

Host families allow Mustangs players to slide into home

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Baseball players that sign on to compete with the Martinsville Mustangs for summer ball get a lot more than a jersey and extra practice time. By the time they leave, they have also gained a second family.

The select families that volunteer to house the players for the duration of the season are vital to the team's success.

For the past three seasons, the Haynes family has stepped up to the plate to offer their home

to a player.

"We were attending a game in 2019 and Ruthanne Duffy asked me if it was something that we would be interested in," Joe Haynes said. "The reason why is that we had so many players that year staying in a hotel, and it was an extra expense on the team, so we took a shot and decided that we were going to do it. We had never done it before and it was totally something that we weren't sure how it was going to go. In the end, it was probably one of the best summers

that we have ever had. It was just a great experience."

Haynes, a lieutenant at the Martinsville Fire Department, said his family of four has grown ten-fold since they agreed to host Trey Woolsley in 2019.

"From being a host parent, I've gained a bigger family," he said. "You take a kid that knows nothing about Martinsville other than the text messages that you send before they get there, and they show up

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The Haynes and Davis families visited past Mustangs baseball players during an Arkansas vs. South Carolina college baseball game. Front (from left to right): Luke Haynes, April Haynes, Anna Haynes, Joe Haynes, Tanya Davis, Nathan Davis, Preston Davis, and Jason Davis. Back: Kevin Kopps, Matt Goodheart and Brady Slavens.

Incumbent is unopposed in reelection bid

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Benjamin "Ben" Gravely is unopposed in his reelection bid to serve as the Iriswood District member on the Henry County School Board.

Gravely spent 34 years working for the division, and when he initially sought the post, it was because he viewed it as an opportunity to continue serving county students. That has not changed.

"I enjoy education, education has been very rewarding for me. I want to continue to give back to our community. There's a lot of unfinished business that I would like to see

completed too," he said.

With reversion and the merging of the Martins-

See **Incumbent**, page 14



Ben Gravely is unopposed in his reelection bid to the Henry County School Board.

City school principals discuss challenges of school year

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

School principals in Martinsville discussed the challenges and accomplishments of the 2021-2022 school year at the end of the year board meeting.

While school began and largely remained fully virtual, the year was a success because of the relationships between the schools and the community, the principals said.

"I witnessed teachers and parents working together, drawing from each other's strengths, and sharing ideas and activities. The teachers came together to collaborate even more and were willing to help wherever there was a need," said Sheilah Williams, director of Early Childhood Services at Clearview Early Learning Center and Director of School Nutrition Services.

Virtual school allowed teachers to provide an alternative form of

education from years before, with students participating in STEM projects, cooking lessons, recorded book reads, and other projects at home. Teachers had the ability to provide customized one-on-one education to students, while also getting students to participate in "lots of peer-coaching, teamwork,

collaboration, and peer-mentoring," Williams said.

Technology gave students replacement experiences for what they missed out on from a traditional school year.

"We took a trip to the beach, we

See **Challenges**, page 14



The Martinsville City School Board recognized Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Tally Jr. for winning the National Avid Leadership Service Award. From left to right: Yvonne Givens, Dominique Hylton, Emily Parker, Dr. Tally, and Donna Dillard. (Anthony Jones is not pictured.)

Dillard looks to bring his vision to the Iriswood seat



Garrett Dillard is among four candidates seeking the Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Garrett Dillard will be one of four candidates vying for the Iriswood position on the Henry County Board of Supervisors this November.

Dillard, 50, is a native of Sandy Level and has dedicated almost 30 years of his life to education. As he looks to serve the community in a different capac-

ity, Dillard said he will be set on "revisoning" the county.

"What makes me the right candidate is I'm a proven community leader, I've worked hard within my own community," Dillard said. "I see myself as a visionary and as someone that is forward-thinking and future-oriented. I'm someone who is looking for solutions and I'm not someone that is look-

ing to magnify the problems."

Dillard said that he decided to enter the race to keep the county on the right track.

"This is an opportunity to work with the community and the rest of the board to keep Henry County moving in the right direction," he said. "It's an opportunity to be a voice for the citizens of the Iriswood District."

A major portion of being that voice will include a renewed focus on the basics, Dillard said.

"I think there are some foundational things that we want to see improved," he said. "Without dealing with those foundational things, it's tough to do some of the more large-scale things."

Dillard said a foundational item would be working to eradicate the drug and crime problems in the community.

"One way to help reduce drugs and crime in the area is to have a citizen board where people from different parts of the community meet

See **Dillard**, page 5

Pastor White 'for the people'



Billy "Dean" White is running for the Iriswood seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Billy "Dean" White is one of four candidates seeking the Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

White, 52, is the pastor of Kearfott Memorial Baptist Church in Martinsville and he's looking to bring his personal brand of populism to the board, if elected.

"I feel like a lot has been

Valley, said this was his inspiration to seek political office.

"If I wanted to vote 'yes' on something, but I had 80 percent of my people that wanted me to vote 'no' then I'd have to vote 'no,'" White said.

To qualify for the November ballot, White said he amassed about 250 signatures, which is double the amount necessary.

"While I was doing that, I listened to what some of their concerns were," he said. "It's not what Dean wants to do. It's what the people in this district want to do."

During his canvass for signatures, White said he discovered most of the locals were concerned about the condition of the roads and the lack of adequate

See **White**, page 5

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Styers recognized in teaching career

Megan Elizabeth Styers recently was crowned Class Miss Virginia American Star Achievement.

Styers also received the "Teacher of the Year Award" for outstanding service.

Styers is the daughter of Harold and Laura Styers, of Patrick Springs. She teaches 7th grade at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.

Styers holds a bachelor's degree from Longwood College and a Masters Degree from Liberty University. She proudly represented Patrick County.

Winners were chosen for their titles based on community service, academics, individual honors/awards, and additional achievements.

The Miss American Star Achievement program is under the direction of Carolyn Dolan. For more information about this scholar/merit based program, contact mis-americanstarachievement@yahoo.com.



Return to Earn launched to ease back to work transition

A new \$3 million investment to pilot the Return to Earn Grant Program recently announced by Gov. Ralph Northam will match payments from eligible small businesses to provide new hires with up to \$1,000 to support their transition back into the workforce.

While many companies are offering hiring bonuses, the Return to Earn Grant Program will serve businesses with less than 100 employees that may not have the resources to provide this financial support. The initial launch of this program will be funded through Virginia's federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) set aside and additional recovery funds may be allocated based on demand.

"Many Virginians who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic still face a variety of barriers to returning to work like access to affordable childcare, transportation, and a living wage," said Northam. "These bonuses will serve as an incentive for unemployed workers to get back into the workforce while also helping employers fill vacant jobs. The Virginia Return to Earn Grant Program is about empowering the true catalysts of our economic comeback—Virginia's workers and small businesses."

The initiative will match up to \$500 that a qualifying small business pays directly to a new employee hired after May 31, 2021, either as a lump sum or in installments to offset the ongoing costs of childcare, transportation, or other barriers to re-employment. Funds will only be reimbursed to businesses for new hires in positions that pay at least \$15 per hour

and that qualify as W-2 employment, either full- or part-time. To help address workforce shortages in childcare, qualifying childcare businesses may qualify for up to \$500 per new hire without the match requirement.

"For Virginia to fully recover from the impacts of the pandemic on our economy, we need targeted solutions," said Chief Workforce Development Advisor Dr. Megan Healy. "One in three Virginia workers has applied for unemployment benefits over the course of the pandemic. The new Return to Earn Grant Program will accomplish a dual purpose of helping the unemployed "transition back into living wage jobs, particularly in the childcare industry, and supporting small businesses with their hiring needs."

The program launch coincides with the reinstatement of the weekly work search requirement in Virginia, which started the week of May 31, 2021. Virginians receiving unemployment benefits must make contact with employers each week and accept reasonable offers of employment.

On June 1, the Commonwealth also reopened its Virginia Career Works Centers for in-person services to ensure that Virginians making the transition back to the workforce have access to the resources they need to find high-quality jobs. Job-seekers can continue to access resources virtually through the Virginia Career Works Referral Portal.

For additional information on requirements and to apply for Return to Earn grant funding, small businesses may contact their local Virginia Career Works Center

Record revenue increase reported for Virginia

Total General Fund revenues rose 66.2 percent in May, the largest monthly revenue increase in more than 50 years, Gov. Ralph Northam said in a release.

Over 85 percent of the growth in May can be attributed to a return to normal tax filing dates for estimated payments and a shorter extension this year for individual final payments.

Northam also announced the appointment of Joe Flores as Secretary of Finance and Carter Hutchinson as Deputy Secretary of Finance.

May is typically a significant month for revenue collections. In addition to regular collections of withholding and sales taxes, estimated and final payments for individuals are normally due May 1, however, last year the filing date was extended to June 1. This year, the due date for final payments was moved to May 17 to align with the federal due date. To accurately assess growth, data for the entire quarter of April through June will be needed.

"Virginia's economy is roaring back to life thanks to hard work following the science and one of the strongest pandemic responses in the country," said Governor Northam. "New COVID-19 cases are at record lows, our vaccination rates are among the nation's highest, and Virginians are heading back to work—and these record revenue gains are the result. Our responsible governance is paying off, and we will keep this

up as we approach a new budget year and face major decisions about how to best use federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. We have a strong team with the right experience—Joe Flores is a highly-qualified, dedicated public servant with a deep understanding of the state budget and a strong background in fiscal policy, and I am confident our economic momentum will continue."

Flores has served as Deputy Secretary of Finance in the Northam Administration since January 2018, where he has helped lead initiatives like Medicaid expansion and spearheaded how the Commonwealth uses and distributes federal stimulus funds during the pandemic. Hutchinson has served as Deputy Policy Director in the Northam Administration since January 2018.

"We have a great deal of important work ahead of us in the coming months to manage the Commonwealth's finances as we emerge from the pandemic and rebuild our economy," Flores said. "I am grateful to Governor Northam for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to serve alongside our strong team in the Finance secretariat, including Deputy Secretary June Jennings and the leadership and staff at our agencies."

On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections advanced 17.8 percent, above the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth. Collections in

June must total \$0.3 billion to attain the revenue forecast in Chapter 552, compared with June collections in the two years prior to the pandemic of about \$2.4 billion. Collections of payroll withholding taxes grew 13.8 percent in May. Collections of sales and use taxes, reflecting April sales, grew 37.5 percent in May.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve the Commonwealth and the Northam Administration, and I have complete confidence that Virginia's finances will be in good hands with Joe Flores at the helm," said Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne. "May is a significant month for collections for non-withholding, with final payments for tax year 2020 and the first estimated payment for tax year 2021 both due at the beginning of the month. Last year, the filing date was extended to June 1 for both payments, and this year to May 17 for only the final payment, so the effect on the timing of collections is unclear."

