

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Group resolves to explore options and revitalize a former community center

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

While a majority may drive by the rusted gates of the W. M. Bassett Community Center on Blackberry Road without a second glance, those recently touring the facility saw potential and emerged with a new resolve.

Linda Crabtree, who is spearheading the project, amassed a few like-minded individuals to help.

"Right now, I just have two or three people that have said they would serve on a committee. This isn't my forte for certain, but I wanted to see something done," Crabtree said. "After we walk through,

hopefully we will have a better idea of what we are looking at dollar-wise. Then we can go meet with the board of the community center to see what we can do."

The impetus for her involvement is simple.

"I worked here from 1962 until the end of the summer of 1969. I just love this place. It broke my heart when I saw it last October and saw the shape it was in. I just want to see what we can do. I've never done anything like this before. I'm just an interested person that wanted to see something done. I have a dream to get it back like it used to be," Crabtree said.

The center was last open

to the public shortly before the pandemic started to take effect in February 2020, she said. Since then, the power has been turned off, and a few break-ins have left the building ransacked.

"There was a break-in in January," Crabtree said. "They had a brand-new refrigerator, and they took that. Pretty much anything with any value, they took. Even the copper pipes."

The current state of the center left many in the group shocked and dismayed.

"It just makes me sick to see it get to this disarray because I know how hard we worked

See **Group**, page 2



The W. M. Bassett Community Center on Blackberry Road is in a state of disrepair and disarray, but one group resolves to tackle the challenges and explore options to reopen the facility.

Local pastor starts project to honor early educators of George Washington Carver High School

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Rev. Tyler C. "TC" Millner, pastor of Morning Start Church in Axton, is spearheading a community project to celebrate the first-generation educators of George Washington (G.W.) Carver High School.

Millner, who is also a 1964 alumnus of the school in Fieldale, said the project began as an expression and tribute to the first-generation of teachers of G.W. Carver High School.

"In researching it and trying to get a background and context, it really has turned into a kind of discovery project to collect the information and put it in one place that there will be a narrative relative to the High School," he said.

The school, which was formed in 1950 and closed in 1988, does not have documented information that is readily available, Millner said.

"So, I said I'm willing to extend some effort and make it a community effort in terms that the community, one can share their yearbooks, and maybe a few people would be willing to donate their yearbooks back that that there might be some reference in the archives in the school or in the Bassett Historical Society," he said.

Millner said the second goal is to share newspaper clips as he suspects that is about all the written history pertaining the school is located. So far, he has learned that local papers have focused on at least three teachers, but he believes there are more.

"So, we would like for whomever is their favorite teacher if they clip things and so forth to share them that they may be scanned to help build the documentation," he said.

"The third is we would like their narratives. We would do some oral history, you know, recording. If they have a narrative of their own for which they make reference to those teachers, or if they have a story in terms of a relationship or a project or an instance with that teacher or a number of teachers, then we would like to do some recording," he said.

Miller said all of these items would be compiled, packaged together in a type of booklet, and then placed in the county and the Bassett Historical Society to ensure the resources can be accessed by others in the future.

"We want to make it a community at the same time, expanding the effort to salute, recognize, and pay homage to those first generation of teachers," he said.

The project originally began when Miller, a self-de-

scribed history buff, wanted to do something to show appreciation for the teachers to resemble and reconnection regarding them.

"Certainly, I was thinking about a couple of teachers that was motivating to me. But at the same time, I didn't recall how they have been recognized or spotlighted, and so it just came to me that 'why don't you craft a tribute,'" he said.

When searching for documentation, he was unable to find it. Records that do exist are scattered, he said.

"I had the chance to interview or talk with several of them (first-generation teachers), and they were very helpful, and I said, 'all of that needs to get recorded,' because when they expire or transition, there won't be any real sources in terms of information," he said.

In addition to being educational, Miller said he believes this project can be inspiring for younger teachers.

"Particularly when you look at many of the things the teachers now have that they didn't have. They had second-hand books, the equipment was second-and-third-hand," he said.

Miller said he hopes the project stimulates some reflection and involvement.

"They were very motivational. They sought not to make you look flawed or look insignificant. They related in a way that made you want to excel; made you want to do a good job. And I would think that some new and fresh teacher might very well find inspiration in a narrative like that," he said.

"I think we as a community and those who have the interest and so forth have to continue to do the kind of thing I'm doing, so that there can be an accurate record. But also there will be sources and then there will be some connection to history," he said.

Miller also hopes this project inspires others to write more.

"We need to keep better records, or maybe we've got the records and we need to write and put them so that they can be in circulation and be readily available," he said.

Miller said he is informally partnering on the project with the school, Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) African American Museum and Cultural Center, former teachers and students of G.W. Carver, local newspapers, those who have historical interest in the school, and individual who have pieces of history and information about the school.

To help, call Miller at (276) 650-1886 or (276) 224-4147, or email at tcmastorms55@gmail.com.

Bowling makes bid for open Iriswood seat, Martin said he will not seek reelection

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Eric Bowling, a Henry County native, will seek the Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors in the November election.

Dr. J. David Martin, incumbent, said he will not seek reelection.

Bowling, 32, said he has traced his lineage back at least three generations.

"I've pretty much lived in Henry County all of my life. I've always had a genuine interest and curiosity for local news and information," Bowling said. "That interest kind of made me a cheerleader for the area and put me on my path now."

While always interested in events happening in his hometown, Bowling said he wasn't that in-



Eric Bowling is seeking the Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors in November.

involved in the political arena until 2016.

"The issues that are presented right now, with reversion and increase in

spending on projects along the way, pushed me to want to run," Bowling said. "This role on the board of supervisors, they are a liaison and

should perform customer service for the local government."

See **Bowling**, page 5

Reynolds to seek Collinsville seat on school board

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Ray Reynolds is seeking the Collinsville District seat on the Henry County School Board in the November election.

The deadline to complete and turn in the required paperwork to run is June 8.

Reynolds said he decided to run because he has concerns about the county's use of certain school funds.

"When I saw I was paying extra money for taxes to support the schools, and then according to what the money was earmarked for, new construction and new projects for

the schools, Mr. Hall decided he was going to use the money anyway he wanted and he was going to pay down the debt on the Meadow View School," he said.

Henry County Administrator Tim Hall proposed using part of the revenues generated by a new tax to pay down the debt on Meadow View Elementary School.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors has approved the proposed budget.

"The money hasn't even been taken in yet and he's already spent it," Reynolds said.

As a taxpayer and a supporter of the schools,



Ray Reynolds is seeking the Collinsville District seat on the Henry County School Board.

Reynolds said he sees it as his duty to get involved, learn about what is happening and

see if he can ensure the schools are supported

See **Reynolds**, page 3

Living history event blazes in Martinsville



Cannon fire erupted in the city last week, heralding the beginning of a ceremony to commemorate The Raid at Martin's Station. The Historic Henry County Courthouse Heritage Center and Museum in Martinsville was the site of the event held by members of various chapters of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution. (For more photos, see page 12 and visit us online at www.henrycountyenterprise.com)

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 15

Crawford and Power will be playing at Pop's Farm with a solo opening from Corey Hunley. This socially distanced concert will take place at the main stage amphitheater and feature a night of amazing country music, on-site camping, great beer and libations, and food vendors. Masks must be worn by all in attendance. Gates open at noon for campers and 5 p.m. for non-campers. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (276) 650-1583.

Monday, May 17

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will hold its monthly meeting at noon. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. To follow the local board meeting, visit <https://vccs.zoom.us/j/82801651232>. To view the committee meeting, visit <https://vccs.zoom.us/j/88169226583>.

Patrick Henry Community College will offer a crafting session with paper crafting techniques like daubing, die-cutting, and heat embossing, and more, from 7-8 p.m. at the PHCC Dalton IDEA Center. Admission is \$15 and pre-registration is required. To register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-5461.

Wednesday, May 26

GO Virginia Region 3 is holding a series of Stakeholder Input Sessions as part of the 2021 update of its Growth & Diversification Plan. You have the opportunity to provide input for the 2021 update to the GO Virginia Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan during the Zoom sessions. Session 1 – Talent & Workforce will be held at 10:30 a.m. Session 2 – Business-Ready Sites will be held at 2:30 p.m. To register, go to <https://govirginia3.org/growth-diversification-plan-input-sessions/>.

Friday, May 28

Pop's Farm will host two nights of the legendary jamband moe. Moe.morial Day Weekend: A Rooster Walk Family Gathering will feature two nights of moe., as well as two opening bands on Friday, and four opening bands on Saturday. The event will also feature on-site camping, libations and food vendors. No outside alcohol is allowed. Social distancing, as well as mask wearing, is required of all attending. Gates open to campers on Friday at noon, and 3 p.m. for non-campers. Music begins at 5 p.m. On Saturday, the gates open to campers at 10 a.m. and noon for non-campers. Music begins at 2 p.m. For more information, call (276) 650-1583.

Group



Linda Crabtree is spearheading a community effort to revitalize the W.M. Bassett Community Center.

on this place to get it up and running to have a nice place for the kids," said Pamela Biggs, a former director of the center. "My kids were raised here. This place used to be booming. We had MHC After 3 and water aerobics. We had all kinds of programs in here. Softball, volleyball, you name it." Before stepping away due to health issues, Biggs said the center was running strong.

"I think the money and COVID did a number on it," she said. "The boiler went out and when the boiler goes out, there goes your heat. If you don't have any heat, then you can't really have events because it gets really cold. I think that was the start. Eddie said the boiler was like \$75,000."

When word started to spread about a possible revitalization effort, Biggs said she was pushed to get involved.

"My son is very adamant," she said. "He said 'momma, please go and write down the problems and see what we can do' because he has a heart for this place. He said he wouldn't mind running it. I don't know if we are getting to that point today. We are just looking to see what all needs to be done. It's hard because when you work and basically live here and to come in and see it looking how it looks, it's so heartbreaking."

Peggy Rogers, a former patron and committee member, said the sight of the building "hurts."

"We love this place. We love Bassett, and we are hoping we can build it back up for the kids that live here so they will have a place to go," she said. "It was wonderful when it was first built. It had a bowling alley, a place to do ceramics, a place to swim, a place to play basketball, a place to play shuffleboard. It was a beautiful place. It's hard to imagine it now."

Rogers said a lot of mon-

ey will be needed to get the center running again, but it will be worth the cost.

"I was a little girl when it first opened," she said. "It just gave a lot of opportunities to a lot of kids. They have a big kitchen where they would have meals, they'd have lots of meetings. It was the center of a lot of things here. We will never have the bowling alley again, but just to be able to have it for kids during the summer would be great. We've lost a lot in Bassett and we just want to get it back a little bit like it used to be."

Sterling Anderson, a former lifeguard at the center, said walking through the building now makes her sad.

"I have a special connection with this place, I guess because it was my first job," she said. "I worked here for about four years until 2017."

A functional recreational center would mean a lot for the younger generation, according to Anderson.

