

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, March 13, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Board asked to reconsider SRO cut as purse strings tighten on school budget



Sheriff Lane Perry lobbied the Henry County School Board to add three school resource officers to the fiscal year 2022 budget.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Members of the Henry County School Board were asked to reconsider the cut of three additional School Resource Officers (SROs) in the fiscal year 2022 budget. “The proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 included a plan for adding three SROs to begin a phased system of dedicating coverage in the elementary schools,” Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry said at the March

4 meeting.

“I was surprised to hear it had been cut out and I’m here to ask for it to be reinstated in the budget,” Perry said.

Currently, his office provides a school resource officer at each high school, middle school and the Center for Community Learning. Perry’s proposal would add three officers to serve three elementary schools each during the first year, and the divi-

See SRO, page 3



Martinsville City Council held a public hearing in the Albert Harris Elementary School cafeteria. From left to right, Council Member Tammy Pearson, Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, Mayor Kathy Lawson, and council members Chad Martin and Danny Turner.

Second public hearing held on Pine Hall community development project

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

To encourage more public participation in securing a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a project in the Pine Hall Road area, Martinsville City Council held a second public hearing on the matter in the cafeteria at Albert Harris Elementary School on March 9.

The project would address blighted properties and help property owners in rehabbing their respective residences to improve the neighborhood.

No comments were received at the first public hearing on the project on Jan. 26.

Mark McCaskill, director of community

development, said several new potential participants had indicated interest in the project during a Feb. 11 virtual community meeting.

“Two mailings went out, including all past participants plus the new participants from the meeting,” McCaskill said, adding that the 75 recipients received an overview letter, income survey, CDBG fact sheet, brochure, and self-addressed envelope.

McCaskill said the project will include approximately 18 housing rehabilitations with some being more substantial than others. Currently, there are 3-4 demolitions in the project as well.

See Pine Hall, page 4

County schools return to hybrid instruction

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Henry County Public Schools returned to a hybrid instruction plan on March 10.

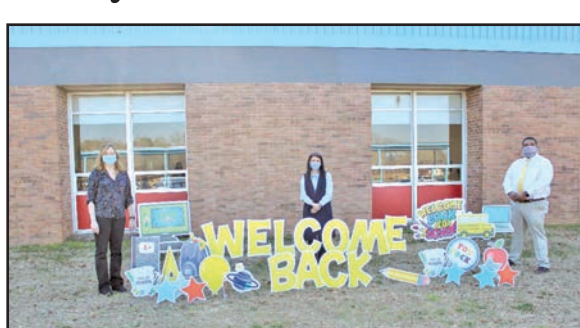
Students in the “B” group were the first to return. Following the division’s model, the “B” group will attend on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The “A” group will attend in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays. All students will learn virtually on Fridays during the hybrid model.

To mark the first day back, Monica Hatchett, director of communications, visited Laurel Park Middle School and Axton Elementary School to capture the moment.

“It was so exciting to be at schools and greet students in person today as they came back to in-person learning—some for the first time since March 13, 2020,” Hatchett said. “There was lots of excitement in each building as staff members greeted students at the entrances and began the day with breakfast in the classrooms. Many schools welcomed students back with special themes, signs, or drawings throughout the day to show students how excited we all are to see them again in person.”

With weeks of preparation, Hatchett said the first day went off without a hitch.

“As with any first day of



school, we encouraged students to be early to their bus stops and for families to plan for car rider lines to take slightly longer than usual, but we had a very smooth return today with no issues,” she said.

Now that the division has returned to some in-person learning, they are preparing to get students back on track.

“We are so pleased to take this step toward ‘normal,’” Hatchett said. “While we know there is still a long way to go, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm of our students and families and look forward to finishing the spring semester by continuing to support our learners in every way we can.”



Bridgette Craighead and her son, Bronsyn, after the grand opening of her salon EL3ven11 Beauty Lounge in Rocky Mount.

Activist, small business owner looks to make history in Virginia’s 9th District

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

After 13 years of Republican control over Virginia’s 9th House of Delegates seat, political-newcomer Bridgette Craighead is hoping to notch a victory for the Democrats this November in a district that typically goes uncontested.

What Craighead lacks in political experience, she is hoping to make up for with a “can-do attitude” and a “genuine desire” to make a difference in her community.

Craighead, 30, is the owner of EL3ven11 Beauty Lounge in Rocky Mount. She gained national attention last year for her role in organizing for the group Black Lives Matter Franklin County.

“After the incident with George Floyd, there were a lot of protests happening and it touched my heart. I wanted to bring a protest to Rocky Mount.

We’ve never had that before,” she said. “So we organized the protest and we developed Black Lives Matter Franklin County. Ever since, we’ve been involved with the community trying to bring awareness to everything that happened. That’s how I built my reputation.”

After that, Craighead said she began to look for other avenues to affect change by attending local board of supervisors meetings.

“During their meetings, it just felt like nobody actually listened to me. They heard what I had to say for my three minutes and that was it. Nothing changed at all,” Craighead said. “From there, I knew that I wanted to do something in Franklin County politics but I just didn’t know what.”

For Craighead, being

See Activist, page 8

Poindexter to mount reelection bid



Del. Charles D. Poindexter

Incumbent Del. Charles D. Poindexter, R-Glade Hill, will seek re-election to the House of Delegates in the Virginia General Assembly.

Poindexter serves the 9th District, which includes most of Franklin County, western Henry County, and Patrick County.

He is being challenged in the primary by Wren Williams of Stuart.

“The people of the 9th District

deserve better than the liberal legislation being forced upon them by the Democrat Majority controlled House,” Poindexter said. “From election integrity and voter security issues to protecting agricultural interests, families, seniors, and small businesses from onerous regulations, taxes and fees, I will continue to fight to protect our rural and small town values and way of life.”

Poindexter also strongly supports first responders and law enforcement personnel, our veterans, the Second Amendment, religious freedom, Voter ID, and high standards for education.

“We must reopen our schools and reopen them now,” he said.

Poindexter believes the Democrat-run state government’s legislative agenda has been unacceptable. “Over the past three years, Virginians have experienced the most out-of-step liberal policies that our commonwealth has ever endured. Instead of working with Republicans, Governor Northam and other extremist Democrats have never missed an opportunity to advance their liberal agenda, erode our freedoms, destroy our history, rob us of our heritage, and attack our region’s

rural and small town values. Their ultra-liberal policies and laws encourage an era of ethical and moral decay that is unacceptable,” he said.

Poindexter is an experienced legislator who has served on committees such as the House Agriculture, Chesapeake & Natural Resources Committee, Counties Cities and Towns, Public Safety, and the House Appropriations Committee. He is running for re-election to continue serving 9th District citizens and conservative interests statewide.

“The 9th District has been my family’s homeplace since 1792. I take personally every issue, every vote presented in the House or in a committee that impacts our 9th District. I read the bills and thoughtfully consider their potential consequences,” Poindexter said.

To continue my work to secure and protect our region’s and our citizens’ conservative interests, I ask for your vote in the Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Republican Primary to be held at your usual voting place,” he said.

Del. Charles D. Poindexter

Rural schools struggle to maintain buildings as state refuses to address equity gaps

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

As localities like the City of Martinsville consider measures such as reversion to alleviate rising costs associated with education in the wake of declining enrollment, the General Assembly failed to act on two pieces of legislation by State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, that would have addressed some of these concerns.

Before adjourning from regular session, the House Privileges and Elections Committee tabled SJ 275 and SB1106 was left in the House Appropriations

Committee, effectively killing both pieces of legislation.

“We have an obligation under the constitution to provide for our public education, both in the primary and the secondary schools, for every child in Virginia that is eligible. It is enshrined in the constitution under Article 8, Section 1,” Stanley said. “The problem with the article is it seeks to provide a high-quality education, but it doesn’t have any teeth in making sure our children — regardless of our zip code, regardless of whatever their financial condition is, and where

they live — get an equitable education.”

Under SJ 275, Article 8, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia would have been amended to state “the General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools with [equitable] educational opportunities for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained.”

Additionally, Section 2 of the article would have been amended to include

that the General Assembly “shall ensure that all

See Equity Gaps, page 7

Visit
<http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com>
for updates



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 13

The Martinsville Mayhem will host a home game at 7 p.m. against the Carolina Cardinals at the Smith River Sports Complex. The Mayhem are a semi-professional football team that plays in the Coastal Spring Football League. For more information, call (276) 403-5940.

