

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, May 29, 2021

(USPS-6)

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City council and supervisors approve agreement

Staff Reports

The picture of reversion is becoming clearer as the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Martinsville City Council both approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) during a joint meeting held at the New College Institute on May 26.

City council unanimously approved the MOU, while the vote was split 4-2 for the county.

Vice Chairman Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, voted against the motion.

The MOU will serve as a framework moving forward with more details to be released at a future date. The following is what we know for now:

For the purposes of the MOU, the term “at cost” will refer to out-of-pocket costs, such as insurance, maintenance, and utilities. Rent is not included for “at cost” expenses. Pro rata payments for any capital expenses may be applied for any long-term maintenance costs.

*The city’s constitutional officers will cease to exist upon reversion. The duties of the Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, Elections and Registrar, Jail and Corrections, Commonwealth’s Attorney, and all court systems will be absorbed by the county.

Office space occupied by the Commonwealth’s Attorney for the city will be offered to the county at cost. The

See **City Council**, page 7



Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors (left), and Kathy Lawson, mayor of Martinsville, are pictured at a May 26 meeting to discuss a reversion agreement between the city and the county.



The Bassett High School Class of 2021 turned their tassels on Friday, May 21.

Bassett High School’s Class of 2021 ‘displayed acts of courage’

More than 250 seniors in Bassett High School’s Class of 2021 received their diplomas at a May 21 commencement.

“Nelson Mandela once said ‘I learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.’ I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the unwavering courage that the Class of 2021 has displayed during this unprecedented school year,” said Tiffany Gravely, principal.

“I am proud of the fortitude that you exhibited in the pursuit of this day. Your steadfast tenacity has brought you to this day of attrition, whether it was having the physical courage to balance school and a full-time job to help your family be financially stable, or having the intellectual courage to apply to an Ivy League college, Yale University to be specific, and

See **Class of 21**, page 4

Gravely gives back through lessons learned on the mat

Brandon Martin Staff writer

Former Magna Vista High School wrestling standout Tony Gravely may be a big time UFC star now, but he hasn’t forgotten his roots.

On a trip home to visit his mother for her birthday, Gravely carved out some time to take part in a wrestling clinic at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC).

For the next generation of wrestlers gathered at William F. Stone Hall, it was a chance to meet a local legend. But for Gravely, it was a chance to impart life lessons which he learned from the wrestling



Tony Gravely held a wrestling clinic at PHCC on May 22.

mats right here in Henry County.

“There’s just so many life lessons that I’ve learned from wrestling,” Gravely said. “The sport is a grind in itself, so taking that lesson that everything isn’t going to be easy and embracing that has helped me in pretty much every other area of

my life.”

Gravely said his cousin, Nate McKenzie, initially pitched the idea of participating in the Saturday clinic. McKenzie is one of the assistant wrestling coaches at PHCC.

“Honestly, I didn’t know that there was an opportunity to do this,”

Gravely said. “I found out that PHCC has a wrestling team now, which is cool because they didn’t have one when I was younger. My cousin asked me to come over and it was initially supposed to be a small thing. The word kind

See **Gravely**, page 8



Magna Vista High School’s Class of 2021 graduated Saturday, May 22.

No class overcame more than Class of 2021

Although every graduation includes a mention about how hard the class worked to graduate, Charles Byrd, principal of Magna Vista High School, said the more than 230 graduates were survivors.

“I think it is more than fair to say that no class has worked through, or overcome more, than the group we’re celebrating” today, Byrd said at Saturday’s commencement.

“Perseverance is a powerful word, and it is defined by Merriam-Webster as ‘the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failures, or opposition.’ I believe that it is safe for everyone here to acknowledge you have been the perfect model of perseverance for us all,” he said.

“There is a lot to celebrate as the Class of 2021 prepares to leave and become alumni,” Byrd said. “Many of the students attended career academy and received certifications in cosmetology, agriculture sciences, and industrial maintenance and HVAC. Twenty-six of you have received your associates degree from Patrick Henry Community College prior to your high school graduation today.”

Byrd said The Harvest Foundation placed a significant investment in the graduates’ futures, as “78 of you have successfully applied to take advan-

tage” of available funds to receive an associate degree at no cost for their family.

“To date, the graduating Class of 2021 has accumulated \$1.6 million in scholarships, tuition assistance, and other forms of financial support. This number continues to grow daily,” he said. “Warriors we’re unbelievably proud of you. In the weeks, months, and years ahead, I challenge you to continue to be innovative and resilient. Keep proving to everyone around you that you can and will be great at anything you attempt.”

Senior Brianna Bitz said the biggest trial the class faced is a worldwide pandemic.

“We have marched through our senior year with Zoom calls and Canvas instead of Friday night lights and normal senior events. Compared to the average senior year, ours has been unique to say the least. We may not have gotten the usual pep rallies, student section chants, and daily walks in the hallway, but we received many lessons, motivations, and many unforgettable memories,” Bitz said.

While it the loss of memories also can be devastating, Bitz said when the perspective is changed, “we are allowed to see blessing we have received

See **No Class**, page 7

Martinsville graduates are unstoppable



The Martinsville High School Class of 2021 graduated May 22. Martinsville High School Principal Aji Dixon said the class was courageous, resilient, and has what it takes to be successful.

Not only did Martinsville High School’s Class of 2021 have to adapt to a new way of learning and communicating, it also had to overcome losing contact friends and other obstacles.

“We have missed a lot of opportunities, such as band performances, football games, tennis matches, swim meets, prom, and so much more,” senior representative Katherine Rorrer said.

“Despite these hardships, the Class of 2021 has met these challenges head on by learning new technologies, accepting a new normal, and still working hard to finish up our high school career.

“We have learned the importance of advocating for our own education in the face of adversity,” Rorrer said. “We have survived and thrived during a pandemic. There is nothing

that can stop the Class of 2021. I expect nothing but greatness from this year’s graduates. Whether they are going to college or directly into a career, I believe that success will follow each and every one of us.”

Rorrer was among several speakers to address Martinsville High School Class of 2021 during commencement on Saturday, May 21.

Trinity Gravely said, “These past four years of our lives have been nothing but exhausting times, and I am so proud of every single one of you. We didn’t know that last year in March would be the last time we would see each other, and we have been the strongest class because of what we have been through and what we had to deal with here at Martinsville High School.”

“Zoom meetings every day, the 45-minute tests, the essays we knew didn’t make sense, but we turned them in anyway. We went through all year with no senior activities, no prom and homecoming, no sports, but we made it. We have made it today where we can be together one last time,” Gravely said.

Even though there

See **Graduates**, page 7

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for updates



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, June 5

The Infinity Acres Ranch 6th Annual Spring Carnival will be held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. An additional \$3 kids activity band will also include face painting, the dunking booth, the Critter Train, games and prizes. Music and entertainment will be provided by Pirates of the Piedmont. Masks and social distancing are recommended. For more information, call (276) 358-2378.

The Henry County Bike Club will hold its annual Bike Ride for Awareness beginning at 10:30 a.m., at Jack Dalton Park. The ride is intended to raise awareness for bicycle safety. This will be a 12-mph max ride for approximately nine miles. To view the route, visit www.henrycountybikeclub.com. The ride will be held rain or shine and helmets are required. Local law enforcement will escort riders. For more information, call (276) 340-9105.

Thursday, June 10

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will hold a special called meeting at 12 p.m.

GO Virginia Region 3 announces a series of Stakeholder Input Sessions as part of the 2021 update of its Growth & Diversification Plan. To participate in Zoom sessions and provide input for the 2021 update to the GO Virginia Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan, participate in Session 4 – Entrepreneurship, at 10 a.m. To register, go to <https://govirginia3.org/growth-diversification-plan-input-sessions/>.

Saturday, June 12

Virtual Kick-off Celebration of Pride of Rural Virginia Virtual Community Chats - a series of interactive community conver-

sations to better understand the healthcare needs and experiences of LGBTQIA+ people. 1-2:30 pm. For more information and to register, visit www.vrha.org/pride

Monday, June 14

The Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum on 1 E. Main Street in Martinsville. The drive is being held as a celebration of Flag Day. The drive will take place from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Johnathan Phillips at (276) 806-5022.

Tuesday, June 15

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will hold a special called meeting at noon.

Monday, June 21

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will hold a special called meeting at 12 p.m.