"The kids that used to come here, I felt like they were my family. I really miss the kids and them having a place to come, especially after COVID," she said. "A lot of the kids don't have anything to do, and it would be great for them to be able to come back and experience it again. I know Fieldale is opening but they can't hold all those people, I don't think. It would be awesome for me to see it reopened."

The group reached a consensus on the first priority.

"The main thing is to get the pool open," Crabtree said. "That's the draw right now. There's nothing else to draw people except the gym. We probably won't get that done this year. We don't have any money. We are going to have to raise it."

Biggs also wants the pool to return.

"If you think about it, this pool and the Fieldale pool are the only pools in

Henry County open to the public. Of course, this one is closed right now," Biggs said. "But there are no other pools and people have to go to the lake. I'm not a lake person. I want to see what's under my feet and there are a lot of people like that. I would love to see it up and running and restored even better than it was before."

Wes Wells, a volunteer with a construction background, said more work would need to be done before the group can get to restoring the pool.

"We have to start inside first," he said. "You'll have to get it up to code before you can get the power on. You can put temporary power in during construction, but you couldn't turn the power on until it was totally inspected" and the county issued an occupancy permit.

Without a financial backer, renovations would come at a significant cost.

"You'll have to get an architect in here to do a study and let them tell you what it would take to get it up to today's code," Wells said. "Just looking at it, I can see the tiles have got asbestos. Probably the pipe installation has it too. You could be looking at a \$100,000 asbestos removal easily. With the boiler, the asbestos and everything, I don't know if we can even do it with \$1 million."

Crabtree said she is currently considering numerous options to find the funds to start the project.

"We are going to see if we can get a plan together and maybe get a PUP (Pick Up the Pace!) grant from the Harvest Foundation to hire someone to do a feasibility study," Crabtree said.

From there, the details will need to be ironed out further.

Eddie White, president of the center's board, also toured the facility. He noted several issues led to the center's downfall.

"I think things started to go south on us when the boiler went out three years ago," he said. "That's a big-ticket item that we had somebody price for us. It's just something that we couldn't afford. It just got to the point where we could not pay the bills. That's why we had to close up shop."

But White also is committed to finding a way to breathe new life into the center.

"If there is a way to make this work, we are certainly willing to explore all options," White said.

OBITUARIES

James "Jim" Bennett Beheler

James "Jim" Bennett Beheler, 66, of Galax, Virginia passed away Saturday, May 8, 2021, at Twin City Hospital, Galax, Virginia. He was born April 27, 1955, in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Bluford and Evelyn Martin Beheler. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Annette Beheler.



Jim taught music lessons and was a choir director at numerous churches over the years. He worked for Stafford's Music. He loved music, working with children and adults,

loved to play music and teach music. He attended Collinsville Church of the Brethren. He graduated from Ferrum College. Jim taught at Martinsville Christian School in the 1980's.

A graveside service will be held at Snow Creek Christian Church, Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 11 a.m., with Roy McVey and Don Pruet officiating.

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

Sharlene "Shine" Turner Slate

Sharlene "Shine" Turner Slate, 90, of Collinsville, Va. passed away on Monday, May 3, 2021. She was born November 24, 1930 in Henry Va. to George H. Turner and Hester Hagwood Turner.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Will David Slate; sister, Ola Laxton; brothers, Woodrow, Carlton and Paul Turner.

Sharlene retired from DuPont and later worked with Bassett Furniture Industries. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Collinsville. She was also a very proud and longtime member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She volunteered at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville for over 30 years.

She loved her family, enjoyed reading and working in her flowers.

She is survived by her sons, John David Slate (Katherine) and James Barry Slate (Karen); granddaughters, Lauren and Claire Slate; numerous nieces and nephews; and her special friend Tommy Holliman.

A visitation was held on Friday, May 7, 2021 at Collins Funeral Home Chapel. A graveside service will be held at a later date at the Slate Family Cemetery in Patrick County. Arrangements are being handled by Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, VA.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeonebassett.com.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					13				14		
					16				17		
					19			20	21		
	22			23					24		
				25					26		
					27		28	29	30		
					31				32		
				33					34		
				35					36		37
39							40				41
							43			44	45
						47	48			49	
						51				52	
						54					55

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Selects
 - 5. A cutting remark
 - 9. Teaspoonful (abbr.)
 - 12. Having two units or parts
 - 13. Quality perceptible to the sense of taste
 - 14. Expression of surprise
 - 15. Italian Island
 - 16. A coarse cloth with a bright print
 - 17. Propose a price
 - 18. Sedimentary material
 - 19. Tree toad genus
 - 20. Passed time agreeably
 - 22. Custodians
 - 24. 3rd largest city in Zambia
 - 25. 18th Hebrew letter (var.)
 - 26. Coasted on ice
 - 27. Libyan dinar
 - 28. Displayed exaggerated emotion
 - 31. Andalusian Gypsy dances
 - 33. Material
 - 34. Article
 - 35. Ballplayer Ruth
 - 36. 5th largest Greek island
 - 39. Hand drum of No. India
 - 40. A style of preparing food
 - 42. Former ruler of Afghanistan
 - 43. AKA Cologne
 - 44. Not generally occurring
 - 46. Auto
 - 47. Print errors
 - 49. Interspersed among
 - 50. Electrocardiogram
 - 51. Churns
 - 52. Ice hockey feint
 - 53. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
 - 54. Dried leaves of the hemp plant
 - 55. Ardour
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Lyric poems
 - 2. Hungarian sheep dog (var. sp.)
 - 3. A pad of writing paper
 - 4. Lists of candidates
 - 5. Base, basket and foot
 - 6. Samoan capital
 - 7. Mythological bird
 - 8. Urban row houses
 - 9. Sensationalist journalism
 - 10. Carried on the arm to intercept blows
 - 11. Estrildid finch genus
 - 13. PA 18840
 - 16. S.W. English town & cheese
 - 21. Runs disconnected
 - 23. Mourners
 - 28. Old world, new
 - 29. Atomic #25
 - 30. Sweet potato wind instrument
 - 31. Legend
 - 32. 3rd tone of the scale
 - 33. Russian jeweler Peter Carl
 - 35. Capital of Mali
 - 36. Extremist sects
 - 37. Violent denunciation
 - 38. Tooth covering
 - 39. Music term for silence
 - 40. Smoldering embers
 - 41. Writer Jong
 - 43. Actor Kristofferson
 - 45. Adam and Eve's 1st home
 - 48. Fish eggs

SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

State of emergency declared in Va. after ransomware cyberattack

Gov. Ralph Northam today signed Executive Order Seventy-Eight declaring a state of emergency in Virginia to address gasoline supply disruptions throughout the Commonwealth.

On May 7, 2021, the Colonial Pipeline system, which is the primary fuel source for many Virginia retailers, reported a ransomware cyberattack that resulted in a temporary shutdown.

While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a temporary fuel transportation waiver to increase the supply of gasoline, the Governor's emergency declaration allows state agencies to issue their own waivers as required by the state.

Executive Order Seventy-Eight also provides increased flexibility and funding for state and local governments to ensure adequate fuel supply.

"This emergency declaration will help the Commonwealth prepare for any potential supply shortages and ensure Virginia motorists have access to fuel as we respond to this evolving situation," said Northam.

Earlier today, EPA Administrator Michael Regan issued an emergency fuel waiver to help alleviate fuel shortages in Virginia and other states whose supply of reformulated gasoline has been impacted by the pipeline shutdown. This waiver will continue through May 18, 2021.

Reynolds

from page 1

the way they should be.

Reynolds said he is also running because of his love for the kids in the community and his desire to see the kids succeed.

Additionally, and from an outside perspective, Reynolds said it appears that some of the supervisors have had a problem with working with the school board.

"That needs to be fixed," Reynolds said and added that he also wants to protect the school budget and make sure those funds aren't disbursed in other areas.

One of Reynolds' main issues is redrawing the school lines, which has not been changed since the 2004 consolidation.

"A lot of these kids that live 4- or 5-miles past Meadow View (Elementary School) are bused all the way to Stanleytown (Elementary School) because the lines have not been redrawn since 2004 since consolidation on the school system," he said.

"So, you actually have kids that should be going to Meadow View, a few miles away, that are actually still being bused to Stanleytown Elementary. That's wear and tear on the buses, money taken out of the budget for fuel, that's time taken out of the kid's life, and that's wrong," he said.

Regarding the City of Martinsville's reversion, Reynolds said he's done some research and has found out that Martinsville High School has several classes with only 10 kids present, while Bassett High School has some classes with up to 37 students in them.

"I'm asking several questions to people in the county, such as 'Are we going to justify keeping Martinsville School open with 10 kids in the classroom?' When we did the consolidation, the (attendance) figures for the other schools were a lot larger than what we got right now."

He also wants to

make sure students have all the tools needed to be taught and to learn in school.

"I want to make sure they got a computer learning center up to date and make sure that each kid has an iPad or computer. I also want to do all I can to work Morgan Griffith and other people to make sure that we got high-speed internet in every community that supports Henry County," he said.

Many students were unable participate in the virtual instruction option due to connectivity issues, he said.

"This was not fair to our children. It was not fair to the parents in the community, it's not fair to the children that want to learn," Reynolds said.

He previously suggested security cameras be placed in all classrooms to protect the students.

"I was told it might be a violation of their privacy, but yet we have cameras on all the buses and in all the hallways in the school. You have cameras at the front of the school, that they even print out and put on a shirt with your name."

He said putting cameras in the classroom would also help prevent students from skipping school and ensure that they attend classes.

Reynolds said another issue that motivated him to run is the large class sizes.

During his time as a student in the 1970s, Reynolds said his classes would have anywhere between 20-25 students, which made it hard to learn.

Reynolds graduated from Bassett High School in 1979. He has owned his own construction business for 35 years and has been a photographer for 22 years. Reynolds can often be found photographing athletic events in Henry County and the City of Martinsville.

Indictments unsealed in Martinsville

A week after grand jurors were seated in Martinsville, 53 indictments were unsealed Monday.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, but a grand jury's determination that enough evidence exists to warrant a trial.

According to records in the Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk's Office, those named in the indictments are:

*Jimmie L. Bryson II, 47, of Ridgeway, forcible sodomy, Nov. 13, 2020.

*Marquise Jamal Wimbush, 19, one count each threatening to bomb, burn, destroy or damage a place of assembly, building, or other structure, or means of transportation, and destruction of property, Dec. 17, 2020.

*Christopher Frederick Belcher, 42, of Martinsville, one count each of conspiracy and re-

ceiving stolen property, Nov. 5, 2018.

*Jose Cortes, 41, of Martinsville, sexual battery, on or about Nov. 1-30, 2020.

*Anthony Lee Coverdale, 39, of Collinsville, one count each possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possess heroin with intent to distribute, possess firearm with Schedule I drug, possess firearm with Schedule II drug, conspiracy to distribute, possess paraphernalia and possess firearm as a violent felon, April 29, 2019.

*Anthony Javon Waller, 37, of Collinsville, 13 counts each forgery, uttering a forged check and obtain money by false pretenses, Dec. 28, 2018 until Aug. 2, 2019.