Monday, March 15

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will meet via Zoom at noon. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment. Information for joining the Zoom session will be posted on the PHCC website, www.patrickhenry.edu.

Wednesday, March 17

The Southern Virginia GO Region 3 Executive Committee will meet virtually at 10 a.m. Interested parties should use the following link to access the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/3390115898?pwd=YURxZDBPK0pkUUhUV3BmUWFuV0c0QT09>. The password is 202011. Phone access is available by dialing 1-301-715-8592; the meeting ID is 339 011 5898; and the password is 202011. A time for public comments will be included in the meeting and written public comments may be sent prior to 8 a.m. on March 17 to the following email: bryan.david@virginia.edu.

Thursday, March 18

Piedmont Arts will have open studio time from 1:30-4:30 p.m. for students to work in acrylic, oil or colored pencil with artist Karen Despot and fellow students. Bring your own supplies. Social distancing and masks are required at all in-person classes. Register at PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632-3221. Advanced registration required. The class is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

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.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Concern about the plight of the less fortunate could be on your mind, Aries. You may have many questions about humanitarian issues and be wondering how to get involved.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You normally are a very active person, Taurus. Figure out ways to channel that activity into something for the greater good - as well as something that can benefit you.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

This week you will enjoy a break where you can relax and decompress for a change, Gemini. Maybe you can use it as an opportunity to be introspective and forward-thinking.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, you enjoy caring for others and regularly put your needs aside to cater to friends and family. But this week you are the one who needs advice and help.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Try to find things that can keep you occupied at home while you wait for an appointment or spend a lot of time indoors, Leo. Home projects may be an option.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, friends keep calling but you may not be in the mood to do the receiving. Don't isolate for too long, as support from others is important and beneficial.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Do not fight the thoughts or feelings that are running through you this week, Libra. Some may not pan out, but something may come through that sets a new course for you.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Sometimes you can be a bit vague when it comes to relationships, Scorpio. Be clear about your intentions if you are thinking of getting into a new relationship.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Learning how to read other people's emotions can help you learn to interact with and support those around you, Sagittarius. Practice your skills of perception.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, even though you have a solid game plan in place, you may experience a few challenges along the way. Use these experiences to learn from your mistakes.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

This week you may have a conversation with someone who opens your eyes to entirely new possibilities, Aquarius. Embrace this exciting time.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Don't avoid conflict at all costs, Pisces. Rather, learn effective ways to face any and all events that come your way. You'll be more well-rounded.

Axton farmer reappointed to board

Darrell Jackson, a farmer in Axton, was reappointed to the Virginia Tobacco Board in a recent flurry of appointments and/or reappointments by Gov. Ralph Northam.

Farmers' application deadline for CFAP payments extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended the deadline for farmers to apply for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments.

USDA granted a 30-day extension to the previous application deadline of Feb. 26, which was announced to producers on Jan. 15.

American Farm Bureau Federation requested the extension in a Feb. 24 letter addressed to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. AFBF President Zippy Duvall noted severe weather and the temporary suspension of CFAP payments during the presidential transition had created challenges for farmers to meet the previous application deadline.

"AFBF applauds Secretary Vilsack for his swift response to our call for an extension to the CFAP application deadline," Duvall said. "Coronavirus

aid is a lifeline for farmers and ranchers who are suffering from losses due to the pandemic. The extra time will help ensure America's farmers have the opportunity to apply for help."

CFAP assistance is available to farmers whose operations have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Payment eligibility was expanded under CFAP 2 to include turfgrass producers and contract livestock and poultry growers. Contract producers include those raising broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs, turkeys and hogs.

For additional details or to find information related to a specific eligible crop, visit farmers.gov/cfap/commodities.

Farmers can apply through a local Farm Service Agency office or online at farmers.gov/cfap/apply

Power company seeks increase for transmission costs

Appalachian Power has filed a request with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) seeking recovery of electric transmission costs. Submitted last week, the rate change is the first sought by the company since 2017 for transmission infrastructure improvements.

In its filing, Appalachian Power requested to increase the authorized Transmission Rate Adjustment Clause (T-RAC) from \$225.1 million to \$337.7 million, a \$112.6 million increase. The T-RAC recovers costs for transmission services, fees and new construction. Appalachian is making significant investments in transmission infrastructure to improve grid reliability and accommodate the anticipated growth in

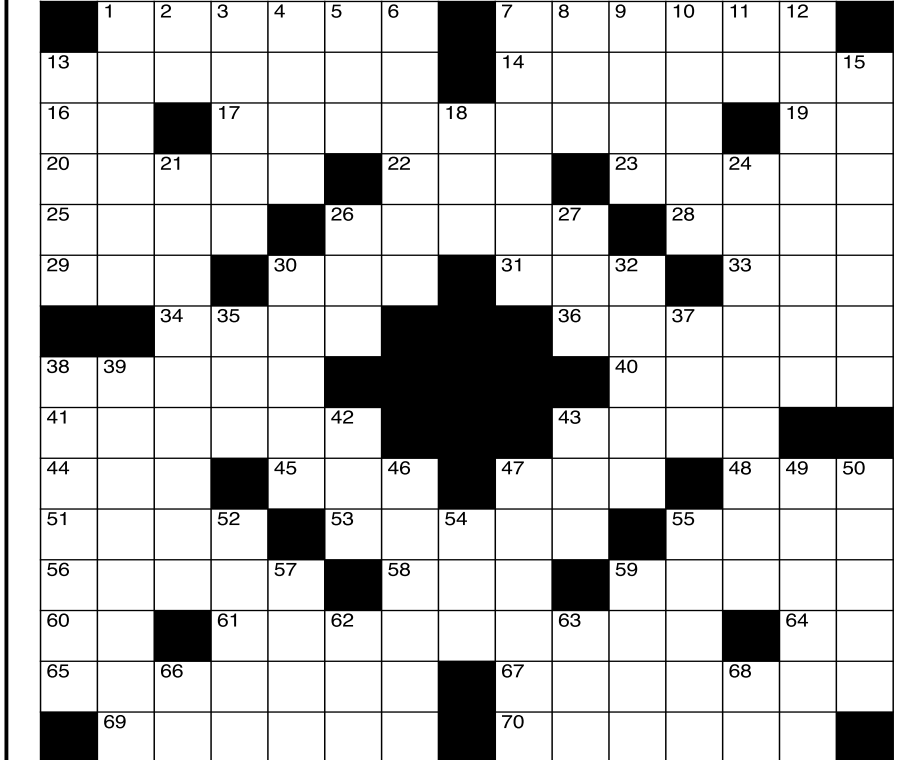
renewable generation.

If approved by the Commission, the change will increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours by \$11.52, or roughly 11 percent, effective in July 2021.

Rate adjustment clauses (RACs) allow Appalachian to adjust parts of the bill periodically for specific costs not included in base rates. This month's filing was made to cover an increase in Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) Charges administered by PJM, and an anticipated decline in revenues in the company's base rate charges. PJM is the independent regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid in 13 states, including Virginia.

