

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, July 31, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Music has returned to Uptown Martinsville with a series of First Friday events. The next event will be held Aug. 6.

Music on the Plaza: Historic Courthouse celebrates First Fridays

Callie Heitala
Contributing writer

After a long year of pandemic-induced isolation and event cancellations, music has returned to Uptown Martinsville.

On August 6, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its third open mic event on the plaza of the historic Henry County Courthouse, built in 1824. The events will take place on the First Friday of every month through October from 6-8 p.m. and are free to attend.

First Fridays began as Uptown Open Mic, a one-time event organized by the Historical Society to celebrate the closing of an exhibit on female activism throughout Virginia's history, as well as raise awareness of the museum within the community. Nearly 100 people attended the ini-

tial event.

Bolstered by the success of that first event, the Historical Society Board voted to continue the gatherings, and First Friday was born.

The goal now is to reinvent the idea of the courthouse as a community gathering place. Over the years, the courthouse and its grounds have witnessed not only courtroom trials, but business dealings, auctions, political rallies, and speeches. First Friday gives the community a new reason to gather here.

Local musicians Kat and Dennis Calfee host each open mic.

"Our open mics welcome musicians from all talent levels from beginners to seasoned players," said Kat Calfee.

"We enjoy hosting open mics [because] we get to meet, and some-

See Music, page 8

Health official says "Step up and do your part" as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Following a decline in COVID-19 numbers earlier this year, the number of cases starting to rise prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to update some of its recommendations.

Based on new evidence about the Delta variant, which is currently circulating, the CDC now recommends that fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public

indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

The agency also added information that fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

Those who are fully vaccinated

and have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are encouraged to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

West Piedmont Health District

See COVID-19, page 2

Task force to help with rebranding effort

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Last week, Virginia's State Board of Community Colleges voted to add an ampersand to the name and the college immediately became Patrick & Henry Community College.

Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College, will create a task force to help with the multi-layered rebranding effort.

"We have an end zone of Dec. 31, 2022, but because ours is not as significant" of a change as some community colleges in Virginia, "I believe it will be quicker," Hodges said.

He plans to create a task force "to tackle the low-hanging fruit" like graphics and logos, he said of changes expected within the next 60-days. The task force also will create a plan to address those areas that will take longer to change.

The task force will include a "cross brand of college officials, local college board members," Hodges said, adding members will be a cross representative of the college and the community.

"This is not a name overhaul. This is something we can address very quickly," he said, adding the costs are unknown at this point.

"We did not do a tremendous dive for the (costs) of the ampersand," he said, adding the expense is expected to be less than the estimated cost of a

complete name change.

"There is no money from the state" for the change, he said, adding that the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation "has generously agreed to help with this work."

The state board in July 2020 directed all community colleges in Virginia to review their names for appropriateness.

At a previous meeting, the state board rejected adding a hyphen to PHCC's name (which is the way that the college's name first appeared when it was founded) and asked the local board to reconsider its suggestion to retain the name, according to a release.

Without punctuation, the name Patrick Henry could stand for the Revolutionary War hero Patrick Henry, who owned slaves.

"Our local board had put forth five names. One was to leave it as is, the second was to add a hyphen, and the third was to add the word 'and' or the ampersand," Hodges said, adding the first two recommendations had been made previously.

The state board accepted the third recommendation, which was to add the ampersand, Hodges said. The change went into effect upon approval last week, he added.

"We are grateful that the State Board has put forward a name for our college that allows us to maintain the names of the counties that we

serve. Patrick & Henry Community College has a rich history of educating students, closing equity gaps, and lifting families out of poverty, and we are excited to move forward in this work while preserving the names of the regions served by our college."

The change, he said "is representative, inclusive and it was a welcome decision. It also further underscores the fact that our college is named for the two counties it serves. I am very, very, very grateful" to the state board.

Hodges said he also is proud of the process undertaken by the college, the local board, and the community throughout the review process. The college solicited public feedback regarding its name and PHCC's local board met over a series of special called meetings to review the feedback. The public also provided feedback through social media and other means.

"On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and local board of Patrick & Henry Community College, I express my deep appreciation for the leadership of the State Board in this important renaming process," Hodges said.

Throughout, the process "has been exhaustive and thorough," he said, "and I can't emphasize enough how cordial" the state board meeting was. "Every voice was heard. Every voice was valued, and it did my heart good to see that civil discourse is not dead."

Woodland Trail provides hands-on educational, interactive opportunities

Hyacinth Fiorenzo
Contributing writer

The Spencer-Penn Centre was alive with hope, love and memories last week as it honored former alumni Jewel Spencer Marvin's memory with the dedication of an interactive walking Woodland Trail.

"What was once a simple, beautiful trail, is now an interactive and educational asset to our community, thanks to the incredible generosity of Ed Marvin and the Jewel Spencer Marvin Family," said Susan Sabin, executive director of the Spencer-Penn Centre.

Jewel was the daughter of James William Spencer and Ethel Mason Spencer. She was a 1939

graduate of the Spencer-Penn School and served as valedictorian of her class. Jewel and Ed had just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary when she passed in 2017. Although they lived in Florida, they often visited the area.

"My uncle Ed wanted to do something to honor her memory in her own community where she grew up," said Karen Owen Jones, Jewel's niece. "She was precious to him."

"Jewel was literally and figuratively the light of Dad's life," said Ed's daughter, Lynn Leader. "This is a beautiful way for him to honor her."

In addition to a dog

See Trail, page 3



BooBoo, 3, and Allie, 1 1/2, climb on the platforms at one of the five stop and play areas in the Paw Park.



(L to R) Anna Wheeler (DRBA), Lloyd Barber (SRSC) Tiffany Haworth (DRBA), E.C. Stone (SPCA), Karen Jones, Lynn Leader, Steve Parent, Ellen Parent, Ron Leader, David Jones

New park is for the dogs and their human companions

Hyacinth Fiorenzo
Contributing writer

Henry County is now home to a unique dog park that is quite literally a labor of love.

The Paw Park at Smith River Sports Complex, at 1000 Irisburg Road in Axton, is officially open following a July 23 ribbon cutting.

Situated just off the banks of the Smith River at the back of the 90+ acre sports and family recreational facility, lies a 2.5 acre fully enclosed, naturally wooded slice of doggy paradise.

"Most dogs have access to trails and fenced yards but it's not very often that they get to run free in a

forested area," said Tiffany Haworth, executive director of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA). "This is, as far as we know, the only wild and natural dog park in the entire commonwealth. We're pretty proud of that."

The Paw Park has been a work in progress between the association and the Ed and Jewel Marvin Family since 2019.

Ed Marvin, who lost his wife, Henry County Native, Jewel, in 2017, has been searching for meaningful ways to honor her legacy. Marvin, with his daughters Lynn Leader and Ellen Parent, as well as Jewel's niece, Karen Owen Jones,

worked closely with DRBA to carry out his idea of an area that would benefit the community his wife called home. In addition to an interactive walking trail at the Spencer Penn Center, the dog park was yet another piece of Marvin's loving tribute to his wife.

His daughter said that the couple's love of dogs brought them much joy, adding that Marvin always carried dog treats in his pockets.

"Dad loved dogs," said Leader. "He would be just delighted to have this park open in his name. I think Jewel liked dogs, but I think she loved watching Dad love dogs probably even more."

Dogs of varying sizes traipsed along the forest path with tails wagging.

"This is just incred-

See New Park, page 8



(L to R) Sidney McClure, vice president of the Spencer-Penn Centre Board; Wayne Kirkpatrick, president of the Dan River Basin Association; Susan Sabin, executive director of the Spencer-Penn Centre; Tiffany Haworth, Lynn Leader, Karen Jones, Ron Leader, Ellen Parent, Krista Hodges, Anna Wheeler and David Jones were among those participating in a ribbon-cutting to officially open the new Woodland Trail at Spencer-Penn Centre.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 31

Pride of Rural Virginia – Martinsville/Henry County invites all LGBTQIA+ members, allies, and healthcare providers living and working in Martinsville/Henry County to join for an interactive discussion on healthcare experiences, concerns and community resources at the New College Institute, 191 Fayette St., Martinsville. From 10 a.m. to noon.