*Travis Taurean Martin, 38, of Roanoke, three counts felony failure to appear from July 23-Sept.

28, 2020; one count each driving while intoxicated--1st offense, and reckless driving on Oct. 6, 2018.

*Sandi Jean Roberts, 40, of Martinsville, possess firearm while in possession of Schedule II drug, April 6, 2020.

*Benjamin George Adams, 34, of Laurel Fork, one count each possess methamphetamine, possess firearm while in possession of Schedule II drug, and possess firearm by violent convicted felon, Oct. 2, 2020.

*Kenneth Tyrone Moore, 61, of Martinsville, one count each distribute alprazolam and oxycodone, Aug. 16, 2019.

*Zachery Tyler Conner, 23, of Collinsville, one count each statutory burglary and use of firearm in the commission of a felony, July 5, 2019.

Henry County Board of Supervisors update

By Staff Reports

The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved the proposed \$168 million budget for year (FY) 2021-22 on May 10.

The budget, which represents a 7.3 percent increase over the current year, held the line on real estate taxes.

Real estate taxes will be \$0.555 per \$100 of assessed value. Personal property taxes will be \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed value for personal property, including motor vehicles. Machinery and tools taxes will be the same rate. For motor vehicle license fees, cars will be \$20.75, and motorcycles and trailers will be \$12.

School expenditures were adopted on a motion from Dr. J. David Martin, of the Iriswood District, and a second by Vice-Chairman Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District.

The total county budget was adopted for fiscal planning purposes on a motion by Martin, and a second by Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District.

No county funds can be expended or obligated until an appropriation of the budget is made.

The board will meet on May 25 to appropriate the budget.

The board also approved an additional appropriation of \$1,640,525 from FY21 funds for capital improvement items. On the motion by Buchanan and second by Martin, the funds will be used for the removal of unsafe structures (\$90,000), replacement vehicle in building inspection (\$34,000), digitization of records for the Circuit Court clerk's office (\$13,725), employment management software for human resources (\$22,000), server replacement for information services (\$30,000), emer-

gency radio system component replacements (\$60,000), roof replacement at the Henry County Recreation Center (\$175,000), vehicle replacement in Parks and Recreation (\$36,000), vehicle replacement in Public Safety training division (\$39,000), repairs to the Public Safety Burn Building (\$20,000), replacement of front loader for Refuse Department (\$315,000), replacement of four patrol cars for Sheriff's office (\$156,000), and for the purchase of electronic poll books for Registrar's Office (\$85,000).

The board also approved a proclamation declaring the week as Police Officers Memorial Week.

Six local officers who died in the line of duty were recognized in a May 12 ceremony.

Ryan Zehr, of the Ridgeway District, did not attend the meeting.

City unveils proposed FY22 budget

By Staff Reports

Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki presented the proposed \$34,308,365 FY22 general fund budget on May 11.

"We are pulling the general fund balance down below the 10 percent, but year in and year out, we expect between \$1 to \$1.5 million to be returned back to fund balance," Towarnicki said.

The city had an unassigned fund balance of \$4.9 million based on an audit of the end fiscal 2020.

To maintain the 10 percent reserve requirement, the balance would have to be at least \$3,430,837 for reserves. This leaves \$1,507,902, which can be transferred to balance the budget while maintaining the required reserve. Along with reserves from utilities, this amounted to approximately \$5 million which could be transferred to balance the budget.

Towarnicki said there are no recommended transfers from electric or sewer funds.

Staff did recommend transfers to the general fund from water utilities at the amount of \$1.445 million. Another transfer of \$696,688 will come from refuse. The budget balances with a proposed transfer of \$200,827 from telecommunications and \$2.9 million from the fund balance.

The city expects to have \$29,065,850 in revenues before transfers for fiscal year 2022, compared to \$28,840,888 in the current year, which is a 0.78 percent increase in revenues.

Towarnicki said this includes \$90,000 in additional real estate taxes at a rate of \$1.0621 per \$100 of assessed value.

A public hearing is set for May 25 to approve the adjustment to the rate. To keep the rate, the city council must have a public hearing. It also has the option to keep a lower rate of \$1.0502/\$100 which does

not require a hearing. Towarnicki said that by state law, the city must adopt the lower rate if a hearing is not held.

The proposed budget did not include any recommended utility rate hikes.

The net school funding is \$6,219,545, which includes a level funding amount of \$6,045,015 from local contributions and an e-rate contribution of \$99,624.

Level funding was proposed for most outside agencies, except for increases for the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center and the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services. A reduction was proposed in funding to the Henry-Martinsville Health Department.

Towarnicki said city departments requested approximately \$3.9 million for capital requests. Of that, nearly \$2.2 million was designated for utilities and another \$1.76 million for the general fund and capital reserve.

Funding for the capital reserve is \$884,694, Towarnicki said of the remaining amount of the meals tax fund when school debt is paid. An additional \$361,352 is set aside for debt service, leaving \$523,342 for capital purchases to include vehicles for the police department and the sheriff's office, as well as equipment for public works and the fire department.

Towarnicki said the \$523,342 is about 29 percent of what was requested.

Final estimates for some budget items could be affected by federal legislation and reversion.

In other matters, city council:

*Recognized Martinsville Middle School student Marjorie Davis as Virginia Municipal League's Region 2 winner of the 2021 "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

*Heard an update from Greg Suire, president of the Martinsville Mus-



Marjorie Davis reads her award-winning essay for the "If I Were Mayor" contest by the Virginia Municipal League.

tangs, about the upcoming baseball season. The season will begin Thursday, May 27. Suire said he expects the season to be 34-35 games depending on the limitations placed on teams which will play in the Coastal Plain League playoffs. The field will still operate at the 1,000-capacity limit in place due to the pandemic.

*Appointed Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper to the Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023.



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OPINION

Work ethics

I recently saw a photo making the rounds on social media, allegedly taken at a fast food restaurant in Henry County. The photo was of a drive-thru speaker with a sign taped to it. The sign read: "WE ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED BECAUSE PEOPLE DO NOT SHOW UP FOR THE JOB THEY SIGNED UP FOR."

I can't swear that this photo was actually taken in Henry County; it could have been taken anywhere. Similar signs are popping up at fast food restaurants across the country.

You can imagine the comments on the photo. People expressed the view that folks today are lazy, that people love collecting unemployment more than working, that unemployment benefits are too high, and that something something entitled something something kids today something something.

My initial thought was, if I was the manager of a restaurant and no one showed up for work one day, I would not advertise that

fact to the public, especially if I'm looking for employees. If I were on the job hunt, I wouldn't send an application to a place where all the employees quit en masse.

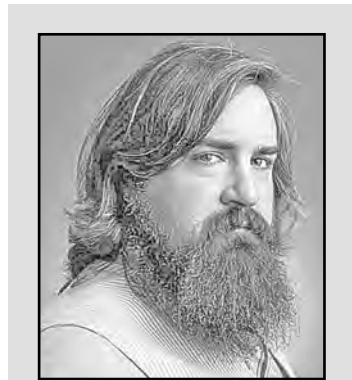
My second thought was: well, no wonder.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there currently exists a \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefit for folks on unemployment, and this benefit is blamed for poor work ethics and sluggish job growth across the country. Critics of the benefit say that it's far too much money and that all the lazy bums out there can make more money collecting unemployment than working a minimum-wage job.

They sure can.

While I'm no math whiz, it seems to me that \$300 per week is equal to \$1,200 per month, which is equal to \$14,400 per year, give or take. That's better than a stick in the eye, but it's not exactly living high on the hog.

Meanwhile, here in Virginia, the minimum wage rose to \$9.50 per hour as of May 1. Of course,



By Ben R. Williams

if you're making minimum wage, that means you're more than likely not working 40 hours per week, because then you'd be entitled to benefits, and that sort of thing really does a number on the profit margins. Let's be charitable and say someone is making \$9.50 an hour and working 30 hours per week.

I plugged that information into a handy-dandy tax calculator I found online, and once you deduct federal income tax and social security, our hard-working fast food employee is making a grand total of \$13,459.27 annually, nearly a grand less than the

guy collecting unemployment, who is also — in both a technical sense and a very real sense — utterly impoverished.

And of course, let us not forget that the federally-mandated minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. If that same fast food employee is unfortunate enough to be working in a state where he's making \$7.25 and working 30 hours per week, his annual take-home pay is \$10,444.79. Since it's no longer 1977, that's a pretty pitiful haul.

Some would say that the guy collecting unemployment instead of working is lazy. I'd call him pragmatic. He's making more money than the guy working in a fast food restaurant, and he's also not getting exposed to COVID and having to deal with customers who treat him like garbage on a daily basis.

It's absurd to say that \$300 per week is too much money, and if anyone thinks it is, I would challenge them to attempt living on that amount. Even a single person with no outstanding debt would struggle to meet even the bare necessities: rent, food, a car, and a cell phone. And while the last two might not seem like necessities, they absolutely are. In

many places, Henry County included, there isn't the transportation infrastructure to get people to work without a car, and cell phones have become an expectation in virtually every facet of our modern lives. If you can't place a phone call, send a text, or access the internet, you're going to have a rough time finding or holding down a job.

The problem, of course, is that a whole lot of folks in this country are being paid starvation wages and they're reaching their breaking point. What's the point of hard work if the best you can hope for is to slip behind a little more slowly? Why try if there's no incentive to get ahead? How do you even muster hope for a brighter tomorrow when you're making peanuts and prices are inflating a little more with each passing day?

The simple fact of the matter is this: if fast food restaurants want folks to show up and make the burgers, they need to pay those folks enough to make it worth their while.

And if a business can't afford to pay its employees a living wage, then it can't afford to be in business.

Prescription drugs: Lower prices, more cures

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

Prescription drug prices burden the budgets of many. It is a problem that demands the attention of health care policymakers, but it must be solved correctly.

Unfortunately, House Democrats are charging ahead with a bill that is unconstitutional and would create many more problems than it solves.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's partisan drug pricing plan is H.R. 3. It was previously passed by the House of Representatives in 2019. At the time, I objected to its constitutionality, among other problems with the bill. The Democrat majority could have used its time since then to fix the bill, but it has chosen not to.

The central approach of H.R. 3 is the imposition of price controls on prescription drugs. The Democrats

call it "negotiating." In this negotiation, however, if the Federal Government and a drug manufacturer do not agree on a drug's price, the government will tax the manufacturer up to 95 percent of the gross revenue.

Seriously?

If this is negotiation, it is negotiating with the threat of coercion looming over the manufacturers. The words of The Godfather come to mind: "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse."

Worse, this provision is a violation of the Constitution's Fifth Amendment, which prohibits private property from being "taken for public use, without just compensation." It runs afoul of the Eighth Amendment prohibition on excessive fines, too.

I am not the only one noting H.R. 3's constitutional problems. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service has raised these points as well.

But House Democrats did not bother to address these concerns.

Apart from constitutionality, H.R. 3 also threatens to undermine one of our country's great strengths: the development of new drugs to treat and cure patients.