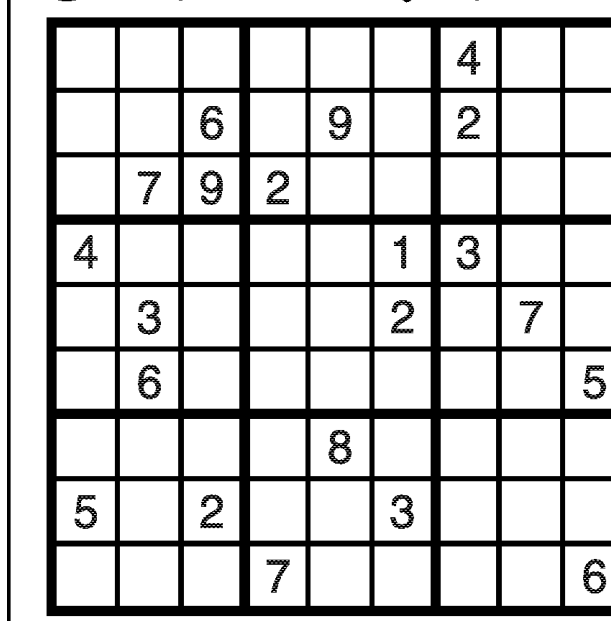
Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 17,400 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 221,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,200 megawatts of renewable energy.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 40. Organic compound | CLUES DOWN | 30. Indian instrument |
| 1. Large dung beetle | 41. Section at the end of a book | 1. An ape or monkey | 32. Bleated |
| 7. Representation of a plan | 43. Flat tableland with steep edges | 2. Chemical element | 35. Cablegram (abbr.) |
| 13. In a fervid way | 44. Criticize | 3. Zodiac sign | 37. Root mean square (abbr.) |
| 14. The Book of Psalms | 45. Split pulses | 4. Removes | 38. Jellyfishes |
| 16. Morning | 47. Brief trend | 5. Brew | 39. Individual TV installments |
| 17. Exactly the same | 48. Cool! | 6. Nickname | 42. Talk |
| 19. About | 51. Purposes | 7. Architectural structures | 43. More (Spanish) |
| 20. Brown & basmati are 2 | 53. Brews | 8. Trigonometric function | 46. Leaseholder |
| 22. Swiss river | 55. Skin condition | 9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna | 47. Monetary units |
| 23. Philippine island | 56. Pops | 10. Henderson & Fitzgerald are 2 | 49. Hostility |
| 25. Expressions of surprise | 58. American air travel company | 11. Mountain (abbr.) | 50. Work stations |
| 26. An ant | 59. Minute bug | 12. Landscaping practice | 52. Linguistics giant |
| 28. Common Japanese surname | 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord) | 13. Capacitance unit | 54. Female sheep |
| 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid | 61. One who rides in your car | 15. Redirect | 55. Calendar month |
| 30. Car mechanics group | 64. One of the Gospels | 18. Hat for women | 57. Seasoning |
| 31. A person's brother or sister | 65. City in southern Spain | 21. In a way, dressed down | 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey |
| 33. Ancient pharaoh | 67. Inquisitive | 24. Granny | 62. Single Lens Reflex |
| 34. Quantitative fact | 69. Jean Paul __, author | 26. Feed | 63. A way to remove |
| 36. Vividly colored bird | 70. Pop singer Harry | 27. Endpoint | 66. Virginia |
| 38. Your home has one | | | 68. Old English |

SUDOKU

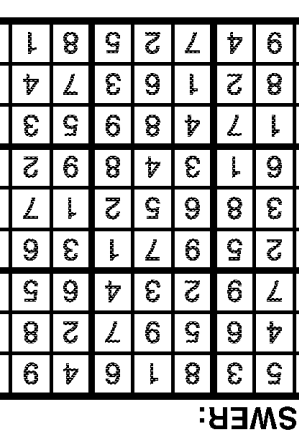


Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

Legislation will limit impact of weather on school instruction

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

During the most recent legislative session, two bills to allow school divisions more flexibility during days with inclement weather made it through the General Assembly with bi-partisan support.

Under the identical bills, House Bill 1790 and Senate Bill 1132, school divisions may declare an unscheduled remote learning day when severe weather conditions or other emergency situations have resulted in the closing of any school in the school division for in-person instruction.

By allowing for the unscheduled remote learning days, school divisions will not receive a reduction in the amount paid by the state from the Basic School Aid Fund. Under the language of the bills, school divisions can't claim more than 10 unscheduled remote learning days in a school year, unless the Superintendent of Public Instruction grants an extension.

Both Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) and Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) plan for 180-day school years. According to Virginia law, school divisions must offer at least 180 days or 990 hours of instruction each year or

state aid will be reduced. School districts typically build in extra snow days for inclement weather. If those days are used up, schools must make up days to meet the required instruction time.

"The division does not currently build in days but does have some built in time" through an extended school day "that can be used if needed when inclement weather becomes a factor," said Monica Hatchett, director of communications for county schools.

Angilee Downing, assistant superintendent of instruction in Martinsville, said the city takes a similar approach by opting to "exceed the required 990 hours of instruction" rather than add days to the school calendar.

Even with the new flexibility of unscheduled remote learning days, Downing said "we will still need to build in the time in case we have more than 10 days or there are days that we are not able to provide services" due to events like power outages.

"Also, with the impact of (COVID-19) on schools, we want to be able to work with our young people as much as possible to ensure they have the skills and knowledge needed to be successful going forward,"

Downing said.

Hatchett said due to the legislation, "the option to proceed virtually will continue to allow us to offer virtual instruction and maintain scheduled breaks rather than having to use those days as make up days. This will also allow us to proceed with professional development days for staff, rather than possibly having to use those days as make up days for inclement weather as well," which will help keep the calendar intact.

Given the year-long impact of the pandemic, school divisions learned how virtual learning can preserve the schedule.

"This year, we experienced very few inclement weather days. Because we were in virtual learning mode at the time, the team's decision to close, delay, or continue with virtual instruction was based on availability of power and internet for students and staff at their homes across the county," Hatchett said. "Based on this criteria, HCPS only closed one day for inclement weather this year and was able to proceed with virtual learning on all other days that would normally be a delayed or closed day due to travel. This process is allowing us to maintain our spring break week and avoid using any of those days as



Two bills to allow school divisions more flexibility during days with inclement weather passed the muster of the General Assembly with bi-partisan support. Schools can hold up to 10 virtual learning days due to inclement weather.

make up days this year."

In the past and without the ability to provide virtual instruction, school divisions would be held to the whims of the weather.

"There have been years with as many as 16 inclement weather days and years with as few as two inclement weather days," Hatchett said. "HCPS always attempts to make up as many missed days as possible."

The impact has been the same for the city schools.

"In the past, we have been able to make up most of the missed time through our extended daily schedule; however, we have had to make up

a couple of days here and there," Downing said.

While disparities in internet connectivity still will persist, the divisions plan to apply lessons from the pandemic to ensure less fortunate students don't fall behind.

"We have been working in partnership with the City of Martinsville to get internet access to all our families. Our practice throughout the pandemic has been to work with our families to meet the needs of our students," Downing said. "If a student does not have internet, the completed and submitted assignments count toward their attendance. We

would do the same if the remote learning is due to unexpected inclement weather. Since we know families have different schedules and childcare situations, we also have a grace period for assignments to be submitted without penalty and for attendance."

Hatchett said the same flexibility will apply to students in the county who don't have access to broadband.

"Teachers are offering deadline flexibility to students who do not have internet access at home every day, but especially on days where inclement weather may have an impact," she said.

Historical Society to hold blood drive in Martinsville

"Be Part of History" with the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society at its American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, April 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum in the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Blood donors will receive discount coupons from Rania's Restaurant Bar & Grill,

Shindig an Uptown Bistro + Catering, and Hugo's Restaurant & Sports Bar and a free cup of coffee from The Ground Floor. Individuals donating for the first time and those reaching blood donor milestones are especially welcome to participate.

Visit www.facebook.com/events/175169564378880 for more information about the blood drive. Schedule

an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Create an account to easily schedule future appointments, manage existing appointments, see your blood type, view results of your mini-physical, track donation history, and use RapidPass to complete pre-donation reading and answer health history questions prior to arrival, thus saving you up to 15 minutes at the blood

drive. If necessary, you may call or text John Phillips at 276-806-5022.

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U. S. needs blood. Each year 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions.

General Guidelines for Blood Donation: Be in good general health and feeling well; be at least 16 years old (16-17 years old require parental consent), weigh at least 110 lbs., and have not donated in the last 56 days. More information is available at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html>.

SRO from page 1

sion would add three officers over the next two years year until there is an SRO for each of the nine elementary schools.

"While I understand balancing budgets, I think we're in a day of needing full coverage in our elementary schools. We at least need minimal coverage, as the three would provide," Perry said.

Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said state grants used to help pay for the positions, but in recent years, the fiscal responsibility has been solely on the local school boards.

Dr. Ben Boone, director of finance, said the proposal would cost the schools \$600,000 when fully implemented.

"We pay approximately \$70,000 per resource officer," Boone said. "If we did three next year, we'd be looking at about \$200,000 and then if you are looking at the year after, and the year after, we are talking about a total cost of about \$600,000."

Strayer said the sheriff's department also provides funds, but the fiscal impact is still heavy on the schools.

"It gets back to the appropriations coming, where are they coming from and who is asking," she said. "When we say we are paying the money, the sheriff's office always says they are paying the in-kind funds from their budget because they provide the officer with the equipment and things like that to equal the pay. We are providing the salary and all of the other essentials."

"I don't think anybody on the board is op-

posed to more resource officers. I think the hang up has been funding," Dr. Merris Stambaugh, of the Collinsville District, said. "I would encourage Sheriff Perry to go to the funding body on our behalf. I think we would be more than willing to support more school resource officers if we had some shared responsibility from the funding body."