Monday, Aug. 2

Applicants will be accepted for the next term of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA) at Patrick & Henry Community College. Space is limited and

the application process is competitive and rigorous. To apply, students should go to <https://www.patrickhenry.edu/health-careers-2/1751-physical-therapist-assistant>. On this page, interested students can download the application packet to review the steps for eligibility and submit the electronic application.

The application period ends Friday, August 6, at 5 p.m.

For questions about the application process, email Amber Shelton at ashelton@patrickhenry.edu.

Thursday, Aug. 5

The Henry County School Board will hold its monthly meeting at 9 a.m., followed by closed session, in the Summerlin

Room on the 1st Floor of the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville.

Friday, Aug. 6

First Friday, 3 to 6 p.m. at the Heritage Center & Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Saturday, Aug. 14

The Smith River Mile will become the UpTown Martinsville Mile. Same distance. New name. New course, at 7 p.m. The Uptown Martinsville Mile is a salute to the historical allure of the one-mile run. This race will not be run on a standard 400-

meter track but rather at a unique venue. The UpTown Martinsville Mile will be run in historic UpTown Martinsville. Course is two laps around the central business district. All on mostly level city streets. Race will be run in multiple small heats to facilitate social distancing. COVID-19 precautions will be observed. Liquid refreshments and awards to follow.

ONGOING

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers “no contact” application assistance for Virginia’s free or low-cost MEDICAID plans for Virginians under 65, who meet income requirements. For questions or to apply, call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509.

Public hearings on reversion slated for September

The Henry County Board of Supervisors heard an update on reversion proceedings from County Attorney George Lyle at its July 27 meeting.

Lyle said that public hearings will be scheduled in the area from Sept. 7-9 after a voluntary settlement agreement is filed with the Commission on Local Government (CLG).

The location for the hearings has yet to be determined.

Once the hearings have been held, the CLG will issue a report on Oct. 15.

In other matters, the Board took the following actions at its July 27 meeting:

*Appropriated \$400,000 to provide restaurant meals and fresh produce to low-to-moderate income senior citizens and baby and toddler care supplies to low-to-moderate income families. The funds were awarded to the County in partnership with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission from the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) program.

*Appropriated \$495,000 to purchase 56-acres of land adjacent to the Smith River Sports Complex. The funds were received from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) Land and Water Conservation Fund. With an additional 60.8-acres donated by a local foundation, the County will have approximately 117 acres of land for the future development of outdoor recreation space to be known as Riverview Park.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$203,542 for Public Safety. The funds were received from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Aid to Localities (ATL) Fund. The funds will be used by the Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a new fire truck.

*Held a public hearing and approved a County ordinance to permanently relocate the Fieldale (#201) voting precinct from Rangeley Ruritan Club to Victory Baptist Church on 1300 Dillon’s Fork Road.

*Awarded a contract to J.L. Culpepper & Company, Inc. to supply food for the Henry County Jail and the new Adult Detention Center. There is no total expenditure amount for the contract due to the fluctuation in the number of inmates. It is estimated the contract will total more than \$300,000. Pricing is based on an existing contract by the Henry County Public Schools that is valid until June 30, 2025.

*Approved monthly expenditures associated with the housing of inmates at the Blue Ridge Regional Jail. There is \$800,000 included in the fiscal year 2022 budget for housing out inmates until Henry County’s new Adult Detention Center opens on April 1, 2022.

*Approved a request from Eric Phillips, of Phillips Logistics, to rezone approximately 1.33-acres of property located in the Iriswood District from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. Phillips intends to construct a building on the property which will be used for offices and the maintenance of company vehicles.

*Approved a request from Prillaman & Meadors, LLC, to rezone approximately 3.762-acres of property located in the Horsepasture District from Limited Industrial District I-2 to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant is selling the property to be used for the construction of a new church.

*Appropriated \$12,367 in miscellaneous refunds and revenues to cover expenses related to hiring a temporary part-time employee for the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office.

*Appropriated \$36,430 from the County’s contingency fund to cover the County’s share of the Public Relations and Community Liaison position.

*Heard a report from County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff on delinquent tax collection efforts. As of June 30, approximately 94.02 percent of 2020 personal property taxes have been collected which amounts to \$115,903.17. During the same period, another 95.23 percent of real estate taxes have been collected for a total of \$80,357.46 collected during the month. Since Jan. 1, Taxing Authority Consulting Services has collected \$677,647.85. There were 121 VRW stops collected as of June 21 and another 57 stops collected as of July 21.

*Heard a report from Lisa Price-Hughes, resident engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, on general highway matters.

*Reappointed Mike Ward to the Roanoke River Basin Association for a one-year term.

*Approved a resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth of Virginia for an Opioid Abatement and Addiction Settlement.

Reynolds Homestead to accept entries for Rock Spring Art Show

The Reynolds Homestead is accepting entries from local artists for its annual Rock Spring Art Show.

The show is open to artists 18 years or older who live in Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Floyd or Carroll counties in Virginia, or Surry or Stokes counties in North Carolina. Any Patrick County native, or member of Bull Mountain Arts, regardless of residence, may also enter.

Entries must be the artist’s original work and have been completed in the past three years. The entry fee is \$25 per artist; members of Bull Mountain Arts may enter for \$20. Each artist is eligible to enter two works of art.

Art may be submitted in the following categories: oil painting, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, drawing, and 2D mixed and 3D media. There is no restriction on size; however, 2D art must be framed and wired for hanging. All 3D artwork must be freestanding or include its own display apparatus. Quilts should have a sleeve on the back for a hanging dowel to be inserted.

Submissions of artwork will be accepted at the Reynolds Homestead on Aug. 21 from 1-4 p.m.; Aug. 22 from 1-4 p.m.;

Aug. 23 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The name of the show, formerly known as the J.E.B. Stuart Art Show, was updated this year to reflect a deeper connection to the Reynolds Homestead and all who resided on the property, where the art show has been held since 2009 in partnership with Bull Mountain Artists.

The Reynolds Homestead, once known as Rock Spring Plantation, was the home of the Hardin Reynolds family and numerous enslaved men, women and children. The property’s rock spring once provided the water essential to everyone who lived on or visited the property.

The show’s opening reception and awards ceremony will be held Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Art will be exhibited through Oct. 29.

For more information about the Rock Spring Art Show and to register artwork for submission, please visit reynoldshomestead.vt.edu.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, contact Lisa Martin at martinlm@vt.edu during regular business hours at least 10 business days before the event.

COVID-19

from page 1

(WPHD) public information officer Nancy Bell said the numbers are rising because people aren’t getting vaccinated.

“For this to work, most of the population needs to be vaccinated,” she said, adding that those refusing the vaccine are potentially hurting themselves, their family, friends, and others.

“It’s really time to step up and do your part. They’re free, they’re easy to access, and they’re there based on science,” she said. “We’re under conditions just like smallpox, and tuberculosis, and all those other things that we’ve managed to get a handle on because the vaccines work.”

While scientists and doctors are still unsure if variants can severely affect a vaccinated person, it is possible for a fully vaccinated person to get infected with a COVID variant. “We had somebody get the Delta variant after being vaccinated with two shots, but I think that’s extremely rare and is only for someone who has some really poor immune issues going on” or those with weakened immune systems, Bell said.

It is her understanding that if fully vaccinated people get the Delta variant, they would hardly know because of the protection from the vaccine.

“The CDC has said that the vaccine is protective of the variants, we just

don’t know to what degree yet,” she said.

The Delta variant is an extremely transmissible mutated form of the COVID-19 virus.

“It’s meaner. Once it gets in you, it immediately works on your lungs to get them sticky. Double phenomena is not uncommon with a person who has the Delta virus,” Bell said.

According to the CDC, there are currently four COVID-19 variants in the United States. More variants are expected to appear as “viruses constantly change and become more diverse,” the CDC said.

COVID-19 variants are currently not being tracked by the CDC or the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), but Bell said there is a possibility of a dashboard tracker being created.

Because of the increasing COVID-19 rates, discussions on reinstating a mask mandate are currently underway.