Great strides have been made in helping people live with or overcome conditions once thought incurable. Progress depended on private sector investment in research and development of new drugs. In 2018, the biopharmaceutical industry invested \$102 billion for this purpose. By comparison, the entire budget of the National Institutes of Health that year was \$35.4 billion, of which only eight percent went to drug research and development.

In my experience, I benefit from two drugs used in the United States since 2011 and 2012 to treat the blood clots I developed af-

ter COVID-19. Data suggest that one in six people who had the coronavirus have the same condition, which means the development of those drugs will have a vast impact. Prior to the development of these drugs, most people with blood clots had their ability to travel restricted, leaving them unable to perform jobs that require travel, such as salesmen, truckers, or even congressmen.

The process of developing a new drug can be costly and lengthy, but the results are counted in lives extended or saved.

Operation Warp Speed, the Trump Administration initiative that successfully produced multiple safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, was a unique project, but the key to its success was its reliance on the private sector. The Federal Government counted on private industry's ability to innovate. That dynamism delivered.

H.R. 3 shifts the initiative away from the private sector toward the government. Its dictation of prices would diminish the resources available for research into the next great cure or treatment. In fact, when H.R. 3 first passed the House in 2019, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that it would decrease the number of drugs introduced in the United States. That is a steep price to pay.

Reducing prescription drug prices can be done without sacrificing innovation. A bill I have cosponsored, the Lower Costs, More Cures Act, would introduce meaningful reforms and bring much-needed transparency to drug pricing.

Many of the ideas included in the bill have broad bipartisan support, such as curbs on the price of insulin. These benefits do not depend on an approach that sacrifices the

development of new treatments and cures.

Speaker Pelosi has signaled her intention to move forward on H.R. 3 no matter what. Such a move would be a tremendous missed opportunity. There is a consensus that high prescription drug prices impose hardship on too many Americans. Consensus can be found on many of the responses to this problem, too, if House Democrats would set aside their determination to push a partisan bill. The issues at stake — the burdens placed on patients and the ability to develop new drugs to treat or cure them — should be too important to do otherwise.

If you have 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.

My kids — a balanced approach

Debbie Hall

dhall@theenterprise.net

I hope your Mother's Day was awesome.

Mine was pretty spectacular, albeit a bit humorous, mainly because it never ceases to amaze me how different my kids are.

One rolled up that day at the place I'm renting for the summer with mulch and a lawn mower on a trailer pulled with a truck that was loaded down with a grill, tiller and other equipment.

He said, "Ma, I need the mulch off the trailer by the time I finish mowing. You can use my pitchfork if you want."

Yes, he was serious.

My response, "how do you use a pitchfork, son?" was met by an immediate and incredulous, "did you seriously just ask me how to use a pitchfork?"

After shaking his head to clear the offensive thought from his mind, he jumped on the mower, donned a pair of headphones, and attacked the grass like it was an unwelcome guest.

Try as I might, I could not unload the mulch. He ended up doing it after he finished mowing, and then unloaded a spreader and his grill, after deciding to save the tilling for another day.

The other kid, my youngest and sometimes the unfortunate spitting image of her mother, is inquisitive, more hands-on, and often questions me about whether I remembered to do this or that, or to tell me why I should or shouldn't do a thing — in her opinion, of course.

Her first visit to the rental was riddled with questions. "Why would you rent when you have a perfectly good home? This place needs a lot of work, ma. You sure you're up to that? It seems like renting is a waste of money, but that's just my opinion."

The litany was prolonged.

"What does my brother say about it?"

"He said to do it, if it's what I want and if it will make me happy," I replied.

"I mean, I want you to be happy and all too, but what about your retirement? I'd rather see you buy this place than rent it," she said.

But on last Sunday's visit, she managed to silence any remaining questions, and set about unloading plastic bags of goodies.

"Hey Ma, how're you doing," she asked, momentarily ignoring her brother and her nieces -- my granddaughters,



who had arrived a few minutes earlier. Depositing the bags inside, she scurried back to grab the gifts to celebrate the day to honor mothers everywhere.

It's true enough that the differences between them are striking and startling. So much so that I grapple to wrap my head around them -- my son thinks I can conquer all; my daughter is not sure I can manage to do anything much at all.

I want to tell them I'm somewhere in the middle, but facing a 'milestone' birthday next month, I dislike the idea of making even that concession. Either way, and if truth be told,

the different perspectives are good barometers of their feelings.

The inquisitor's voice interrupts my thoughts.

"What are you smiling about, Madre," she asked.

"Just thinking what a wonderful day it is," I replied.

But the smile is really because I know they love me, even though they show it in different ways. It also is because the sheer joy of being their mom is the best gift imaginable -- on Mother's Day or any other day of the year.

But if I tell them that, I may get stiffed on gifts next year, and we can't have that, can we?

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Michael Showell, Publisher

Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Brandon Martin, Reporter
newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

Liz Moonbury, Advertising Specialist
advertising@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

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

Deacon selected to lead partnership

Kathy Deacon was named the new executive director of the Uptown Partnership, effective May 3, according to a release from the agency's Board of Directors.

Deacon will lead the implementation of revitalization activities within the Uptown Martinsville commercial district, using the national Main Street Approach for Uptown economic development.

Deacon, a serial entrepreneur, is a business development and marketing professional with more than 35 years of experience. She worked in international developments in DC for nearly 25 years before moving to Stanton, VA where she founded and ran a consulting business, offering business development, marketing, and entrepreneurship services.

"I appreciate the board's confidence in me. I'm delighted to land in this amazing commu-

nity and to have the opportunity to work with the organization's board, committees, community volunteers, the City of Martinsville, and other

community stakeholders in the important revitalization work that has begun in earnest in the Uptown District," Deacon said.



Kathy Deacon was named the new executive director of the Uptown Partnership.

Bowling

from page 1

This is a way in which Bowling said he will differ from Martin.

"I think Dr. Martin is a very respectable gentleman and I think he is a great guy," Bowling said. "I don't know that I necessarily disagree with him wholeheartedly, but I would be a little more transparent, or even more cooperative with trying to reach out and work with other organizations or even the city. It seems right now that we have this big impasse with reversion."

As complicated as an issue that reversion is, Bowling said he is still relatively undecided on what the best path would be until more details are settled.

"I'm not 100 percent where I stand on reversion as a whole, but I would like to take steps towards consolidating certain services with the city and the county," Bowling said. "I would rather take those intermediate steps instead of lawyers battling it out from different jurisdictions. We need to work together and combine our resources to give the taxpayers and the citizens the most bang for their buck."

Bowling said he would consider consolidating services like Parks and Recreation, which the city currently contracts on with the YMCA. Additionally, senior services, and potentially refuse, are other areas that he would consider combining.

Promoting community involvement would be one of his major goals if elected.

"I want to try and get people interested and involved with the process," he said. "Recently, they brought up the big thing about litter. I want to be able to empower people to reach out to me or the rest of the board. I'll come and help them pick up trash personally. There are people that care and don't want to keep trashing up the place."

Bowling said he also would engage local religious institutions.

"Each church has a different form of outreach that they do in the community. I would really like to work with them to identify all of those things that each church offers," Bowling said.

Another form of community involvement would be fundraising for emergency services.

"Personally, I'm not accepting any campaign donations," Bowling said. "Anybody that would potentially want to, I'd just ask that they donate it to the rescue squads and the fire department."

As a proponent of frugality, Bowling said he would keep a close watch on the county's purse strings.

"I'm big on fiscal responsibility," he said. "Taxes have increased in two of the last five budgets, even as revenue has naturally increased during that same time. The budget has actually increased 25 percent over the last six years. I know it sounds like there is going to be a big hurdle next year as far as being able to keep the budget consistent, but hopefully that is something that we can tackle."

Bowling said he agreed with the county's decision to not raise taxes in the fiscal year 2022 budget.

"I think it was the right call," he said. "There are some expenses, like costs associated with foster care, and I'd like to know exactly what is causing that to go up. But even with those costs going up, I'm glad they were able to find a way to do it without raising the tax rates."

In terms of economic development, Bowling said he would lean heavily on the county's ability to lobby the state for additional funds through the annual legislative agenda.

"I would probably bring the Blue Ridge Airport runway expansion higher on the list," he said. "I don't think we should necessarily put any local tax money towards that, but we should be letting the General Assem-

bly know that is a high priority for us."

The runway expansion will enable increased air traffic, which would make the area more attractive to companies looking to relocate their operations, he said.

"I think the low cost of living that we have here is definitely a big attraction," Bowling said. "There are a lot of companies moving out of bigger states and going elsewhere. As long as we can keep it that way, I think that is a good goal to strive for. We can work with those companies to see what else would attract them here."

Bowling also discussed the county's desire to finish constructing I-73.

"I think that overall, the completed interstate would be really huge for the area, but we are still a long way from that," he said. "I know that North Carolina has a big chunk of theirs complete but as far as I know, no other state has really even started. I'd still like to leave that on the legislative agenda but move the airport higher above that."

Along that same vein, Bowling said he sees issues with the Southern Connector project.

"The way that I recall, with the way it is drawn, the Southern Connector veers off to the west side of U.S. 220 and it looks like I-73 is going off to the east side, coming up from the bottom. I just think it is a big waste of time, land and money if we have the two separate roads going in the same direction."

Another area of soft infrastructure that Bowling supports is broadband.

"I don't think we should allocate any local tax dollars towards that," he said. "The reason is that it seems to be an extremely, quickly-evolving sector. We do need to encourage private development. The city's MiNet recently just ran fiber down close to my house to Carlisle School. I reached out to them to try and get a quote. It's \$100 a month for 100 megabytes. I think I'm paying about \$70 a month for 200 (megabytes), so there's not really any incentive" to switch.

Additionally, Bowling said he sees value in other private broadband projects like Starlink which is a satellite internet service provided through SpaceX.

"I was at Rooster Walk last Saturday when I saw the Starlink coming across the sky," he said. "That was wild. We've got all of these things happening that could potentially bring broadband to us and I think if we run fiber everywhere, it's just going to be outpaced in 5-10 years just because of how broadband is evolving."

Another sector that is quickly evolving is solar energy. Noting the number of new solar projects occurring in the Iriswood District, Bowling said he is excited about the prospects.

"I think that is great," he said. "I've driven by the one that is on Mountain Valley Road quite a bit and is kind of exciting. It's a big field that I don't think has recently been used for anything. Maybe 10-15 years ago, it might have had tobacco, but I think that (solar) is a great thing and it's potentially a tool for the community."

Currently, Bowling is in the process of collecting signatures to be put on the ballot this year. He needs 125 signatures of registered voters, but he said he has set a personal goal of 170 just to be safe.

"I'm about 10 percent of the way there so I'm still chugging along," he said. "If anybody wants to reach out to me then they can email me at eb4iriswood@gmail.com or check me out on Facebook."

Bowling is a graduate of Magna Vista High School and he received an Associate's in Business Administration and General Studies degree from Patrick Henry Community College. He works in customer service at a local furniture company. Bowling's hobbies include NASCAR and bargain shopping.