Perry said his department regularly responds to incidents in schools.

Some are "routine calls; however, some were more serious such as assaults, sexual assaults, weapon violations, disturbances, drug violations and child pornography," Perry said, and shared the call history from the nine elementary schools in the division.

"When we did this, we only used weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.," he said. "During those hours, 1,055 calls have been at our elementary schools since 2010, resulting in 110 criminal reports taken on property. At one of our elementary schools within this chronicled time, we've already had one close call. A person called in one day and said they were on their way to the school to pick up their two children, commit a double homicide and then commit suicide."

"If we are going to say it's about school shootings, then fund them all. Fund them now and do it in one shot," Teddy Martin II, of the Reed Creek District, said.

"Another thing for me is those statistics were broken down over 10 years and nine schools.

Were there trends? I want more information," Martin said. "If I split it out further and take 1,000 and divide it by 10 (years) then I'm down to 100 (calls). If I divide it by 10 schools, then I'm down to 10 (calls). If I divide it by 10-months, then I'm down to one (call)."

Perry recounted a personal story of when he was asked to respond to an event happening at a school while he was dropping his child off for the day.

"I was immediately directed towards the office where an irate parent was going off inside the office on the school administration," Perry said. "The school administration and school staff do not deserve to be treated like this. I have an idea that more events like this are happening than we know about and even minimal police presence will prevent this."

Stambaugh said he is open for a discussion about adding the officers, but the division also has other priorities.

"We obviously cut things from our budget year after year because we don't get adequate funding. If this is an important enough issue for our board, our community, and our board of supervisors, then I think we should have a discussion about it," Stambaugh said. "It's difficult when we are struggling to provide raises for school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and cutting things to make it happen then having something as important as this also be on the table."

Martin said mandates

from the state also take precedent.

"You have the added layer of these state mandates where you are mandated to give this five percent raise, you're mandated to do this and that," he said. "We are legally required to do it and if we spend too much, we can go to jail."

In other matters, the school board:

*Heard an update on the division's plan for returning to school. As of the most recent survey, Strayer said only 32 percent of elementary students have elected to stay virtual. Another 36 percent of middle schoolers and 42 percent of high schoolers have also elected to stay with virtual instruction.

In addition, Strayer said 642 staff members have been fully vaccinated, with another 40 having received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Approved \$8,037,504.61 of grant funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II funds to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for appropriation.

The funds will be used to address learning loss among students and school facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure.

*Renewed a one-year contract for \$42,000 with Pierce Group Benefits for employee benefits broker services.

*Awarded a bid for \$898,500 to Steve Mar-

tin's Trenching Inc., for site work construction for the new Transportation Facility.

*Approved a reallocation of \$ 293,917 from 2020-2021 CARES Act funds to go towards the nutrition budget.

*Recognized the month as Equity in Education Month and adopted a policy to memorialize the division's support of promoting equity in school.

*Recognized Donna Hicks as being a finalist

for the CodeVa Educator of the Year.

*Recognized Claire Smith and Emily Williams as finalists in the Eastman Oratorical Competition.

*Recognized students who participated in the Region 3D Forensics Tournament.

*Recognized the Bassett High School Band for receiving All-District Honors with some students receiving All-State Honors.



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OPINION

Horton Hears the Latest Outrage

Welcome to this week's episode of "Why the current outrage du jour is based on misunderstandings and false information." Last week we discussed Mr. Potato Head. Today we'll be discussing Dr. Seuss.

Me and Dr. Seuss, we go way back. When I was a little kid, my great-aunt Chris scoured yard sales and bought me dozens of Dr. Seuss books. I loved Dr. Seuss. I loved his crazy illustrations and rhymes. In fact, when I was in fourth grade and we had an assignment to give a presentation pretending to be a famous author, I picked Dr. Seuss.

I feel this makes me well-qualified to discuss this week's bizarre outrage: six Dr. Seuss books are no longer going to be published, and people are losing their minds.

This, they say, is yet another example of liberal cancel culture run amok. Is this the end of The Grinch and The Cat in the Hat? Is nothing sacred? How long, oh Lord, how long? Etc. etc. etc.

First off, here are the six books that are no longer going to be published: And to

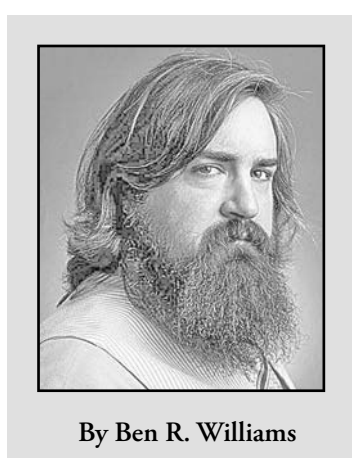
Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street; If I Ran the Zoo; McElligot's Pool; On Beyond Zebra!; Scrambled Eggs Super!; and The Cat's Quizzer.

As someone who is such a fan of Dr. Seuss that I once dressed up as him for a class project, I can tell you that of these six books, I've only read the first one and I've only ever heard of the first two. The heavy hitters aren't lapsing from publication; The Grinch and The Cat in the Hat are safe, and you will continue hearing excerpts from "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" from exceptionally lazy commencement speakers at high school and college graduations for centuries to come.

Secondly, no one is "canceling" these six books. Dr. Seuss Enterprises, which owns the rights to his material, voluntarily decided to cease publication of these titles.

It seems to me that the capitalist argument would be that a private corporation has the right to do whatever it wants with an intellectual property it owns outright. But maybe I'm missing something.

Third — and here's the main thing — these six books



By Ben R. Williams

contain some pretty racist material, and that's the reason Dr. Seuss Enterprises has decided to cease publication.

Here's one example: "If I Ran the Zoo" features an illustration of three Asian caricatures carrying a caged beast. The text describes them as "helpers who all wear their eyes at a slant." And that isn't the only example from that specific book.

When "If I Ran the Zoo" was published in 1950, no one would have batted an eye at this. Heck, it would be another 11 years before "Breakfast at Tiffany's" came out and audiences got to yuk it up at

Mickey Rooney's portrayal of I. Y. Yunioshi, a character so searingly racist that even David Duke would probably describe the performance as "a bit broad."

There's a tendency to look to the past and say, "Back then, people knew how to take a joke!" I disagree. I think people knew how to endure a joke and bottle up their pain.

I have a friend I've known since elementary school. Back in the day, he had a fairly wide nose, and I remember other classmates would tell him he looked like a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. He would laugh at the jokes, but I knew even then he wasn't laughing on the inside.

I can only imagine how many times over the last 71 years that a child has gone up to an Asian classmate, pointed toward the Asian caricature in "If I Ran the Zoo," and said, "Look, it's you!" Anyone who doesn't believe that exact situation has played out has clearly never met any children.

To be clear, I don't believe all of this means Dr. Seuss was a bad person. He was a product of his time. He was born in 1904, for crying out loud. And it's well worth pointing out that even he changed his opinions as he grew older.

While he was strongly in favor of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II — truly one of the most shameful actions in our nation's history — he changed his mind in the years following the war. In fact, "Horton Hears a Who!" is considered his allegory for the post-war American occupation of Japan, and he dedicated it to a Japanese friend.

If Dr. Seuss were still alive today (at the ripe old age of 117), I feel like he would have supported letting these books lapse from print. He demonstrated himself to be a man willing to change his mind when presented with new information, a skill in mighty short supply these days.

But to those who are still horrified by the decision to remove these six books from print, I encourage you to purchase some Dr. Seuss books. I'd specifically recommend two personal favorites: "The Lorax," which is one of the finest books ever written about the importance of preserving the environment, and "The Butter Battle Book," which is an anti-war parable about the dangers of nuclear escalation and mutually assured destruction.

That'll stick it to those cancel culture liberals.

Remaking the United States by April 1

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

Over the course of a few weeks, House Democrats have passed bill after bill aiming to fundamentally reshape the United States.

House Democrat leaders spare no adjectives on what these bills would do. Take H.R. 1, which passed the House on March 3. According to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), it is "paving the way for transformative progress." In the words of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), "This is a very, very important bill. One could say that everything else we do depends on it."

I have more to say on what H.R. 1 actually does below, but first, let's take Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer at their word. If the bill is all they say, why is it being rushed through the House of Representatives?

The text of H.R. 1 approaches 800 pages, yet only one hearing on it was held by the Committee on House Administration,

which has jurisdiction over the bill. That hearing was held on February 25, after the House Democrat leadership had already made plans to bring it to the floor. The committee did not markup H.R. 1.