“I don’t know that I would predict that we’re going to be wearing masks again. I don’t think the federal nor the state government will issue those kinds of orders again,” Bell said, and added masks still need to be used in enclosed spaces and crowds.

As of July 21, 31.7 percent of the population, or 5,590 people, has been fully vaccinated in Patrick County; 24.8 per-

cent of the population has received at least one dose, and 37.7 percent of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

In Henry County, 37 percent of the population, or 18,685 people, has been fully vaccinated. 41.4 percent of the population has received at least one dose, and 44.4 percent of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

As of Wednesday, July 21 data from the Virginia Department of Health suggested there are 4,701 cases, with 378 hospitalizations, and 124 deaths in Henry County. In Patrick County, 1,423 cases with 12 hospitalized, and 45 dead from the COVID-19 virus were reported. In the City of Martinsville, 1,634 cases were reported with 170 hospitalized, and 79 dead.

The data also suggests there are 686,884 cases in the state, with 31,037 hospitalized, and 11,491 dead from the COVID-19 virus. Information from the CDC suggested there are 34,030,494 cases in the United States and 607,289 dead from coronavirus.

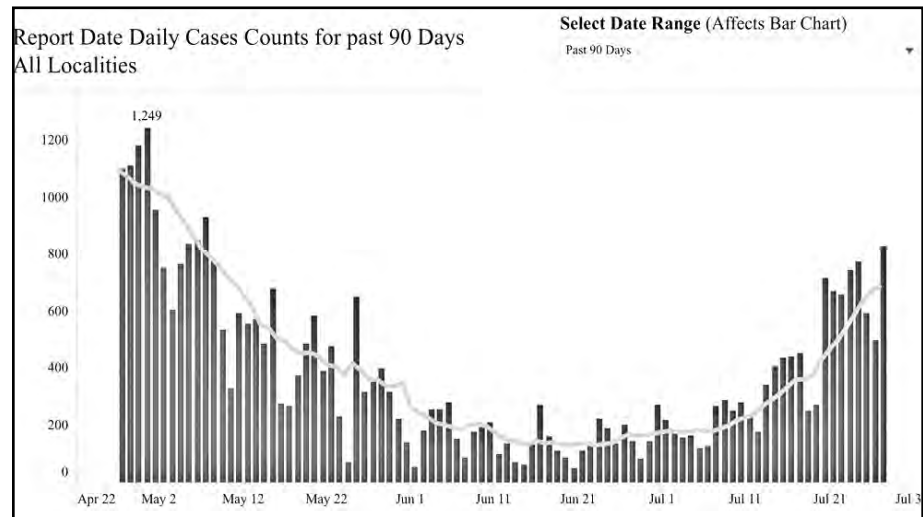
Data also suggests that as of July 21, 4,547,021 Virginians have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

For more tips on how to stay safe, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Language group with Iranian influence; 5. No seats available; 8. Health insurance organization; 11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste; 13. Defunct European economic organization; 14. Dutch word for “language”; 15. Hard to penetrate; 16. When you’ll get there; 17. Iranian city; 18. Small fishes; 20. Dry white wine drink; 21. Turkish city; 22. U.S.-born people; 25. Synthetic resin; 30. Major nerve in human body; 31. Type of recording; 32. Small drum; 33. Alters; 38. General’s assistant (abbr.); 41. Venezuelan capital; 43. Free of deceit; 45. Member of Ancient Hebrew nation; 48. Competition; 49. Launch an attack on south; 50. Cavalry sword; 55. Spiritual leader; 56. One point east of due south; 57. Afflicted; 59. Database management system; 60. Snake-like fish; 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation; 62. Small drink; 63. Not wet; 64. Impudence; CLUES DOWN: 1. Father; 2. Performed perfectly; 3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid; 4. Thin, compact object; 5. One attempting to find something; 6. No longer working; 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument; 8. Book of Genesis character; 9. Volcanic craters; 10. Brand of American automobile (slang); 12. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___; 14. Bangladeshi monetary unit; 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual; 23. Family of genes; 24. Et ___: indicates further; 25. Pacific Standard Time; 26. S. American wood sorrel; 27. Women’s ___ movement; 28. Chinese hoopster Ming; 29. Layers of rock; 34. Patriotic women’s group; 35. Solid water; 36. Shade of brown; 37. Very fast airplane; 39. Put clothes on; 40. Quality of one’s character; 41. Time zone; 42. Primates; 44. Pleasantly; 45. Metrical feet; 46. Rogue; 47. German river; 48. Relieves from; 51. Swiss river; 52. Prejudice; 53. Actor Idris; 54. Those who resist authority; 58. Criticize



The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) website shows that the daily count of COVID-19 cases in Virginia is slowly rising after a decline earlier this summer.

Trail from page 1

park at Smith River Sports Complex, the Marvin family set out to work with the Dan River Basin Association and Spencer-Penn Centre to create a tranquil yet educational walking trail as tribute. Both projects were ceremoniously presented to the community on Friday.

The trail begins under a pagoda behind the Spence-Penn Centre ball field and loops through the forest at an

easy pace with minimal incline. The trail, which has been a work in progress since 2019, features five separate areas consisting of a meditation garden, a family sit and play picnic area, an interactive educational area for children, as well as a butterfly boardwalk and observation deck. There are many educational aspects to the trail, including informational placards to identify trees and shrubs, as well as flora and

fauna signs.

“We want everyone who visits the trail to get their hands in nature and have fun while learning,” said Krista Hodges, of the Dan River Basin Association. She noted the sensory ball in the children’s area, which houses moss and sticks, rocks and soil. The area is designed specifically to encourage children to get close and personal with nature. The butterflies used to decorate the

boardwalk were hand painted by area children. Families and schools are encouraged to use the trail and make the most of each interactive and educational component.

“This project has been near and dear to our hearts,” said Dan River Basin Association’s Virginia Program Manager Brian Williams. “We have handpicked the pollinators that line this trail, and we will be adding to this as we go

along.”

He added that future plans for the trail will be to expand across the existing wooden bridge onto recently acquired land and then extend down the powerline area to connect to the Mayo River.

“This is just the beginning of it. We’ve already seen families begin to utilize the trail,” said Williams. This is a great addition to this end of the county.”




Karen Jones holds a photo of her aunt Jewel and Ed Marvin. The trail was created in honor of Jewel Spencer Marvin.



The following photos show many of the sights and activities Woodland Trail users can enjoy.



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

 **PATRICK COUNTY VIRGINIA**

The Patrick County Planning Commission is soliciting input from the Patrick County citizens regarding their priorities for Goals and Objectives for the next 5 years for Patrick County.

Citizens can submit their ideas in writing to the Patrick County Planning Commission at P.O. Box 466, Stuart, VA 24171 or send an email to tmc@co.patrick.va.us.

For more information visit the Patrick County Website www.co.patrick.va.us. The deadline for responses is August 9, 2021.

 **SPRINGLAKE STOCKYARD**

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

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

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OPINION

Tree's a crowd

As I've mentioned in this space before, I live down a long gravel road that people love to drive on despite the seven "NO TRESPASSING" signs and the overall creepy backwoodsman vibe I've worked hard to cultivate.

I love living out in the woods. I love all the birds and deer and bugs. I love that I will never have to interact with a Homeowner's Association, the most evil organization outside of SPECTRE. To paraphrase Warren Zevon, I love the splendid isolation.

But there is a downside. Naturally, there are a whole lot of trees lining the road. And every year, I can count on five to ten of them falling across it.

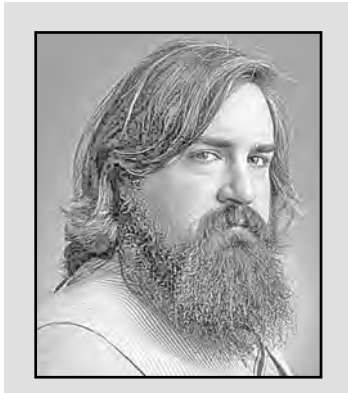
"Of course," you're thinking, "I'm sure heavy winds and ice storms knock down trees all the time."