Martinsville schools update

By Staff Reports

During its May 10 meeting, the school board for the City of Martinsville took the following actions:

*Recognized 7th grader Marjorie Davis as the winner of the "If I Were Mayor" contest.

"I just want to thank my teachers because I couldn't do it without their help," Davis said. "This is a good honor."

*Recognized Aaron Dalton, the senior student school board representative. Dalton will be attending Emory & Henry in the fall to play soccer.

*Heard from Dr. Tamra Vaughan, coordinator of Academic Interventions, Title III, Foreign Language, and Mentoring, regarding mental health awareness.

"As educators, we recognize that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development in school success," Vaughan said. "This past year, it has been even more important. This past year, our faculty, staff, students and their families have been through so much. This has taken a toll on their mental health at times."

Theme for May is "Tools to Thrive," and to help combat negative mental health trends, the school system engaged in activities like putting cards on cars, offering "good food" incentives, virtual staff events and other morale boosting competitions. Self-care assessments were also issued, according to Vaughan.

*Heard from Elizabeth Fulcher, coordinator of career development and STEM.

Elementary school STEM camps will be held June 7-10 and June 14-17 at Patrick Henry and Albert Harris elementary schools. Robotics camps will also be held for elementary school students from June 7-24, for kindergarten through 2nd grade from June 21-24, and for middle school students from June 14-24.

*Heard from T.J. Slaughter, director of school safety and emergency management, about the Senior Victory Parade, which will take place 30 minutes after graduation at the high school on

May 22. The route will go from the high school through Uptown Martinsville. Seniors are encouraged to decorate their cars and to carpool. No extra family vehicles will be allowed. Seniors without a valid driver's license or necessary accommodations can ride along with a parent/guardian. Families should line up along Main Street or Church Street to view the parade.

*Approved the FY22 Perkins V Application Request. The funds will be allocated as such: \$11,000 for professional development activities of career and technical education (CTE) teachers, administrator to attend state, regional, and national professional organization conferences and other workshops related to CTE; \$33,684.19 to modernize and improve all CTE programs by purchasing state of the art equipment, instructional software, and relevant technology. All equipment purchased will come from the state approved equipment list; \$9,000 to support a Career Counselor at Martinsville High School through our partnership with Patrick Henry Community College that helps promote Career and Technical Education primarily in support of special populations and non-traditional students in order to ensure they are aware of their opportunities pertaining to CTE; \$16,000 to financially assist qualified students for CTSO registration, travel, lodging, for state and/or national conferences. This includes special populations and non-traditional students; \$6,000 to financially assist one CTSO adviser's registration, travel, lodging for state and/or national conferences per organization, per event; \$2,500 to supplement local funding of industry credential exams for CTE students; and \$3,480 for Administration/Administrative Equipment or Purchased Services.

*Approved the 2021-2022 Gifted Plan.

*Upcoming dates include Virtual Big "M" Awards, on Thursday, May 13. The Superintendent's Breakfast will be held Monday, May 17. The last day of school will be Friday, May 21 and the parade and graduation will be Saturday, May 22. The next regular school board meeting will be Monday, June 14.

USDA reopens signup for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that signup has reopened for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) as part of the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

The initial signup ended on Dec. 11, 2020, but the USDA reopened sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning April 5, 2021, for producers to apply or make modifications to existing CFAP 2 applications.

CFAP 2 program provides direct financial relief to producers due to market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

"Most of the crops and livestock raised in Virginia, including many of them raised in our area, are eligible commodities for this program," said G.B. Washburn, Jr., County Executive Director for FSA serving Franklin and Henry Counties. "If you missed getting an application in last fall, you now have the opportunity to apply for assistance. Our staff will help you through the application process, or if you need to make any modifications to your existing application."

Row crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, aquaculture and more all are eligible for the CFAP 2, including the recent addition of pullets and

turfgrass sod. Producers are encouraged to visit farmers.gov/cfap to review eligible commodities and learn about the payment structure for each. CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of the program (CFAP 1) and interested producers must complete a new application to be eligible for payment for CFAP 2.

Washburn said producers are encouraged to call the Franklin/Henry County FSA office at (540) 483-5341 ext. 2 for guidance on the process to complete an application. Producers also have the option to visit farmers.gov/cfap and access the online application portal or learn about other application options. A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY MAY 28, 2021
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

The Primitive Quartet
Chuck Wagon Gang
Deeper Shade of Blue

SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

The Churchmen
The Harvester's Quartet
Brian Free & Assurance

Sunday May 30, 2021 10:30 am
Music by *The Churchmen*
Message by *Curt Ashley*

Educators in Martinsville honored for service

Members of Martinsville City Council recognized several during a May 10 meeting, including Laura Jenkins, who was named Martinsville City Schools Teach-

er of the Year. Jenkins also was presented with the Clearview Early Learning Center award. "I just wanted to say thank

you all. I really appreciate the opportunity to represent the school division. It's just awesome," Jenkins said. "I love what I do. I don't do it alone. We work to-

gether as a team and as a family. I am a former student of Martinsville City Public Schools, all of my children have gone through the school system and I wouldn't

have it any other way. I'm just proud to be here." Other educators also were selected Teacher of the Year at their respective schools.



Laura Jenkins was named Martinsville's Teacher of the Year and presented with the Clearview Early Learning Center award. From left to right, City Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley; Jenkins, director of Clearview Early Childhood Center, and Sheillah Williams, school nutrition.



4th grade teacher Anita Byrd was named the Albert Harris Elementary School teacher of the year. From left to right: Albert Harris Elementary School Principal Renee Brown, Anita Byrd, Albert Harris Elementary School Assistant Principal Dr. Kelly Wilson, and Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley.



Amanda Keesee was named the Patrick Henry Elementary School teacher of the year.



6th grade teacher Rebecca Vernon was named the Martinsville Middle School teacher of the year. From left to right, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley, Rebecca Vernon, Martinsville Middle School Principal Cynthia Tarpley, Martinsville Middle school Assistant Principal Ama Waller.



9-12 grade math teacher Teresa Pendry was named the Martinsville High School (MHS) teacher of the year. MHS Assistant Principal Clarence Simington, MHS Assistant Principal Teresa Donley, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley, Teresa Pendry, MHS Principal Aji Dixon.

Martinsville students recognized, celebrated

A virtual Big M ceremony was held Thursday to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of Martinsville City School students in grades 5-12.

Big M recipients were eligible for either a certificate or trophy. To receive the Big M Certificate, 5-12 grade students must have a 3.7 GPA or above for the academic year and must be enrolled in three or more academic subjects. To receive the Big M Trophy, 12 grade students must have a cumulative scholastic average of 3.7 or above, must be enrolled in three or more academic subjects, one of which must be an honors course.

"Our students continue to excel during this season of pandemic," Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley said. "I am very proud of their achievements. Special thanks to all of our teachers, parents and family members for this success."

Albert Harris Elementary School Fifth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

David Alexi Argueta, Cristofer Emanuel Avila-Santiago, Keimani Nicole Brandyburg, Jaryus Trevon Brim,

Nicklas Ryan Clark, Ma'Kiyah Chi'Ann Craig, Cordell Elijah Daniels, Destiny Monique Dodson, Thailand Chance Finney, Jacorey Zion Gravelly, Acoma Semaj Hairston, Harmoni Unique Hairston, Benjamin Jesse Haley, Jayvion

Reaco Harris, Leonardo Hernandez Mata, Jonathan Duane Hudson, Jonathan Jaramillo Mata, NyKira Chantel Johnson, Jeronimo Kassebaum Ortiz, Dariona Janae King, Abraham Leon-Pallarez,

Trinity Faith Martin, Cameron Antwan Moore, Akorea Antwan Neblett, Aileen Yuritza Nolasco, Faith Kayleigh Pack, Elijah Malachi Penn, Keaija Ariana Richardson, Ella Alaina Rogers, Erzart Shahini, Maria Rose Sowers, Breanna Leanne Weaver, Latreal Maurice Wiggins, Ashley Gisselle Yanes Videa.

Patrick Henry Elementary School Fifth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Rebekah Katlyn Barrow, William Dardan-Scott Bela, Abigail Savannah Campbell, Brennan Chase Coleman, Kira Lynn Compton, Vincent Joseph Correa, Hudson Logan Grant, Leeayla Abrielle Hairston, Levi Daniel Hankins, Isabella Claire Hurd, Vivien Elise Minich, Zion Faith Perkins, Veronica Lorraine Smith, Symphany Chynah Necoal Talley, Ja'Corian Drakar Turner, Viet Van Vo, Lilly Grace Wall, William Henry Wall, Paris Noel Waller, Noah Drew Wright.

Sixth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Noah Oliver Aaron, Jaylen Claytor, Tyson Kyrel Hairston, Jr., Katherine Kaye Jarrett, Madalyn Keller, Caden Amir Martin, Julie Anna Nguyen, Ariyana

Re Nae Nowlin, Gillian Katherine Soper.

Seventh Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Quentin Isley Chism, Sincere Nasia Cook, Victor Joseph Correa, Marjorie Seleny Davis, Laila Marie Gravelly, Jordan Markel Haskins, Aerran Elysia Kellam, Evan Denis Pickett, Diamond Lakala Turner, Benjamin Alexander Wood.

Eighth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Passion Marie Adams, Caleb William Burgess, Yadira Carrillo Tamayo, Xavier Patrick Dunham, Ruby Jacqueline Flores, Ava Brooke Grant, Lauren Elizabeth Hall, Abigail Fae Haskew, Deniyah Shanice Hightower, Isabella Juliann Hood, Gavin Luke Luther, Alondra Machuca Tiznado, Monserrat Machuca Tiznado, Kennedy Noell McPherson, John Riley Nguyen, Jala Chantel Niblett, Terriah D'Nae Roberts, Isabella Haze Vega.

Ninth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Ryan Connor DiMingo, Catalina Franco Franco, Paris Rose Fulp, Aleeyah Marie Galloway, Latrell Demarq Hairston, Gabriel Lucas Haley, Caleb Parke Joyce, LynAshhia Neveah King, Mallori Sherrill Lowe, Arletta Jaramillo Mata, Adam Idris Mounkaila, Johnny Oneil Moxley, John Dylan Ratliff II, Kaylee Angel Rea, Nayti Bhavesh Patel, Aubrey Larvett Price, Cortay Jovon Price Charles, Tristin Pugh,

Evan Merl Shivley,

Skyler Lee Spence, Christopher Bryant Talley, Paige Alyria Taylor, Tyra Makelle Valentine, Makayla Michelle Warren, Destiny Jonet Witcher, Reagan Bailey Wright.

Tenth Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Gage Thomas Aldridge, Eyad Abdelnaser Bayoumy, Marcaisa Jenee Becker, Demetri Keyvon Blackwell, Jalik Kayvon Blackwell, Katelin Elizabeth Boyd, Hayden Elise Calfee, Ludwin Isai Chavez-Lopez, Charles McKinley Edwards, Nadia Jazmin Flores, Gabriel Marcus Lee Daughtry, Katherine Andrew Hall, T renati Cherkara Hairston, Betzaida Hernandez Mata, Matthew Gabriel Gilbert, Nijel Malik Gravelly, Olivia Shires Keller, Natalia Janae Martin, Ashlynn McKenzie Patten, Javeon Terrell Ezekiel Moorer, Amanda Marie Mosser, Hanh Tuyet Nguyen, Joseph Hunter Nguyen, Aysha Sonay Robles, Kayla Marie Solomon.