Some amendments to the bill were considered on the House floor, but they were done so en bloc, meaning they were grouped together so that Members of Congress had to vote up or down on several at once, not consider them each individually.

As a result, most of the people's representatives had little say on this "very, very important bill."

This is so on H.R. 1 and several other bills because the rules passed by the House Democrat majority carved out an exception to a rule that bills must have been subject to a committee hearing and markup first.

The exception is that before April 1 of this year, any bill that passed the House in the last Congress does not need to go through the committee process

before coming to the floor.

But these bills are not exactly the same as those that previously passed the House, and with 62 new Members elected, certainly the House is not the same either. The decrease in the House Democrat majority from 232 Members before the 2020 election to 222 afterward also belies the idea that these bills must be rushed through without regular order.

And what is contained in the bills that benefit from this slanted process?

H.R. 1 upends our country's election system. The Constitution gives states the leading role in administering elections, but H.R. 1 imposes on them rules that would erode election integrity. States would have to permit ballot harvesting but could not require voter identification, even though ID is routinely needed for other purposes, such as cashing a check or boarding an airplane. Further, federal dollars would be diverted to political candidates, matching some donations by up to six times their

amount. Other changes to election laws that some states made in haste during the pandemic would be made permanent across the country, including expanded mail-in voting without adequate safeguards against fraud.

Speaker Pelosi is right to call this bill "transformative," but it is certainly not progress. The ultimate result would be to give people less confidence that their votes count.

H.R. 1280, passed within hours of H.R. 1, undermines law enforcement across the country. One of the changes they include is an end to qualified immunity. Without that legal protection, police officers would have a much harder time performing their duties. Not even the Virginia General Assembly under unified Democrat control was willing to go so far.

H.R. 5, passed on February 25, makes sweeping changes to the country's laws regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, but refuses to accommodate churches and other reli-

gious institutions that may have sincere objections grounded in their faith. Religious freedom is a bedrock human right, but H.R. 5 makes no room for it. The lack of committee hearings and accelerated schedule of pushing H.R. 5 through the House meant that this egregious flaw in the bill received little attention.

An ideal legislative process includes deliberation, the ability to offer amendments to improve a bill, and the ability to build broad support for a measure by letting legislators offer input, whether in committee or on the floor. The current legislative process in the House of Representatives gives legislators little to do but wave at bills as they pass by. This is a great disservice to the constitutional responsibilities of the House and to the people we represent.

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

Pine Hall from page 1

"Substantial rehabs can get fairly close to almost providing someone with new livable space or a new house. It would be various rooms," McCaskill said. "The less substantial ones would be maybe one or two rooms at a lower dollar amount."

McCaskill said each individual property and the accompanying renovations would be determined by a rehabilitation specialist.

"We have contracted a rehab specialist to update all 18 cost estimates plus to perform the detailed write-up," McCaskill said. "Some infrastructure, stormwater drainage and street improvements are included in this proposal."

McCaskill said the city attempted to have staff do the assessments in the last two applications for the grant.

Bringing in the outside specialist is an attempt to give the city a better chance at receiving the grant, having failed in their previous two attempts.

"We have the outside rehab specialist who has done this type of work many times before," McCaskill said. "We are teaming up with the PDC (West Piedmont Planning District Commission) for another set of eyes and review. Our original consultant, who is finishing up the contract, will also be another set of eyes."

While the city is still accepting applications from homeowners interested in participating in the project, McCaskill said "it would be a stretch" to meet the deadline.

"Go ahead and sign up, but I don't want to sit here and guarantee," McCaskill said. "We would have to qualify the person on the income and the rehab specialist would have to be able to assess. The rehab specialist is starting with the original 18 to see if they still want to participate."

The grant application is due by April 1.

McCaskill said the application will include a line-by-line listing of the renovations that will be conducted and their associated costs.

"If we get the grant application from the state, those grants will be awarded in late summer of 2021," McCaskill said. "We anticipate the contracts will be signed somewhere in late 2021 or early 2022."

McCaskill estimated the duration of the project to last between 24 to 36 months, depending on the details of the contract.

A second community meeting on the project will be held at Albert Harris Elementary School on March 18 from 4 to 6 p.m.

In other matters, city council:

*Approved a resolution to support a community-based probation and pretrial court services program.

Eric Monday, city attorney and assistant city manager, said the program will allow Martinsville to partner with Halifax/Pittsylvania Court Services, with Halifax County serving as the fiscal agent. Currently, Henry County, Patrick County, the City of Martinsville

and Franklin County are four of only five localities in the state that have neither local probation nor pretrial services available.

"This is more in the way of counseling, drug screening, and supervised release that will enable people and not put such a heavy burden on the jail system with them actually being incarcerated," Monday said.

Since Halifax County originally received the grant, Monday said the city could gain the benefits without any financial investment besides "looking for office space" for the employees.

"In terms of the operations, this is not something that has a budget impact on us," Monday said. "While it will be local people hired by this program, they will be employees of Halifax County."

In conjunction with the services, each participating locality will also appoint members to serve on the Community Corrections Resources Board.

Monday said that even if the city moves forward with reversion, the program will not be affected.

*Recognized March as Women's History Month and Red Cross Month.

*Noted upcoming events that include a blood drive will be held at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on April 8 and a Hazardous Waste Day that is slated for April 24, from 9 a.m. until noon.

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City schools take first step back to in-person instruction

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Martinsville School Board held its first meeting since the division returned to limited in-person instruction on March 8.

After almost a year of strictly virtual instruction, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr., said the day came as a relief for students, parents and teachers alike.

“We had a great day today. We went to all of our schools. I only saw one set of tears and I was shocked,” Talley said. “Usually, I see a lot of tears—not from students, from parents. I didn’t see any parents cry today. The students were happy to be back. The teachers were happy to be back. They had pretended like they had been there the whole time.”

Talley said there were approximately 260 stu-

dents who attended the first day in class.

“That is good. That’s what we wanted,” he said. “We wanted to bring students back in level. We’ve been very consistent. We haven’t been in and out. We have not disrupted parent’s schedules or our schedules. I think our students reap the benefits.”

With a successful first day, Talley said other students will be gradually phased back into in-person instruction.

“As many as we can safely return, we will try and phase those back in,” Talley said. “Even though the governor has asked us to bring students back, he asked us to safely bring them back.”

English-language learners (ELL), preschoolers, kindergarteners and special needs students are currently the only students allowed to return for in-

person instruction.

Talley said the feasibility of safely returning more students is reevaluated on an almost bi-weekly basis.

“We don’t want to crowd students on top of each other. We want to keep the six-foot distance which is what the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention),” Talley said.

As more decisions are being made about which students can return and when, Talley said “communication is key.”

Talley also discussed upcoming legislation that the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) supports.

He said one of the biggest laws was mandating the return of in-person instruction for all schools next year. The bill is currently awaiting the signature of Gov. Ralph Northam.

“If he signs that, every school will have to return in-person, regardless of the pandemic. That’s going to be an interesting thing,” Talley said.

He added that VASS also supports maintaining level funding for schools that experienced decreases in enrollment numbers. “I’m glad to say that we don’t need it,” Talley said. “We will actually gain money from enrollment because our enrollment went up. I want to thank our parents for entrusting our students to us.”

The school board also recognized a number of students and staff to recently receive awards.

Lizzy Fulcher, coordinator for Career Development and STEM, discussed the Martinsville Middle School robotics team 8808 Absolute Zero winning their state championship.

“I told you we were going to come back with something and we are state champions for Division 2,” Fulcher said. “It’s a big accomplishment for these kids. There is so much work, time, research, creativity and innovation that they put into the robotics season. They blew it out of the water.”

Fulcher said the team also won 3rd place in the field of “Robot Game.”

“That is a massive accomplishment for us because in years past, we may have been like 49th and this year we were 3rd, remotely,” she said. “I think it speaks volumes for our kids that they were able to do that remotely.”

Fulcher said the team

was also nominated for the second consecutive year for “Global Innovations.”

The school board also heard comments from team members via through a Zoom call pre-recorded earlier in the day.

“The first time I went to state, I was so excited and scared because all of the teams had incredible robots and we had our little simple robot. I was so intimidated,” said Nayti Patel. “I looked up to the teams that had the cool box robots and the amazing projects. Now that we’ve won state, it feels surreal that we’ve become one of the teams that I looked up to when we first went to state.”