Ho ho ho! I WISH the trees would fall because of ice or wind! I could actually plan for that! No, these trees fall for one reason and one reason alone:

Pure, unadulterated spite. As I mentioned in a column awhile back, a tree once fell across the road on the day I was meeting a guy who was buying a pinball machine from me. He was a tough-as-nails Navy veteran and he sat and watched as I cut the tree up with a splitting maul, which rendered me too weak to cut a pizza later that evening.

After that incident, I decided to buy a chainsaw.

On the advice of a friend, I ended up purchasing a Stihl MSA 140C, which is a small-ish electric chainsaw powered by a rechargeable lithium battery. People make fun of my electric chainsaw — I've been asked if it causes sawdust to blow up my dress — but I'm here to tell you, it's a little bulldog. I've cut up a whole lot of trees with it, and the battery lasts much longer than I expected it to. To be clear, I'm not saying all of this to shill for Stihl, but if they want to send me a check and/or several of their high-quality products in exchange



By Ben R. Williams

for my testimony, I'm more than happy to promote all of Stihl's wonderful products, which are built and quality-tested right here in America.

Anyway, I had a big event at work this past Saturday, so I got up early, took a nice hot shower, packed my lunch, and hopped in the car, feeling hale and hearty and ready to greet the new day.

You have perhaps intuited where this story is going.

Yes, the trees knew I had a busy day planned, and so they sent their

emissary: a large poplar that had snapped off about six feet up from the base and was laying across the road.

It's important to note that there had been no significant weather in days, and this poplar was not dead; if anything, it appeared pretty healthy. There was absolutely no reason for it fall over other than sheer malice.

Once I saw it, I raced back to the house to grab my trusty chainsaw.

While the Stihl battery-powered chainsaw is a reliable piece of equipment (send check to Ben R. Williams C/O Henry County Enterprise), it does have one minor flaw: it requires the user to remember to charge it. And I had not charged it since the time I used it the week prior to cut up a tree that fell in almost exactly the same spot, blocking the electrician who was coming up to my house.

With half a charge, I started to work on the tree, cutting it into the largest sections I felt I was strong enough to move. The temperature, of course, was about 90 degrees, and the humidity was somewhere

around 270 percent. I hunched over the tree, the saw running full tilt, sawdust blowing all over my once-clean pants, my shirt glued to me with sweat.

After about twenty minutes, the saw slowed to a stop. Lifting with my spine, I rolled the segments of the tree off the road.

All, that is, but one: a huge piece of the trunk with no handholds, weighing perhaps 450 pounds.

No matter how I shoved, the trunk refused to roll. In a moment of inspiration, I grabbed an old ratchet strap out of the back of my SUV, knotted it around the trunk, hooked it to my front tow hook and threw my vehicle into reverse.

I dragged the tree off the road, leaving only a pile of sawdust in my wake.

After that, I was ready to head to my long day of interacting with the public, covered in sawdust, sweat, ticks, and probably a couple tree frogs.

While I may have won that battle, I have a delivery I'm looking forward to coming later this week and no rain or wind is projected in the forecast. I fear for the worst.

COVID Vaccines

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

On July 9, 2021, I joined some of my House colleagues in sending a letter to President Biden expressing concerns about his plans to send government workers door-to-door in an attempt to speak with Americans not yet vaccinated against COVID-19.

I do not approve of government policy that involves invading Americans' personal information. Their vaccination status is none of the government's business. This is a personal medical decision.

Nor should the government mandate individuals to take the vaccine.

That said, I believe in the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA, and I am fully vaccinated.

It's important to me that Southwest Virginians have

answers to the questions that may be causing them uncertainty regarding the vaccine.

In May, my Oversight & Investigations (O&I) Subcommittee of Energy & Commerce held a hearing to investigate vaccine hesitancy and how to build up better confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Karen Shelton, who was the Health Director of the Mount Rogers Health District and Interim Director of both the Lenowisco and Cumberland Plateau Districts, testified in my hearing to help answer our questions.

The committee was pleased to hear from her about efforts being made to get the vaccines to rural areas and what is being done to educate the public about the history and safety of the vaccines.

I am particularly

intrigued about the two vaccines utilizing messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology, because they represent a major step forward for the vaccine community as a whole. Rather than exposing the body to a weakened form of coronavirus, mRNA vaccines teach cells to respond in a protective manner if they encounter the virus.

Scholars have been researching and experimenting with mRNA vaccines for decades. I initially learned about mRNA technology in the context of combatting influenza. Over the last decade, I have asked Dr. Anthony Fauci numerous times about several new vaccine technologies under evaluation, including mRNA.

My interest was piqued because of the potential to produce mRNA vaccines without eggs.

Traditional influenza vaccines are made using eggs. Vaccine manufacturers use eggs and influenza virus strains in a process

that takes weeks. The simplicity and affordability of this process has caused it to be used for more than 70 years. But those with allergies to eggs often cannot receive such vaccines.

mRNA technology works without eggs, and it allows vaccines to be manufactured in half the time.

This technology was being developed for traditional flu viruses. As research continues, it is believed this technology will be used to provide a flu vaccine that is effective between 50 and 80 percent of the time. This is a major improvement. Over the last 10 years, traditional flu vaccines have roughly been effective between 14 and 40 percent of the time.

I look forward to a time when flu vaccines for Americans—which are currently developed based on hypotheses after looking at the flu strains Australia experiences each year—can be tailored to specific strains after flu season begins. mRNA technology should

allow for that. It could also allow for boosters to be offered during particularly virulent flu seasons.

Thanks to this well-established foundation of mRNA research, COVID-19 vaccine developers were able to finalize a product quickly and efficiently. These many years of research are why I am comfortable with the safety and security of COVID-19 vaccines.

However, the decision to get a COVID-19 vaccine is not simple for everyone, nor should it be. I know of several medical considerations that require particularly careful vaccine evaluation, including pregnancy, certain kidney conditions, and pharmaceutical interactions.

Folks should consult with their healthcare provider on whether to get a vaccine, and which is best for their situation. What's right for me might not be right for you. I chose one of the mRNA vaccines, but Johnson & Johnson

does not use mRNA and data indicates its vaccine is also safe.

The recent surge of the Delta variant cases has triggered alarm for some. However, vaccines are still the best way to reduce the likelihood of contracting the virus. But if you get the virus, vaccines dramatically reduce the likelihood of hospitalization or death.

In February, in my first column encouraging folks to be vaccinated, I said I hoped we would be facing an excess of vaccine doses by the end of June. Here we are, well into July, and we do have an excess of doses. If you haven't yet received one, I urge you to speak with your healthcare provider to determine what is right for you.

If you have 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.

Move to Martinsville Partners with P&HCC's IDEA Center

Could Dean Johnston be looking for you? Johnston is looking for anyone who daydreams during long

commutes and in congested spaces of a city where traffic is nearly non-existent. He's looking for anyone who

sighs when paying rent and daydreams of a city where the cost of living is a third less than the national average. These daydreamers don't want a faraway cabin in the woods—they still want access to restaurants, entertainment, and other people—they just don't want the headache and hubbub of a metropolitan life.

Why is Johnston looking for these particular daydreamers? Because Johnston wants to introduce them to the city of their daydreams. Johnston wants them to meet Martinsville.

Because Martinsville is a small, quiet city beautifully nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with easy access to the urban offerings of Roanoke and Greensboro, it's perfect. At least, it perfectly fits the daydream shared by many people in congested cities. The only problem was that no one seems to know about it. In 2019, Johnston decided he was tired of his hometown not getting noticed.

"After a day of river rafting, my friend and I would sit at the local winery complaining about how great this region was yet how few people noticed or cared. Finally, I decided we have to stop complaining and we need to start doing something about it."

In 2019 Johnston and his associate Jim Roberts created Move to Martinsville — a nonprofit designed to get the word out about Martinsville. They began promoting local businesses and regional assets and created a site called Martinsville-life.com which helps people discover things to do in the area. Despite the fact that 2020 was a hard year to start a non-

profit, the pandemic did not stop Johnston's plans.

