

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, August 21, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Proposed site of a historical marker about the Martinsville Seven.

Group sets August deadline

Taylor Boyd & Callie Hietala
Staff writers

A group plans to send a delegation to Richmond next month if it does not soon receive a response to a resolution approved by the Martinsville City Council.

The council unanimously passed a resolution on July 27 asking Gov. Ralph Northam to commute the sentences of the Martinsville Seven.

The Martinsville Seven - Joe Henry Hampton, Frank Hairston Jr., Howard Lee Hairston, James Luther Hairston, John Clabon Taylor, Booker T. Millner, and Francis DeSales Grayson - all Black men, were found guilty of the 1949 rape of Ruby Floyd by all-white, all-male juries in single-day trials.

They were executed in the electric chair in February 1951. To date, it is the largest mass execution for a single-victim crime in Virginia's history.

Cordelia "Faye" Holland, director of the Martinsville Seven Initiative, said if the group does not receive a response from the governor by the end of August, it plans to send a delegation to Richmond to discuss the issue directly with Northam or his representatives.

She began the Martinsville Seven Initiative, now a 501(c)3 organization, in 2019 to focus on "challenging and attempting to rectify injustices for people of color in Martinsville and Henry County."

Securing a commutation for the men is the first step in the Initiative's plan to preserve the history of the case.

"I just feel like there should be some recognition, some statement somewhere that says this injustice should not have happened,"

See **Deadline**, page 2

Uptown Partnership seeks community voices to discuss the visioning process

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Chuck D'Aprix is having a love affair.

"And that love affair is with the City of Martinsville," D'Aprix said at the recent kickoff for the Martinsville Uptown Partnership's Community Visioning project.

The event, held at the TAD Space in Uptown Martinsville on August 12, introduced the consulting team leading the project to an audience of around 100 people and discussed the visioning process, which seeks to

elicit input from the community about the future of Uptown.

"We're going to come up with an implementable action plan, a vision that everybody can buy into," said D'Aprix. "And that's because we're going to spend a lot of time out in the community asking questions."

D'Aprix and his team of consultants are leading the visioning effort, which is funded by the Harvest Foundation. A nationally renowned expert in downtown and

See **Uptown**, page 5



A crowd of around 100, including city council members, business owners, and local residents, gathered for the Uptown Partnership's Community Visioning Kickoff.

Popular festival returns to Bassett

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

'Get them while they're hot,' will be heard when the Bassett Heritage Festival gets underway Sept. 11.

The festival traditionally begins with a pancake - or rather, a lot of pancakes - and this year's event will be no different.

"We start selling pancakes around 8 in the morning until about 10, when the vendors are all set up," said Larry Turner, a member of the Stanleystown Ruritan Club, which organizes the festival.

Avis Turner even included pancakes in her brief history of the club, written to commemorate its 50th anniversary: "They have served pancakes almost from the beginning of the

Bassett Heritage Festival," she wrote.

The pancake breakfast supports the Stanleystown Ruritan Club, Turner said, and added the festival itself begins around 10 a.m. and is free to attend.

Festival goers can wander around the grounds, perusing displays by local vendors such as CharmCat Creative LLC, Gilinita's Gifts, Taylor'd In Thyme, Bon Bons Wreaths, Osborne Books, and many more.

Local nonprofit agencies and other organizations also will have booths set up on the festival grounds so folks can chat with representatives from local churches, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and both the Republican and Democratic Committees of Henry County.



The Bassett High School Marching Band at a previous Heritage Festival. (Contributed photos)

As a service to the community, the Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health & Wellness is sponsoring a mobile unit to provide blood pressure and cholesterol checks, health screenings, and COVID-19 vaccinations.

There will be plenty of activities to keep youngsters busy too, with children's games and even a

climbing wall set up for the more intrepid young festivalgoers.

Be sure not to miss a photo op with the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, which will have some of its trucks and equipment on display while also selling its festival-famous hot dogs.

Other vendors, includ-

See **Festival**, page 6

Annual ride raises funds for scholarships



Participants in the 18th annual Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Ride took to the road Saturday to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The 18th annual Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Ride got underway Saturday.

Ray Reynolds, organizer, said the 46 motorcyclists raised \$1,500

for the scholarship fund dedicated to Jennifer Short's memory.

Jennifer Short and her parents, Michael

See **Ride**, page 7



The TAD Space on East Church Street.



The TADCast recording studio.

TAD Space brings a fresh face to the modern workplace

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

"There's always opportunity... I always like to tell people, you close your mind, you close your world. Keep your mind and your eyes open at all times."

That's how Wayne Draper tries to look at the world, with eyes and mind wide open to possibility. And it was that outlook that led Draper to open the TAD Space, a new business center, co-working, and event facility in Uptown Martinsville. He and his team celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Friday, August 6.

The TAD Space gets its name from the phi-

losophy behind the space. "A TAD is all you need" is the business' tagline. "You only need a little to go a long way," said Tania Draper, Wayne's daughter and TAD's Assistant Manager of Business Development. The TAD Space certainly delivers on a little bit of everything.

Entering the building from Church Street, visitors walk into the ball room. "This is where many of the events take place, such as the grand opening, baby showers, weddings, birthday parties. You name it we do it," says Tania. The facility has tables and chairs available for events. "We also provide

a lighting package and a sound package for your event if you needed that option," she said.