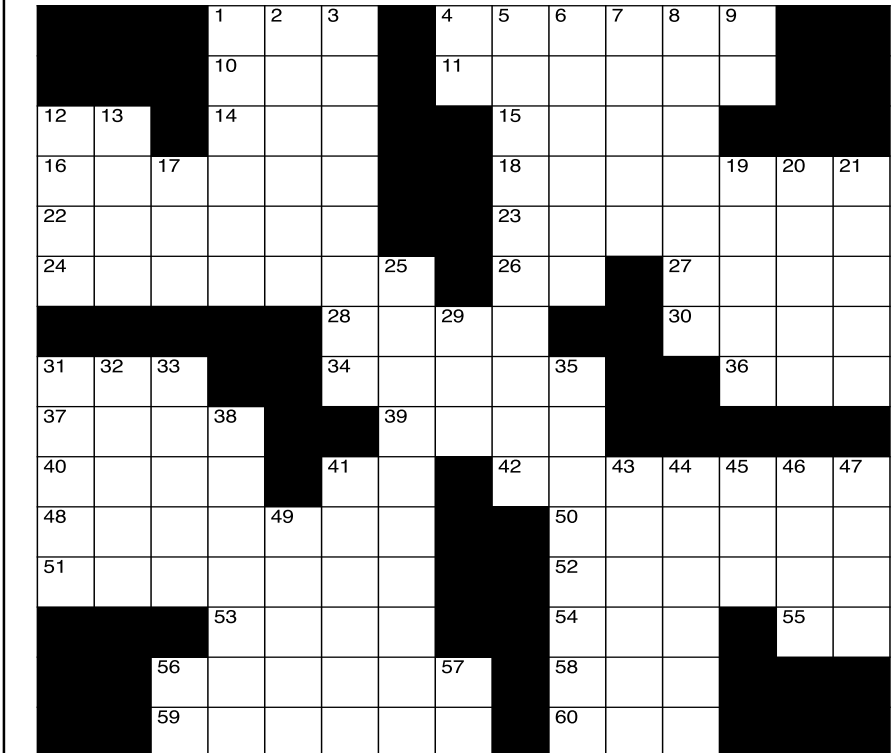
On a year-to-date basis, collections of payroll withholding taxes—62 percent of General Fund revenues—increased 4.4 percent, ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth. Sales and use tax collections advanced 11.1 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, ahead of the annual forecast of 4.7 percent growth. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections grew 17.8 percent in May ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth.

Convenience store holds grand opening



The FasMart, located at 758 Virginia Avenue in Collinsville, is celebrating its grand opening with two weeks of exclusive deals and promotions for customers and its reward members. The store is the first of 10 remodels planned for 2021 by ARKO Corp., which owns the franchise. The promotion, which includes free or reduced priced items, will run until June 23.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
 - One of Santa's reindeer
 - Before the present
 - Type of butter
 - Location of White House
 - Motion
 - Tree part
 - Regions around the North Pole
 - Fits on a boat's gunwale
 - Discuss after it's happened
 - Milk substitute for coffee
 - Describes one who believes in supreme being
 - Equally
 - Famed director Forman
 - Popular apartment style
 - British school
 - Advanced degree
 - Order of architecture
 - Investment account (abbr.)
 - Snakelike fishes
 - Children's tale bear
 - Norse personification of old age
 - Atomic #58
 - Moving your head
 - 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
 - Frankfurter
 - Small, seedless raisin
 - Device in papermaking machine
 - Go
 - Open payment initiative
 - (abbr.)
 - "Westworld" actor Harris
 - Saturated with salt
 - Marry
 - Report on
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Rays
 - Self-centered person
 - One you look after
 - Prosecutor
 - Portion
 - Speaks ill of
 - Formal system for computer programs
 - To make angry
 - Rural delivery
 - Group of languages
 - Large First Nations group
 - Circulating life force in
 - Chinese philosophy
 - Excludes
 - Body cavity of a metazoan
 - Swedish monetary unit
 - Works with
 - Partner to "to"
 - Rewards (archaic)
 - One of Caroline Islands
 - Type of alcohol
 - Eat a lot
 - Nuns
 - Dog
 - Become more serious
 - Choose
 - Newspapers use it
 - World's longest river
 - Commanded to go faster
 - Cabs
 - Mr. T's "A-Team" character
 - Document signed (abbr.)

Congressional staff to visit county, city

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's 9th District staff will be available in Martinsville and Stuart on June 23.

Staff members will be in Patrick County from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in

the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Staff will be in Martinsville from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the City of Martinsville Municipal Building Con-

ference Room #32, Lower Level, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

Contact the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671, or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405, with any questions.

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Henry County Enterprise and Virginia Media Inc. are seeking a General Assignment Reporter.

The successful candidate will be experienced and professional and someone who is capable of reporting on county board of supervisors meeting and covering education, business, court cases, and health concerns. Must have the ability to produce content on deadline, whether breaking news or enterprise stories. In addition, the candidate will have excellent writing skills, the ability to maintain objectivity, develop and maintain sources and work as a team member. Photography skills also are required. Your work may also appear online, in Henry County Enterprise and/or any of our other publications.

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Please email resume to dhall@theenterrpise.net

OBITUARIES

Dr. James "Jimmy" Alexander Jordan



Dr. James "Jimmy" Alexander Jordan, of Martinsville, passed away on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at the age of 61 after a lengthy, valiant battle with COVID-19. He was born on Oct. 18, 1959, in Charlotte, N.C., to Patricia Kelly Jordan and the late Lloyd Alexander Jordan, Jr.

Jimmy's magnetic personality, brimming with optimism, shone through in every conversation and interaction. An accomplished dentist, musician, and athlete, he was a well-loved community leader and an instant friend to most everyone who met him. A beacon of vibrant light and positivity, Jimmy will continue to have a profound impact on those he touched.

A 1978 graduate of Martinsville High School, Jimmy was involved in numerous high school clubs and civic groups, including the MHS concert and jazz bands (as a senior, he was voted by his classmates as the John Phillip Sousa Award winner, recognizing him as the most outstanding graduating band student). He was also a multi-year member of the varsity football team. One of just a handful of sophomores to meaningfully contribute to the MHS football

team that won a state title in 1976, Jimmy was an all-state linebacker and all-district running back as a senior. He often served as lead blocker for classmate Dennis Mahan, a high school all-American running back. Jimmy accepted an undergraduate scholarship to play football at the University of Richmond, where he started his final two years at fullback, leading the way for Spider tailback Barry Redden, who was drafted in the first round by the L.A. Rams in 1982.

After receiving his degree from Richmond, Jimmy attended dental school at the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry, from which he graduated in 1985. He then returned home to Martinsville, initially practicing dentistry under Dr. Leon Lackey. He soon purchased the practice from Dr. Lackey and remained a staple in the MHC dental community for more than 30 years. He sold his practice, Smith River Smiles, in 2020, but continued seeing patients into early 2021 under the Henritze Dental Group.

Music was always an integral part of Jimmy's life. After playing piano from an early age, he took up saxophone in grade school and continued playing it for more than 45 years. On sax, he was a full-time member of numerous bands over the decades, including The Secret Band and, most recently, Slick Jr. & The Reactors, and the Pump House Blues Band. He played at countless venues in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast, including multiple performances on the stages of the Rives Theatre and the Rooster Walk Music & Arts

Festival, both in Martinsville, as well as Floydfest. He was a sought after on-stage guest for a long list of bands in Virginia and surrounding states.

As a fan, Jimmy attended more than 1,000 concerts. He made more than a dozen trips, each, to the Telluride (Colo.) Bluegrass Festival, Merlefest, Floydfest, and French Quarter Fest in New Orleans. Additionally, he attended all 11 Rooster Walk festivals. His favorite band was The Grateful Dead, though he loved all genres of music, including jazz, bluegrass, newgrass, rock, blues, jam, and funk.

A lifelong supporter of the arts, Jimmy served as a board member for the Piedmont Arts Association, the Artisan Café, and Arts at the Rives Theatre, among others. A long-time, main-stage emcee at Rooster Walk, he ascribed to the festival's motto of, "appreciate the present." As an event organizer, he was a key component in ushering a renaissance of live music to Martinsville-Henry County in the mid-to-late 2000s and occasionally hosted concerts on the stage he built at his Shining Star Farm venue on Barrows Mill Road.

Beyond music, Jimmy cherished spending time with family and friends. He loved his condo at Sunset Beach, N.C., where he aspired to watch every sunrise and sunset. He held an equal fondness for the mountains and had hoped to purchase a cabin in Southwest Virginia before his passing. He was an avid cyclist and golfer.

After enjoying the nightlife as a young adult, Jimmy had been sober for more

than 20 years. He helped countless others embark on, and complete, the journey of sobriety, and served as not only a confidant and guide, but a concrete example that life could be just as fun, rewarding, and exhilarating without the crutch of substance.

Jimmy preferred to take the scenic route, and he always stopped to take pictures. He believed in the power of positive energy, positive thinking, karma and "keeping things in perspective." He often reached out to friends and loved ones just to say, "Hi." He was an exceptional hugger, and human.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a son, Riggs Alexander Jordan; a daughter, Caroline Kelly Jordan; a brother, Carter Lee Jordan and his wife, Mary Lynn Jordan; a niece, Mary Carter Jordan; and nephews Joshua Jordan and Spencer Jordan, who is married to Chelsea Jordan. He was preceded in death by his father.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at First Baptist Church of Martinsville. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Martinsville YMCA (3 Starling Ave. Martinsville, VA 24112), Rooster Walk Inc. (PO Box 601 Martinsville, VA 24114), and Arts at The Rives (PO Box 3067 Martinsville, VA 24115).

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville.

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Carlisle announces new soccer coach

Carlisle School hired Ricky Dalton as the Head Coach for the boys and girls soccer teams.

Dalton began his soccer career in 1980 when PYSL (Piedmont Youth Soccer League) was first created. He has been involved with PYSL soccer as a player, official, coach, and parent and currently serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors.

He started coaching with Martinsville City Schools in 2009 as the middle school boys coach under the direction of Alton Moore. In 2017, Dalton transitioned as the assistant varsity coach under Pete Scouras. "My objective is to always give back to student-athletes with the same direction, guidance,



and discipline that I was given as an athlete," Dalton said. "I am excited to lead the programs at Carlisle and build on their past successes."

Carlisle's Athletic Director Melinda Brightwell said, "I am ecstatic to have Ricky join us at Carlisle. His coaching skills, love for the game of soccer, and the athletes are legendary in the soccer community."

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Rosie Cornelia Harper

Rosie Cornelia Harper, 71, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away June 10, 2021 at SOVAH Martinsville. She was born January 15, 1950, in Bedford, Virginia to the late Emmett Robert and Rosie Eggleston Harper. She had worked at Tultex. She had been affiliated with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Martin, Jr.; sisters, Maxine Harper, Elaine Harper, Rebecca Harper; brothers, Emmett Harper, Jr., Bennie Harper, Dave Harper and Robert Harper.

She is survived by her daughters, Dr. Demetria Martin and Fleurette E. Martin; sister, Rachel

Young; brothers, William Harper and Raymond Harper; and three grandchildren, Kaydan Martin, Rohan Martin and Brooke Martin.

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

Warren Edward Williams

Warren Edward Williams, 54, of Danville, Virginia, passed away Friday, June 11, 2021, at SOVAH Health of Danville. He was born February 6, 1967 in Chesapeake, Virginia, to the late James

Clyde Williams and Patricia Ann Wysong. He was employed in construction for 10 years.

Warren is survived by his son, Warren E. Williams, Jr.; and brothers, Wayne, Jeffery and

James Williams. All services will be private. Wright Funeral Service and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Gladys Cannady Trull

Gladys Cannady Trull passed away on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. Gladys was born January 31, 1927 in Robeson County, North Carolina to Ila Jean Chason Cannady and David Schofield Cannady. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Curtis Amos Trull.