In November 2020, the Move to Martinsville group won a grant that put wind in their sails and opened a new kind of door. Then, Johnston met with a champion of the region who offered even more opportunities for growth.

Dr. Angeline Godwin, who was then president of Patrick & Henry Community College, has been one of the region's most active supporters for nearly a decade. As both a transplant to the area and a champion of the region, Godwin seemed like an ideal connection for the Move to Martinsville organization. However, it was the access she offered the group to P&HCC's resources that really opened doors. Beyond offering opportunities for residents to seek personal development, Patrick & Henry Community College has actively worked to start and sustain economic development initiatives for the entire region.

"P&HCC's fingerprint on this region is remarkable. For sixty years, the college has been dedicated to helping this region grow and prosper, and the fruits of this work can be seen all over the region," said Johnston. "From everything that P&HCC does for this region and its people, we can see that the folks at the college share the same convictions that we do at Move to Martinsville."

From his meeting with Godwin, a new partnership emerged. Move to Martinsville will partner with P&HCC's IDEA Center in Uptown Martinsville to utilize in-person meeting space



and to tap into the marketing, data, and business expertise that P&HCC's staff can offer.

"Not only will we really benefit from the intellectual capital that P&HCC is willing to share with us, but the IDEA Center is the perfect place to locate our Move to Martinsville operations. It's centrally located in Uptown and, thanks to its innovative technology, it's a draw for prospective businesses and newcomers."

The IDEA Center is a high-tech hub for entrepreneurs, craftsmen, and businesses looking to design, prototype, and create. Makers, inventors, and designers can gain full access to the 3-D printers, laser cutters, design software, and more through monthly subscriptions to the space. The college also uses the space to teach technology and hobby-related classes and camps.

"The IDEA Center should be nationally and regionally recognized, yet

so many people don't even realize it is here. Just like Martinsville —if more people knew what's right here, more people could benefit," said Johnston. "We need to help each other get the recognition that we deserve."

IDEA Center staff and Johnston expect that this partnership will be mutually beneficial for both exposure and for the mission of each entity.

"This region's success is at the heart of both of our missions. We both do everything we can to support the success of the businesses and the people here," said IDEA Center Director Matthew Ratliff. "Because the P&HCC IDEA Center's goals mirror Move to Martinsville's goals, this partnership just makes sense. We're happy to share our space and our knowledge."

To learn more about Move to Martinsville, go to movetomartinsvilleva.com or find Move to Martinsville on Facebook.

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Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

Competitive submissions welcome, advance tickets on sale

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Henry County Fair and Virginia Cooperative Extension are inviting exhibit submissions for competition at the Henry County Fair on Monday, September 20 from noon until 7 p.m.

“Competitive exhibits are a friendly way for the community to come out and showcase the fruits of their labor,” said Extension Agent Carol Haynes. “I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the first fair Henry County has had in decades. As a Henry County native, it feels good to have the fair back home.”

A variety of products are welcome, including produce, crafts, quilts and canned goods.

Advance tickets to the fair also are available on the fair’s website and can be purchased until 5 p.m. on Sept. 22.

For \$20 per person, or \$70 for a pack of four, the unlimited ticket will give guests access

to unlimited rides, games, activities, and the fun of the fair.

“The unlimited ticket is a real bargain. The rides are always the biggest attraction at any fair. So instead of paying for each ride separately, the unlimited ticket will allow you to experience as many rides and create as many memories as you want during the day,” said Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation and the Henry County Fair.

Tickets purchased in advance are good for only one day of the fair and are non-transferable and non-refundable.

A regular ticket for those not interested in the rides can be purchased for \$5 and offers access to a variety of fun family activities.

“At other fairs, you might have a free gate fee, but then you have to pay for each exhibit that you might want to go to after you enter the gate, and that adds up quickly.

For only \$5, you can have a fantastic experience without needing to break the bank,” he said.

Adams said the recreation department decided to hold the fair as it continuously looks for ways to provide entertainment and recreational opportunities for the community.

“Joe Bryant, who is the Collinsville representative on the Board of Supervisors, kind of pushed the idea of having one,” he said.

The Competitive Exhibits are sponsored by Bryant’s business, Bryant Radio Supply.

Planning for the fair began almost two years ago.

“There’s a lot of work that goes into planning the fair that some people may not realize. When you’re assigning your different acts for the fair, you basically have to sign them a year ahead of time,” Adams said.

Adams said he has received a lot of positive feedback from the community about the event.

“People are excited and we’re hoping for 10,000 people to attend over the four-day fair,” he said.

Presented and sponsored by VisitMartinsville, a division of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp., the fair will feature more than 20 rides, food vendors, games, 4-H, a petting zoo, the Miss Henry County Fair Pageant winner, competitive agricultural exhibits, live music, and fireworks Friday night.

Great Lakes Timber show, an old-fashioned fair show with log rolling in a pool, chainsaw carving, and other activities, and the Circus Shane Show, a variety type show, will perform nightly as crowd attractions.

Musical performers will also take the Bassett Furniture Stage Wednesday-Friday nights. The Andy Burnette Trio with special guest Jake Earles will perform on Wednesday, Plastic Musik on Thursday, and Josh Shilling & Mountain Heart

will take the stage on Friday.

On Saturday night, Adams said folks can stay for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 race at the Martinsville Speedway under the lights.

The fair will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Friday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

There are no mask requirements to enter the fair, but those 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.henrycountyvafair.com.

A complete list of items accepted for competition is available at www.HenryCountyVAFair.com. Look under special events and click on “Competitive Exhibit Application Packet” for all the information.

For specific questions, call Haynes at (540) 483-5161 or the Henry County Fair Office at (276) 634-4640.

Norris purchases Pulaski funeral home

Mike Williams
Contributing writer

A mainstay of the Pulaski business community since 1890 – Stevens Funeral Home – has been sold.

Effective July 1, Norris Funeral Services, Inc. – owned by David and Michelle Norris – purchased the funeral home from the Stevens family.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Although the ownership has changed, S.W. “Skip” Stevens will continue as funeral director/manager, and Margaret Hicks will remain in the business office. Intern Tyler Byrd, who joined Stevens in May, will remain as well.

With the purchase of Stevens Funeral Home, Norris Funeral Services has now grown to seven funeral homes. The rest are in Southern and Central Virginia, and include Martinsville Chapel in Martinsville, Mount Hermon Chapel in Danville, West End Chapel in Danville, Stuart Chapel in Stuart, Driskill Funeral Chapel in Amherst, and Scott Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Chatham.

The Norrises have two sons, Christian and Harrison, and two daughters-in-law, Kristen and Jenna. All four work in the family business.

Skip and brothers Matt and John have operated Stevens Funeral Home since the death in 1981 of their father, R.W. “Bob” Stevens.

The business was started by their great-grandfather, M.W. Stevens in 1890 and was called Stevens Funeral Home and Ambulance Service.

Their grandfather, B. Stanley Stevens later took over management of the funeral home followed by “Bob” Stevens.

Skip, Matt and John represent the fourth generation of the family to own and operate the business.

A fifth generation, represented by Chris Stevens – Matt’s son – ended in 2017 when Chris passed away at the age of 40.

With the untimely death of Chris, and because of health concerns for Matt and John, the decision was made to put the funeral home on the market.

“We decided several years ago after Chris’ death to sell but didn’t get serious until John developed a heart problem last August. It was on the market, but it wasn’t on the market,” Skip added.

“We wanted for the folks in this area not to transfer their items to someone else, and it was a good opportunity for David’s family and our family,” Skip said of the decision to sell to the Norrises.

“One day we were sitting here with our representative from Homesteader (a provider of insurance benefits to cover final expenses),” Skip recalled. “He services David and us. I had told him the background of the town, how it had been a railroad, textile and furniture town.”

Skip explained that people would come into the funeral home and want to make pre-arrangements for funerals, and they would be referred to Homesteader.

“I told him that I hadn’t sent any business to him for some time but assured him that situation would turn around. Then I told him, ‘By the way the business is for sale,’” Skip said.

“That was 11:30 on a Thursday morning and by 3 p.m. David called and said, ‘we need to get together.’”

David Norris said he and Skip weren’t totally strangers.