Eleventh Grade Big M Certificate Recipients

Keyounah Don'Sha Adams, William Tucker Lee Agee, Alexis Charisma Ashby, Madison Grace Barker, Brendan Lee Bower, Savannah Arlene Brown, Assir Manahya Byers, James Dylan Cochran, Lorianna Simone Elliot, Assyria Reana Flowers, Michael Caleb Gilbert, Traven Eli Gilley, Spencer James Hairston, Edward Andre Harrison,

Lauren Elizabeth Hruza, Taiona Breasia Martin, Akayla Kiara Penn, Nytera Kelis Penn, Logan McLain Smith, Bryson Tyler Stokes, Caleb Alexander Sunkins, Sydney Tuyet Tran, Onyinye Jane Ugbomah-Otunuya, Michael Bayse Walker.

Senior Big M Certificate Recipients

Leticia Garcia Vergara, Anthony Le'tre Hairston, Na-Kieyah Aniese Hairston, Nicolas Juventino Lopez, Hannah Nicole Martin, Jermont Quaneil Meacham, Tykia Shy Nae Moore, Katherine Alanna Rorrer,

Dominique Franklin Robinson, Bryson Evan Stone, Cynthia Renee White.

Senior Big M Trophy Recipients

Antwone Callendar, Michael Devora-Guerrero, Daphnie Nucum Lintag, Andrew Lawson Tainn Carter

Trinity Ladae Gravelly, Andres Lopez-Valentin, Daniel Aaron Dalton, Sheccid Lara Diaz, John Daniel Martin, Eduardo Alvarado Betanzo, Antwone Callender, Andrew Lawson Tainn Carter, Julianna Marie Cox, Daniel Aaron Dalton, Michael Devora-Guerrero, Sheccid Lara Diaz, Mackenzie Wynne Edmonds, Trinity Ladae Gravelly, Benjamin Dean Jarrett, James Kinhun Li, Daphnie Nucum Lintag, Andres Lopez-Valentin, John Daniel Martin, Jazmyne Cortell Penn, Ethan Tyler Thomas, Kellene Joanne Worrting.

EMU Royals Upset No. 1 Seed Randolph Macon

The #8-seed Eastern Mennonite University Royals toppled #1 seed, nationally ranked Randolph-Macon, on Sunday to advance to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference semifinals. EMU defeated the Yellow Jackets 7-4, taking the best-of-three series. The Royals will travel to Winchester to take on the fourth-seeded Hornets in the semifinals Saturday, May 15.

Dylan Cassell, of Bassett, is a member of the EMU Royals baseball team.

"I'm just so proud of our guys. The guts and determination from our men is unbeliev-

able, and they are doing program-defining type of things in the toughest of conditions," Head Coach Adam Posey said about the win. "The performances from guys throughout our roster are some of the most special moments I have been a part of."

A leader among faith-based, liberal arts universities since 1917, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) emphasizes peacebuilding, sustainability, service to others and social justice to students of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. EMU educates undergraduate, graduate, professional and seminary

students to serve and lead in a global context from the main campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia; the site in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and online. The EMU experience challenges students to pursue their life calling through scholarly inquiry, artistic creation, guided practice and life-changing cross-cultural encounter.



Barnes graduates from Eastern Mennonite University



Haley Barnes, of Bassett, was among students participating in Eastern Mennonite University's recent 2021 Commencement ceremony. The university awarded 351 total degrees, including 209 undergraduate degrees, 104 master's degrees, 37 graduate certificates, and one doctorate. Barnes graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology; Minor: Psychology. A leader among faith-based, liberal arts universities since 1917, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) emphasizes peacebuilding, sustainability, service to others and social justice to students of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds.

COUNTY TEACHERS HONORED



Tracy Blackard, a math teacher at Laurel Park Middle School, was named Henry County's Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Sandy Strayer and Tracy Blackard are pictured. Strayer also presented awards to those selected Teacher of the Year at individual schools. She is pictured below with recipients.



Holly Hagwood was named the Rich Acres Elementary School's Teacher of the Year and was the first runner up for Henry County's teacher of the year.



Victoria Clements was named the Stanleytown Elementary School's teacher of the year. She was also the second runner up for Henry County's teacher of the year.



Pamela Dalton was named Axton Elementary School's teacher of the year.



Elizabeth Williamson was named Campbell Court Elementary School's Teacher of the Year.



Katie Elliot was named GW Carver Elementary School's Teacher of the Year.



Melisa Janey was named the Center for Community Learning's Teacher of the Year.



Amy Manning was named Drewry Mason Elementary School's Teacher of the Year.



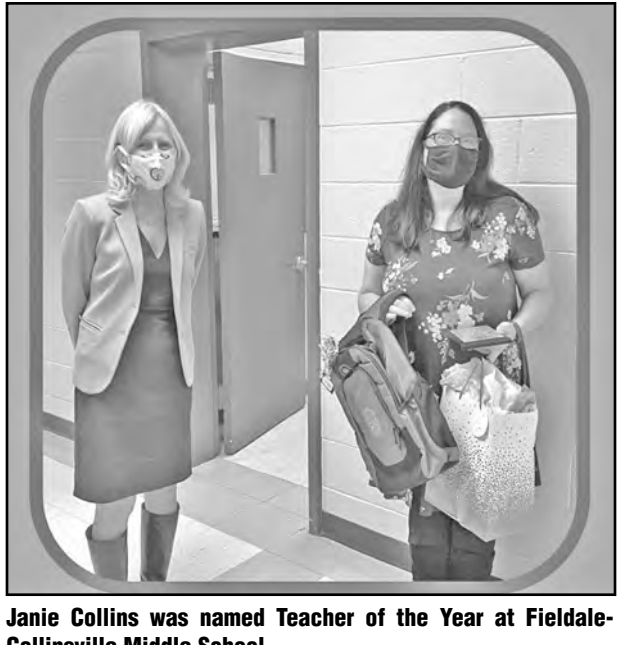
Amanda Johnson, Teacher of the Year at Meadow View Elementary School.



Cheyenne Marinus, Teacher of the Year at Mt. Olivet Elementary School.



Kristin Friedhoff, Teacher of the Year, Sanville Elementary School.



Janie Collins was named Teacher of the Year at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.



Laura Jones was named Bassett High School's Teacher of the Year.



Melody Margrave, Teacher of the Year, Magna Vista High School.

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May 29

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Turner wins at Shenandoah University Research Expo



Hailey Turner was one of 19 Shenandoah University students to win at the Shenandoah University Research Expo (SURE), which ran virtually from Monday, April 26, through Friday, May 7.

SURE is the premier event showcasing student creativity and scholarship and is open to all students under the mentorship of an SU faculty member.

Projects ranged from supporting nutrition for food insecure families in Winchester, to an analysis of the effects of a strength training program on anaerobic power in dancers.

Turner, of Bassett, is pursuing a degree in Psychology.

Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Shenandoah is a private,

nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with liberal education. With nearly 4,000 students in more than 200+ areas of study in seven different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. For more information, visit su.edu.

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

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **May 26, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases:

Case S-21-11 AF Housing, LLC / Torey Morris
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the additional construction of one multi-family apartment building containing 4 units. The property is located between existing apartment buildings at 328 Glasgow Dr and 380 Glasgow Dr in the Ridgeway District and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 51.3/92A.

Case S-21-12 David W. Meeks
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the installation of a temporary tent structure to be used for scheduled special events, weddings and live music. The property is located at 514 Meeks Rd in the Ridgeway District and is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 74.8/41.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

MARTINSVILLE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Martinsville, Virginia, for its fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Martinsville City Council will conduct the public hearing in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 55 West Church Street, on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, beginning at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as practicable.

The amounts listed below, except for School Funds, are recommendations from the City Council and the City Manager. The Public Hearing is being conducted to allow citizens of the community an opportunity to comment regarding the proposed budget. Following the public hearing, City Council may take action to approve the recommended budget or modify the amounts as they deem appropriate.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022

FUND	PROJECTED REVENUES	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	CHANGES FUND BALANCE
General	\$31,408,365	\$34,308,365	(\$2,900,000)
Meals Tax	\$2,472,720	\$2,472,720	\$0
Capital Reserve	\$884,694	\$884,694	\$0
Refuse (\$881,837)		\$1,883,000	\$2,764,837
Telecommunications	\$2,377,707	\$2,377,707	\$0
Water (\$1,183,513)		\$3,486,750	\$4,670,263
Sewer (\$772,125)		\$4,597,512	\$5,369,637
Electric (\$783,966)		\$20,100,024	\$20,883,990
CDBG \$20,524		\$22,132	\$1,608
Cafeteria*	\$1,699,679	\$1,739,915	(\$40,236)
School Operating*	\$23,703,197	\$23,703,197	\$0
TOTALS:	\$92,635,780	\$99,176,933	\$6,541,153

*Cafeteria and School Operating Funds information provided by School Personnel.

Tax Rates (unchanged)

Real Estate: \$1.0621 per \$100 assessed value
Personal Property: \$2.30 per \$100 assessed value
Machinery & Tools: \$1.85 per \$100 assessed value

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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Patrick Henry Community College

Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings:

Nurse Aide/Practical Nursing Faculty, Patrick County Enrollment and Student Success Specialist, G3 Academic Advisor, G3 Healthcare Education Program Advisor, Building and Grounds Technicians, and Adjunct Faculty in English, NCCER Plumbing, Patrick County Developmental Math, Psychology, and Speech/Communication Studies. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Ferrum College

Ferrum College has an opening for an office manager. Job duties include working with the Dean of Academic Success and the Director of the Office of Academic Accessibility to: coordinate test taking, proctors, and administration of alternate test taking services; assure that technology in the testing lab is regularly maintained; assist with coordination and copying of notes for note taking services; maintain database of qualified students and use of OAA notetaking and testing services; create OAA confidential files for incoming students; provide proficient use of accommodation software; manage purchase requisitions and reimbursements; coordinate work study students; collect data and write reports; coordinate Early Alert and other communications; and support programming of Dean of Academic Success and Carter Center team.

This is a full time, 40-hour a week position with occasional weekend and overtime work. Background check required.

We offer competitive pay, an excellent benefits package including medical, dental, life, STD/LTD insurance; paid holidays, personal and sick leave and vacation; tuition waiver and tuition exchange; and a 403(b) plan.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with references to resumes@ferrum.edu or to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. Background check is required.

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status or disability (in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act) with respect to employment opportunities.