She is survived by Curtis Stanford Trull (Renee) of San Marcos, Texas; Deborah Trull Skillman (Steve) of Southport, North Carolina;



Belinda Trull Howard (Jeff) of Spotsylvania, Virginia; seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a number of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at Roselawn Burial Park on Saturday, June 12, with the Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield officiating.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville.

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Kenneth Lee Taylor

Kenneth Lee Taylor, 51, of Roanoke, passed away Sunday June 6, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born August 6, 1969 in Martinsville, to Billy Jean Taylor, Sr. and the late Sara Beatrice Tuttle Taylor. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by a brother, Darrell Keith Taylor.

He attended Critz Church of God. He enjoyed fishing, camping, travel-



ing, collecting jewelry, and listening to music.

Kenneth is survived by his father; daughters, Julian Leigh Taylor and Sarah Virginia Taylor; sister, Cindy Taylor; and brother, Billy Jean Taylor, Jr.

All services will be private.

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



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OPINION

On rolling coal

I have long been of the opinion that one of the few truly altruistic acts is flashing your high-beams at someone to signal danger.

When you flash your high-beams to warn an oncoming driver of a car accident (or a state trooper camped out looking for speeders), you're doing someone else a solid with no expectation of any kind of return. No one will ever thank you for it. No one will even know who you are. It's just a compassionate thing to do.

But the highways can also, unfortunately, offer people a place to unleash their venom. I saw a great example of this the other day, a phenomenon I'd heard of before but had never seen in person.

I stopped at a gas station on 220 and while I was filling my tank, a jacked-up pickup parked nearby. The rear window had a number of stickers attached to it: "Let the smoke roll," "Guaranteed Prius repellent," and of course, the classiest of them all, "Black Smoke

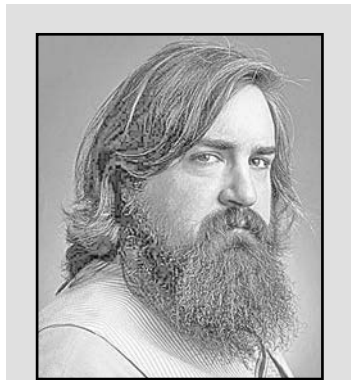
Matters."

A hulking man descended from the truck, looking a bit like an ancillary character from a Pigeon Forge country comedy dinner show.

I had finally spotted a coal roller.

If you're unfamiliar, "rolling coal" is when someone modifies a diesel engine to adjust the amount of fuel entering the engine. When you increase the amount of fuel, it doesn't fully combust, thereby allowing you to blow choking black clouds of exhaust fumes into the air. Some people even install big smoke stacks coming from their exhaust to make the effect more dramatic.

"How is that legal?" you ask? According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it isn't; it violates the Clean Air Act. Some states have more specific prohibitions on the practice, but laws against rolling coal don't seem to be all that heavily enforced. This is partly because trucks that have been modified to roll coal gen-



By Ben R. Williams

erally have some kind of toggle that lets you switch back and forth between your regular exhaust and your horrible exhaust, allowing you to blow smoke at the flip of a switch.

So why would someone spend literally thousands of dollars to modify their truck to roll coal?

The answer: to be a jerk.

No, really. That's it.

Rolling coal doesn't give you extra horsepower when you need it. It doesn't increase your torque. It doesn't do anything but create a black cloud of soot.

From what I've heard, one

of the most popular activities for folks who roll coal is to get in front of a Prius or another hybrid or electric car, flip the switch, and envelope them in a choking, visibility-reducing black cloud. This, the coal roller feels, is an appropriate punishment for someone who has the gall to care about the environment or wishes to save money on gas.

In the interest of full disclosure, I'm a car guy. I especially love old Cadillacs. My dream is to one day own a massive 1959 DeVille or an early 1970s Eldorado ragtop. These were hulking cars with enormous, wildly inefficient engines, and I love them dearly. And while my environmentalist side is excited by the rapid advances in electric vehicles (I fully predict that the upcoming Ford F-150 Lightning all-electric pickup is going to usher in a sea change in the automotive world), I also want a future where I can still drive an antique 20-foot gas-guzzling sedan with plush seats, a wood grain dashboard, and sixteen ashtrays.

No, what I find offensive about rolling coal isn't just that it's bad for the environment.

Every coal roller in America likely produces less pollution in a month than a single large cruise ship produces in one day (I realize that sounds crazy, but cruise ships are one of the worst things we're doing to our planet right now, and it's not like there's a lack of competition).

No, what I find offensive about rolling coal is that its sole purpose is allowing someone to be a jerk to a stranger they disagree with. It is a microcosm of everything wrong with American society. It is the perfect example of the venal and ignorant forcing their beliefs on normal folks who are just trying to live their lives.

If you don't like hybrid cars, don't buy one. If you like eating meat, don't become a vegan. Disagree with gay marriage? Then don't have one. As long as the people around me aren't doing something that affects my life in a negative way, I truly don't care.

In the unlikely event that a coal roller is reading this column, please don't be offended. Simply think of my words as a black cloud of smog, and think of your little feelings as a Prius.

Reopen the House of Representatives

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

As President William Howard Taft prepared to leave the White House, he told his successor Woodrow Wilson, "This is the loneliest place in the world."

While Taft's remark referred to the great burdens of his job, it could apply today to Members of the House of Representatives precisely because we are being prevented from doing our job properly by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

If Taft were alive and a Member of the House of Representatives in 2021, he might revise his opinion as he spent time in the empty committee rooms or listened to the rolls of representatives casting votes from afar by proxy. The House remains empty at times when official business is being conducted. Even as the rest

of the country lifts restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, representatives meet virtually to do the job they were sent to Washington to do.

On June 10, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a virtual markup of legislation. We debated, offered amendments, and voted over video conference, not in the spacious hearing room designed for the task. The process suffered from the technical glitches, talking over one another, and other irritations that many Americans became too familiar with over the course of the pandemic.

At this point, though, vaccinations have been going on for months. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approves of indoor gatherings of vaccinated people, but apparently this information has not

made it to the House majority's leadership.

I believe we should meet in Washington for hearings, markups, and votes. Members of Congress are more effective when they can interact with each other face to face not only in the formal business of debates and hearings but in the conversations that occur on the side, as we run into each other on the way to the floor to vote or during discussion of a bill in committee. We cannot meet and talk through issues in the same way on a video call with 30 people. Our work suffers as a result.

Therefore, as I have throughout the pandemic unless I had a family commitment, I took part in the hearing from an Energy and Commerce Committee room. One other Member joined for a time, but I otherwise had it to myself. As a sign of

the illogic characterizing the way the House is currently run, I nevertheless had to wear a mask in the large empty room or I would have been subject to a fine.

During the same week, the House of Representatives met for a pro forma session, as it does every few days it is not holding votes. These sessions usually last only for a few minutes with the acting Speaker and another Member of Congress present.

At one of the pro forma sessions, I was that other Member of Congress, present in the House chamber to make sure that the session did not become the occasion for passing significant legislation.

The reasoning behind pro forma sessions is legitimate. The Constitution forbids the House and the Senate from adjourning for more than three days with-

out the consent of the other, so each chamber satisfies this requirement by holding a pro forma within this time limit. They can check the power of the presidency by preventing "recess appointments" that evade the Senate's advice and consent process for nominees.

However, they have also been used to evade legislative accountability. Bills and resolutions can move through the House by a recorded vote, a voice vote, or unanimous consent. Anything moving through the House by unanimous consent could be blocked if a single representative objects.

During a pro forma session with only a few representatives in attendance, a unanimous consent request could move significant legislation with almost no one present. Speaker Pelosi has tried it be-

fore. So those of us who believe that Congress should debate and vote on tough issues, not dodge them, have taken turns being on the House floor to object to any unanimous consent request to pass major bills.

These problems can be avoided by a return to regular order. Many people in the country had to show up at their work sites through the pandemic, and many more who worked remotely for a time have returned to their jobs in person. It is time to reopen the House. The public health justification for the steps that keep the House working virtually wears thin.

For questions, concerns, or comments, contact 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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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

SPCA announces Louise R. Lester Spay and Neuter Clinic

The SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County received a \$50,000 grant from the Louise R. Lester Foundation for a named spay and neuter clinic at the SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. "Louise Robertson Lester was a driving force in the evolution of humane services in our area. Her compassion and generosity enabled the SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County to become a sheltered organization. Louise also started our spay and neuter fund, so the Louise R. Lester Spay & Neuter Clinic is an appropriate and impactful tribute to her legacy in our community," said Leslie Hervey, SPCA 1st Vice President.

"The lack of access to timely spay and neuter appointments worsened during Covid, slowing down our adoption rate and our ability to get animals into homes. This clinic is truly an answer to our prayers for this community," said Hervey. "There is a lot of excitement in the air about this project, and once again we are beholden to Louise for another milestone achievement



Louise R. Lester

and to the foundation board for their generous investment in our community."

Minor changes to the building will be made to accommodate a surgical suite, and the SPCA is in the process of order-

ing the required equipment. The SPCA is actively looking for a full-time shelter veterinarian.

"One of Louise's great passions was animals. She would be pleased to see her vision at work

through this investment, and I am pleased that the Louise R. Lester Foundation could honor her legacy through this grant," said BJ Robertson, executive director of the Louise R. Lester Foundation.

Dillard

from page 1

with law enforcement, the Board of Supervisors and other agencies,” he said. “They can share the issues that exist within their communities and we can work together in those separate entities to find solutions to those problems.”

Along with more public input, Dillard said he would like to equip law enforcement with the tools they need to do the job correctly.

“Another thing is working with Sheriff Perry and finding out what it is his agency is lacking,” he added. “Do they need more up-to-date resources? Is pay an issue that causes us to not have enough deputies or the best-trained deputies? We need to make sure that we are providing them with what they need so they can do their job to the best of their ability.”

Dillard said that the schools are another vital partnership in the fight to reduce drugs and crime in the area.

“We should also be working with the schools to find out how we can create programs to start kids out when

they are young to make them aware of the dangers of drugs, alcohol, crime and violence,” he said.

Through having these conversations, Dillard is hoping to uncover the root causes of the issue.

“Are people selling drugs because they are trying to make a living since their wages aren’t enough? Are they doing it just because they are bored? Maybe we need to put up some recreation centers and create spaces for kids to go and stay active,” Dillard said. “Are people using drugs because they are bored and just looking for things to do? If that’s the case, then we need to find ways to engage our youth so they will choose other options besides drugs and alcohol.”

By solving these issues, Dillard said other areas of concern will also be addressed.

“We need to work with education and the sheriff’s department to improve in those areas, so we can do things to attract businesses here,” he said. “Those types of things

need to be addressed so businesses feel good about moving operations here.”

Dillard said that he views growing the economy as a persistent goal of any governmental organization. In his capacity, Dillard would try to set the community up for the future.

“We’re looking for some of those 21st century, higher paying jobs that require certain skills,” Dillard said. “In the medical field, there are lots of 21st century job opportunities. Think of jobs that require software and computer knowledge. There are so many modern jobs. We lost a big part of our economy when textiles and furniture were hurt years ago so we’ve got to revolutionize and bring other types of jobs into the community that are going to sustain us and be here for a while.”