“Back in the early 90’s, Michelle and I worked for a company – a pre-arrangement company like Homesteader and it was called Horizon Trust. We traveled all over Virginia. We were funeral directors and Stevens Funeral Home here was in my territory. We knew Skip but had a little gap from the 90’s up to present day and didn’t have a lot of contact. We knew who Skip was and where the funeral

home was, but we lost contact for many years,” David said.

“When we heard that it was coming up for sale we knew of the tradition – of the history of Stevens Funeral Home – and Michelle and I gravitated to it. That’s what we look for in a funeral home – that rich tradition of family and it just worked out.”

While the ownership of the funeral home is different, don’t expect a rush of change in the operation.

“There won’t be a lot of changes,” David said. “We embrace things how they are, but we do like bringing technology into a funeral home to make what Skip, Margaret, John and Matt have already built over the generations. We’re just trying to make things a little bit better. A little more tech-friendly.”

“Technology has been a real friend to us. We do a lot of streaming, a lot of Facebook. Even though the pandemic has taken us out of the funeral home a little bit, with grave-side services and the like, with streaming we’re still able to share those services with the public. It’s real popular and we do a lot of it,” David said.

“Web sites have changed everything,” Skip noted.

Some may have noticed recently that, since the sale, Stevens now has its first website: www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com

“That’s what we are excited about,” Hicks interjected. “The implementation of modern-day technology. But we’re also really excited that the Norrises have been so attune to the history of the family, the building and the location. So, it’s been a wonderful relationship. I think the community is just going to really see a lot of positiveness and they should feel very, very comfortable.”

“We’ve got a lot of young people on our staff,” David said. “Michelle and I have two boys and two daughters-in-law, and they all work with us. At our other branches we also have young managers, too,



PHOTO BY MIKE WILLIAMS, THE PATRIOT, PULASKI, VA

Norris Funeral Services is the new owner of Stevens Funeral Home in Pulaski, a mainstay of the Pulaski business community for 131 years. Pictured are the new owners, David and Michelle Norris, and the Pulaski management team. (Front row, from left) Margaret Hicks, Secretary; Michelle Norris and “Skip” Stevens, Manager. (Back row, from left) David Norris and Tyler Byrd, Intern.

so the young generation really brings a different element to the future, and it’s all family.”

“They’re all so close, they communicate constantly. Texting, phone calls, whatever. They support each other. They bounce new ideas off each other on ways to tackle situations or how we can better serve. We lean on them,” Michelle added.

“Talking about technology, we were the first funeral home in Virginia to bring forward – with Homesteader’s help – pre-arrangements online. It just happened in the last couple years. To where someone doesn’t have to come into the funeral

home to do a pre-arrangement. They can do everything online. They can provide the information on pre-arrangements, they can pre-pay, one payment or multiple payments, but it’s all done outside the funeral home. You

couldn’t do that before,” David said.

“Now we’ve got the technology, some laws have been amended to allow it and so we’re bringing that technology not only to our funeral home, but to Virginia. It’s been very popular, and we’ve seen a lot of people – especially if a daughter or son lives away – they can do all the documents online. Cremation or funeral service, they can do everything over the internet and that’s been very popular.”

“It’s what the next generation is looking for. What they’re used to,” added Michelle.

“We’re excited. We’re looking forward to it,” David said about acquiring Stevens Funeral Home.

“What we bring to Pulaski is a lot of value,” David said. “We like to think of ourselves as being very professional, yet very

affordable. We have our own monument company and our own vault company. We pretty much have everything except a florist. So, we control the quality. Even though we won’t make many changes here at this present time, we bring a lot of value to a community. That seems to resonate with most people in a community when we come in. We’ll invest a lot of money and time here and I think the community will see the value they’ll get. They’ll get more professionalism, get more quality for a lower cost. I think that’s what’s made us successful.”

“We want to continue the traditions that the Stevens family have provided to the community,” Michelle added.

Stevens Funeral Home is located at 815 Randolph Avenue in Pulaski.

Courtesy of The Patriot, Pulaski, Va.



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Federal funds awarded to support Small Defense Business Cyber Training and Maritime Industrial Base

Virginia has been awarded \$1.5 million in federal funding to provide Virginia small businesses in the defense industry with required cybersecurity skills and certifications and help modernize the maritime industrial workforce.

"Virginia is a leader in the defense industry and the second highest recipient of Defense Department investments among all states," Gov. Ralph Northam said in a release. "Local defense suppliers are critical to present and future military readiness, and this federal funding will help enhance their cyber capabilities while also improving the resiliency of our maritime workforce to meet modernization opportunities."

The grant includes \$1.026 million for the GENEDGE Alliance, which will help at least 85 small defense companies maintain compliance with U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) cybersecurity standards. An additional \$474,000 will go to the Maritime Industrial Base Ecosystem (MIBE) initiative, managed by Old Dominion University. MIBE seeks to transform the shipbuilding and ship repair workforce with modernized and sustained maritime training pipelines. The funding was awarded by the DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) through their industry resilience program. In 2019, Virginia received a federal grant of \$3.2 million to support cybersecurity training and shipbuilding and maritime workforce development initiatives.

"Our partnerships with GENEDGE and the Maritime Industrial Base Ecosystem provide services that give our small businesses a competitive edge," said Acting Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Kathleen Jobs. "This federal grant will allow us to increase investment in capabilities

for our military and national advantage through innovation, modernization, and collaboration."

"Cyber threats are growing in volume and severity every day, and the requirements to safeguard against those threats are increasing in complexity," said Jeff Jaycox, Chairman of the GENEDGE Board of Trustees. "Our program enables these companies to understand and develop required competencies to prepare them for Cybersecurity Maturity Model certification, which will enable them to remain competitive in dynamic markets that contribute to national security."

"This funding will help MIBE work with its stakeholders to strengthen Virginia's maritime workforce, which is critical to our ability to continue building the world's best warships, while also improving ship repair on-time completion rates," said retired Rear Admiral Brad Williamson, Executive Director of the Maritime Industrial Base Ecosystem. "It will also position Virginia as a leader in the application of Industry 4.0 and 5.0 technologies in the maritime space. MIBE is engaged with business, academic, non-profit, and public leaders across five Virginia economic regions, as well as our public and private shipyards. I am certain that our collective efforts can create the maritime industrial base workforce of tomorrow while simultaneously creating jobs and economic opportunity across Hampton Roads."

Virginia consistently ranks among the top states in defense spending and 11 percent of the state gross domestic product is defense related. According to a 2021 OLDCC report, Virginia ranks third among all states for defense contract spending at \$30.5 billion, second for direct defense spending at \$60.3 billion, and first for defense personnel spending at \$15.7 billion.

OBITUARIES

Anna Stump Hall

Anna Stump Hall, 88, of Martinsville, VA passed away Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at King's Grant. She was born May 28, 1933, in Russell County, VA to the late George Stump and Gedie Hess Stump.



VA; stepdaughter, Suzanne H. Wood (Mike) of Mooresville, N.C.; sister, Magdalene Bainter of Lebanon, KY; half-sister, Linda Bumgarner of Huntsville, AL; brother, William Stump of Union, OH; half-brother, James Allen Staten of Honaker, VA. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Matthew Painter (Jessica) and Christopher Wood (Taylor); and great-grandchildren, Carson, Connor, and Daphne.

Mrs. Hall was a member of First Baptist Church of Collinsville, VA where she was a member of the Agape Sunday School class and enjoyed making greeting cards with the Ladies Card Ministry. She touched many lives in a positive way as she was an educator for 39 years. She was a teacher and guidance counselor for 17 years in Patrick County and Director of Guidance at Fieldale-Collinsville High School in Henry County for 22 years. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma where she served as treasurer for 25 years. She loved playing Bridge and was a member of several Bridge Clubs.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Robert Hall of King's Grant; daughter, Susan H. Painter (Mike) of Danville,

The funeral was held on Saturday, July 24, 2021, at First Baptist Church of Collinsville with the Rev. Dr. Larry Cheek officiating. Burial was private.

Memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church of Collinsville, 3339 Virginia Ave, Collinsville, VA 24078 or Grace Network, P.O. Box 3902, Martinsville, VA 24115.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Hall family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

John Brown Wooten, Sr.

John Brown Wooten, Sr., 88, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Sunday, July 25, 2021, at Franklin Health and Rehab in Rocky Mount, Virginia.



Wooten, and Alma Jean Johnson; and brothers, Rev. Howard Wooten and William Johnson.

John is survived by his daughters, Rhona Renau Spencer, Kaye W. Manns, Faye W. Jessup (Ronald), Connie W. Carter, and Patrice W. Hickman; sons, John B. Wooten, Jr., Tony Wooten (Debra), and Conrad Jeffrey Wooten; sister, Coreen Hairston; brothers, Allen C. Wooten and Curtis Johnson (Betty); 16 grandchildren; 32 great grandchildren; 10 great great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

John was born June 25, 1933, in Henry County, Virginia to the late Howard Wooten and Annie Lou Staples Wooten Johnson. He was a member of Christ Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church in White Plains, NY and St. James Pentecostal Holiness Church in Fieldale, Virginia. He was a graduate of George Washington Carver Class of 1952. John was employed as a painter for over 30 years. In addition, he was employed with New York Housing Authority in New Rochelle. John enjoyed fishing, baseball, singing, and fellowshiping.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his wives, Roxie P. Wooten and Doris Wooten; sisters, Rosie Lee Hairston, Nellie Mae

A funeral was held Thursday, July 29, 2021, at the Carver Assembly Building. Burial was in St. James Pentecostal Holiness Church Cemetery.

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

Winona Faye Vernon Lamkin

Winona Faye Vernon Lamkin, 79 of Collinsville, Virginia passed away Sunday, July 25, 2021, at SOVAH Health of Martinsville.



Foster (Kevin), Victoria Jenkins (Bradley), John Catron (Amilie) and Elizabeth Smith (Cody); and great-grandchildren, Nathan Jenkins, Ashton Jenkins and Kaleb Foster.

She was born September 8, 1941, in Henry County to the late Robert Lee Vernon and Easter Bird Franklin Vernon. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Collinsville and had been the Executive Secretary to the Headmaster of Carlisle School.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband J. B. Lamkin; sister, Nancy Kepley; brothers George Vernon, Sr., Robert Vernon, Jr., and Ronald Vernon.

She is survived by her daughters, Jennifer Youngman (Steve), and Melanie Catron (David); sisters-in-law, Margaret Vernon and Judy Vernon; brother Phillip Vernon (Dean); grandchildren, Heather

The funeral will be held on Friday, July 30, 2021, at noon at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with Rev. Larry Cheek officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

The family request no flowers. Donations may be made to the SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville, Virginia 24112 or First Baptist Church of Collinsville, 3339 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville, Virginia 24078.

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

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

In Remembrance

Henry County Enterprise publishes obituaries for free

Let us help honor your loved one by placing their obituary in our paper and on our website for free. We are here to help in time of need. Our only requirement is that obituaries are submitted by a funeral home or service. A photo also may be included.

Ask your funeral director to email obituaries/photo to trisha@theenterprise.net.

Microloans can be tapped to buy farmland, improve property

Farmers can use USDA farm ownership microloans to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013.

Microloans can also help with farmland and building purchases and soil and water conservation improve-

ments. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program, contact your Patrick County USDA Service Center at 276-694-3121 Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
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SCC offers insurance tips for students heading to college

After anywhere from months to more than a year of virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students will soon be heading to college campuses for in-person instruction during the fall semester. In addition to new courses, teachers, friends, surroundings and living accommodations, it also can mean new insurance needs.

The State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance encourages Virginians to make sure their back-to-school checklist includes a thorough review of their own and their student's insurance needs. "Know before they go what your student's insurance needs will be and make sure they have the right coverage," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White. "Protect yourself and your family by reviewing insurance coverage for your student's health, auto, living space and belongings and make sure they understand the coverage."

The Bureau offers the following insurance considerations for parents and students:

HEALTH

College students have several options for getting health insurance. Under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), students may stay on their parents' health insurance until age 26. If your student remains on your health insurance policy, make sure he or she has a copy of all insurance cards and understands what services are covered and how to obtain referrals, if necessary, before seeking treatment. Under some health insurance policies, your student would need to find a physician or hospital within the carrier's provider network — except for emergency care — or pay more out of pocket.

Students who do not have health insurance through a parent's policy, or who have limited coverage due to provider networks or service areas, may opt to purchase a student health insurance plan through their college or university. Students also can apply for a private health insurance plan through the health insurance marketplace at HealthCare.gov. Students may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period for health insurance. To learn more, visit [healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/](https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/).

HOME

College students often take many valuable items with them to school including computers, printers, televisions, bicycles and mobile phones. Consider how much it would cost to replace everything in your student's dorm or apartment should a theft or disaster occur.

For students who live in on-campus student housing, their parents' home-

owners or renters policy may cover their belongings if they are stolen or damaged. However, there may be limits to the amount of coverage provided for such items. Some items such as jewelry or expensive electronics may require special coverage. In the event of a loss, policy deductibles may also apply.

Students living off-campus should consider renters insurance, an inexpensive form of coverage that protects personal property and insures the tenant in case someone is injured while on their leased premises. Landlords' policies generally only cover the structure, not the possessions of renters. Renters insurance premiums vary depending on the location and size of the rental unit and the value of your possessions.

Encourage your student that, no matter where he or she lives, it's important to make a list of his or her belongings. An inventory will help you and your student determine how much insurance is needed and, if a loss occurs, the inventory can be used to file a claim. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners offers a free smartphone app that makes creating an inventory easy. Parents may also want to use this opportunity to update their own home inventory as well.

AUTO

For students planning to take a car to school, parents should ask their insurance agent or company about coverage availability and rates for the city and state where the college is located before deciding whether to keep the student's car on the family policy. Also, make sure you know that state's minimum requirements for auto insurance coverage. Students who maintain good grades may be eligible for a good student discount on the vehicle's insurance premium.

Students whose names are on the title for a car must purchase their own policy. However, they may be able to stay on their parents' policy if their parents own the vehicle they will use at school. Let your insurance agent know where the vehicle will be stored if the address is different from what is on the policy.

The Bureau of Insurance encourages parents and students to shop around and compare policy provisions and premiums. Read any insurance policy carefully and make sure you understand exactly what is covered, exclusions, deductibles and limits. If you have questions or concerns, contact your insurance agent or company.

For more information, contact the Bureau of Insurance toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at 804-371-9741 or visit its website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance).

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College is reopening the position of Lead Plumber. We are currently seeking an experienced plumber to install, maintain and repair sanitation units, water and gas supply lines, and associated fixtures and appliances for all buildings and facilities on campus. This position will also be required to design and inspect plumbing systems, perform diagnostics, and ensure they comply with regulatory codes. Applicant must be able to read and interpret blueprints and other drawings. Physical Requirements: Must be able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds. Position requires full range of body motion including reaching, stooping, kneeling, and climbing, working indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. Qualifications: Must have a minimum of 5 years similar experience

with a certification in plumbing preferred.

We offer competitive pay and excellent benefit package including health, dental, & life insurance, vacation/personal/sick/holiday paid time off, a 403(b) retirement plan and tuition waiver for employees, spouses and dependents.

Interested candidates should submit a resume along with the names and telephone numbers of three references to resumes@ferrum.edu or mail to: Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088-9000. Background check required.

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College has an opening for an Academic Support Counselor. Job duties include working with the College students, faculty, and staff to: provide academic counseling using student success strategies, to students on academic warning, probation, or referred to the Carter Center for Academic Success through an academic alert. In addition, job duties include organizing and supervising the PAL tutoring program.

This is a full time, 40-hour a week position with regular evening hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thurs-

days. Background check required.

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

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

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

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

Farm Equipment Items-King Kutter 36-inch scoop, Double plow front, 5ft scrap blade, 250 lb. fertilizer spreader, 6 X 8 ft utility trailer, 7 ft. pulverizer large yard tool. If interested, please call (276) 956-4331

DRBA's First Saturday Outing is a forestry tour at the Reynolds Homestead

The public is invited to a guided two-mile hike at Reynolds Homestead in Critz, with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) on Saturday, Aug. 7.