With state honors behind them, the robotics team will move onto world competition which is slated to take place in Detroit in August.

The school board also watched the speech which earned 10th grader Javeon Moorer first place in the Eastman Oratorical Contest. Moorer’s speech honored Booker T. Washington.

“Washington showed that no matter what the color of your skin or what race you are, you can do it,” Moorer said in the speech. “I’m super proud to have learned and researched such an amazing person. Just like he said ‘character makes the man, not circumstances.’ I apply that quote everyday because I know as a young man, as a young black man, in today’s society that I can do whatever I want.”

Moorer received

\$1,000 for his award-winning speech.

The board recognized Martinsville Middle School Principal Cynthia Tarpley for winning the Patriotic Employer Award. Talley said Tarpley received the award for her “support of people in the military” presented by Algebra Teacher Tanner Sweitzer.

“He is also a member of the Reserve,” Assistant Principal Ama Waller said. “It was congratulate Mrs. Tarpley and Martinsville Middle School on behalf of Martinsville City Public Schools for being supportive of patriotism. It was given by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.”

Waller said that when Sweitzer takes a break from his duties in the National Guard, the rest of the school is supportive and helps fill in when needed.

“We appreciate you (Waller) and Mrs. Tarpley having that type of atmosphere where he (Sweitzer) is able to serve our great country,” Talley said. “His scores are consistently, even though he has to step away for his duties, in the 90s. She allows him to go when he is called out yet when he comes back the young people love working for him.”

Sheilah Williams, director of school nutrition services, also received an award for her staff’s dedication to providing meals to students throughout the pandemic.

“We have a trophy with your name engraved on it,” Talley said. “You’re a true superhero. We are so proud of you.”



The Martinsville School Board presented Sheilah Williams, director of school nutrition services, with an award. From left to right: Chairman Donna Dillard, Vice-Chairman Yvonne Givens, Williams, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr., and board members Emily Parker and Dominique Hylton.

Board names new principal, director

The Henry County School Board approved a recommendation from Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer to fill two administrative position at a recent meeting.

Donna Anderson will be Director of Transportation and Fleet Management Services.

Anderson, who currently serves as transportation administrator, has served students in the division as a bus driver and member of the transportation team for 30 years.

“I am excited to take on this new role in Pupil Trans-

portation. It is my goal to work alongside and support our staff as we provide safe transportation for our students and continue to ensure that their day begins and ends with positive inspiration,” Anderson said.

Katrina Perry was selected to serve as principal at Rich Acres Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year.

She currently serves as assistant principal at Magna Vista High School and has previously served as a teacher and summer school principal.

“I am excited to join the Buccaneer family and to con-

tinue the legacy of excellence that the students and staff have created at Rich Acres. I look forward to working closely with each family as we partner to support student growth and success,” Perry said.

The board approved the appointments after it reconvened from closed session.

“I am so pleased to have these leaders continue to support our students in such important roles and look forward to working closely with them as they continue the tradition of innovation in their respective areas,” Strayer said.



Katrina Perry will serve as Rich Acres Elementary School principal during the 2021-2022 school year.



Donna Anderson was named Director of Transportation and Fleet Management Services for the Henry County School division.

Boat ramp fee delayed, study planned

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is delaying the start of the new boat ramp fee that went into effect January 1. The fee was enacted by legislation at the 2020 Gen-

eral Assembly. It would have applied to those who did not already hold a boating registration, fishing license, hunting license, or access permit (who were exempted, along with

those under age 17).

For the affected individuals, the fee was to be four dollars per day, or \$23 annually.

During the 2021 General Assembly, the legisla-

ture determined to extend the effective date of the new fee until July 1, 2022 to allow the department to work with stakeholders to determine the best means for funding these

recreational access sites while avoiding unintended consequences for outfitters, education providers, and those to whom the fee could pose an economic hardship.

The agency anticipates assembling a group of interested stakeholders in the coming months, with a report of the group’s findings to be issued by December 1.

Call to artists: enter work in expressions 2021

Regional artists invited to enter exhibit at Piedmont Arts

Lynwood Artists and Piedmont Arts are seeking entries for their annual exhibition, Expressions. Entries will be accepted on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 10 am – 2

pm at Piedmont Arts.

Entry is open to all artists living within a 100-mile radius of Martinsville, Virginia. Artwork submitted for entry must have been completed within the last three years. Work previously exhibited in Expressions is not eligible. Up

to two pieces of art can be submitted per artist. Unlike a juried exhibition, Expressions is open-entry, and all submitted works in compliance with the entry rules are accepted.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in seven

categories, as well as purchase awards, the Lynwood Artists Award and Best In Show. This year’s exhibition will be judged by Amanda Honore Donley, owner of Rose Window Studio in Woolwine, Virginia.

Before entering work,

all artists should review the complete entry rules, available at PiedmontArts.org/info/expressions.cfm.

Expressions will be on display May 22 – July 16, 2021 at Piedmont Arts. Exhibit admission is

always free.

Piedmont Arts is a non-profit art museum in Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at www.PiedmontArts.org.

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OBITUARIES

Kevin Wayne Reamey

Kevin Wayne Reamey, 57, of Axton, Virginia passed away Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at Wesley Long Hospital. He was born November 3, 1963, in Hollywood, Florida to Gene and Rebecca Campbell Reamey. He was a member of The Sons of Confederate Veterans and had proudly served his country in the United States Navy. Kevin was a graduate of Laurel Park High School and had two Associate Degrees from Patrick Henry Community College.



Griggs; and Tegan Jenkins; brother, Patrick Wayne Reamey (Tammy); grandchild, Rowen Griggs; and nephew, Patrick Wayne Reamey, Jr.

The funeral was Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel, with Pastor Robert Haley officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Donations in memory of Kevin may be made to New Life Chapel, 2990 Settle Bridge Road, Stoneville, North Carolina 27048.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Denise Jenkins Reamey; two daughters, Billie Reamey

Alan Kent Wagoner

Alan Kent Wagoner, 68, of Ridgeway, Virginia, passed away on February 24, 2021 peacefully at his residence.



anything and was a great southern cook! His friends remember "his smile could light up an entire room."

Kent is predeceased by his parents and his sister, Debra. He is survived by his son, Alan; his brother, Jeff; his sister, Bonnie; and his grandson, Ethan.

Kent was born in Martinsville, Virginia on January 15, 1953, to James W. and Patsy L. Wagoner, Jr. of Ridgeway, Virginia. After graduating from Drewry Mason High School in 1971, he graduated from Danville Community College in automotive mechanics. He became a mechanic in the United States Air Force.

Kent was an avid outdoorsman and loved to hunt and fish. He also loved to ride the back roads of the Blue Ridge Mountains on his Harley Davidson. Kent could whistle just about

Kent will be buried at the Minter Family Cemetery in Leatherwood, Virginia. A private service will be held for the family. Donations can be made to the veteran organization of choice.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Janice Gail Amos Chitwood

Janice Gail Amos Chitwood, 77, of Bassett, Virginia passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021. She was born December 28, 1943, in Stoneville, North Carolina to the late Bernard and Clarice Stone Amos. She was a 1961 graduate of Bassett High School and worked for Bassett Walker for over thirty years. She was a faithful member of Providence Baptist Church. She loved spending time with her family but especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



lissa Whitlock-Cassell, and Tonya Chitwood; sister, Beverly Stultz; brother, Kimmey Amos; grandchildren, Nikki Whitlock, Michael Whitlock, Cortney Martin, Zachary Reynolds; and great-grandchildren, Camryn Gilbert, Brooke Galyean, Maci Whitlock, Jayce Martin, Colton Whitlock, Judson Martin, and Shane Reynolds.

The funeral was held March 10, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel, with Pastor Eugene Chitwood officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

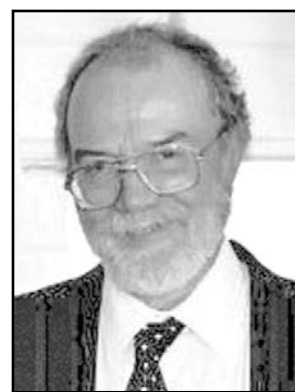
Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Randolph Chitwood; and brother, Barney Amos.

She is survived by her daughters, Me-

William "Bill" Franklin Mattox

William "Bill" Franklin Mattox, beloved husband, brother, uncle and cousin to many passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021, at the age of 80. He was born in Seaford, DE on September 30, 1940, grew up in Martinsville, graduated from Martinsville High School, and attended the College of William and Mary.



music. Bill had special relationships with many animal companions over his lifetime; he always seemed to know exactly what they were thinking. He had a wonderfully creative and funny sense of humor. Family and friends recall that he was a very kind and loving person.