ONGOING

West Piedmont Planning District Commission is seeking public input on three surveys for upcoming projects. All of the surveys and opportunities can be accessed on www.wppdc.org and the planning projects are: Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update (survey and interactive story map for residents); Regional Pandemic Recovery & Economic Resiliency Plan (survey for business and industries); Piney Forest Road Corridor Study by Danville MPO (residents who travel down Piney Forest Road in the City of Danville). For more information, contact Michael Armbrister at (276) 638-3987 or email marmbrister@wppdc.org.

County, PSA offices to close for holiday

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, Henry County and PSA offices will close at noon on Friday, May 28, and remain closed on Monday, May 31. Convenience centers for garbage disposal and recycling will be open as usual.

Duncan named to SNHU President's List

Amber Duncan, of Martinsville, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2021 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit

institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

PHCC's STEM Innovation Camp for middle school girls returns

This summer, Patrick Henry Community College is bringing back its popular Verizon Innovative Learning camp for middle school girls.

Camps will be held from June 7-25 for Patrick County residents and from July 12 - 30 for Martinsville and Henry County residents.

These camps offer middle-school-aged girls an immersive experience with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) unlike any other.

With a three-week intensive learning experience, girls in grades six through eight gain hands-on experience in augmented and virtual reality, coding, and 3D design. The girls will even get to meet influential woman leaders in STEM. Past participants say that the innovative projects and inspiring speakers have helped them better understand their future career opportunities and their own capabilities. In the context of completing fun challenges and exploring new and exciting concepts, participants learn to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and become design thinkers.

Thanks to the Verizon Foundation and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the camp is free for rising sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade girls. Lunch and transportation to and from the campsite will be provided. Students will receive a tablet to use for the duration of the program. Following the summer, the

students will participate in monthly sessions throughout the academic year. To register for the camp, call 276-656-5461.

To date, Verizon has

invested over \$200 million in this initiative and has reached more than one million students. Learn more at www.VerizonInnovativeLearning.com.



Hairston named to SNHU Dean's List

Bernice Hairston, of Ridgeway, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2021 Dean's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of

3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 &

EW4, or EW5 & EW6. Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Punctuation mark</p> <p>6. Married woman</p> <p>9. Nocturnal rodent</p> <p>13. Suffix</p> <p>14. A way to disappoint</p> <p>15. Saddle horse</p> <p>16. West African country</p> <p>17. Philippine island</p> <p>18. "Girls" creator Dunham</p> <p>19. A type of twin</p> <p>21. Groans</p> <p>22. Infections</p> <p>23. What a beaver makes</p> <p>24. Thou</p> <p>25. Make a mistake</p> <p>28. Receive</p> <p>29. Dresses</p> <p>31. Burn the surface of</p> <p>33. Where coaches observe</p> <p>36. Ceremonial offices</p> <p>38. Paddle</p> <p>39. The body's main artery</p> | <p>41. Altered the original state</p> <p>44. Alleges</p> <p>45. Short-billed rails</p> <p>46. Northern Thai province</p> <p>48. Albanian monetary unit</p> <p>49. Who the Wolverines play for</p> <p>51. Oath</p> <p>52. Astronomical period</p> <p>54. A single unit</p> <p>56. Presides over</p> <p>60. Spoiled tot</p> <p>61. Hillside</p> <p>62. Fertility god</p> <p>63. Assuage</p> <p>64. Signs a contract</p> <p>65. Ancient Greek war dance</p> <p>66. Allows</p> <p>67. Lunar crater</p> <p>68. Crash a motorcycle (Brit. slang)</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Loose-fitting undergarment</p> <p>2. Western Roman city</p> <p>3. Type of length</p> <p>4. Type of electricity</p> <p>5. Article</p> <p>6. Mothers</p> <p>7. Monetary unit</p> <p>8. Single Lens Reflex</p> <p>9. Tan-colored horses</p> <p>10. Region</p> <p>11. Cautious in spending money</p> <p>12. Belittle</p> <p>14. Sarcastic</p> <p>17. Fathers</p> <p>20. Clothes</p> <p>21. Opera's Callas</p> <p>23. Lentil dish</p> <p>25. Energy-saving module</p> <p>26. Make sense of a language</p> <p>27. Hurries through</p> | <p>29. Songs to one's lover</p> <p>30. Name given to plant groups</p> <p>32. Improves</p> <p>34. Patriotic women</p> <p>35. Inflammation on the eyelid</p> <p>37. Instrument in Indian music</p> <p>40. Request</p> <p>42. Make into leather without using tannin</p> <p>43. Defies</p> <p>47. Neither</p> <p>49. Flower cluster</p> <p>50. Phonological unit</p> <p>52. Leaves in water</p> <p>53. Cavalry-sword</p> <p>55. Famed American cartoonist</p> <p>56. Messenger ribonucleic acid</p> <p>57. Scarlett's home</p> <p>58. Make</p> <p>59. Stony waste matter</p> <p>61. What to do at auction</p> <p>65. Incorrect letters</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

Masks optional at PHCC, vaccines will not be mandated

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) received directives from Virginia's Community College System (VCCS) which governs the state's 23 community colleges regarding

COVID-19 vaccines and the use of masks.

According to the new guidance, Virginia's community colleges will not require the COVID-19 vaccines or proof of vaccination to work,

learn, or conduct business on a community college campus.

Additionally, those who have been completely vaccinated are no longer required to wear masks while at PHCC.

For anyone who feels safer or more comfortable wearing a mask, PHCC encourages and supports continued mask use. These directives were the result of consultation with the community college presidents and senior leaders across the 23 community colleges, and reflect the statements made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Governor Ralph Northam, and the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM).

"I believe it is in the best interests of our faculty, staff, and students to encourage everyone to get their COVID-19 vaccine. However, we will not require an individual to be vaccinated to attend or to work at one of our colleges," VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois said in a statement.

According to PHCC's President, Dr. Angeline Godwin, the college will immediately transition to keep in line with the VCCS's directives.

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Shoe-leather: How the path of a Critz pioneer can be walked by future women leaders

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Becoming the first person to break a societal barrier doesn't come easy, and often comes at the cost of a lot of shoe leather.

Originally a term used in journalism, "shoe-leather" eventually became a metaphor applied to any effort that is based on walking around to meet people face-to-face to accomplish a desired goal. This constant walking would in turn cause wear on said person's leather shoes.

Along with journalism, the method was also proven effective for political campaigns, as demonstrated by Critz native Mary Sue Terry.

She employed the technique in her campaign for the Attorney General post and became the first woman in Virginia to be elected to statewide office.

Before that, Terry won the support of a majority of Patrick and Henry county voters in a successful bid to become a member of the House of Delegates.

She said she was initially inspired to run for office because of the issue of drunk driving and a disparity in electricity rates between West Virginia and Virginia, even though the two states shared the same provider.

"The only way that I got elected was shoe-leather," Terry said. "I went to every country store and I went to every fire depart-

ment because I figured if those firemen could get to know me and call me Mary Sue as opposed to 'that woman' that they might consider voting for me."

The decision to run for office wasn't viewed as a courageous for Terry.

"You can have fear, and I had fear," she said. "But it is walking through it."

Terry said she was the assistant commonwealth attorney under then Commonwealth's Attorney Martin Clark. After deciding not to run for the vacant House of Delegates seat himself, Clark threw his support behind Terry.

"I worked hard and after a while people started saying 'she works hard,'" Terry said. "These folks that think they can run for office by just sending out a letter for a fundraiser, that never works. I had to call people to get money."

The game of politics is won and lost by who has the bigger pocketbook, according to Terry.

"When I positioned myself to run for attorney general, I was told that my money would be matched around Virginia in northern Virginia, Richmond and Tidewater by what I could raise down here," she said. "Not being a person of independent wealth, I went to work."

Terry said she sought to raise a total of \$1 million. To accomplish this, she sought donations from "flagships" in Martinsville for \$5,000 contributions.

"The first people that

I sat down with were Bill and Carolyn Franck," Terry said. "I explained to them why I was running and that I really hoped they would be a flagship."

The wear on Terry's shoes seemed to pay off as Bill Franck asked, "would you take more than that?"

"I said certainly, and I thanked them and I left," Terry said. "The next thing I knew, I was getting a check for \$15,000."

Terry kept up the hard work, eventually raising more than \$250,000 in local money.

"I never resented raising money because that was the goal," she said. "The only way that I could win and try to make a difference in Virginia was you had to have money. You have to lay the foundation."

By putting in the work early, Terry said she was able to "wipe out" the competition by time the Democratic primary came around.