While Dillard has his own ideas for how to make the county better, he said he would also like to hear other voices as well.

“I want to empower our cit-

izens,” he said. “I think that we have a very good community and county. I want to empower our citizens so they are more involved in our process. They should have a say in local government issues.”

The most pressing issue moving forward will be reversion, but Dillard said he would like to look at it more as a revision.

“Part of my platform is going to be revising Henry County,” he said. “The county has very little to say as to whether reversion happens or not. Martinsville City controls that, so what we have to start thinking about is, if this is heading in that direction, what are the positives about reversion?”

Dillard said he recognizes the significant challenges that the county will face but he is also thinking about how to make the process work for the betterment of the area as well.

“Is the treasury going to grow and will there be more money to create opportunities? Can we use some of that additional tax money

to do some of these projects that have been sitting on the table,” Dillard said. “People are worried about jobs. If the school systems merge and you end up having to cut teaching positions, is it feasible that the county would offer some early retirement incentives for some of those at the end of the ladder so that those that are just getting into education can keep their jobs?”

“We can have those conversations and make the outcomes as best as we can for everybody so we aren’t going into it as it’s them versus us because it really isn’t,” Dillard said. “It’s them becoming part of us.”

Dillard and his wife LaTonda have three children: Caleb, Ciara, and Cadence. He graduated from Laurel Park High School and received his bachelor’s degree from Radford University and a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. During his down time, Dillard likes to play and coach basketball as well as write poetry.

White

from page 1

water in the district.

“A lot of people down in the Sandy Level area were talking about the roads, PSA and things of that nature,” White said. “A lot of people in the Mountain Valley and Leatherwood areas were talking about the PSA and water levels as well. They wish the PSA (provided service) down in this area. I know that wouldn’t be a concern for the other supervisors, but I think the roads and the PSA are a big concern for this area. I just don’t feel like it has been brought up as much as we need to.”

White said a number of residents must dig multiple wells get decent drinking water.

If elected, White said he intends to continue leaning on the voice of the community to make key decisions.

“There are a lot of things coming up in the

next four years where I think you need someone that is going to find out what the people want,” he said. “You’ve got reversion, the new jail and all that stuff coming up.”

White thinks the community has a set opinion on reversion, but he said he would like more transparency in the process.

“I think it’s common sense at this point that most of the people are against reversion, but there are a lot of closed sessions going on where we don’t really know the logistics of it and what’s happening away from the public eye,” he said.

White said he would be looking for more creative financial solutions to bolster the county’s position when absorbing many of the costs for services currently provided by the City of Martinsville.

“I think for reversion, it could just be a budget-

ing problem that’s not being looked into the correct way,” he said. “I think we really need to look into money management and how funds are being spent to make sure we are able to make it through the reversion. I think if reversion is going to go through, then we need to find the best way to get it done so we don’t rack up all the legal fees and that sort of thing.”

There also is a need for more cooperation between the two localities, according to White.

“It’s going to take a mediator to negotiate and facilitate better relationships between the city and the county,” he added. “We as board members should also be doing that. This isn’t something that is going to be easily done. You’re going to have to mediate, nurture people, and coach them through it.”

White would also like to see an increased reliance on local businesses to help economic development efforts.

“For economic development, we need to be purchasing and contracting everything from within our area,” he said. “It looks like most of the construction work that we have going on around here is not localized. It’s not using our amenities here. They are coming from out of town and doing all the work. We need to utilize our local economy to build our local economy.”

White also said the area needs to focus on the existing businesses first.

“We need to concentrate on the businesses that we have and get them functioning,” he said. “With the unemployment rate that we have, it looks like everybody is hiring and nobody is working.

It’s hard to get new businesses when people aren’t working in the ones that we already have.”

White said a concentration on existing businesses would have a domino effect, which would, in turn, attract new industries.

“If we can get the established businesses up and running, then I think that new businesses will come,” he said. “If they come and see all the windows with ‘help wanted’ signs then they aren’t going to want to come to this area.”

In a crowded field of opponents, White sees his background and personality as the keys to winning.

“I’m a people person, I’m hands on,” he said. “I do community outreach all the time and I’m always into something. I’m from this area and I relate to people well. I don’t meet any strangers.

I’ll be in the community a lot. I’m a leader in the church, I’ve been a leader my whole life.”

If elected, White said he would make an effort to check in with community members to gauge their preference on key issues that he would be voting on. In addition, he said that his constituents can provide him feedback through a phone call or through visiting his website and social media pages.

White and his wife Donna have three children and 11 grandchildren. He has received a welding certificate through Patrick Henry Community College, and he attended seminary school at American Christian Fellowship. White’s hobbies include restoring antique cars, mowing and providing wood to the elderly and others in need.

Historical Society to hold yoga event

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor “Sunrise Yoga on the Plaza” on Monday, June 21, from 6 to 7 a.m., on the courtyard of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

The event will celebrate International Yoga Day and the Summer Solstice. Leaders will be Sheila Hubbard, of Just Breathe Yoga & Bodywork, and Christian Hull, of the Martinsville YMCA.

Yogis of all levels are welcome.

If you have a yoga mat and blocks, please bring them; if not, loaners will be available.

John Phillips, president of the Historical Society, said, “As a historical society, we strive to reach different audiences to share history. This event will provide an opportunity for folks who otherwise may not have visited the beautiful brick plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.”

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center

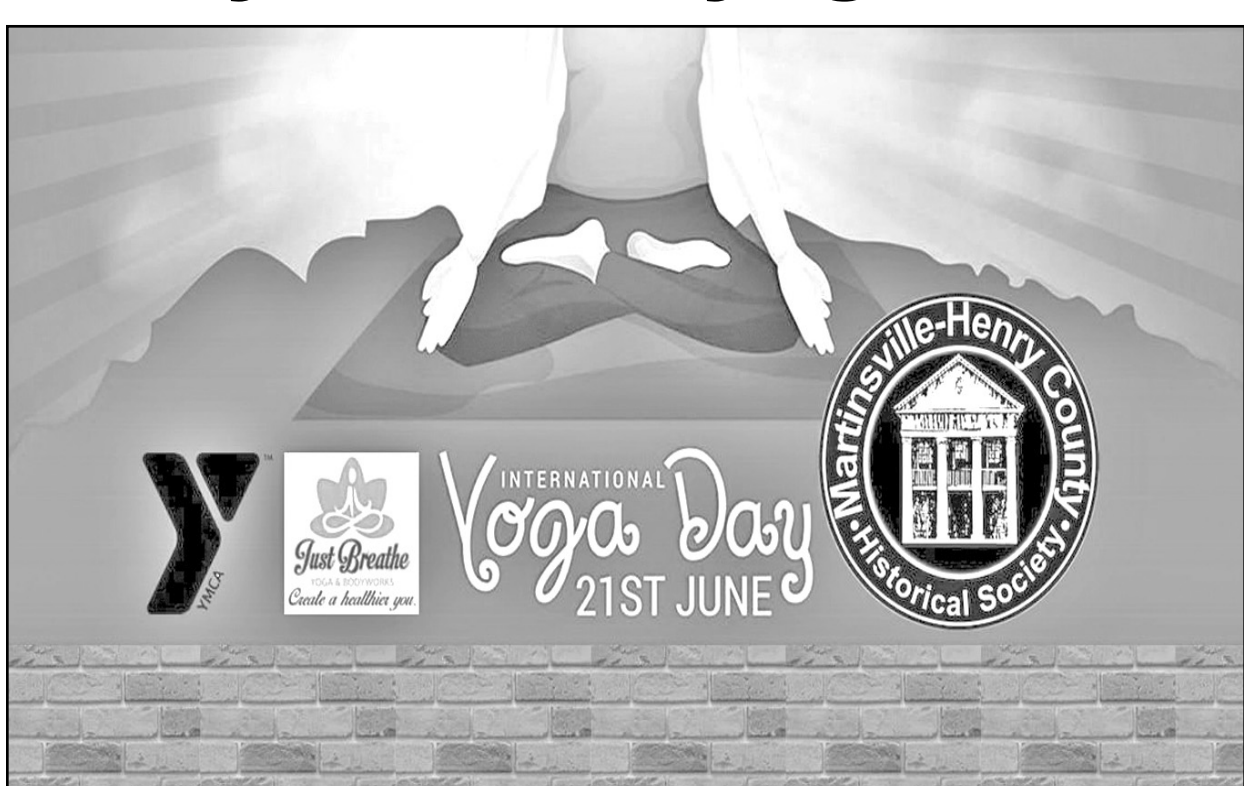
& Museum will be open special hours -- 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.- that day.

The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. Originating in India, yoga is an ancient physical, mental, and spiritual practice. The word ‘yoga’ derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

Hubbard has been striving to promote health and healing in the area through many modalities since 1998. She is a Board Certified Massage Therapist and holds a Virginia State License in Massage Therapy. She is also a Clinical Aromatherapist, a Karuna Reiki Master, a Bodytalk Practitioner, a Reflexologist, and a Registered Yoga Teacher.

“I believe there is a yoga class for everyone and am devoted to serving the community through healing,” she said.

Hull has taught yoga since 2019 starting with



middle and high school students in the MHC After 3 program. He is certified in Ashtanga’s Eight Limbs of Yoga.

“I started yoga on my own as a physical means to take care of my body between workouts and fell in

love with both the poses and philosophy,” he said.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/293970489127835.