An outreach campus of Virginia Tech, Reynolds Homestead features the birthplace and boyhood home of tobacco magnate R.J. Reynolds and a Forest Resources Research Center in the midst of 780 acres of fields and woodlands.

An optional tour of the historic Reynolds house and grounds will be offered.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the Continuing Education Center at Reynolds Homestead.

For DRBA's August First Saturday Outing, the return to the Homestead is a biennial tradition, begun in 2007. Over the ensuing dozen years, hikers have observed the results of experiments, such as erosion control at stream crossings and the effect of environmental conditions on loblolly pine plantations.

"The Reynolds Homestead and forestry-practices hike is easily DRBA's most popular and best attended hiking outing," said Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA board member and outing coordinator.

Originally named Rock Spring Plantation, this 18th-century tobacco estate is near the face of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Views from the trail include the nearest peak, the oddly named No Business Mountain, so called, according to tradition, because visitors had "no business" looking for the family's still.

Additional attractions on the property include the well-preserved African-American Cemetery, a gateway entrance honoring the tobacco and aluminum foil

legacy of the Reynolds family, and a log tobacco barn near the trail that interprets the history of tobacco growing and curing that formed the foundation of the Reynolds family fortune.

Afternoon tours of the national landmark historic site will be offered at a cost of \$4 per adult and \$2 per student, payable to the tour guide. Built in 1843, the two-story brick home was restored in 1970 to its 19th-century state and includes many of the original family furnishings.

The son of Hardin and Nancy Reynolds, R. J. Reynolds was born here in 1853. The tobacco factory he established in Winston, North Carolina, grew to a multi-million-dollar company making him the wealthiest man in North Carolina when he died in

1918.

Outbuildings near the house include a log icehouse, a log granary, a brick milk house and a brick kitchen. In the kitchen hangs a picture of Kitty Reynolds, an enslaved woman who tradition says saved Hardin Reynolds's life by distracting a raging bull.

In 1880 a landmark U. S. Supreme Court decision resulting from the flawed murder trials of two of her sons guaranteed protection of legal rights of formerly enslaved persons.

Participants in the outing should bring water and lunch, wear hiking boots and dress for the weather. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver.

Reynolds Homestead is located at 463 Homestead Lane, Critz. From Martinsville, travel west on

U.S. 58 for about 20 miles. Turn right onto Abram Penn Highway (Rt. 626), indicated by the second of two brown signs. Drive about three miles and bear left onto Homestead Lane. Parking is at the end of the short road.

From Stuart, travel east on U.S. 58 for about nine miles. Turn left onto Abram Penn Highway (Rt. 626), indicated by a brown sign. Drive about three miles and bear left onto Homestead Lane. Parking is at the end of the short road.

From Winston-Salem, travel north on NC 8, crossing into Virginia. Turn right onto Ayers Orchard Road. Drive about six miles and turn right onto South Fork Loop. Drive a half mile and turn right onto U.S. 58. Drive one-quarter mile and turn left onto Abram Penn



Reynolds Homestead in Critz, birthplace of R. J. Reynolds, is the site of the Dan River Basin Association's guided hike and tour on Aug. 7. The public is invited to this First Saturday Outing without charge.

Highway (Rt. 626), indicated by a brown sign. Drive about three miles and bear left onto Homestead Lane. Parking is at the end of the short road.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin

Association are open to the public without charge. For more information, contact Wayne Kirkpatrick, 540-570-3511, wynbtyk@embarqmail.com. For membership information, visit www.danriver.org.

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **August 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **August 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-21-11 Brendan Shreve

The property is located just north of 51 Pruitt Dr, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 39.2(31)/26. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant is proposing to place a double wide manufactured on a permanent foundation.

Case R-21-12 Mark Place

The property is located 295 Bryants Lake Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 13.8/61. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 25-acre from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to convert the property into a farm winery and other agricultural uses.

Case R-21-13 Virginia Visions LLC / Terry Mullins

The property is located 5081 Kings Mountain Rd, in the Collinsville District. The Tax Map number is 29.4(13)/14. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.3-acre from Commercial District B-1 to Suburban Residential District S-R. The applicant wishes to rezone the property back to a residential classification for it to be sold as a single family dwelling.

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

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



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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.

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Music from page 1

times perform with, musicians in a variety of genres. The open mic at the courthouse is particularly enjoyable because it's very relaxed and laid back,"

Dennis Calfee said. Though it is hosted by musicians, the event is intended to showcase more than just music. Anyone with a talent

they want to share, whether it be music, dance, stand-up comedy, or even a poetry recitation, is invited to step up to the mic and perform for the

community. First Fridays are sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Martinsville and Henry County and by the Historical Society's

annual sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. A cash bar is set up at each event with proceeds benefiting the Historical Society.



Haley Stone and Angus Hobson rehearse a song before a recent event the historic Henry County Courthouse.



Isaiah Harper, age 11, performed at a recent First Friday event.



Dennis Calfee, a local musician, is among the hosts of the First Friday events in Uptown Martinsville.

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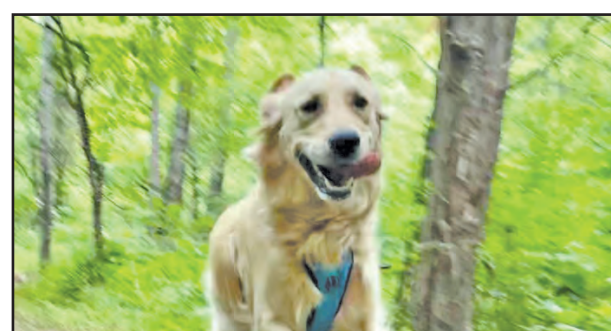
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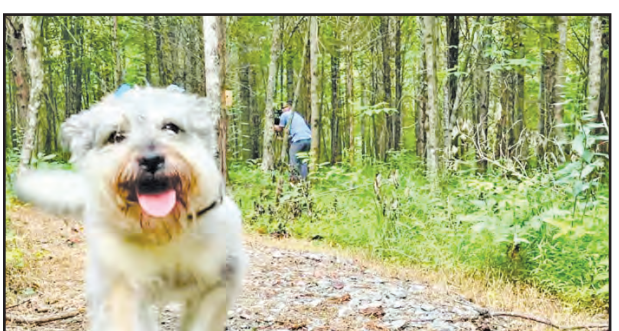
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New Park from page 1



Allie, who is owned by Barbara Parker, runs along the trail.



Charlie, 7, owned by Patty Williams, enjoys being off leash at the Paw Park.



The Paw Park includes signs and informational messages for users.



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ible," said Patty Williams of Martinsville as her dog Charlie, a 5-year-old Schnauzer mix, ran freely. "Look at how happy he is!" "There are a lot of dog trails in our area," said Haworth. "The beauty of this park is that these dogs can run freely, without a leash, and fully enjoy the space. We designed this to be as natural as possible."

The trail, which meanders through a canopied forest, features five separate areas with benches and

picnic areas for humans as well as tunnels, beams and elevated platforms for the dogs. "We want families to be able to come here and enjoy time with their pets," said Haworth. The Paw Park is free to use, but visitors must complete a registration form (available on the DRBA website) with the Martinsville Henry County SPCA to provide proof of current county tags as well as rabies vac-

ination. Once the dogs have been verified and registered, a private key code will be provided, and owners may utilize the park at their leisure. Pet registration is limited to two dogs per handler. The project was made possible with the combined efforts of the Marvin Family, DRBA, Martinsville Henry County SPCA, Henry County Parks and Recreation, and the Smith River Sports Complex.

Bible school program helps youngsters, community



Valley Drive Baptist Church, in Fieldale, recently hosted drive at Adams Grocery to recruit area children to its Vacation Bible School program, which is now underway. Gabriel Holt, 9, of Collinsville, is pictured, along with Deborah Elgin (left), and Kevin Harris. In years past the church's VBS program has generated more than \$4,000 for the Christmas Shoebox Program. The church hopes to surpass that amount this year.