"I never had opposition for the nomination to Attorney General, I never had opposition the second time and I never had opposition for governor," Terry said. "You just can't sit in a phone booth and call people. I say this as an encouragement. You just have to get out there and work hard. Women know everything about working hard."

But, Terry told those assembled at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum that simply reminiscing

about old times wasn't her end goal for the May 23 program.

"I'm here to encourage you to do something that perhaps some of you have never known, and that is to step-up," Terry said.

The audience consisted of mostly women. Terry's lecture was hosted in conjunction with the Heritage Center and Museum's exhibit, "Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today."

Only one person in the crowd appeared to be under the age of 18. After Terry's personal story, that person asked one question: "What advice would you give to those that are looking to get into politics?"

"Get involved with your local Democratic committee, let them see you as a worker bee," Terry said in response. "You have to be a worker bee. That's what I was. Once you are known as a worker bee, then you'll get more and more responsibilities. Then, they can get to know you and they can trust you."

Even when she was initially running for office, Terry said there were certain characteristics of women that tended to hold them back.

"Women do not gravitate towards power, which is a good thing," Terry said. "Studies show that women will often say to themselves 'well, I just don't feel qualified.' Women are instinctively inse-



Former Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry beside "The Rising Generation" display from the "Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today" exhibit at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum.

curity about qualifications, but that does not mean they are unqualified."

If a potential candidate can instead maintain focus on why they are running for office, Terry said they will be successful.

"That's the reason that it is important for people to circle around a woman who might be interested, and provide that support and encouragement,"

Terry said. "The next time there is an opening for the board of supervisors or the school board, some of you need to caucus and think of somebody that you really think would be good and you need to surround that person, tell them you will be with them, that you'll work for them and that you will expand the network. That's the only way to make a difference."

City council approves budget on first reading, final hearing set for June 8

Staff Reports

The Martinsville City Council approved the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget on first reading at its May 25 meeting.

Total expenses outweighed revenues by \$6,541,153. While the budgeted expenditures came in at \$99,087,022, the city only projected revenues of \$92,545,869.

The fund with the largest gap was the general fund, which had expenses of \$2.9 million less than revenues.

There were no recommended increases in taxes, rates or fees. Real estate taxes were set at \$1.03975 per \$100 assessed value, personal property taxes were set at \$2.30/\$100, and machinery and tools taxes were set at \$1.85/\$100.

The schools are set to receive approximately \$6.2 million in total local contributions. The budget included level funding for outside agencies except for

9-1-1 and social services. There was also a reduction in funding to the health department which was offset by increases in state funding to the agency.

There was an additional five percent cost of living adjustment for city employees accompanied by an increase in health insurance.

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

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said the city is expecting approximately \$13 to \$14 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan.

Council members will convene on June 8 to approve the budget on second reading. Changes and adjustments can still be made for two weeks up until that vote.

In other matters, city council:

*Recognized the city's winners of the "If I Were Mayor" contest. Benjamin

Wood received first place, Morgan Niblett received second place, and Demetrious Brown received third place.

*Recognized the following city employees for service awards: Matthew Shumate for five years in Electric Construction; Corey Agee, Charles Creasy and Roy Lineberry for five years with the Sheriff's Department; Charles Griffith, Adam Parnell and Steven Rogers for five years with the Police Department; Tony Hall for five years with the Central Garage; Ricky Hundley for 10 years with Sewer Maintenance; Alberto Herrero for 10 years with the Commonwealth's Attorney; Jason Hairfield for 10 years with Street Markings and Signs; Harvey York for 15 years with the Wastewater Plant; Michael Martin for 20 years with City Hall Maintenance; and Charles Anderson for 25 years with Traffic Signals.

*Set a public hearing



City council recognizes their winners of the "If I Were Mayor" contest. Front (from left to right): Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, Demetrious Brown, Benjamin Wood, and Morgan Niblett. Back: Mayor Kathy Lawson and Council Members Danny Turner, Tammy Pearson and Chad Martin.

for June 8 to hear names for citizens interested in being appointed to the school board. Citizens may appear in person, stating their name, address, and interest in the position; or their name, address, and interest may

be offered by another individual. The seats up for consideration are those

currently held by Dominique Hylton and Yvonne Givens.

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THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

OPINION

The slow return to normalcy

On April 1, 2021, I got my second dose of the COVID vaccine.

Two months later, I am happy to report that I have not died, nor has the vaccine altered my DNA and transformed me into an abhuman monster (although some might argue I was halfway there to begin with).

I would say that I don't feel any different now that I'm fully vaccinated, but that's not entirely true. Physically, I feel exactly the same. Mentally and emotionally, however, I'm in a much better place.

Now that the majority of my loved ones are fully vaccinated and I have a double-shot of the Moderna Special running through my veins, I've slowly started doing normal stuff again. It still feels weird eating inside a restaurant, but I've done it a handful of times. I've gone to gatherings and seen friends. I've hugged people! It's been pretty fantastic.

This isn't to say I've thrown my masks away. I anticipate that I'll still be wearing one in grocery stores and at large gatherings, partly because this is the first year I can remember that I didn't catch some horrible bug during the winter months.

Believe it or not, there are a

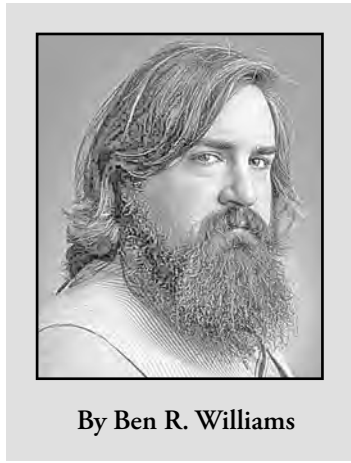
few things I'll miss about sheltering in place. I'll miss saving a ton of money on gas. I'll miss having a great excuse to weasel out of doing stuff. I'll especially miss going days at a time without putting on real pants (rest easy, bourbon-themed sleep pants; you've done yeoman's work).

On the other hand, I might actually get to see my long-delayed Blue Oyster Cult concert at The Harvester this September. Soon I'll finally be able to attend a pinball tournament and lose horribly. Plus, I no longer have to worry as much about dying a painful and protracted death due to the Coronavirus, which is also cool. I think it all evens out.

Yes, I'm excited about the slow return to normalcy.

I just hope it continues. According to recent CDC statistics, nearly 40 percent of U.S. adults are fully vaccinated against the Coronavirus, and about 60 percent of adults have received their first dose.

While those are good numbers, we don't know what percentage of the population needs to be vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity. I've heard anywhere from 70-90 percent vaccination will



By Ben R. Williams

be necessary to reach that point. While 70 percent seems doable, 90 percent may not be possible — or at least, we may get there via infection rather than by vaccination.

The problem is that we're eventually going to reach a point, sooner rather than later, when everybody who wants to get vaccinated has been vaccinated, and we're definitely going to have a bunch of vaccines left over.

I realize that there are many out there who say, "Well, it's my choice whether I want to get the vaccine or not. If I catch COVID, you're already vaccinated, so what do you care?"

Part of me is tempted to say, as I have said in the past, that I truly don't care anymore. Which is largely true. However, I do care about people who are immunocompromised and legitimately cannot get the vaccine for medical reasons. When healthy folks choose not to get the vaccine, they're making also making that decision for the immunocompromised, and it's a terrible one.

Additionally, we don't yet know how long the vaccine will last and whether or not booster shots will be necessary. I tend to think that it will eventually become normal to get an annual COVID shot at the same time as a flu shot, but at this point, we just don't know. And if the vaccine does end up losing efficacy as time passes, every unvaccinated person out there will be making the situation just a little bit worse for everyone.

One thing I know for certain is that this situation is going to get worse before it gets better.

I was stunned when the CDC announced on May 13 that vaccinated people no longer have to wear masks in most indoor locations (except hospitals, public transit, and a handful of others). Apparently someone at the CDC thinks people are fundamentally good and honest at heart, which recent events have proven is de-

monstrably untrue. Obviously, the same people who refused to wear masks throughout this whole ordeal except under duress are going to continue not wearing masks, only now they'll falsely claim that they're vaccinated. Obviously, this is going to result in an increase in infections and deaths. Obviously, the CDC sent the signal to many that the pandemic is finally over and we've beaten this thing.