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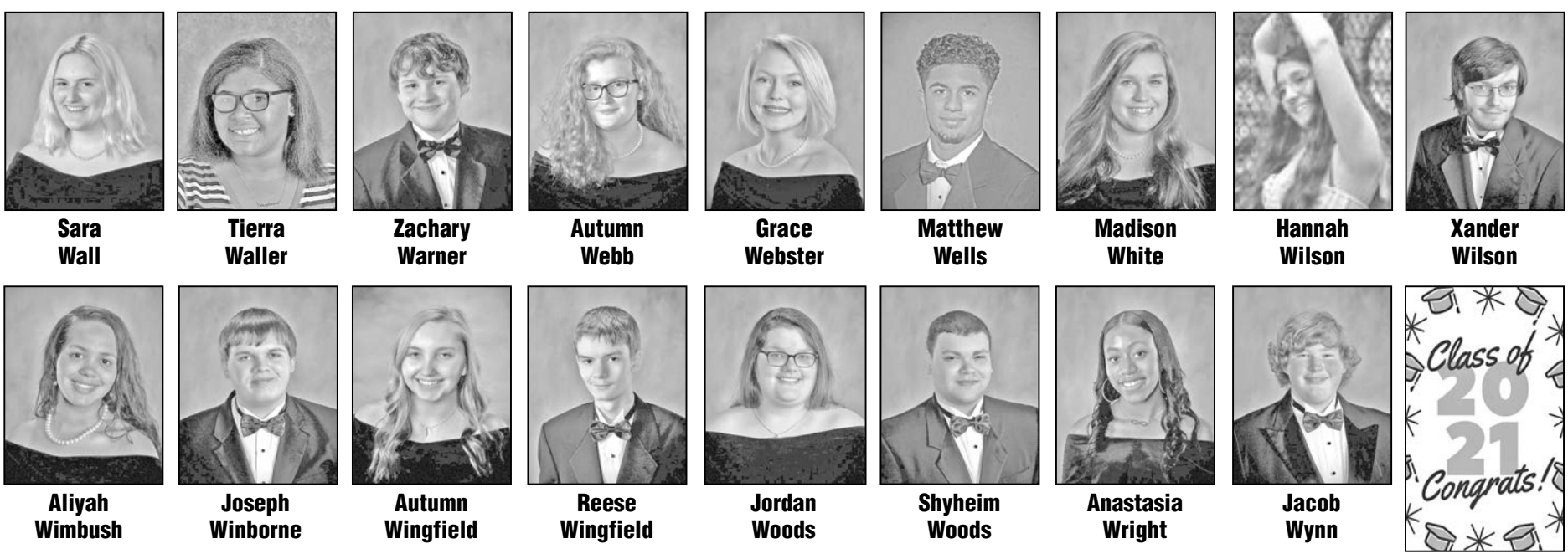
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Jenna Adams	Caroline Adkins	Thomas Adkins	Olivia Allen	Anthony Angles	Carson Arnold	Maggie Arnold	Caitlin Barker	Laurel Beckett
William Belongia	Ashlyn Bernard	Jonathan Bowman	Abigail Brannon	Kaelyn Bray	Bryson Brown	Tyler Brown	Jeremiah Bullard	Ashlee Burks
Colton Calfee	Alexis Castillo-Torres	Marvin Chavez Vasquez	Austin Clark	David Clark	Issac Clark	Rebecca Cochran	Tysen Collins	Zoey Collins
Caroline Cook	Ezequiel Corona Solorio	Alexis Craig	Daniel Crider	Greyson Crouch	Emily Crowder	Abigail Cruz Gabriel	Emmanuel Cruz Maldonado	Jazmine Dabbs
Eyan Dalton	Sara Damron	Jackson Davis	Dayosia Day	Blake Deal	Macy Deal	Victoria Dean	Monrice DeShazon	Daniel DeVivo
Kayla Dicks	Cleon Dillard	Braden Dillon	Lacy Dillon	Dario Duran	Cameron Easley	Marille Espana-Jimenez	Jesus Espana	Adyson Farrington
Summer Feazelle	Andrew Fisher	Victoria Flores	Adrienne Foley	Alexia Fulcher	Luke Fulcher	McKenzie Fuller	Hannah Gamez	Atzel Garcia Lopez
Kevin Garcia Ortiz	Taylor Jo Gary	Rosie George-Ambrocio	Zachary Gilley	Nicholas Goehle	Perla Gomez	Merrie Graham	Olivia Graham	Aaron Gravely
Jacob Gray	Jayvon Green Easley	Ethan Greer	Kayla Griffin	Aaron Guilliams	Samuel Gunter	Lindsey Gusler-Perdue	Lydia Hachbart	Antony Hagwood
Ashanti Hairston	Darius Hairston	Dayquan Hairston	Dyterius Hairston	Naomi Hairston	Kaitlyn Hale	Autumn Hall	Brianna Hall	Ashton Hancock
Nathaniel Hankins	Brianna Harbour	Scott Harmon	Ryan Harrison	Johnny Harter	Joshua Haskins	Madison Hawks	Lydia Helms	Shyanne Helms
Brayon Hernandez-Leal	Shane Hiatt	Tahliyah Hodge	Kaitlyn Hooper	Thomas Howell-Wampler	Noah Hubbard	Allyson Hundley	Morgan Hutchinson	Hayle Hyton

Congratulations Bassett High School Class of 2021

Emalee Jones	Joseph Jones	Evan Joyce	Madison Joyce	Elyssa Kancherla	Autumn Keffer	Kaylee Keith	Tmahj Kellam	Journey Kendrick
Michael Kessler Jr.	Alexis Knox	Allison Laine	Zachary Lawson	Hannah Leghorn	Jacob Lemons	Clarence Linkous	Trey Linster	McKenzie Lippencott
Jhonatan Lopez-Garcia	Jamie Lynskey	Christopher Maldonado-Mendoza	Ellyn Manzano Pitogo	Bryan Martell Rios	Adam Martin	Brianna Martin	Christopher Martin	Joshua Martin
Nicholas Martin	Nyzavien Martin	Parker Martin	Sydney Martin	Taylor Martin	Jonathan Mayes	Madison Mayes	Keasia McClenden	Jeremiah McDaniel
D'Andre McGill	Emily McVey	Savanna Meadows	Ardonit Mehmeti	Christopher Miller	Erin Mitchell	Tina Mitchell	Dawson Moore	Cameron Morgan
Madison Mullins	Remzija Musa	Jessica Nolan	D'Anna NoPala	Cara Oakes	Karol Olamendi Portugal	Madalyn Oliver	Lisette Ortiz-Ortiz	Hannah Pace
Colton Parks	Bethany Payne	Sarah Pendleton	Devin Pendry	Enrique Penn	Justin Perry	Nicholas Plogger	Maxwell Price	Diego Privette-Galarza
Aaron Reed	Aidan Register	Jacob Rigney	Chase Robertson	Griselda Rodriguez-Molina	Yuneisy Roldan	Steven Rorrer	Madison Ross	Derrick Ruben
Ignacio Ruiz Sanchez	Lesly Salinas	Jesus Sanchez-Martinez	Noelya Santiago	Kristen Sawyers	Megan Scott	Neacie Scott	Mi'Kira Seay	Amanda Sechrist
Cannon Sechrist	Omar Shareef	Leslie Silva	Iyanna Simmons	Katie Solis	Faith Sprinkle	MaKayla Sprouse	Jaleah Stanley	Kaylie Stewart
Myah Taylor	Patrick Taylor	Adriana Telles Romero	Matthew Terry	Callie Thomas	Charles Tilley	Jamie Tinsley	Jamayla Tirado	Madison Tolbert
David Turner	Nathan Turner	Michael Underwood	Keshawn Valentine	Skyler Varney	Fabiola Vasquez Becerra	Maria Vasquez	Jose Vasquez Chavez	Gabriella Wall

Congratulations Bassett High School Class of 2021



Congratulations Magna Vista High School Class of 2021

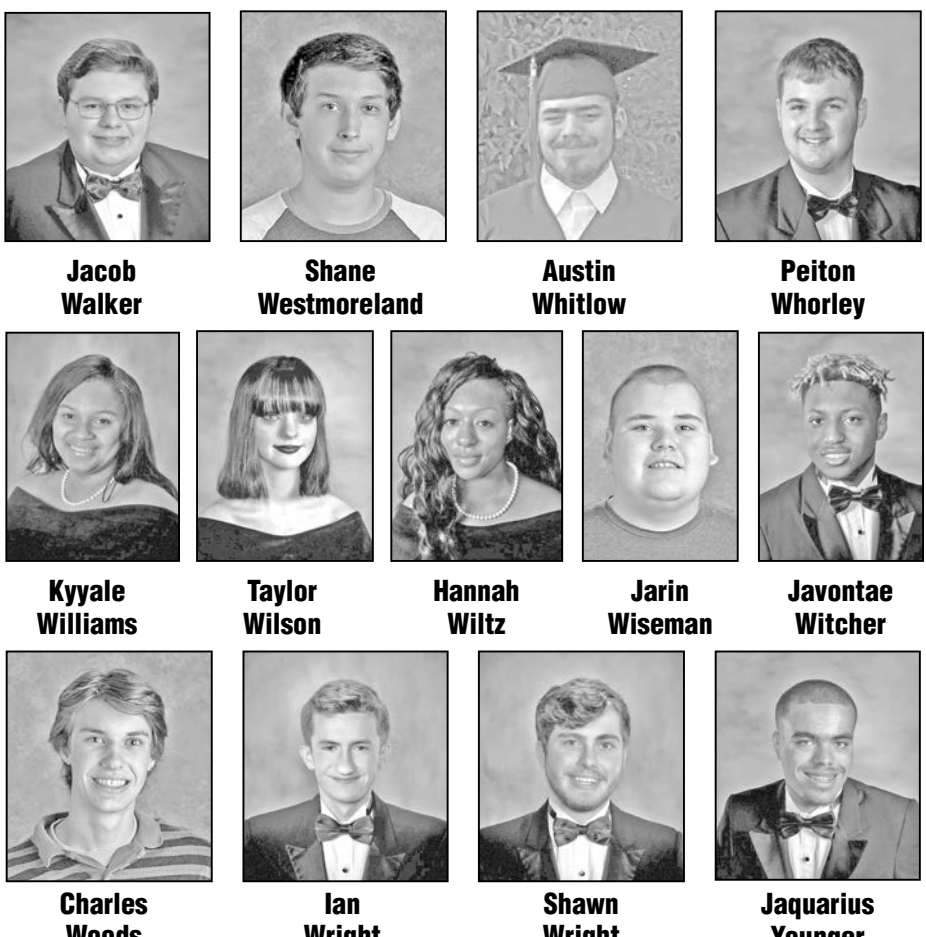


Congratulations Magna Vista High School Class of 2021

Congratulations Magna Vista High School Class of 2021



James Smith Rashawn Smith Javier Mendoza Soto Haley Spence Christopher Stafford Shilynne Stokes John Surratt Jaquan Swanson Hunter Taber
 Nakysa Tatum Cassie Taylor Jacob Taylor Matthew Taylor Dwayne Terry.Jr. James Thomas Jr. Lauren Trent Kaitlyn Tuggle Tristan Tyree
 Corbin Underwood James Finley Underwood Lizabeth Vargas Trejo Byron Vazquez-Jimenez Lauren Venable Akela Morgan Vest Dyniah Via Isaiah Wade Lauryn Wade