HELP WANTED

Ferrum College

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the position of Payroll Administrator/Accountant. This position is responsible for the accurate and timely processing of faculty, staff and student payroll, and for the college's cash receipts functions. The Payroll Administrator/Accountant will prepare faculty and staff payrolls, including time-sheet entry and related journal entries. Prepare quarterly and annual federal and staff payroll tax reports including W-2 forms. The Payroll Administrator/Accountant will enter student account payments and cash deposits from various areas into Colleague Student Cash Receipts. Reconcile all payroll related liability accounts. Assist Accounting Specialist with bank reconciliations, and investigate and correct bank statement reconciliation items on a monthly basis. Prepare sales and meals tax reports, submit sales tax payment online, and prepare Reimbursable Expense Form for submission of meals tax payment.

The candidate will also assist the Director of Budgets with collection of data for cash forecasting, and assist with other Business Office functions as assigned.

Candidates must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field. One to three years of payroll, cashing, and accounts receivable experience. Experience with Microsoft Office products including Excel and Word. Preferred qualifications are one to three years in college fund accounting. Additional experience with Colleague HR Payroll and Colleague Student Cash Receipts.

The position reports to the Director of Budgets. A background check and credit check are required if considered for the position.

We offer competitive compensation and an excellent benefits package including medical, dental, life, STD/LTD insurances; paid holidays, personal and sick leave and vacation; and a 403(b) retirement plan. Interested candidates should email a cover letter, resume, and 3 references to resumes@ferrum.edu or mail to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088.

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In addition to Henry County Enterprise, which covers Martinsville and Henry County, our other Virginia publications include: The Enterprise (which covers Patrick County/Stuart - including Meadows of Dan and other communities near the Blue Ridge Parkway); Salem Times Register; Fincastle Herald; New Castle Record; News Messenger; News Journal; Vinton Messenger.

Our publications in West Virginia are: Pocahontas Times; Parsons Advocate; Calhoun Chronicle; Clay County Free Press; Shinnston News; Harrison County Journal, and our flagship paper, Mountain Messenger.

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County.

Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.

County high schools release lists of Honor Roll students

Bassett High School Fifth 6-weeks grading period A Honor Roll

Thomas Adkins, Danielle Amos, Alex Arellano-Ortiz, Carson Arnold, Maggie Arnold, Lane Bailey, Sienna Bailey, Caitlin Barker, Laurel Beckett, Tyler Belcher, Jonathan Bowman, Jolie Bowyer, Kaelyn Bray, Kiara Brown, Jeremiah Bullard, Oscar Calix Vivanco, Lauren Carter, Sean Carter, Jenny Castro-Bermudez, An-Mei Cheng, Lashanda Conner, Caroline Cook, Lani Craig, Jazmine Dabbs, Jackson Davis, Blake Deal, Macy Deal, Victoria Dean, Cleon Dillard Jr, Makayla Dillon, Gabriel Divers, Piper Doughton, Ethan Duke, Ruben Duran, Cameron Easley, Hunter Edwards, Cloe Fackler, Madison Ferguson, Austin Fields, Haven Foley, Gage Forbes, Aiden Fulcher, Shenyah Fuller, Rosie George-Ambrocio, Jacob Gilbert, Trinity Gilbert, Hunter Goad, Jeovany Gonzalez Castro, Joshua Graham, Cierra Hagwood, Colby Hairfield, DiYana Hairston, Naomi Hairston, Xzavyanna Hairston, Taylor Hale, Lara Hall, Baylee Harbour, Scott Harmon, Anne Harris, Caitlyn Haynes, Emma Hobbs, Caragan Hodges, Jade Hylton, McKayla Jamison, Elyssa Kancherla, Olivia Keaton, Noah Keeler, Journey Kendrick, Mollie Kenny, Allison Laine, Anne Laine, Nalaaya Leyva, Jaylen Lide, McKenzie Lippencott, Bryan Lopez-Lopez, Jamie Lynskey, Dylan Mabry, Eunela Mae Manzano, Olivia Martin, Sydney Martin, Clarissa Martinez-Olguin, Jonathan Mayes, Emily McVey, Savannah Meadows, Elijah Meeks, Ardonit Mehmeti, Ryan Merrill, Ava Meyer, Dawson Moore, Amber Morgan, Grace Naff, D'Anna NoPala, Madalyn Oliver, Alanis Osgood, Zoie Pace, Terrill Parker, Evan Parnell, Jared Penn, Princess Perez, Emma Perry, Cody Phillips, Timothy Rakes, Katherine Rea, Taylor Reed, Zeariah Reeves, Ailyn Rivera Hernandez, Cody Rivers, Chase Robertson, Logan Rodriguez, Stephanie Rodriguez, Alan Rodriguez Rosas, Omar Rodriguez-Becerra, Griselda Rodriguez-Molina, Madison Ross, Madison Ross, Ignacio Ruiz-Sanchez, Vanessa Sanchez, Kristen Sawyers, Megan Scott, Can-

non Sechrist, Ian Sechrist, Daniel Shelton, Samantha Shough, Faith Sprinkle, MaKayla Sprouse, Nickolas Stoneman, Callie Thomas, Nathan Turner, Clarisa Tye, Akyiah Valentine, Adam Varner, Skyler Varney, Fabiola Vasquez Becerra, Gabriella Wall, Samantha Wall, Emma Warren, Matthew Wells, Hunter Whitlow, Joseph Winborne, Autumn Wingfield, Kayla Wood, Jonathan Yarger, Summer Zuniga.

A-B Honor Roll

Jenna Adams, Dillan Aguilar-Diaz, Olivia Allen, Joshua Alverson, Timothy Beam, Bryce Boothe, Bryson Brown, Keysean Butler, Camden Byrd, Dakota Clark, Lyndsey Clark-Agee, Kaden Collins, Laken Collins, Zoey Collins, Logan Delahanty, Olivia Dillard, Noah Dotson, Dario Duran, Brendon Easley, Tilton English, Adyson Farrington, Elizabeth Ferguson, Andrew Fisher, Evan Fowler, McKenzie Fuller, Zuleyka Garcia Rodriguez, Taylor Gary, Amanda Goad, Nicholas Goehle, Olivia Graham, Kaylee Greer, Kayla Griffin, Lauren Griffith, Samuel Gunter, Ja'Ricous Hairston, Kylee Haith, Autumn Hall, Ryan Hall, Madison Harbour, Michael Hardy, Noah Harper, William Hayes, Caroline Haynes, Shyanne Helms, Kaitlyn Hooper, Thomas Howell-Wampler, Morgan Hutchinson, Ainsley Jones, Madison Joyce, Kaylee Keith, Eydie Kenny, Michael Kessler Jr, Zoe Kinkema, Clarence Linkous, Joseph Little, Camryn Martin, Khyrra Martin, Natoria Martin, Parker Martin, Taylor Martin, Madison Mayes, Savannah Nelson, Jessica Nolan, Hannah Pace, Lyric Parker, Bethany Payne, Nicholas Penn, Rachel Perry, Elizabeth Poe, Nolan Poperowitz, Laken Porter, Alaina Price, Braydon Pruitt, Alley Pugh, Rodney Ragans, Alheli Ramos-Garcia, Jordon Ratcliff, Blake Reeves, Khysara Reynolds, Skyler Robertson, Paisley Roop, William Ryan, Lithzy Sandoval-Ocampo, Nivea Scales, Cohyn Seay, Leslie Silva, Ja'Quan Singleton, Chase Smith,

Hailey Spencer, McKenzie Tate, Shakayla Thompson, Christian Thornburg, Megan Todd, Jennifer Turner, Perla Vasconcelos Martinez, Danny Webb, Chloe Wilkes, Remington Winingham, Shyheim Woods.

B Honor Roll

Paige Craig, Shawn Doyle, Jacob Lemons, Freddi Lopez Lopez, William Mitchell, Cara Oakes, Devyn Potter.

Magna Vista High School Fifth 6-weeks grading period A Honor Roll

Shania Adams, Hailey Adkins, Victoria Akridge, Dallas Ayers, Karli Barker, Demarius Barksdale, William Bendall Jr, Abbygale Bender, Ian Betton, Nicholas Bokman, Peighton Boone, Corey Brandon, Anaya Brown, Antonay Burgess, Cole Burgess, Elizabeth Caro Tamayo, Leandra Carson, Chandler Carter, Dakota Carter, Raekwon Carter, Race Chandler, Hailey Chitwood, Lakyn Cochran, Megan Cockram, Kennedy Coleman, Tanner Crowder, Alyson Cuthbertson, Markus Dailey, Ashley Davis, Preston Davis, Tanner DeShazo, Emily Diaz Monay, Jasmine Diaz Trinidad, Amiya Dillard, Laura Dillard, Celia Dodson Gutierrez, Alyssa Draper, Alice Duenas Salas, Alison Edwards, Danielle Edwards, Grace Edwards, Victoria Everhart, Joseph Fincher, Sarah Finley, Jakob Foley, Jaken Ford, Justin Ford, Cesar Garcia, Wil Gardner, Angelina Gargano, Alexis Garten, Heaven Garten, DaiZhawn Giggetts, Ariana Gravely, Ashton Gravely, Jade Gravely, Ayanna Grey, Brittanie Hairston, Dakota Hairston, Jamina Hairston, Kaleb Hairston, Kwan Hairston, Michael Hairston, Takeybearia Hairston, Ta'Nashia Hairston, Damian Hall, Eyad Hamdy, Emma Hankins, Joselinne Hernandez Romero, Troy Hipps, Bryan Hird, Taylor Holland, Nathan Hopkins, Hannah Hoppe, Ethan Hughes, Hayli Hughes, Kaylee Hughes, Matterson Hunt, Keona Ingram, Caleb Jenkins, Miracle Johnson, Dylan Johnston, Amanda Jones, Olivia Jones, Cameron Joyce, William Joyce, Mallory Kaczor, Spencer Keith, Kaitlyn Kellam, Olivia Kendall, Sophie Kendall, JaMiya King, Caroline

Kirby, Madison Krantz, Sarah Kurczewski, Eric Lane, Aubrey Lawrence, Lauren Luther, Caleb Lynch, Christopher Martell-Rios, Ian Martin, Kailea Martin, Catherine Maxwell, Maeve McCulloch, Lauren Mills, Wesley Mills, Kaleigh Minter, Kylie Minter, Tanner Mintz, Christian Moore, Makahla Moss, Abbie Moxley, Ashlyn Mullins, Kailee Newcomb, Lyndsey Newman, Hannah Overton, Nathaniel Overton, Carlyna Parks, Alexandra Pearson, Rickyah Penn, T'Mesha Penn, Tyrese Perkins, Alivia Pinnix, Thomas Powell, Kayla Preston, Kristian Preston, Nala Preston, Bryan Price, Carlie Pritchett, Alannah Pruitt, Nicholas Pruitt, Alyssa Ramsey, Emily Rangel Rodriguez, Hannah Rankin, Kelsey Reece, Destiny Reed, Brandon Reid, Shelby Rigney, Tucker Roach, Lauralee Robinson, Olivia Ross, Dylan Royal, Dayton Royster, Jennifer Ruiz, Audrey Russell, Yulisa Salinas, Faith Sams, David Sawyer Jr, Jada Setliff, Olivia Shelor, Victoria Shields, Caden Shively, James Smith, Morgan Smith, Christopher Stafford, Summer Stone, Briana Tatum, Hunter Tinch, Chevon Trotter, Eva Underwood, Noelia Valderrama, Yuliana Valderrama, Litzzy Valderama Banda, Hannah Vaughn, McKenzie Vaught, Isaac Vogt, Lauryn Wade, Jacob Walker, Andrew Warren, Marlen Whitaker, SaMya Williams, Chloe Wray, Kinza Yasar, Hannah Young.