Unfortunately, we haven't. As of now, COVID cases are at the lowest levels we've seen in months, but the war isn't over. The U.S. is still recording about 24,000 cases daily and about 500 deaths per day. If we had a war with the Martians and they went from killing 2,000 U.S. citizens per day to 500 per day, we would not resume business as usual and announce a decisive victory over the Martians.

While our situation is improving, we're not out of the woods yet. I'm enjoying the slow return to normalcy, and I'm sure you are too. And so, if you're talking to an anti-vaxer friend, I encourage you to gently remind them that the sooner they get vaccinated, the sooner life will return to normal.

Also, I firmly believe that throwing this article into someone's face constitutes a gentle reminder.

The Biden agenda: No to American energy, yes to Russian energy?

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

The United States enjoyed a period of energy dominance in recent years. Responsible development of our natural resources provided Americans with more affordable energy produced domestically. In September 2019, the United States became a net petroleum exporter for the first time since the keeping of monthly records began in 1973.

Americans have paid less to heat their homes and fuel their cars and benefited from job growth tied to the energy industry as a result of energy dominance. Unfortunately, President Biden seems to have prioritized reversing these gains since taking office.

He set the tone on day one of his Administration by revoking permits for the Keystone XL pipeline. If this pipeline proceeded, it would

ship oil from our neighbor and ally Canada across the United States and create thousands of construction jobs. But Joe Biden said no.

One pipeline Joe Biden won't say no to is Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline carrying natural gas to Germany. His Administration has waived sanctions imposed by Congress on the company constructing the pipeline. While taking steps to curb natural gas production in the United States, President Biden is removing hurdles for Russia's natural gas industry, which has an emissions profile 42 percent higher than American natural gas.

Waiving these sanctions enables the completion of the pipeline, a project which will give Vladimir Putin significant leverage over Europe. President Biden likes to talk tough about Putin, but he is casting aside one of the most important tools he

has to actually counter Russia.

This decision comes on the heels of the hacking of Colonial Pipeline by a group of cybercriminals based in Eastern Europe with possible ties to Russia. The hack disrupted gasoline supplies, triggering a run on gas stations and a spike in prices. So far, justice has not been delivered to the hackers, only a \$4.4 million ransom. While the Biden Administration dreams of windmills and solar panels to be strewn across the country in the coming decades, work must be done now on securing the infrastructure upon which our society survives and prospers.

Against the backdrop of these stories in the news emphasizing the importance of getting energy policy right, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm appeared before the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy, of which I am a member.

The purpose of the hearing was ostensibly to discuss the Biden Administration's proposed budget as it relates to the Department of Energy. President Biden has not yet released a detailed budget, but if budgeting reflects priorities, it is clear that his budget will prioritize ideological commitments over reliable and affordable American-produced energy. I used my time during the hearing to advocate for a realistic energy budget.

I first brought up the need for parity in research dollars spent on fossil and renewable fuels. Even if the Biden Administration achieves some of its more far-fetched goals for reliance upon renewable energy, fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and oil will continue to be burned around the world. Finding ways to burn them in a cleaner and more effi-

cient way will reduce global carbon emissions and open up export markets for American technology.

Inventing and manufacturing those technologies can create jobs, which is why I am excited about work being done close to home. Innovators such as the Center for Advanced Separation Technologies, which includes Virginia Tech as a partner, and MOVA Technologies of Pulaski have taken meaningful steps toward finding new uses for fossil fuels or reducing their impact on the environment. These endeavors deserve our support.

I further noted to Secretary Granholm that a power grid dependent upon renewable energy would need an enormous buildout of high-voltage power lines, burdening landowners by taking their land through eminent domain. Secretary Granholm's answer, colocat-

ing power lines on federal land, may work in limited circumstances but will not be sufficient.

Just think of the high-voltage power lines currently in our area. Some cross through federal land, but they also cross over private land.

When advocates talk up a carbon-free economy, they often omit these less exciting but vital details.

American energy independence was an incredible achievement. The Biden Administration seems intent on squandering it with real costs to follow for American families, workers, and businesses. I urge President Biden to change course before further damage is done.

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.

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IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

TAPS II

The solitary bugler stands apart, afar, an introspective harbinger of grief.

A presence hid from eyes but not from ears, whose notes bespeak a universal fate.

The straining eyes seek out the silhouette; the ears seek out the sounds o'er

sobs and groans—
The eyes oft times rewarded with a glimpse, the ears with distant melancholy tones.

It seems until that trumpet of despair is sounded that the soul cannot be gone,

But as the natural melody dies away, all there concede: reality has won.

Another soul has left this vale of tears to music sounded in a major key,

A corpse to sleep the sleep of sleeps for now, in patient death to sleep until the day

When yet another trumpeter shall come to undo deeds of buglers of the past,

Confound our worldly wisdom right and left,

And summon last and first and first and last.

(Adapted in an effort to better reflect the inclusive sensibilities of our mod-

ern era 2021).

*Bill Charles,
Martinsville*

A Note from the Poet: "Taps" was written in 1972 based on my experiences of playing for military funerals while a member of the 60th Army Band, Ft. Polk, Louisiana. I often played from a position that was "semi-hid." I would be off to the side, often near a tree.

Class of 21' from page 1

end up earning a full scholarship.

"Or having the emotional courage to come to school the day after your house caught fire to get another iPad to continue your virtual learning. Or having the heartfelt courage to maintain an 'A' average after losing someone dear to you. Or the physical courage to continue to strive to pass your classes after being diagnosed with cancer," she said.

Courage also was apparent in the realm of academics, with students challenging themselves, especially during a global pandemic. Gravely said, and added that 111 students obtained an advanced diploma, 31 students earned an associate degree, 52 students received graduate of distinction, and 61 students obtained the accolade of honor graduate.

Additionally, the class earned nearly \$1 million in scholarships, she said.

Moving forward, students "will need to summon the same courage you exhibited this school year to help you navigate challenges. Just remember that fear and courage often go hand and hand. But you, the Class of 2021, have already demonstrated that you have the courage to continue on," she said.

After the unprecedented events

of the past year-and-a-half, Ignacio Ruiz-Sanchez, class president, said it the final walk across the stage to collect diplomas was surreal.

"We have not had the ideal senior year as we have battled this deadly virus, but it is certain that you rose in triumph in defeating all obstacles and making it to this point today. I am beyond proud of this class for their achievements and most importantly, I am excited for the journeys you will set forth on after you officially take your last walk as a graduate," he said.

"Just four years ago we all faced the gut-wrenching feeling of dread and excitement as we walked through those lobby doors for the first time. Each face here brought a new story to our class just as much as each of you will leave with an everlasting impact on future graduates," he said.

When embarking on future endeavors, "Live passionately with no regrets and let your success not be final. As you realize your dreams in college, in the military, in the workforce, or any other course in life, let your success be the motivation for other's achievements just as we celebrate those who came before us," he said.

Madalyn Ann Oliver said she does

not understand why people are so afraid of failure when it is one of the greatest teachers and motivators this world has to offer.

"Failure may seem like the be-all, end-all, but it is not fatal. In truth, failure is a gift. We have all failed before, be it big or small. Failure is natural. It is human, it is unavoidable, and yet we fear it so much," she said.

"As a society, we've been taught that failure is something to be ashamed of. But it's time that we stopped viewing failure as something dreadful and begin to see the true potential it offers us as people," Oliver said.

"We have not become the incredible people we are today in spite of our failures. That would suggest that we learned nothing," she said. "We are incredible people because of our failures and the lessons we learned from them. It is time to stop running from failure and seeing it as a curse and instead seeing it as the gift that it is.

"It is then, and only then, that we can grab life by the horns and not be afraid to follow our dreams," she said. "Now is the time for dream catching. Now is the beginning of the rest of our lives, and though we cannot be afraid to fail, we will succeed."

OBITUARIES

Johnny Franklin Reed

Johnny Franklin Reed, 76, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Thursday, May 6, 2021, at his residence. He was born November 15, 1944, in Welch, West Virginia to the late John and Margaret Reynolds Reed. He proudly served his country in the United States National Guard and had been employed with Century Link for over 42 years. He coached basketball, baseball and football for over 30 years in the county.



(Carol); sisters, Molly Shelton (Mike) and Ginger Agee (Mike); grandchildren, Eli Rakes, Landon Reed and Collin Reed; and five nieces.