He is predeceased by his mother and father, Travis and Harriet Mattox, and his brother, Paul Mattox.

He was very proud of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, 10th Division, 2nd Fleet, serving during the Cuban missile crisis. Bill met the love of his life, Alison in Williamsburg, VA, and married her in 1966. They lived in the Williamsburg area for the next 50 years before moving to King's Grant in 2018. Bill had a 30 plus year career as a field supervisor surveyor for a civil engineering firm - in later years he spent much time helping property owners settle their disputed claims and preparing surveys for his family. He had a great love of the land, reading, and

He is survived by his wife, Alison Robinson, his sister, Anne Mattox Lackey, his brothers, Henry and Charles Mattox, and many beloved in-laws from Scotland and Canada.

Memorials may be made to the SPCA or a charity of one's choice. A service to celebrate Bill's life will be held at a later date.

Wright Funeral Service and Crematory are handling arrangements. Online condolences may be entered at www.wrightfuneralservice.com.

Mary Shirlene Gwyn

Mary Shirlene Gwyn, 75, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Friday, February 19, 2021. She was born August 20, 1945, in Martinsville to the late William Henry, Sr. and Christine Hairston Gwyn. She enjoyed going to church and watching TV and eating out.

She is survived by a sister Christine Gwyn Gillispie, of Apopka, FL; niece, Andrea Schmanne Gwyn of Martinsville; and nephew William Ashley Gwyn of Riverside, CA.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 13, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel at 2 p.m.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at <http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net>.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Gwendolyn Gwyn Witcher; and brother William Henry Gwyn, Jr.

Nancy Helms Canupp

Nancy Helms Canupp, 89, of Martinsville passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021. She was born in Martinsville on February 20, 1932 to the late Mathis Helms and Emma Helms.



volunteered with Memorial Hospital Hospice for over 20-years, and she enjoyed painting china.

An entombment service was held March 12, 2020 at Henry Memorial Burial Park, officiated by the Rev. Stan Heiser of Charlotte, N.C.

Memorials may be made to the Bassett Historical Society, First Baptist Church of Martinsville or the local SPCA.

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

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Bob" Canupp, Jr.; two brothers and one sister.

She is survived by her sons, David and Edward Canupp; three grandchildren; three great grandchildren; grand pups Maggie and Blondie.

Mrs. Canupp was a long-time active member of First Baptist Church of Martinsville where she sung in the choir. She

Robert Merritt Fulcher

Robert Merritt Fulcher, 77, of Bassett, Virginia passed away Monday, March 8, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born February 2, 1944, in Henry County to the late Garland Kenneth and Ida Lula Turner Fulcher. He was a member of Fort Trial Baptist Church, where he was a Deacon, former Sunday School Teacher, Music Leader, and bus driver for the senior citizens. He graduated from Bassett High School in 1961, Ferrum College, and School of Radiologic Technology at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



Fulcher, Grant Fulcher; and beloved dog, Sophie.

Robert started an x-ray school in Newport News and later taught x-ray at Duke University. He moved the family back home to own and manage Doyle Ready Mix. After selling Doyle Ready Mix, he sold insurance and later returned to x-ray. After retiring, he cared for residents of HopeTree Family Services. Most recently, he loved driving for the Nelson Group.

A memorial service was held March 11, 2021, at Fort Trial Baptist Church. Dr. Joey McNeil officiated. Donations may be made to Fort Trial Baptist Church Building Fund, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown, Virginia 24168 or HopeTree, P. O. Box 860, Salem, Virginia 24153.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Mr. Fulcher is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judy Pilson Fulcher; daughter, Elizabeth Merritt Fulcher; son Jon Matthew Fulcher (Katie); brother, Larry D. Fulcher; sister, Sandra Fulcher Shuford (Randy); grandchildren, Zack Fleming (Taylor), Ashlyn Fleming, Kate Fleming, Sydney Fulcher, Caroline Fulcher, Claire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Email photo along with info to: dhall@theenterprise.net



Healthcare workers receive award

Recently, the Board of Supervisors recognized the healthcare workers in the area on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic as the Jack Dalton Community Service Award recipient, the highest and most prestigious award presented by the Board.

Henry County Supervisors and staff joined representatives of Sovah-Martinsville to visit many of the area healthcare facilities on the frontline to recognize them and say thank

you for their heroic and selfless dedication during the pandemic.

"Healthcare workers have done so much for our community during the pandemic," said Jim Adams, chairman of board. "Words will never be enough to express our gratitude to them for their bravery and commitment."

Tory Shepherd, Interim CEO of SOVAH-Martinsville, also recognizes the importance of saying thanks to the many healthcare workers in the community.

"I am so proud of the tremendous work and unwavering efforts of the dedicated staff at the hospital," said Shepherd. "I also know that we couldn't do it without the help of our community partners. I am thankful for everyone that works in healthcare,

and especially those that took on the many challenges presented by the pandemic."

Working in healthcare brings the inherent risks associated with infectious diseases, but the novel coronavirus exacerbated the risks. Healthcare providers often worked with limited personal protective equipment, provided treatment based on little research, and increased their families' exposure risk.

"The service of front-line workers is extremely inspiring," said Deputy County Administrator Dale Wagoner. "The extraordinary efforts do not go unnoticed. We see you and appreciate you."

Over 5,000 healthcare workers in Henry County and Martinsville work in direct contact with their patients.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS													
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Stanley
State Senator

The final week of the General Assembly's first special session of 2021 has finally concluded on Monday, March 1, 2021 as we adjourned "Sine Die." And after 46 mostly contentious days, I can tell you that the Democrats were able to craft numerous pieces of legislation that fits the radical left agenda of the liberal special interest groups that have been clamoring to change Virginia into, well, more like California. And they have succeeded for the most part. I have equated their efforts to a political "jewelry store smash and grab," where like a robber, they smash the top of the jewelry counter and grab all the stuff they can before the alarm bell sounds and they get caught. Well, they got a lot passed along strictly party-lines to satisfy their ultra-liberal base in Northern Virginia, but I can guarantee you that they are still hungry for more. That's why the upcoming state elections in November will be so critical to the future of Virginia, and our ability to stop this deconstruction of Virginia by the Democrats is imperative. And maybe that's why they are acting so fast in passing such bad and harmful legislation, because they know that they never again may have control of the Senate, House of Delegates and Governor's mansion when the alarm bells go off and Virginians find out what they have done. They have not governed for you and me, rather they have governed for themselves alone, and the rest of Virginia is irrelevant to them.

This last week saw a flurry of action, and Republicans challenged these bad bills at every turn. We pointed out the inadequacies, the failures and even the just poor writing of some of these proposed laws in lengthy

debates on the Senate floor. At this point in any session, debates can be very lengthy because some of most contentious issues are up for final passage. While many of the bills approved by the General Assembly are straightforward, those on particularly contentious issues tend to be complex and detailed. Democrats didn't care if their bills were flawed though, they just wanted them to pass, without any thought as to the consequences that their agenda would have on everyday citizens of the Commonwealth.

As just one example, the legislation that would set Virginia on course to legalizing and taxing the sale of marijuana for recreational use, is extremely complicated, detailed, and hundreds of pages long. The underlying issue addressed by the bill is contentious on its own. Add in hundreds of pages of complicated policy encompassing issues related to law enforcement, government policy on intoxicants, and taxation, and you get a recipe for a lot of discussion. Finally, since the House and Senate versions of the legislation have substantive differences, a conference committee of legislators representing the House and Senate has to reach an agreement that effectively turns two different bills into a single piece of legislation.

Law enforcement and Virginia's approach to criminal justice has created many of this year's most contentious debates. Efforts to end mandatory minimum sentences for violent criminals and abolish the death penalty were extensively debated in the Senate, generating a lot of coverage in the news media. And, this week, another issue related to criminal justice reemerged that again generated extensive media coverage.

Richmond's WTVR Channel 6 reported that the State

Inspector General's report on malfeasance by the Parole Board related to the case of Vincent Martin had been reduced from 13 pages to the six that were disclosed last summer. Mr. Martin, who had been serving a life sentence for murdering Richmond Police Officer Michael Connors, was granted parole last year. The circumstances surrounding the Parole Board's decision in the case has been enmeshed in scandal ever since.

