF THE WEEK



**Willow is a 2-year-old Cattle Dog/Staffordshire Terrier mix. She was surrendered to animal control by her original owner and due to her sweet personality, she was transferred to the SPCA almost immediately. Since she arrived, the SPCA has discovered that Willow would do best as the only pet in the home. She has tons of energy and tons of love to give. For information about how to adopt Willow or any of the animals at the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, call (276) 638-7297.**