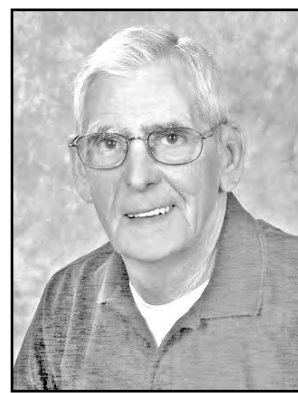
A memorial service was held on Sunday, May 23, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with Jimmy Bousman officiating.

Memorials may be made in memory of Mr. Reed to Mountain Valley Hospice, 730 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Thomas Bernard Draper

Thomas Bernard Draper, 84, of Martinsville passed away Monday, May 23, 2021. He was born March 29, 1937, to Thomas "Tommie" M. Draper and Lillian Hairfield Draper. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother-in-law Morton Haynes.



His favorite was Mark Martin, who he enjoyed watching win races. He especially treasured his first vehicle, a 1940 Ford Coupe, and his last, a 1986 F-150 pickup truck.

When Bernadette was a senior in high school, she and Ann went to the Ford dealership and bought a Mustang. Thomas traded it in a few days later and got a different mustang

he liked, which she drove for years at Appalachian State University and even after she married. He was a Ford man through and through.

As a boy, he became a member of Jones Chapel Church of the Brethren in his home community of Figsboro. After marriage, the young couple (just like kids) attended First Baptist Church in Collinsville. In recent years, although a private person, Thomas confirmed his faith in Jesus Christ to his daughter, Bernadette, to his sister-in-law Jane, and to his brother-in-law, Mark.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, May 28, 2021, at Roselawn Burial Park

Memorials may be made to the Mountain Valley Hospice of Yadkinville, 243 N. Lee Avenue, Yadkinville, N.C. 27055 or to the Alzheimer's Association, 2728 Colonial Ave., SW, Suite 2, Roanoke VA 24015

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

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com

Myrna Hamilton McNeely

Myrna Hamilton McNeely, 79 of 245 Yeatts Road Martinsville, passed away Sunday, May 23, 2021. She was born in Henry County on September 29, 1941, to the late Edward Alexandra Hamilton and Dorothy Justice Hamilton.



years, Billy Franklin McNeely; daughter, Sharon "Beth" M. Church and her husband Kelly Shawn Church; grandchildren, David Minter and his wife Brittney Minter and Haley Church; great-grandchild Addyson Minter; brother, Curtis Wayne Hamilton and his wife Becky Hamilton of Herndon, Virginia.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com

Input sought on broadband survey

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Henry County residents are being asked to participate in an upcoming survey which will help identify gaps in communities for broadband coverage.

The survey is part of a larger broadband planning study being conducted by ECC Technologies which has been hired by the county to develop a plan moving forward.

At a recent Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting, Christian Youngblood, director of information services for the county, said the purpose of the study is to answer four questions that will determine the county's broadband needs, the broadband options already available, where broadband is already available, and ways to make the county's broadband connectivity better.

"COVID has really emphasized the fact that we need this technology in our area," Youngblood said. "We need it for our telehealth, we need it for our remote learning, we need it for work-from-home initiatives," and for other virtual meetings.

By having the study, Youngblood said the county will be able to incentivize current internet providers to offer better options.

"Or, if we are not able to get the existing vendors to step up to the plate, they are going to help us create our own plans to form an authority or some other mechanism so that we are able to serve our own customers," Youngblood added.

Youngblood said he encourages feedback from both residents and businesses.

"We want you to tell us what broadband you have, what options do you have, what speed, who is the provider, what's the cost," Youngblood said. "Most importantly, there will be a comment section where you can tell us what you really feel."

Youngblood said that current grants are based on Federal Communication Commission maps.

"They have it where if a single house is served within a census block, then they get to go ahead and paint the whole census block off," he said. "So, if there is a mobile home park and

only one home has access to it and the other 49 do not, they still get scratched off and they look like they are served."

With billions of federal dollars to be spent on broadband in the coming years, Youngblood said that the surveys and studies will position the county to be eligible for available funds.

"We will apply for funding and they will ask, 'where is your assessment,'" he said. "Without this, we really will not even be able to submit an application, so it (survey) is extremely important."

In other matters, the board:

*Approved three additional appropriations to the school board for end-of-year instructional purchases, facilities upgrades and employee bonuses. Of the appropriations, two were categorical transfers of \$175,000 from Pupil Transportation to Instruction and \$140,000 from Administration, Attendance, and Health to Facilities. The third appropriation was \$145,032 from the Pupil Transportation budget to the School Nutrition budget.

The money was to fund the cost of bonuses for eligible School Nutrition staff. The school board previously approved a bonus in the amount of \$1,400 to be paid to all eligible full time and part-time employees. The total fiscal impact is estimated to be \$1,764,544. The bonus is in addition to the \$1,000 that was paid to school employees and school board members in November of this fiscal year.

Before the board voted unanimously to approve the appropriations, Dr. J. David Martin, of the Iriswood District, discussed a contention he had with the request.

"In this action, the school board members will be approving for themselves \$2,400 in bonuses. Is that correct," he asked.

Dr. Ben Boone, director of finance for Henry County schools, said that previous \$1,000 was federal money used for hazard pay for employees that worked through the pandemic.

"This is something totally separate," Boone said. "This is a bonus that we are giving to employees full-time and part-time who are current employees that are eligible."

He noted that the cur-

rent appropriation from fuel-savings would provide bonuses for cafeteria workers.

"My specific question is that if we approve this, in November and now coming up, the school board members individually will have received \$2,400 in a bonus," Martin said. "Is that a yes or a no?"

"They will have received a stipend in the fall and right now they will receive a bonus of \$1,400, yes. So, \$2,400 all together," Boone said.

"I don't want to be mean about this but when you get elected to a position, you don't do it for the money," Martin said. "And, I just have a problem with \$2,400 being given to school board members."

Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, concurred. Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said that school board members had extra meetings, emails and phone calls throughout the pandemic.

County Administrator Tim Hall added that, "as I understand it, this board does not have the ability to tell the school board how to spend its money. It's either a yes or no on the proposed transfer."

Martin voted yes on the proposal "because of all of the other employees."

*Presented a proclamation to the family of former General Registrar Elizabeth Stone in honor of her life of service to the county. Stone was the longest-serving registrar in Virginia, having served from 1979 until the time of her death in 2020.

Vice Chairman Debra Buchanan read the proclamation which stated in part, "Elizabeth Bateman 'Liz' Stone personified what it means to be a public servant, having worked for her community for 45 years as Henry County's General Registrar" and "the Board encourages everyone to emulate Ms. Stone's lifetime dedication to her community and to the citizens whom she served."

"I had the privilege of working with Liz for numerous years and there was never a dull conversation, never a dull day and I never failed to be impressed by how she did her job," Hall said. "She was absolutely dedicated to doing it the right way."

Stone's son, E.C. Stone,



E.C. Stone and Matt Duffy receive a proclamation from members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Electoral Board to honor of the life of Elizabeth Stone.

and grandson, Matt Duffy, were present to receive the proclamation.

"I know she absolutely loved this place," E.C. Stone said. "She would rather be here than on vacation which she very rarely ever took a vacation. I wanted to thank everyone on behalf of the family. It was really a nice honor. I know she would really be proud. She put everything she had into this job."

*Heard an update from Everlena Ross, executive director of Pittsylvania County Community Action, Inc., on services provided to low-income individuals in the service area which includes Pittsylvania County, Danville, Henry County and Martinsville.

*Heard an update from Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

*Heard an update on delinquent tax collection efforts from Treasurer Scott Grindstaff. As of April 30, approximately 92.93 percent of personal property

taxes and 94.61 percent of real estate taxes have been collected.

*Approved a waiver request to maintain split voting precincts at #203 Horsepasture #2, #304 Mount Olivet, and #505 Dyer Store. Legislation was recently passed requiring each voting precinct to be wholly contained within a single congressional district, Senate District, House of Delegates district, and local districts. The waiver allows the precincts to remain in place until pending redistricting.

*Heard from Lisa Price-Hughes, resident engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, on upcoming projects. Paving will occur on secondary roads in mid-July on the following roads: College Drive, Stultz Road, Commonwealth Boulevard, Lee Ford Camp Road, Irisburg Road, Bassett Heights Road, Henry Street, Rives Road, and Water Plant Road.

*Heard from Bryant about a Town Hall scheduled for June 24 at 7 p.m.,

in the Summerlin Meeting Room.