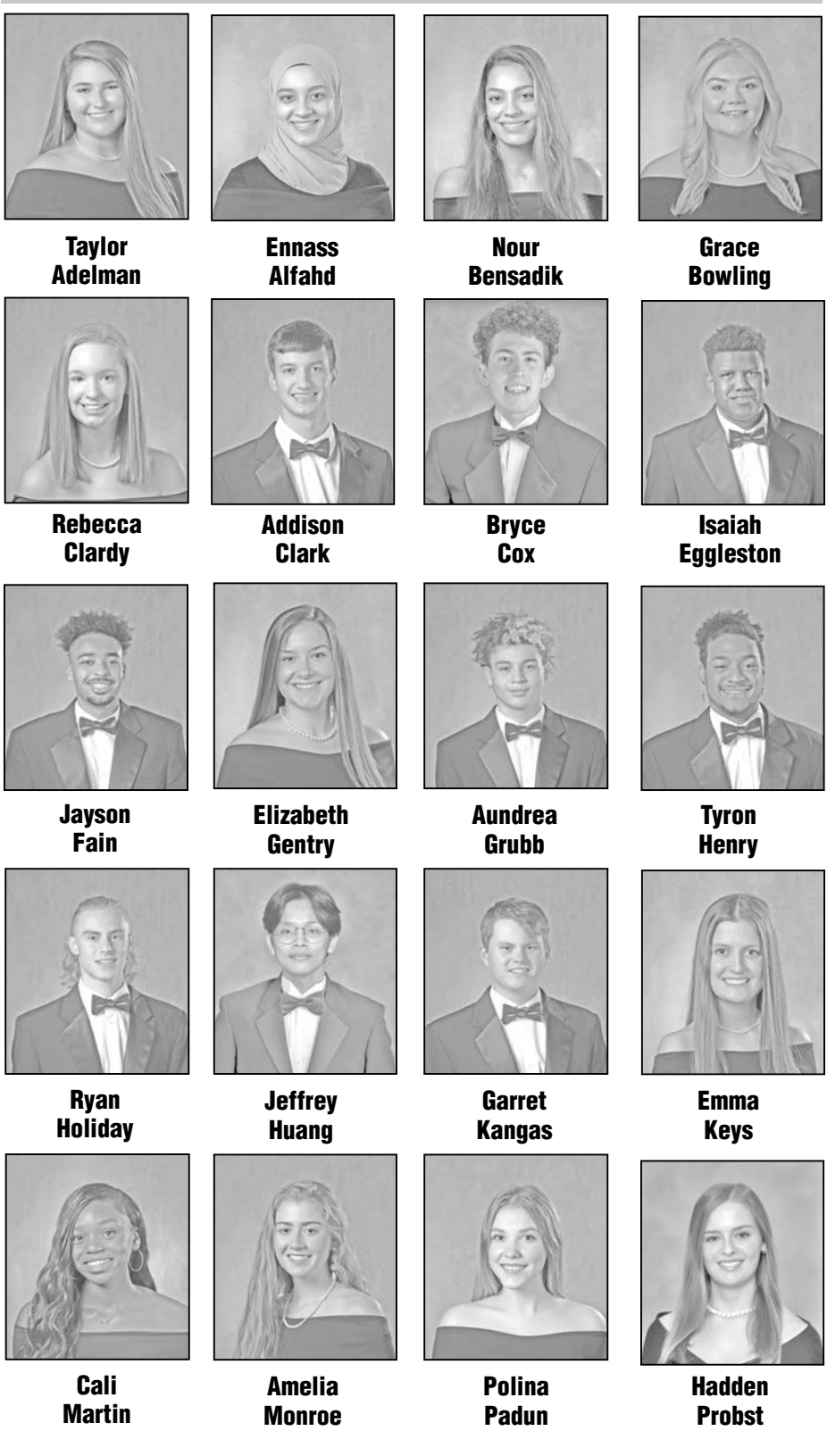
Jacob Walker Shane Westmoreland Austin Whitlow Peiton Whorley
 Kyvale Williams Taylor Wilson Hannah Wiltz Jarin Wiseman Javontae Witcher
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 Ryan Holiday Jeffrey Huang Garret Kangas Emma Keys
 Cali Martin Amelia Monroe Polina Padun Hadden Probst



Brooke Thomson

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 FROM THE STAFF HERE AT THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

CONGRATULATIONS

















































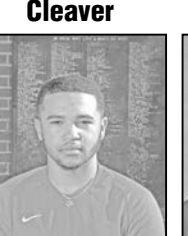




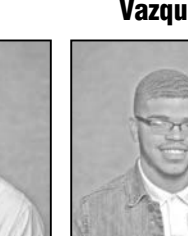







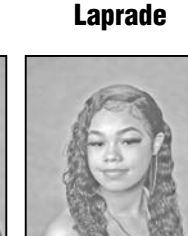










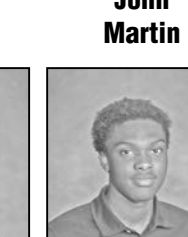




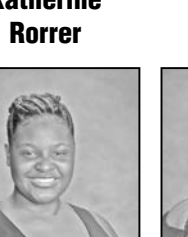



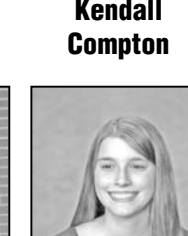



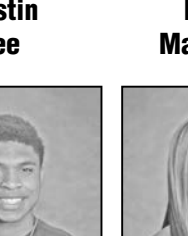

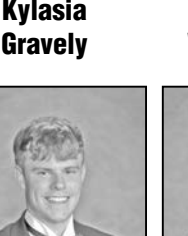



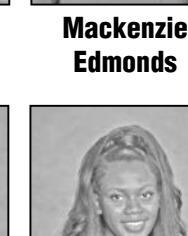
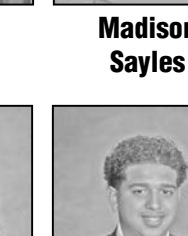


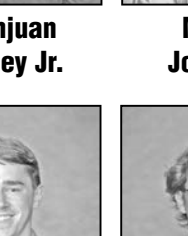


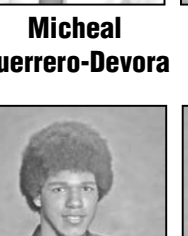

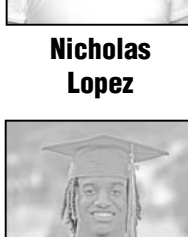
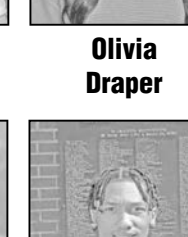








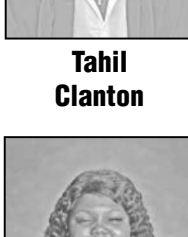
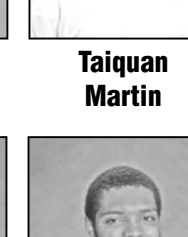

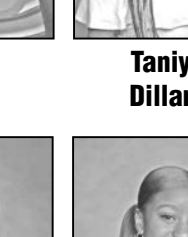


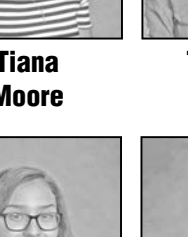

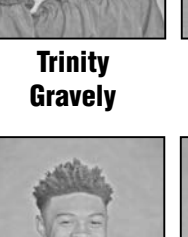
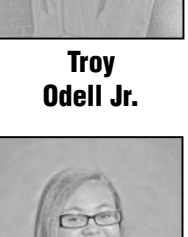
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FROM ALL STAFF AT MARTINSVILLE HEALTH AND REHAB

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 PERSONALIZED CARE IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Congratulations Martinsville School Class of 2021

									
Alexander Ballard	Alexander Scott	Alexis Lipford Plunkett	Alyssa Penn	Amaje Brown	Aminah Taylor	Andres Lopez Valentin	Andrew Carter	Andrew Clerc	Andrew Clerc
									
Anijah Hairston	Anthony Hairston	Antonio Price	Antwone Callender	Ashlan Cook	Ashli Bratcher	Atote' Coles	Austin Hill	Aveon Turner	Aveon Turner
									
Axel Lopez	Ayanna Williams	Ayshawn Hunt	Benjamin Jarrett	Benjamin Ramey III	Bryson Stone	Cameron Dillard	Casey Hart	Cynthia White	Cynthia White
									
Da Corieon Jennings	Daniel Dalton	Daphnie Lintag	Dawson Allen	Delvin Roberts	Deneah Newman	Dominique Robinson	Draco Cleaver	Eduardo Betanzo	Eduardo Betanzo
									
Elandis Wilson	Emily Shively	Erica Scott	Estrella Vazquez	Ethan Thomas	Felipe Mitchell	Fredy Santos-Castro	Geovani Lassiter	Hannah Martin	Hannah Martin
									
Iniki Prunty	Isaiah Laprade	Jacob Lunt	Jaden Dodson	Jaheim Niblett	Jalaila Estes	James Li	Jasiyah Eggleston	Jason Penn	Jason Penn
									
Jayla Dalton	Jiselle Dandridge	John Martin	Jorge Lara Alvarado	Jsoni Hairston	Julianna Cox	Katherine Rorrer	Kayla Hairston	Keith Kellenbenz	Keith Kellenbenz
									
Kellene Wotring	Kendall Compton	Keyshawn Broadwater	Joshua Hairston	Kristin Lee	Kyla Maynard	Kylasia Gravely	Laura Washington	Leighton Jamison	Leighton Jamison
									
Luis Santos-Castro	Mackenzie Edmonds	Madison Sayles	Makiyah Stockton	Manjuan Dudley Jr.	Maria Johnson	Matthew Vaughn	Micheal Guerrero-Devora	NaKieyah Hairston	NaKieyah Hairston
									
Nicholas Lopez	Olivia Draper	Privan Patel	Robert Eggleston	Robert Peay	Sean Peay	Sheccid Lara Diaz	Sikolin Wray	Sophia Ruiz Telles	Sophia Ruiz Telles
									
Tahil Clanton	Taiquan Martin	Tania Dalton	Taniya Dillard	Taojah Dillard	Tiana Moore	Trekeyta Lowe	Trinity Gravely	Troy Odell Jr.	Troy Odell Jr.
									
Tykia Moore	Tymir Fulgham	Tyonna Hodge	Tyreniasha Dillard	Vartaysha Cole	Xitlali Vazquez	Zaid Garcia Aguilar	Zion Adams	Zoie Smith	Zoie Smith

GRAD STUDENT ANNOUCEMENTS

JMU announces spring graduates, honors

Several local residents graduated during the May 2021 commencement exercises at James Madison University.

Jill Holder, of Axton, graduated with a degree in master of education.

Brooklin Davis, of Bassett, graduated with a degree in psychology.

Taylor Norman, of Fieldale, graduated with a degree in nursing.

Kenya Dillard, of Martinsville, graduated with a degree

in biology.

Caitlyn Wray, of Martinsville, graduated with a degree in interdisciplinary liberal studies.

Nathan Halpin, of Martinsville, graduated with a degree in psychology.

Sandy Ruiz, of Martinsville, graduated with a degree in social work.

Reanna Craig, of Ridgeway, graduated with a degree in master of education in teaching.

Lauren Grady, of Ridgeway, graduated with a degree in justice studies.

The following students also were named to the dean's list for the spring 2021 semester:

Beatrice Bradner, of Martinsville, who is majoring in elementary education.

Sandy Ruiz, of Martinsville, who is majoring in social work.

The following were named

to president's list for the spring 2021 semester:

Rya Hall, of Fieldale, who is majoring in elementary education.

Guadalupe Rivera, of Martinsville, who is majoring in elementary education.

Colin Miner, of Collinsville, who is majoring in history.

Liza Fox, of Martinsville, who is majoring in hospitality management.

Caitlyn Wray, of Martins-

ville, who is majoring in interdisciplinary liberal studies.

Established in 1908, James Madison University is a community of 22,000 students and 4,000 faculty and staff, nestled in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. JMU offers 124 degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, keeps classes small with a 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio and has the highest six-year graduation rate among its peer institutions at 84 percent.

Local students named to spring 2021 Dean's List

The Dean's List for the spring semester at Bridgewater College was announced by Dr. Leona A. Sevick, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

More than 450 students were named to the list.

Students on the Dean's List have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average of

a possible 4.0. Any student who earned all A's for a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the 15-week semester is identified with an asterisk by the student's name.

The following students from this area have excelled academically:

Cara E. Helbert, of Bassett, a senior majoring in Biology;

India Manning, of Martinsville, a junior majoring in Psychology.

Bridgewater College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in the Central Shenan-

doah Valley of Virginia. Founded in 1880, it was the state's first private, coeducational college. Today, Bridgewater College is home to more than 1,600 students.

Page among Bridgewater College graduates

Devin M. Page, of Ridgeway, graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts in Business Administration from Bridgewater College during the May 1, 2021, commencement exercises.