A-B Honor Roll

Anastasia Adams, Azure Adams, Julio Amaya Lopez, Nicholas Anderson, Carlee Ashworth, Christopher Ayers, Laiken Barnes, Michael Barrett, Nicholas Barrett, Sebastian Belcher, Juliana Bishop, Brianna Bitz, Kaylin Bitz, Dallas Bonhams, Kaedon Byrd, Jordan Caldwell-McGhee, Eveline Camberos Romero, Ingrid Carrillo-Juarez, Alden Carter, Jaydon Carter, Nicholas Carter, Katherine Cecil, Alden Clark, Faeryn Clifton, Claire Coleman, Clay Coleman, Dayjon Opening, Kayla Crandall, Sydney Cruise, Kolby Davis, Colie Delong, Christopher Dennis Jr, Nicholas Dillon, Andrew Divers, Tiana Dones, Tania Draper, Elijah Durant, Bradley Eanes Jr, Lorelei Edmonds, Diana Espinosa, Zayvion Estes, Tiquise

Fitzgerald, Madelyn Ford, Betyna Fowler, Azeneth Frias Alvarez, Elyse Gardner, Jayla Garnes, Michael Gee, Matthew Gilbert, Grace Gongora, Yahir Gonzalez Rojas, Kyla Gravely, Ivanna Gutierrez, Joanna Gutierrez, Ethan Hairston, Rachel Hairston, Tajiyona Hairston, Tyrian Hairston, Brandon Hall, Jasmyn Hamlett, Jaden Hammock, Natalie Harbour, Elivia Harper, Isaiah Harris, Joseph Haynes, Daniel Hedrick, Solomon Hodge, Nathan Hodges, Ashlen Hudson, Taylor Hundley, Makayla Hurd, Stevie Jenkins Jr, Brooklyn Jennings, Maria-Caleen Jennings, Abigail Jimenez-Ramirez, Isaiah Johnson, Bryson Jolls, Shawn Jones, Westin Joyce-Bagwell, Christal Kelly, Emily Lemons, Olivia Likens, Taylor Lovette, Candice Lucas, Joshua Luther, Lewis Markham, William Marshall III, Ebony Martin, Rion Martin, Jonathan McMillon, Lauren Meadows, Jeffrey Medley, America Mendoza Sanchez, Eliza Miller, Brittney Mitchell, Helms Monday, Abigail Mosley, Kendall Motley, Emma Nester, Brianna Ocampo-Suarez, Zachary Palumbo, Nathaniel Pearson, Elijah Peatross, Aniya Penn, Jada Penn, Edgar Perez Santiago, Madison Peterson, Tylyric Pettie, Claudia Phillips, Dekavis Preston, Barry Priddy, Clara Prillaman, Jasmine Pruitt, Jesse Quinn, Hannah Radford, Mallory Ray, Leah Reece, Adam Reed, Molly Reed, Dakota Reid, Ian Reynolds, Cameron Robertson, Cesar Romero, Rebekah Rorrer, Wendy Ruiz Salas, Shania Scales, Madison Sessor, Chloe Smart, Randall Smith, Anson Stanfield, Sydney Stimpert, Cassie Taylor, Matthew Taylor, D'Angelo Tellez-Jaimes, Princess Terry, A'Mari Thomas, Zachary Tinch, Kaitlyn Tuggle, Shaki Turner, Joshua Tusinger, Dua Umar, Corbin Underwood, James Underwood, Jeffrey Wallace, Marcus Whitaker, Madison Willard, Emily Williams, Xavier Woody.

B Honor Roll

Michael Adkins, Dustin Baker, Morgan Craig, Josue Diaz Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Flowers, Jaheim Hairston, Edward King, Marlin Presley, Trevor Preston, Rashawn Smith, Joseph Warren, Jarin Wise-

The Community is Invited to get involved!



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Living history in the garbs of their forefathers

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Historic Henry County Courthouse Heritage Center and Museum was the site of a living history event that may have made attendees think they had time traveled back to the 18th Century.

Members of various chapters of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), assembled to commemorate Gen. Joseph Martin and the raid at Martin's Station, fully equipped with historic flags, a small cannon and dressed in Revolutionary War clothing.

To some, it may have seemed like a unique chance to play dress-up, but to chapter members, the event provided a chance to "live history" in attire similar to the dress worn by their ancestors.

"I had first joined the Sons of the American Revolution and there was no intention of me doing this kind of thing," said Andy Doss, president of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of SAR. "As I got more involved and learned about our patriot ancestors, we started to see what some of the other chapters were doing. We didn't call it reenacting, we called it 'living history.' We thought it would be great if we started our own 'living history' unit."

Doss said that the unit provides the opportunity for history to sink in a little deeper for those watching.

"When we dress like this and when we talk about things dressed like this, especially with kids, it gives us a more commanding influence when we speak instead of me just showing up" wearing a blazer and slacks, he said. "If I'm dressed up, a lot of people look. They want to ask you about the uniform, they always ask is it hot. They ask about the hat and they really love the guns."

Unlike the rigorous curriculum taught in grade schools, Doss believes the reenactments provide a broader context.

"I enjoy knowing that we

are teaching somebody about the American Revolution when they probably don't have a lot of exposure to it. It was probably covered pretty briefly in school but the level that we cover it, we go into detail about the weapons and how local militia units around here operated," Doss said. "I love to see that look on their faces when they learn that piece of information that wasn't shared at school, then they realize 'you know what, I might have had a seventh great grandpa that did this.' I think that is the real value in it."

True to its nature as a small town, Doss said most people in Martinsville-Henry County can trace their lineage back to a couple of men.

"We have a joke in our chapter that everyone descends from two different people. That's either a guy named James Johnston or a guy named William Turner," Doss said. "You'll see a lot of people with the last name Turner in Martinsville-Henry County. Usually, a lot of these people end up being descendants of William Turner, who was a militia patriot in Henry County. That's one of my primary ancestors in this area."

The event also was attended by members of the Dan River Chapter of SAR.

Gary Hall, president of the chapter, said he traced his heritage back to William Dove of Pittsylvania County. Michael Geisinger, past chairman of the chapter, said his ancestor was a Mennonite from Pennsylvania.

"He served in the militia up there outside of Philadelphia," Geisinger said. "I have a couple other lines that I'm trying to trace back as well, but I can't claim them as my relatives just yet."

Both men have traveled up and down the East Coast attending events to honor those who served in the Revolutionary War.

"I've liked history my whole life, so it was natural for me to join the Sons of the American Revolution," Hall said. "It allowed me to go to the places where the battles actually occurred, and the reenactments add a little something to it. We do it for the public, not just ourselves. It's educational."

Part of the experience

includes finding those that were lost to history.

"A lot of the patriots have been lost over time once they were buried," Hall said. "The whereabouts of their remains are largely unknown, but we try to find those and mark the graves to recognize them."

This is something that drew Geisinger to the group.

"Getting to see the places and talking to the people there is probably my biggest joy," he said. "I guess you might say that we are honoring those that came before us. It's not all glory. There is no glory in war. People get killed and lives get torn up. It's just that we are honoring those that did sacrifice to give us what we had today."

Spotlighting the American Revolution is an important part of "living history," according to Geisinger, who noted the chapter's annual event to recognize the Crossing of the Dan River during the war.

"Everybody thinks 'oh, Gen. (George) Washington won at Yorktown.' Well, if it hadn't been for the efforts in the South, like the Crossing of the Dan, then it wouldn't have happened," Geisinger said.

He explained the crossing was when Gen. Nathaniel Greene brought his army back across the Dan River, preventing capture by the British troops led by Gen. Charles Cornwallis.

"Then Cornwallis retreated back down to Greensboro," Geisinger said. "Greene put his army back together using all of the resources in Southside. It wasn't just soldiers doing it. It was the common man that was supplying horses, fodder, beef and hogs to support that army going back and fighting at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Of course, Greene didn't win there but Cornwallis' army was damaged so badly that it forced him to retreat eventually to Yorktown."

Like the militia men that banded together to help win the war, Geisinger said putting on the uniform as a member of SAR also brings a sense of kinship among the members.

"I think what I have enjoyed the most is the people, the folks that are there," he

said. "There's a camaraderie that you get from it."

According to the reenactors, there's only one problem with "living history."

"It costs a lot of money. Don't let the wives know," Hall said. "There are suppliers that provide the uniforms. With militia, you pretty much have free reign with the hats, jackets, and pants. I bought pretty much all of my uniform, but I found my turkey feathers."

Hall and Geisinger were both dressed in militia clothing, but even the attire of the everyday man can be costly.

"The rifle can cost almost \$2,000," Geisinger said. "Depending on the uniform, those can get pretty expensive too. Some run about \$400 for the coats and my smock is about \$160. Pants can be around \$110-120. It adds up after a while."

Doss said he saved up money to buy two separate uniforms.

"This is a continental one," he said of the one he wore, "but I also have a militia-based one as well. It depends on the mood of wherever we are going. Normally, I would wear the continental one for occasions like today, because it's more colorful. Likely, most of the people around here were dressed in militia uniforms."

One exception among the locals was Martin, who obtained the rank of brigadier general during his career.

While popularized for his role in military affairs, it was Martin's efforts in exploration and diplomacy which caused President Theodore Roosevelt to say, "If not for Joseph Martin, we may have lost the Revolution."

Seeking a life on the next frontier, Martin ventured into unsettled land between western Virginia and Kentucky in 1769. Just east of the Cumberland Gap, Martin built a fort called Martin's Station which was the westernmost English settlement at the time. The area was still subject to attacks by various American Indian tribes, however.

While he spent the majority of his time at Martin's Station over the next two decades, Martin split his time at his Belle Monte plantation in Henry County, near the city which would later be named after him.

"A lot of people probably can't tell you who Martinsville is named after," Doss said. "I believe that understanding some of the roots of history, especially like how the town you live in was founded, can lead to some interesting discoveries."

Martin later became the Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs under Gov. Patrick Henry. Once the British launched their Southern Campaign during the Revolutionary War, Martin convinced the tribes to remain neutral, preventing the Continental Army from fighting the war against multiple enemies on multiple fronts. This allowed the Southern colonists to concentrate troops in the South and drive Cornwallis to eventually surrender in Yorktown.

Because of the accomplishments of important men like Martin, it is little wonder their Sons today are still "living history" in the garbs of their forefathers.



Michael Geisinger (left) and Gary Hall, members of the Dan River Chapter of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution.



Members of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard present colors.



Members of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard conduct a musket volley for the commemoration.



Andy Doss, president of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

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