*Appointed the following individuals to respective boards: Lewis Turner, Sherry Vestal and Margaret Caldwell to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board; Michael Smith and Sandra Adams to the Parks and Recreation Board; Jeff Prillaman to the Planning Commission; Stephanie Tucker, Anita Davis Hobbs and Darrell Jones to the Community Policy and Management Team; Ali-sha Hill to the Southside Community Action Board; and Garrett Dillard to the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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



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PHCC asked to reconsider decision to retain name

Virginia's State Board of Community Colleges on Thursday voted unanimously to amend its community college naming policy.

The decision represents the latest step in a process that began nearly a year ago, when local college advisory boards were asked to review the appropriateness of the names of their college, cam-

pus, and facilities.

After completing a review, Patrick Henry Community College's (PHCC) local board recommended that PHCC's name remain the same.

The state board reviewed PHCC's recommendation and unanimously voted to direct PHCC to reconsider this decision. The state board is asking

the college's leaders and the local board to reconsider their previous decision to retain their college's name.

The new policy states that institutions' names "should reflect the values of inclusive and accessible education articulated in the VCCS mission statement, with special emphasis on diversity, equity, and opportunity, and be

relevant to the students it seeks to serve and to the geography of its service region."

Following this recommendation, PHCC's local board chairman immediately called four special-called meetings to discuss the policy change and to discuss amending its recommendation.

The state board carries the sole authority to decide the names of

Virginia's community colleges; however, the board has provided the colleges on opportunity to make recommendations.

The special-called meetings of PHCC's local board were held at noon on Thursday, June 3; Thursday, June 10; Tuesday, June 15; and Monday, June 21.

The board will not take public comment at the meetings.

Drugs and assets seized in undercover drug operation

The Henry County Sheriff's Office concluded an undercover narcotics operation during which pharmaceutical pills, along with quantities of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana, were seized.

Assets connected to the distribution and trafficking of narcotics also were seized during the operation. These seizures include vehicles and U.S. currency.

As a result of the drug operation, a Henry County Grand Jury issued indictments on May 17. The operation resulted in 184 felony charges being issued on 72 adults. Many of these indicted have been previously charged and may have been convicted of drug distribution in the past.

On May 20, the Henry County Sheriff's Office, assisted by the Virginia State Police, Martinsville Police Department, Henry County Department of Public Safety, United States Marshals Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, arrested 36 people.

During the arrest operation, additional narcotics, illegal firearms and U.S. currency also were seized.

Agencies assisting in the investigations included Henry County Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Virginia State Police, Martinsville Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Those arrested include:

*Karlos Phillip Allen, 46, of Ridgeway, three counts distribute cocaine--second offense; distribute methamphetamine; distribute heroin--second offense; distribute fentanyl--second offense; endanger life of a child, Dec. 19, 2019-Jan. 29, 2020.

*Kevin Dale Campbell, 52, of Fieldale, distribute cocaine--third of subsequent offense, Aug. 8, 2019.

*Kevin Paul Clifton, 41, of Martinsville, three counts distribute methamphetamine; possess firearm while distributing methamphetamine, Nov. 6-Dec. 6, 2019.

*Tyrel O'Bryant Coles, 32, of Collinsville, two counts distribute cocaine, Feb. 19-Oct. 1, 2019.

*Will Mose Cook IV, 56, of Martinsville, three counts distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, May 21-June 4, 2019.

*Elijah Isaiah Cooke, 20, of Ridgeway, two counts distribute heroin, June 24-July 7, 2020.

*Daniel Anderson Davis, 25, of Martinsville, six counts distribute methamphetamine, Jan. 27-March 9.

*Ricky Ray Day, 43, of Martinsville, three counts distribute heroin--third or subsequent offense, March 1-19, 2019.

*Michael James Diniz, 58, of Martinsville, two counts distribute heroin; distribute fentanyl; distribute methamphetamine; possess fentanyl with intent to distribute, June 19, 2018-Aug. 30.

*David Charles Donovan Jr., 33, of Martinsville, distribute heroin, Nov. 29, 2018.

*Benjamin McCoy Gilbert, 59, of Martinsville, two counts distribute cocaine--second offense, Aug. 7-Sept. 4, 2019.

*Steven Leo Goff Jr., 45, of Patrick Springs, distribute methamphetamine; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, Nov. 30, 2020.

*Jasmine Nicole Hairston, 30, of Martinsville, distribute methamphetamine--third or subsequent offense, Aug. 18, 2020.

*Posie Phillips Hairston, 37, of Axton, three counts distribute heroin, July 8-Aug. 11, 2020.

*Jeffery Dehan Hall, 56, of Martinsville, distribute cocaine--second offense, Sept. 18, 2019.

*James Nathaniel Lowe, 72, of Spencer, four counts distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, June 29-Aug. 27, 2020.

*Kenneth Louis Marshall, 69, of Bassett, distribute buprenorphine and naloxone, Feb. 19.

*Brandon William Martin, 37, of Collinsville, distribute methamphetamine--third or subsequent offense; distribute heroin--third or subsequent offense; distribute fentanyl--third or subsequent offense, Aug. 28-Sept. 23, 2020.

*Kenneth Tyrone Moore, 61, of Ridgeway, distribute oxycodone and acetaminophen, Aug. 19, 2019.

*Stacey Leon Moss, 53, of Martinsville, three counts distribute cocaine, Sept. 13-27, 2019.

*Teddy Ray Nelson Jr., 36, of Bassett, distribute methamphetamine, June 30, 2020.

*Erika Lynn Parsons, 38, of Martinsville, three counts distribute methamphetamine; distribute fentanyl; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, Feb. 26-March 12, 2020.

*Lewis Lamont Penn, 46, of Martinsville, distribute marijuana, Oct. 17, 2019.

*Victor Dwight Robinson, 63, of Martinsville, distribute cocaine, Oct. 10, 2019.

*Jordan Decarlo Stockton, 44 of Axton, distribute cocaine, Dec. 17, 2019.

*Alonzo Clayborne Thomas, 39, of Martinsville, distribute heroin--third or subsequent offense, July 6, 2020.

*Jarrett Lee Titus, 34, of Martinsville, distribute fentanyl; distribute heroin; distribute imitation controlled substance; and attempt to distribute heroin, March 5-June 23, 2020.

*Derrick Lashawn Waller, 45, of Martinsville, distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, June 18-22, 2020.

*Marvin Laron Webb, 41, of Martinsville, two counts distribute cocaine, March 2-3, 2020.

*Christopher Michael Wilson, 33, of Martinsville, distribute methamphetamine, Feb. 13, 2020.

*Keyvon Lashean Wim-bush, 29, of Bassett, distribute cocaine, Aug. 31, 2020.

*Loje Nathaniel Witcher, 23, of Bassett, distribute methamphetamine, Jan. 25.

*Robert Donald Wood, 48, of Bassett, six counts distribute methamphetamine--third or subsequent offense; two counts distribute less than 10 grams methamphetamine; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine--third or subsequent offense, March 17-April 29, 2020.

*Michael H. D. Wright, 30, of Martinsville, six

counts distribute cocaine; three counts endanger life of a child; distribute methamphetamine, Feb. 20-Oct. 22, 2019.

*Christopher Lawrence Wingfield, 36, of Axton, distribute methamphetamine; possess a firearm while distributing methamphetamine, Feb. 10, 2020.

*Tamon Dorell Witcher, 32, of Collinsville, three counts distribute cocaine, March 8-May 22, 2019.

29, of Eden, N.C., distribute methamphetamine, Oct. 6, 2020.

*Cleophus Verdell O'Neil Jr., 63, of Bassett, distribute methamphetamine, May 21, 2020.

*John Martin Pratt, 27, of Bassett, distribute methamphetamine; distribute fentanyl; and distribute tramadol, Oct. 13, 2020-Jan. 6, 2021.

*John David Ratliff, 55, of Martinsville, distribute oxycodone, Dec. 2, 2020.

*Jerome Jermaine Reynolds, 34, of Martinsville, three counts distribute cocaine--second offense, Nov. 7-20, 2019.

*Kevin Scott Robinson, 44, of Collinsville, distribute methamphetamine, Dec. 3, 2020.

*Bryant Christopher Scales, 36, of Martinsville, three counts distribute cocaine, two counts endanger life of a child, Sept. 10, 2019-April 9, 2020.

*Robert George Simmons, 41, of Ridgeway, four counts distribute methamphetamine; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, March 17-June 8, 2020.