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia's capacity limits for commencements with regards to COVID-19 guidelines, the College held four commencement ceremonies on the campus mall for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Approximately 321 under-

graduate and 32 graduate students from the Class of 2021 received degrees at the ceremonies. Dr. David W. Bushman, president of Bridgewater College, conferred the degrees.

This year's commencement speaker was Dr. Stephen L. Longenecker, Edwin L. Turner Distinguished Professor of History at the College. A distinguished scholar of religious history, Longenecker retired from Bridgewater College at the end of the 2020-21 academic year after 32 years as a professor in the Department

of History and Political Science.

In his address, titled "It is a Small School," Longenecker paid tribute to the Bridgewater experience and reflected on the ways the community has persevered through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the 321 undergraduate students in the Class of 2021, 137 earned bachelor of arts degrees and 134 earned bachelor of science degrees. Eighteen members of the undergraduate class graduated

summa cum laude—the top academic honor, which requires students to achieve at least a 3.9 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Thirty-two graduates earned magna cum laude honors—a 3.7 or better average. Cum laude honors, requiring a 3.4 grade point average, were earned by 65 graduates.

For the first time, Bridgewater College graduated students from four different master's programs. Three students graduated with a master of science in psychology-mental health professions; five stu-

dents graduated with a master of arts in digital media strategy; 13 students graduated with a master of science in athletic training; and 11 students graduated with a master of science in human resource management.

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Ridgeway student named to UA Deans List

Alexis Mize, of Ridgeway, was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for Spring Semester 2021.

A total of 11,813 students enrolled during the spring 2021 term at The

University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President's List with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA Dean's and

President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

The University of Ala-

bama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence,

UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discov-

ery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

Winners of the inaugural fair pageant crowned

MaKayla Sprouse was crowned the winner of the Miss Category in the first Miss Henry County Fair Pageant.

Sprouse was selected from among 45 entries in the category for ages 17 to 22. She will serve as the official rep-

resentative of the fair, representing the fair throughout the year.

Sprouse also will compete in The Miss Virginia Association of Fairs Competition in January at The Homestead Resort.

Girls participated in a total of nine categories during the June 5 pageant held at the Henry County Recreation Center. Other winners and their respective categories were:

Kayleigh Wimbish (Junior Miss Winner), Keleesi Nolasco (Beautiful Baby Winner), Keyasia Akridge (Miss Pre-Teen), Joanna Wilson (Ms. Winner), Avery Carter (Young Miss Winner), Felicity Tyler

(Miss Community Service), Cheyenne Owens (Little Miss), Autumn Sanders (Wee Baby and Miss Personality Winner).

The pageant was presented by B99.9 FM Radio. Robynn Jaymes served as the emcee for the competition.

The Henry County Fair, which is being presented by VisitMartinsville, will be held September 22 – 25 on the grounds at Martinsville Speedway, and will lead into the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 race at Martinsville Speedway on September 25.

Contact the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office at (276) 634-4640 for more information.



Back Row, left to right: Kayleigh Wimbish (Junior Miss Winner), Keleesi Nolasco (Beautiful Baby Winner), Keyasia Akridge (Miss Pre-Teen), MaKayla Sprouse (Miss Winner), Joanna Wilson (Ms. Winner). Front Row Left to Right Avery Carter (Young Miss Winner), Felicity Tyler (Miss Community Service), Cheyenne Owens (Little Miss), Autumn Sanders (Wee Baby and Miss Personality Winner).

Dan River Basin Association plans July's First Saturday Outing

The public is invited to participate in the Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Outing on July 3.

The outing is a 3.5-mile hike on the Smart View Loop Trail in the Smart View Recreation Area on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mile Marker 154.5.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the public parking lot adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mile Marker 154.5. Coordinator for the outing is Wayne Kirkpatrick, an avid hiker and DRBA board member.

Located along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Smart View Recreational Area offers excellent views of the Virginia Piedmont. The natural surface, moderate trail meanders through moist deciduous woodlands, hardwood forests, and open fields. This site is great place to bird during spring migration, but summer also is productive with breeders such as hooded, Kentucky, and black-and white warblers, Acadian and great-crested flycatchers, blue-gray gnatcatcher, yellow-throated and red-eyed vireos, chipping sparrow, brown thrasher, and scarlet tanager. The big lure for most birders to this site is the breeding population of cerulean warbler. Moist forest floors lend themselves to other critters, as well. Look for red eft, the bright orange terrestrial form of the red-spotted

newt, as well as eastern box turtle, and several species of colorful millipedes. Eastern chipmunk, red squirrel, red fox, and white-tailed deer are common throughout. Also watch for wild turkey roaming through these woods.

Participants are asked to bring lunch, water and hiking poles and wear hiking boots or walking shoes. Dress in layers of synthetic fabric or wool and be prepared for wind or rain. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are free and open to the public.

To reach the trail head parking area, from the intersection of Virginia 8 and the Blue Ridge Parkway, turn north on the Parkway and drive 10.5 miles, and turn right to access the parking area. From Martinsville, (this is an hour and forty-five minute, 42.5 mile, very winding, scenic drive) take Virginia 57 west, turn right onto Iron Bridge Road (Virginia 704), turn right onto Virginia 40 east, turn left onto Virginia 860, turn right onto the Blue Ridge Parkway and drive 4.5 miles to Mile Marker 154.5, turn right to access the parking area.

To contact Kirkpatrick, call 540.570.3511 or email wynbtyk@embarqmail.com.

For more information, visit www.danriver.org.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

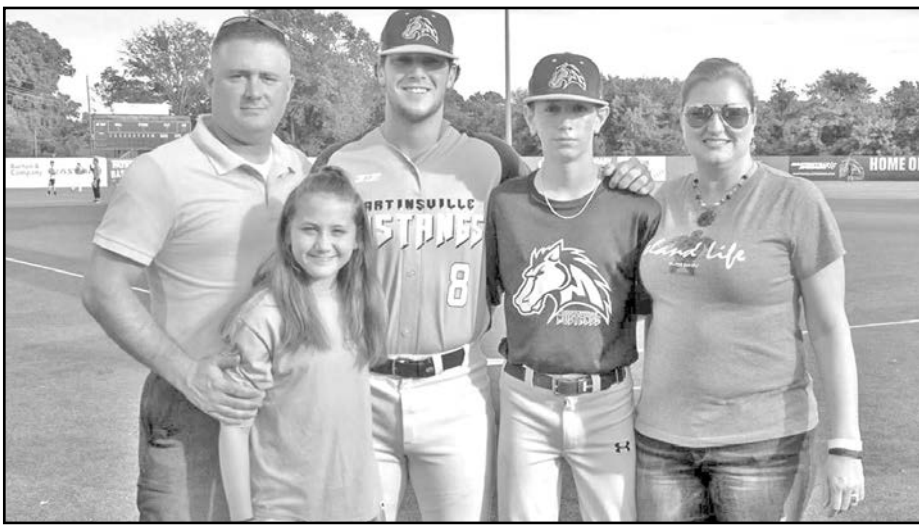
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Host from page 1



The Haynes family and Trey Woosley during the 2019 Mustangs baseball season. From left to right: Joe Haynes, Anna Haynes, Woosley, Luke Haynes and April Haynes.

and you feel that they immediately just want to be part of your family. The relationships that we've built since we've become a host family outweighs any burden that you may have encountered during that time."

After staying with the Haynes' in 2019, Woosley returned to the family home for the 2021 season.

"Trey was here in 2019, and he didn't have a place to play (college baseball). He played here, ended up getting a scholarship and then went to play at Murray State," Haynes said. "To have Trey come back in 2021 tells you that they like being here."

"With the relationship that we built in 2019, he became part of the family. We call, text, send birthday cards, and we send Christmas presents. He's like a kid that has always been in my family," Haynes said. "You get that out of one year, then when he decides that he wants to come back, there's no question that he is staying at my place. He still had his house key from 2019. There's pictures of him in my house like he is a regular family member."

Haynes said that his wife, April, and two children, Luke and Anna, also enjoy having an adopted family member for the summer.

"For my kids, it's been the same with every player where they have that kind-of older brother relationship built," Haynes said. "It's not just the players that stay with us. They come to my kids' baseball games, they go watch movies together. It's really hard to explain the relationships you build with these players, but until I became a host parent, I had no earthly idea what they meant when they said that."

Woosley hasn't been the only addition to the Haynes family.

"When I say your family gets bigger, that means also getting to know the kids that are with other host families," Haynes said. "They come to your house, they hang out with your kids. One night out of the year, I'll have 10 to 11 players at my house. You are just as much a part of that team because without you that team doesn't run."

Host families became even more vital during the 2020 season as most leagues didn't play during the pandemic.

"Last year was a COVID year, and we were blessed to be able to get Arkansas players in Martinsville," Haynes said. "We had some of the top, elite college baseball players in the country come to Martinsville. My family and Jason Davis' family reaped those benefits. You had kids from Arkansas like Kevin Kopps, Matt Goodheart, Corey Spain, Brady Slavens. We had a kid from Youngstown State, Steve D'eusano."

Even with all of the

talent that came through the city last year, Haynes said it was difficult to feel starstruck given the personalities of some of the players.

"Last year was a big surprise and I'm going to use Kevin (Kopps) as an example. He was the most humble kid. We had no idea of how good he actually really was," Hayes said. "Last week, he was named the collegiate player of the year. The week before that, he was named the SEC Pitcher of the Year. He's being talked about on every level - about how good he is. The surprising part is he doesn't listen to it. We had no idea how lucky we were to be able to have him."

Given the relationships that Haynes has made with the players that he has hosted over the years, he said he sometimes finds himself in an awkward spot.

"We went to Arkansas this past March to watch all of those kids play. The beauty of that is the team that they were playing had the kid that we kept in 2019," Haynes said. "You go one day and you wear Murray State stuff, and then you go the next day and you wear Arkansas stuff."

Based on his experience as a host parent, Haynes said he highly recommends that other families consider it as well.

"Really, your only responsibility is to open your house up to them," he said. "They interact with you as much as you interact with them. I haven't heard of an instance where people got uncomfortable. It's always been a good experience for us and any of the other host families that we've talked to."

Haynes said that host families are only required to have a separate place for the players to sleep and shower. A place to do laundry is also a necessity.

"Basically, you hand over a key to the house when they get there. The house is pretty much theirs, they are free to come and go as they please," Haynes said. "At my house, they are required to help with the dishes, you do your own laundry. They are all responsible kids. They've been in the college system and they've learned how to live on their own while they were in college, so coming to play summer ball gives them that opportunity to still be on their own, but they follow the rules. I don't have a lot of rules

in my house because the kids that I've had to host have been great kids. They already know what is expected of them."

Developing those long-lasting relationships goes beyond just offering a place to sleep. Haynes advises potential host families to go the extra mile.

"My advice to anyone that does open their home is to make sure the players are given what they need, make sure they feel at home, go to the games and support them," he said. "You've got to think, they are not from around here."

"When these kids come to play baseball in a town that they don't know anything about, they are going to need somebody that lives here to show them around and give them the ins and outs of the town. Just being able to do that makes them more comfortable. They want to know the local places where the locals go so they can kind of fit in. That's what they want to do, they want to fit in," he said,

The players usually arrive around Memorial Day. The season typically lasts until the first week in August, depending on whether the Mustangs make the playoffs.

In addition to the players, Haynes said the team also needs families to host summer interns.