The Northam Administration initially tried to prevent disclosure of the State Inspector General's report on the Parole Board's handling of the Martin case. Forced to comply with a law requiring they disclose such information to the Minority Leaders of the House and Senate, the six-page report was devastating, recounting violations of both Parole Board policy and Virginia Law by the then Chair of the Parole Board, Adrienne Bennett. WTVR uncovered that what was disclosed to legislators only represented part of the story. There were even more examples of egregious and outrageous behavior by the Board, but those didn't make it into the report that ultimately became public. More succinctly, what had already been disclosed was very bad; what was covered up was even worse.

Typical of scandals involving a cover-up, no one in a position of authority seems able to explain what happened to the full version of the State Inspector General's findings, and both Governor Northam and Secretary of Public Safety Moran claim they never saw the longer version.

Despite the Northam Administration's concerted effort to squelch it, this scandal, which has been unraveling since last summer, appears likely to have continued fallout as more infor-

mation is uncovered.

LEGISLATION
With the finishing touches being put on legislation, there's a lot headed to the Governor's desk for his consideration. Eight of the thirteen bills that I authored and sponsored have now passed both the House and Senate, and are on the Governor's desk for him to sign into law.

Criminal Justice and Court Reform:

SB 1108, increases the jurisdictional damage limits of our General District Courts from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for cases of wrongful death and personal injury;

SB 1122, repeals the outdated Habitual Offender statutes that had been partially repealed in 1999;

SB 1415, modifies Child Protective Orders to strengthen punishment of those adults who, while under the restrictions of a Child Protective Order, violate the terms of the Protective Order;

SB 1426, reforms our Court's Orders of Restitution so that victims of crime who are entitled to receive restitution compensation from their convicted offenders actually received the money that they are entitled to in a timely fashion;

Public Education/Health:
SB 1414, extends the time in which the Henrietta Lacks Commission (created by me in earlier legislation two years ago) can complete their work in the establishment of the Henrietta Lacks Life Sciences and Cancer Research Center in Halifax County;

SB1338, permits health care insurance coverage (Medicare/Medicaid) for patients utilizing telemedicine/telehealth in their medical treatment;

Companion Animal Protection:

SB 1412, prevents anyone

who has been previously convicted of animal abuse from being able to either work in a licensed pet shop in the Commonwealth, or purchase a companion animal from a pet shop;

SB 1417, provides that any animal that is bred and/or used for medical experiments shall be made available for adoption to citizens of the Commonwealth (so that these dogs and cats can find their forever homes) once their usefulness for experimentation has ended.

As expected, the Democrat in the House of Delegates killed all my school modernization bills that would have helped modernize our public schools in both the rural and inner-city regions of Virginia. Those bills were:

SB 1106, establishes a "Public School Repair/Modernization Fund," that pools financial resources from public, private, state and local sources for the repair and modernization of school buildings throughout the Commonwealth, both in our rural areas and inner-cities;

SB 1109, proposes that the voters of Virginia, during the November 2022 election, vote on a referendum to permit the Commonwealth to secure 3 billion dollars in bond funding to be used to modernize our schools throughout the state;

SR 275, proposes a change to the Virginia Constitution that would ensure that all of Virginia's children who attend a public school, whether primary or secondary, are guaranteed an "equitable education," regardless of either their financial station in life or where they live;

I will continue to fight the Northern Virginia Democrats next year on these critical public school issues when I bring these bills back for further consideration.

Activist

from page 1

a community leader was more akin to a dream than fate.

"Growing up, being where I am from, I didn't ever think I could even do anything like that. I never saw anybody like me in those positions doing anything," Craighead said, adding that she began networking through her activism group to make that dream a reality.

Craighead was eventually contacted by Dr. William "Fergie" Reid Jr., who focuses his efforts on ensuring candidates don't run unopposed in general elections.

"He reached out to me to ask if I would do it and I said yes," Craighead said. "I don't have

any experience in politics, but I am an everyday, ordinary person living in this district and I know how it feels to live here. I thought why not? I'm at least going to try."

Under the direction of Del. Charles Poindexter, R-Glade Hill, Craighead said she feels like the district hasn't been represented with respect to all of its constituents.

"I didn't even know who our delegate was," she said. "I feel like our district could be more progressive than what it is. There is only one voice being heard and helped in the district. That needs to change. I feel like if Del. Poindexter cared about all of his constituents, then he

would help create more laws that are beneficial to everyone and not just the causes that he personally stands for."

This is an area which Craighead believes that she can be different.

"I bring unity to the table. I'm for all of the people," she said. "Yes, I represent 'Black Lives Matter' but in my reality, I stand for all people."

Craighead said her approach will include "listening to" constituents and "finding common ground where we can move forward."

Based on past positions held by Poindexter, Craighead said she feels that he has been supportive of laws that repress certain communities

rather than lifting them up.

"The only things I've seen that he has done is around agriculture and things like that which I think is great, but I also see where he has been supportive of creating bills that pretty much put people in jail," she said. "Being our representative, he should be creating programs to help bring people into society and help people with their mental issues or drug issues. Instead of finding ways to lock people up, he should be helping people better than what he has."

If elected, Craighead said this is an area where she looks to make a change.

"I want to do things with mental health and prison because I feel we are so quick to create budgets that throw men and women in jail instead of figuring out what has caused these people to do things," Craighead said. "Sometimes, I just don't feel like jail is the answer for everything. People need to get genuine help to be able to live normal lives."

For instance, Craighead said she takes issue with laws that require reporting past felonies on job applications and voting eligibility.

"Your past should not matter. Once you've served your time, we shouldn't be continuing to punish you further. I want to help men and women establish their rights back," she said. "If they are living a life they aren't proud of, then I want to help show them different outlets where they don't have to result to the streets to make a living. I want to show people where I'm from that they can make it as well. They don't have to be in the system. They can exceed their struggles."

She said that if elected, she hopes to have a more personal relationship with those that she represents.

"I want to reach out to

people and talk to people that want to talk to me. I want to hear what they have to say and listen to their everyday issues to know what I can do to help them. I want to know what kind of laws I can create to help the people of all of the counties of which I am entrusted," Craighead said. "Me being a representative of the Democratic Party does not mean that I don't want to listen to the Republicans. I'm for the people and helping them regardless if they share the same political beliefs as me."

Craighead wants to focus on creating more access to opportunities through transportation initiatives.

"A lot of people in these counties – Henry County, Franklin County and Patrick County – don't have vehicles," she said. "If you don't have a vehicle then you can't get to work. If you can't get to work, then you probably don't have a lot of money to live. Not having that money creates stress, which creates health problems and it goes on and on through the issues. It's one simple thing we can do for our constituents to make life a little bit easier."

In another form of granting access to those less fortunate, Craighead said she is interested in ideas for expanding broadband.

"A lot of our kids don't live in the inner cities where there is access to the internet. I'm definitely for whatever it takes to get the internet expanded for everyone," she added.

As a small business owner, Craighead is supportive of increasing the minimum wage.

"I'm a different type of owner. I feel like if I'm making \$1 million, then my employee, who is working with me, should be making a decent living as well," Craighead said. "As a small business owner, (raising the minimum wage) would hurt me in a sense, but

that just means I have to create different ways to bring in revenues for higher incomes so I can pay that person what they are worth."

While she is supportive of an increase to the minimum wage, Craighead doesn't believe that each business carries the same burden.

"For a small business owner, it would be hard for us to pay someone \$15 an hour and balance your home life, business bills, and whatever. But if you are making millions or billions, then you can definitely offer your employees \$15 an hour," she said. "I don't see why not. It should be higher. The people should not have to struggle."

Craighead said the state should offer more incentives to make it easier for people "but not so easy where people become lazy but enough to ensure we are doing our part to make sure people have the things they need to be successful."

While outpacing Poindexter or Republican primary challenger Wren Williams in a traditionally red district is daunting, Craighead knows a race can't be won from the sidelines.

"Protesting is just not enough. We have to get in there somehow," she said. "Honestly, if there is another candidate that could do this then I would bow out gracefully, and I would support that person till the end of the race. But if nobody else is going to do it, then I will. Uncontested incumbency cannot happen this go around."

If she is successful, Craighead will make history in three different ways for the district. She will be the first woman, the first person of color and the first Democrat to hold the seat.

Craighead is a resident of Rocky Mount and she has one son, Bronsyn, 4. She is a graduate of William Fleming High School and Paul Mitchell The School Roanoke.

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