*Jerome Allen Spencer, 37, of Ridgeway, two counts distribute cocaine; two counts possess firearm while distribute cocaine, Nov. 25-26, 2019.

*William Anthony Star- kие, 67, of Martinsville, two counts distribute cocaine, June 25-July 7, 2020.

*Diamond Nicole Stowe, 27, of Ridgeway, distribute methamphetamine, Feb. 14, 2019.

*Ronrico Antonio Taylor, 45, of Martinsville, two counts distribute methamphetamine--second offense; distribute heroin--second offense; endanger life of a child, Jan. 7-Feb. 19, 2020.

*Curtis Daryle Tinsley, 43, of Axton, distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, Feb. 5, 2020.

*Courtney Levon Trent, 41, of Ridgeway, distribute cocaine, Oct. 23, 2019.

*Dwayne Antonio Val- entine, 36, of Martinsville, four counts distribute cocaine--second offense, May 29, 2019-Feb. 10, 2020.

*Dykarius Latavian Wells, 29, of Martinsville, distribute cocaine, Oct. 29, 2019.

Authorities continue seeking help in locating the following:

*Timothy Shaine Ander- son, 41, of Martinsville, distribute methamphetamine, June 29, 2020.

*Randall David Bow- man, 51, of Stuart, two counts distribute oxycodone--third or subsequent of- fense, April 8-May 6, 2020.

*Melissa Renee Broad- nax, 46, of Ridgeway, distribute methamphetamine; endanger life of a child, June 2, 2020.

*Kimberly Ann Clark, 45, of Martinsville, two counts distribute methamphetamine; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, Nov. 30, 2020-Jan. 19, 2021.

*Richard Lee Coleman Jr., 35, of Collinsville, distribute fentanyl, Aug. 25, 2020.

*James Matthew Con- ner, 59, of Spencer, distrib- ute cocaine, June 5, 2020.

*Heather Marie Davis, 34, of Martinsville, distrib- ute cocaine, Aug. 29, 2019.

*Troy Renard Dodson, 43, of Martinsville, four counts distribute cocaine, Aug. 16-Sept. 16, 2019.

*Karl Roderick Dones, 59, of Ridgeway, distribute cocaine, June 15, 2020.

*Michael Wendell Hair- ston, 63, of Ridgeway, distrib- ute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, Dec. 15, 2020.

*Tyler Blake Hensley, 23, of Collinsville, distribute methamphetamine, Jan. 20.

*Bradley Eugene Hyl- ton, 36, of Madison N.C., distribute heroin, July 22, 2020.

*Lea Mikaela Lachow- icz, 36, of Ridgeway, three counts distribute heroin; two counts distribute methamphetamine, Dec. 9, 2020-Jan. 6, 2021.

*Landy Lafonzo Left- wich, 44, of Martinsville, three counts distrib- ute cocaine, Sept. 16, 2019-March 31, 2020.

*Jessica Nichole Lewis, 35, of Martinsville, distrib- ute methamphetamine; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, June 8, 2020.

*Mark Alexander Mar- tin, 57, of Fieldale, three counts distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, April 1-13, 2020.

*Johnny Lee McBride, 34, of Bassett, distribute methamphetamine; distrib- ute heroin; and distribute fentanyl, Feb. 10.

*Darius Lavon Moore, 31, of Martinsville, distrib- ute oxycodone, Dec. 19, 2018.

*Moses Cornell Moore, 57, of Martinsville, five counts distribute cocaine--third or subsequent offense, May 21-Oct. 7, 2019.

*Ryan Lewis Moore, 36, of Martinsville, three counts distribute fentanyl; endanger life of a child, May 20-27, 2020.

*Jerry Wayne Nester Jr.,

CLASSIFIED

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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HELP WANTED

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.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Martinsville, Virginia, at its regular session to be conducted on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at the City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building (second floor), 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, shall conduct the following public hearing at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as practicable:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 22.1-29.1, for consid-

eration of two appointments to the School Board for the City of Martinsville, both expiring June 30, 2024. No nominee or applicant whose name has not been considered at this public hearing shall be appointed as a school board member.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Leon Towarnicki,
City Manager

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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.

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City Council from page 1

county will be responsible for providing security for the office. Personal property of the Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue will be retained by the city, except for personal property of the accessor. All of the other office space for the constitutional officers will remain titled to the city. Should the county need the space, it will be offered at cost.

The Town of Martinsville will no longer offer court services but will retain the facilities. The county will have the option to continue to use the General District Court space, along with the clerk space, at cost until the consolidation is completed. The county will be responsible for providing security for the court.

The sheriff's office, jail, annex and prison farm will be offered to the county for use

at cost. Sheriffs for the two localities will be responsible for figuring out the details of the transition, including work release.

*The city will no longer participate in the Department of Social Services or the local Department of Health upon reversion. Martinsville will continue to contribute and participate in the governing bodies of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, Economic Development Corp., Regional Airport Authority and the 9-1-1 Operations Center.

*Amendments were made to the revenue sharing agreements between the city and the county. The Bryant property will be removed from the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre agreement. Two adjustments were made to the Patriot's Centre In-

dustrial Park agreement. The Martinsville Industrial Park will now be included in the agreement, and Martinsville will now receive revenue earlier, to the date of reversion. Revenue will continue to be split between the two localities, with Henry County receiving two-thirds of the revenue and Martinsville receiving the other third.

*The Martinsville school system will be absorbed by the Henry County school system. Druid Hills Elementary School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, Clearview Early Learning Center, and the original old gym will be retained by Martinsville. Druid Hills will either be used as a veteran's service center or for some other taxable purpose. The other two schools will be used for redevelopment

plans. Martinsville High School, Martinsville Middle School and Albert Harris Elementary School will be transferred to the county. The auditorium at the high school will continue to be available for community use. Besides the auditorium, the Henry County School Board will have the sole responsibility of determining the use of the buildings that transfer to the county.

*The Town of Martinsville will continue to provide the same urban services as when it was a city.

*The Town of Martinsville will be responsible for all current debt, including debt on property transferred to the county, such as Martinsville High School. Additionally, the city agrees not to incur any additional debt on any of

the property being conveyed to the county.

*The Commission on Local Government will make a recommendation for the effective date of reversion, which will be reviewed by the three-judge panel.

*Martinsville agreed to extend the moratorium on annexation to 10 years from the effective date of reversion instead of the two years required by statute. The extension is contingent upon continued retention of the Henry County Public Service Authority as a customer.

*The Board of Supervisors will have the full authority to establish voting districts and set the number of seats on the Board of Supervisors and school board, with at least one seat from entirely within the town limits.

No Class from page 1

through this process. There are going to be many moments in life as we continue growing up where life is going to hit us when we least expect it."

However, because of this unique senior year, Bizt said the Class of

2021 knows that it is capable of conquering.

"We embody what a Magna Vista warrior is supposed to be: Proud, resilient, and inspiring," she said.

Kendall Motley said graduates are "quite frankly, the best class that

has ever walked through the doors of Magna Vista High School. There have been plenty of trials and tribulations just the year, and I never want to see the Canvas loading screen ever again. But you took the challenge and conquered it.

"I know the past year hasn't given what it was supposed to give, but I know we all tried to make the best of it. We adopted many new hobbies and skills that I know we never would have discovered had circumstances been differ-

ent," she said.

"This next chapter in your life is completely blank. Thankfully, you hold the only pen to use to continue your story. No two stories will be the same," Motley said. "Class of 2021, enough is enough. It is time

to put our silly differences aside and become the leaders this world most desperately needs. It is time for us to put our heads and hearts together and do more good than evil. We are extremely smart and extremely tough."

Graduates from page 1

were challenges, "we have done nothing but become closer as a class over the past four years," Gravely said. "We have watched each other grow up, from the football, basketball, and soccer games, to the pep rallies and fun activities along the way. But we have done it together."

Gravely said by meeting the obstacles, the Class of 2021 learned who they are and who they are meant to be.

"We have learned a lot, but we still have a lot to learn," she said, and ended with a quote attributed to Steve Jobs.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it on someone else's life. Don't let the noises

of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice, and most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Stay hungry, stay foolish," Gravely said.

Martinsville High School Principal Aji Dixon also noted that "our seniors have overcome challenges and adversities to arrive at this very point right now today. We're proud of the tenacity, dedication, and perseverance of our young people. These young people have overcome challenges and adversities that I'm not so sure other classes might have. I stand here proud and thankful that we've had this opportunity to work with our

young people,"

Dixon said the class was courageous, resilient, "and has what it takes to be successful. And they will be as long as they keep remembering the perseverance and resiliency that brought them thus far. Martinsville Class of 2021, we love you."

School Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr. said the class did what no one else in his 43 years of education has done.

"You survived a pandemic. Don't take it lightly. I'm excited about your resilience because it is resilience the characteristic that makes a basketball, or any ball, bounce

back when you bounce it," he said.

"You could have been bitter about this happening during your time that you could not fellowship with your classmates to make memories, that you could not get together for proms or athletic, or other things that you were deprived of," Talley said.

While there are those who live in rosy gardens, "the real people in your life will tell you this will not be the only pandemic you face," Talley said. "In life, there will be challenges. In life, things will not go the way you planned. In life, you will have uncertainty, but you cannot give

up.

"You proved that you have the metal, the strength, the wherewithal to conquer anything because you graduated from high school, you've endured a pandemic, you endured being alone at home, you've endured so much," Talley said. "Certainly, anything else you come into contact with, and conflict within your later years, should be easy for you. I am very proud of you. Other classes can talk about surviving, but you've really been a survivor."

(Individual photos of graduates will be featured in the June 5 edition of Henry County Enterprise.)


Taylor Adelman
James Madison University


Ennass Alfahd
UNC Greensboro


Nour Bensadik
UNC Greensboro


Grace Bowling
Patrick Henry CC


Rebecca Clardy
Campbell University


Addison Clark
Virginia Military Institute


Bryce Cox
Virginia Western CC


Isaiah Eggleston
St. Mary's College of MD


Jayson Fain
Jefferson University



CARLISLE

Congratulations

Class of 2021

21 Graduates Offered \$4.1 Million
in Merit-Based Scholarships

Received 91 Acceptances
to 52 Schools


Elizabeth Gentry
James Madison University


Aundrea Grubb
Concord University


Tyron Henry
Radford University


Ryan Holliday
St. Mary's College of MD


Jeffrey Huang
University of Illinois


Garret Kangas
Campbell University


Emma Keys
UNC Wilmington


Cali Martin
Randolph College


Amelia Monroe
Pepperdine University


Polina Padun
Central Piedmont CC


Hadden Probst
UNC Chapel Hill


Brooke Thomson
James Madison University

Gravely from page 1



Tony Gravely gives wrestling tips to students.

of spread and it became bigger, which is great.”

Even though the event was a special event for youngsters, it also provided a great deal of gratification for Gravely.

“It’s awesome being able to give back in this way. I’ve gotten so much from wrestling,” he said. “Pretty much everything in my life has come from wrestling. If I didn’t wrestle, then I probably wouldn’t have gone to college. I got into a lot of trouble when I was a kid, but when I started wrestling, I got a new direction and it made me more disciplined. It helped guide me and get me to where I am now in my career.”

The direction that wrestling guided Gravely in was further forward than even he initially thought possible.

Gravely won two state championships at Magna Vista and he added two more conference championships at the collegiate level during his time at Appalachian State University.

A UFC fighter since 2019, and now with a professional mixed martial arts (MMA) record

of 21-6, Gravely said he’s still that “same ole Tony.”

“To be able to come back and share with everyone what it has done for me and what it can do for them is really cool,” he said. “They think it’s cool that I’m in the UFC, and the kids kind of get a kick out of looking at me like I’m some celebrity or something. I’m just the same old person that I was and I’m glad I was able to come back and be part of something like this.”

A current resident of Florida, Gravely said he doesn’t get many opportunities to return home.

“I think I’ve only been able to come home twice in the past year,” he said. “With traveling and my competition schedule, I don’t get to come back as much as I would like, so this was a great opportunity.”

Gravely currently practices with the prolific MMA camp American Top Team, which has been responsible for grooming former UFC champions like Tyrone Woodley, Dustin Poirer, Robbie Lawler and current women’s Bantamweight and Featherweight Champion Amanda Nunes.

“It’s surreal practicing with American Top Team,” Gravely said. “If you grew up watching fighting, you’d always hear about them and other big gyms. Now that I’m a part of it, it’s a crazy feeling. I remember the first time I walked in. Since I watch pretty much all the fights, I knew who all the fighters at the camp were. So, meeting them in person for the first time was really cool.”

Having now made the journey to the UFC himself, Gravely’s idols have become friendly rivals.

“The more you are there, you become friends with them, and they are your practice partners,” he said. “People that I used to watch when I started fighting about six years ago are now my teammates, and I’m keeping up with them as we all try to outdo each other.”

One reason that Gravely is able to keep pace in a sport that combines boxing, kickboxing, Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai (Thai boxing) and wrestling, is because his experience is in the latter.

“I’m a little biased because I wrestled, but I think it is the best base for fighting, even just self-defense,” Gravely said. “If you can control where a fight takes place, then it makes all of the difference. A lot of the Jiu Jitsu guys think their skills are the best, but their takedowns aren’t the best. If you are a really good grappler, but you can’t get people to the ground, then it’s kind of an issue. Wrestling kind of bridges that gap.”

As Gravely attempted to explain the importance of wrestling to the students gathered for the camp, a couple of familiar faces in the stands beamed with pride in who he had become.

The first was his father, Harold Gravely.

“I used to travel around to see him compete all the time,” Harold Gravely said. “I’d never missed any of his matches up until his last two. COVID stopped me from seeing those.”

Harold Gravely said it’s only natural that his son would end up in the pros given the work he has put into his craft.

“He’s always been determined, never liked to lose at anything,” Harold Gravely said. “He feels like he can outwork anybody, so he’s got the right mentality to compete with the pros.”

With his son competing on that level, Harold Gravely said that he is touched by the response from the community.

“I’ve got to admit that people here in Martinsville and Henry County have really supported him,” he added. “He has a fan club. I think it is a good deal. To me, it’s a really big deal. It makes me grateful. He’s done a good job.”

The second familiar face for Tony Gravely was that of his former wrestling coach, Zeak Ca’Stle.

“Tony was an excellent student. He always did his work, and I never had any trouble with him staying eligible to compete. That’s the main thing that coaches always worry about, but he was never a problem,” Ca’Stle said. “I credit his success to his work ethic. The days he wasn’t with me, he would be running outside around the football field until their practice was over. He never missed a practice. The only one he did miss was when I sent him home when he was ill.”

Much like Harold Gravely, the sight of Tony Gravely on a wrestling mat in Henry County again gave Ca’Stle a strong sense of pride in what he helped nurture.

“I’m overjoyed to see how far he has come from the wrestling room to the UFC cage,” Ca’Stle said. “It’s unbelievable, him coming back here and doing these clinics. I’m ecstatic. I heard he was coming to town and I wouldn’t miss this for

the world. He’s made me really proud, and he has made his parents really proud. I’m his number one fan after his dad.”

Having Tony Gravely come to do the clinic was beneficial for the wrestling program at PHCC, according to head coach Justin Smith.

“This event today is an awesome recruiting tool,” he said. “It’s really just marketing and trying to get the name out to the team. When COVID hit, a lot of the schools around here weren’t allowed to compete. They could practice but that was really it.”

In addition to some lessons for some of his own student athletes, Smith said the event attracted local talent as well as middle and high school students from Cave Springs and Staunton River.

“Right now, we have five students on the team. There are 10 weight classes,” Smith said. “We have the state runner up from Powhatan that is coming here. He’s a stud and we can’t wait to have him. He’s going to come here and then go to Averett. It’s just an awesome way that you can use the NJCAA as a platform to get some more mat time. If you want to go to Ferrum, you can. If you want to go to Averett, you can. Or if you want to try Virginia Tech, you can too.”

Like Tony Gravely, Smith hopes wrestling will open the doors to something better for the students in his program. Those in Martinsville and Henry County who weren’t able to see Tony Gravely at PHCC will have the chance to see him compete on television in the fall. He said his next scheduled fight is Sept. 18.



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Mr. Poindexter's legislative accomplishments:

- 1.) During a record setting 2020 legislative session, passed only 8.3% of his bills.**
- 2.) In 2021, submitted ONLY 3 bills. 2 Failed, 1 Passed with zero funding, so useless.**
- 3.) During 13 years in the VA House of Delegates, 11 of which were controlled by his own party, he had a 33% passing rate. That's a FAILING GRADE.**
- 4.) So what has he been doing?**

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(More 'Did You Know' to come...)