"So if you don't want the 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning door opening experience, then you might want to host the intern who only has to be at the home games," he said.

The goodbyes are the the only downside to the experience.

"They don't leave easily, it's always really hard on everyone because they become part of the family," he said. "We normally get together the night before they leave. We'll have a meal and hang out knowing that the inevitable is coming."

"You know they have to go back to school and it's tough. When a 40-year-old man cries because a college kid is leaving, you know then how much they mean to you. It's not just me. My kids cry, my wife cries, everybody cries because they get so close and you become attached. The players even cry," he said, and added "there's no words that can explain any of that."

Visit <https://martinsvillemustangs.com/schedules/> for a schedule of games and other information.

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

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE AND VIRGINIA MEDIA INC.

Henry County Enterprise and Virginia Media Inc. are seeking a General Assignment Reporter.

The successful candidate will be experienced and professional and someone who is capable of reporting on county board of supervisors meeting and covering education, business, court cases and health concerns. The ability to produce content on

deadline, whether breaking news or enterprise stories, is required. In addition, the candidate will have excellent writing skills, the ability to maintain objectivity, develop and maintain sources and work as team member. Photography skills also are required.

Your work may also appear online, in The Enterprise and/or any of our other publications.

The Enterprise and Henry County Enterprise both are owned by Virginia Media Inc., a subsidiary of Mountain Media LLC, in Lewisburg, W.Va., a family-owned organization that serves several growing markets in Virginia and West Virginia. The company's newspapers in Virginia include The News Messenger in Blacksburg, The Radford News Journal, The Fincastle Herald, The Salem Times Register and The New Castle Record.

Email resume to dhall@theenterprise.net.

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College has an opening for the Coordinator of Residence Life & Educational Programming position. The Coordinator is a live-in professional staff member who is responsible for a residential area that houses approximately 300-400 students. This Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of campus-wide educational initiatives for the Office of Student Life & Engagement, including planning and executing educational and prevention programs on campus. The Coordinator will supervise around 10-15 undergraduate student staff members. Applicants should be mature, outgoing, enthusiastic, and professional, organized, and expect to be an active participant in campus life.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: community development, retention, RA recruitment & training, education, advising, supervision of student staff, conflict mediation and resolution, policy enforcement, coordinating campus wide program initiatives, managing Panther Pantry and Career Closet, serving as a hearing officer for student accountability cases, on call duties, and crisis intervention and response.

Preferred qualifications include a master's degree or prior graduate and/or professional student affairs experience (2-3 years). Qualified candidates should possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, previous student affairs experience, and a desire

to work with college students. This is a 12-month position.

Compensation includes a competitive salary plus benefits, an on-campus one-bedroom furnished apartment, and a meal plan.

Visit www.ferrum.edu for more information about Ferrum College.

For consideration:

Please submit your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three (3) references to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088 or email to resumes@ferrum.edu. Review of applicants will begin immediately. The search will continue until the positions are filled. Background check required.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the full-time position of Admissions Counselor to become part of a successful recruitment team. Regional travel and extensive follow-up with student applicants through multi-communication channel approach is required. This position reports to the Associate Dean of Admissions and Dean of Admissions.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree (required)

Effective oral and written communication skills

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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.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
MARTINSVILLE JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* XAVIER SPENCER
The object of this suit is to:

Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services seeks to terminate the residual parental rights of the unknown father, and mother Michelle Spencer, to the child born to them June 19, 2020 and named Xavier Spencer, all pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-283. Further, the Court shall consider granting a petition adjudicating said child as abused and neglected pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-283 and entering a dispositional Order on that date.

It is ORDERED that the defendants, Michelle Spencer and unknown father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before AUGUST 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

JUNE 8, 2021

Case No. _____

Challenges from page 1

cruised to the Bahamas, we went camping, we hit Dino land, we hit construction sites” instead of taking traditional field trips, she said.

The importance of the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff also was emphasized throughout the year.

“Teachers checked in with students every day to make sure that they were okay. They deepened relationships even through the computer,” according to Cameron Cooper, principal at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

Cooper added it was amazing to see how those relationships had deepened when students returned to the classroom.

She said teachers held fun Friday events and other social get togethers for students to give them time to talk and socialize. School staff offered treats, mostly food, to one another to help each other get through the day and show support.

To encourage teachers and students to laugh, Assistant Principal of Mar-

tinsville Middle School Alma Waller said the school held masked singer events “where everyone could be goofy and show off their singing talents.”

The Books in Hand program continued, with books sent to students. Cooper said Patrick Henry held a free book fair at the end of the year in which students were offered four books to take home to encourage summer reading.

“In addition to that, we have a free book cart that’s on the porch every single day, so there’s free books available 24/7 on our front porch,” Cooper said.

While it was a difficult year, Williams said the most rewarding part of it was “hearing from the families and the fact that the parents were able to see their children learn and see the progress in a brand new and exciting way.”

City schools remained fully virtual until March 8, when special identified populations began attending in-person in-

struction four days a week. On April 12, any student whose parents registered them for hybrid learning, or needed to prepare for SOL testing or do performance-based assessments, were allowed to enter classrooms.

In other matters, the school board:

*Heard from Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Angilee Downing about the African American Studies course, which is set to begin in Fall 2021 at Martinsville High School. The course has no prerequisites and will be broken into two parts to be taken during the fall and spring semesters. All grades may take the performance- and project-based class.

Downing said the course is to help students understand the culture and history of Africa and teach African American history from the African American perspective.

“This is what we perceive as a constantly evolving and developing curriculum,” she said, adding resources will in-

clude multimedia, video, literature, texts, articles “to help students assimilate, understand and synthesize all this information.”

*Heard from Felecia Preston, Director of Pupil Personnel & Foster Care/Homeless Liaison about youth vaccination. Preston said a drive-thru style clinic will be set up at Martinsville High School for those 12 and above to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Parents must bring a consent form and be there when their child receives a vaccine. Consent forms and information about the vaccine are available at the schools and will be mailed to parents.

“It is optional, not mandatory. It’s just an opportunity for our community to get vaccinated if they would like to,” Preston said.

The first dose will be given on July 1 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The second dose will be given on July 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Heard from Williams about the Summer

Feeding program. Meals are available for pick-up at the Martinsville City Public Schools.

“We are not doing door-to-door deliveries this summer, you’ll actually have to come to up to pick up meals,” Williams said.

Multiple meals are included in the pick-up, and identification is not required. A form must be filled out for pickup, but children do not have to be there to receive meals.

Breakfast and lunch are available for pickup at Martinsville Middle School, Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. until June 24. Clearview Early Learning Center will pass out breakfast and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. until July 1.

Albert Harris Elementary School and Patrick Henry Elementary School are open for lunch and snacks until July 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Martinsville High School provides breakfast and lunch, Monday

through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Recognized Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Tally Jr. for winning the National Avid Leadership Service Award.

*Received a copy of the 4th grade class book, “From Fear to Hope” from Renee Brown.

*Approved the minutes of the May 10 meeting as presented.

*Approved the minutes and post-session minutes of the May 24 meeting.

*Approved the financial report ending May 31, 2021 as presented.

*Voted to give Tally the authorization to assign teachers, principals, and assistant principals for the upcoming school year.

*Voted to give Tally the ability to appoint a superintendent in his absence.

*Approved the Federal Fund Consolidated application request as presented.

*Approved the Title III Federal Fund application request as presented.

*Approved the VPSA (Virginia Public School Authority) resolution.

Incumbent from page 1

ville and Henry County school divisions anticipated, “the biggest and foremost thing is continuing to make sure that we are providing the necessary programs to develop the skill sets for our students,” Gravely said.

The past year has “really been a challenge, but at the same time too, I think we learned some things and we’ve pretty much realized that maybe our traditional educational path may need to change a bit,” he said, and added both school divisions relied heavily on virtual learning during the pandemic.

His favorite accomplishment is encouraging employees and staff members to voice their opinions, he said.

“I’ve been really focused on making sure that all of our teachers have a voice, and free of any type of repercussions. I

want them to feel comfortable voicing their opinions on issues because they are the ones that’s in the trenches, they’re well-educated folk as well, and we need to respect their opinion,” Gravely said.

“Ultimately, somebody’s going to have to make a decision, and I understand that. However, the best decisions are made when you have a collaborative effort, and everybody has an opportunity to express different viewpoints,” he said, and added that he was instrumental in the board passing a proclamation to support this during his tenure.

Another thing that Gravely said he is proud of is diversity and equity in the school system.

“We want to make it that all the kids and staff have equal access to programs and anything

else we offer,” he said.

Gravely, who also takes pride in being a transparent and open board member, said the school board must focus on following clear directives handed down to it by the state.

The board has authority “first and foremost, in the hiring and assessing the performance of the superintendent,” Gravely said, adding “everything else that falls under that umbrella, like looking at policies and creating the budget.”

While the board members have their respective opinions, “they are not there, in essence, to micromanage the offices or their staff,” Gravely added.

As he works on the board to meet each student’s needs and ensure that each is prepared for life outside of school, Gravely said one of

learned is that not all plan to attend a four-year college.

“But, having a strong STEM program prepares kids for work after school and is almost a necessity, and research will tell you this,” he said. “We know that every child is not going to go to a four-year college, but they want to have some type of job to sustain them.

“And again, they can go through various STEM programs, graduate high school, go right into the workforce, and become productive. I want to make sure you still are prepared to go to the workforce and make a good life for yourself,” Gravely said.

Another focus is retaining and recruiting quality teachers.

“One of the programs that I stressed years ago is a ‘Grow Your Own’ program, which

identifies students in our school system that are interested in becoming a teacher. We map out a career plan for that student all the way until the time he or she graduates college, to come back to do internships, do student teaching, and get a commitment to work for us,” he said, and added the program is in the process of being revamped.

Gravely started his career in education as a teacher and coach at Carver High School, then moved to Fieldale-Collinsville High School as the head basketball and track coach. Gravely switched to administration and ran the Regional Alternative Program when it first started. He is a former principal of Laurel Park High School, assistant-principal of Bassett High School, and principal of Laurel Park Middle School.



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Two held with no bond in Collinsville shooting incident

Two Martinsville men are being held with no bond in connection with the shooting of a Stuart man.

Leif Keiglen Rider Hughes, 18, of Sunrise Ave., Martinsville, was charged with aggravated malicious wounding, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Tymear Rayvonne Thompson, 20, of First Street, Martinsville, was charged with two counts use of a firearm during the commission of a felony and one count each aggravated malicious wounding, armed robbery, and possession of a firearm by a convicted

felon, the release stated.

All the charges stem from a June 2 incident, after the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center received a call around 1:57 a.m. that a person had been shot in an incident on S & L Court, Collinsville, authorities said.

When deputies arrived on scene at approx. 1:59 a.m., they found Mason Wasoski, 19, of Stuart, inside his vehicle. Wasoski had suffered a gunshot wound to the head. He was air-lifted to Roanoke for treatment of life-threatening injuries. He remains hospitalized from the gunshot wound.

During the investigation, authorities determined there was a plan

to rob Wasoski, who was scheduled to meet two men in Collinsville.

Wasoski was robbed and subsequently shot before the shooter allegedly fled the scene, the release stated.

This investigation is ongoing, and authorities ask anyone with information about the incident to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

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Tymear Rayvonne Thompson



Leif Keiglen Rider Hughes