The first floor also houses the office of photographer Sonia Ortiz, the TADCast recording studio where aspiring podcasters can come to record, and a recording studio run by music producer and engineer K.J. Harkness of VLNZ Recording. Across the hall is the Vision Vault, one of several conference rooms in the facility.

There are also several open lounge areas with tables, chairs, and couches as well as private office spaces available for people who want a more personal working

environment. Soon, the facility will also be able to offer printing services for people who come to work in the space.

See **TAD**, page 8



Registration for the 18th annual Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Ride was held at CrossPoint Church.

PHOTOS BY RAY REYNOLDS

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Event information/calendar items must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the desired publication date. Email to newsreporter@theenterprise.net or dhall@theenterprise.net)

Saturday, Aug. 21

The Bassett Cruise-In will take place from 3-7 p.m. in downtown Bassett. See hundreds of classic cars and enjoy great food and live entertainment. Cruise-ins will take place August 21, September 18, and October 16. Visit bassettcruisein.com for details.

The Smith River Fest kicks off at the Smith River Sports Complex at 10 a.m. Join in this free celebration of all things associated with the Smith River and the great outdoors.

Tuesday, Aug. 24

Southern Virginia Properties will host a Real Estate Career Open House on the third floor of the TAD Space (20 E. Church Street) in Martinsville. There will be two sessions, one from 12-2 p.m. and another from 5-7 p.m. Call (276) 299-2166 to reserve your spot.

P&HCC will hold a diversity, equity, and inclusion training debrief from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The cost of the class is \$49.

Deadline

from page 1

Holland said, and added that she contacted City Attorney Eric Monday and Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles to discuss the Initiative's request for a resolution and move the process forward.

The Initiative previously sent a similar resolution to Northham in conjunction with The Martinsville 7 Project, a group based in Fairfax, VA which, according to its website, seeks to "humanize the Martinsville 7 by sharing their stories," and to "serve as a clearinghouse of information about the Martinsville 7, their stories, historical background, case information, news reports, and advocacy to the Martinsville 7." The group also works to "highlight & promote the Martinsville 7 case ... & the call for pardons."

Holland and the Initiative partnered on the resolution with the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI), where she serves as a board member.

"There is no historical record of any white person ever being executed for the crime of rape in

the Commonwealth of Virginia," Monday said at the July meeting.

In their appeal, attorneys from the NAACP representing the men argued that the death penalty itself was discriminatory in its application.

"In the twentieth century, 296 of the 377 defendants executed by the state of Virginia were Black and all 45 men executed for rape were Black," the resolution states.

Monday added that "under any and all circumstances, there is no scenario under modern American jurisprudence that these men would have been executed." Before the vote, Council member Danny Turner requested an amendment to reflect that the men's guilt was not in question.

The resolution asks the governor to issue "a reprieve and commutation" of the death sentences of the seven men, Monday said, and added that "is different than a pardon. It does not reach the issue of guilt or innocence. What it simply says is that the punishment did not fit

the crime."

The resolution passed without any amendments.

"There needs to be more representation of that horrific event, because it did occur," she said. "It's kind of a stain on the City of Martinsville, because there's a big ol' black eye. And it did not only receive national notoriety, it received international notoriety with people that said, 'hey, what are you folks doing? Why would you execute these guys?'"

Despite the case garnering international attention as it unfolded, the story has largely been ignored locally in more recent years, according to Holland.

"I'm originally from Patrick County, but for years this thing had kind of baffled me," she said. "When I first heard of the Martinsville Seven, it's like, 'how does something like that exist and nobody's heard about it, nobody talks about it? How does that happen and there's no history?'"

Moving forward, Holland hopes to continue to build partnerships with institutions

Friday, Sept. 3

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society celebrates First Friday Open Mic at the Historic Courthouse (1 E. Main Street, Martinsville) from 6-9 p.m. Open mic is open to singers, musicians, dancers, stand-up comedians, or performers of any type who would like to share their talents with the community. A cash bar featuring beer and wine, with proceeds benefiting the Historical Society. Hugo's will be on-site selling food.

Saturday, Sept. 11

The Bassett Heritage Festival, in Bassett, gets underway at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast to benefit the Stanleytown Ruritans. Festival vendors will be set up by 10 a.m..

Sunday, Sept. 12

The Henry County Bike Club's Sunday Road Ride begins at the Ridgeway Library at 2:00 p.m. Bring your bicycle and join in! For more information call Tommy at (276) 618-0343

Tuesday, Sept. 14

P&HCC will hold an Equity vs. Equality discussion as part of its diversity, equity, and inclusion training from 9:30-

11:30 a.m. The cost of the class is \$85 if you register by August 21, \$99 for any registrations after that date.

ONGOING

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact Medicaid application assistance for eligible Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Including Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, Pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care -19 to 64 years old. Questions can be answered, and applications completed by phone. In-person application assistance is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays at The Community Storehouse.

Call or text Ann Walker 276 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

Two exhibits are on display at Piedmont Arts now through October 9. Artists Charlie Brouwer and Jennifer L. Hand collaborated on "Leaves of the Tree", a unique exhibition based on life-giving trees. "Narrative by Nature" features work from artists Leslie Pearson and Jennifer Reis.

The Martinsville Farmer's Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20, and Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through September 29. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleuptown.com.

PROTEST RALLY!

SEVEN MARTINSVILLE NEGROES
Railroaded!

By A Jimcrow Virginia Court That Never Brought A Single KKK Killer To Justice!

- ★ They were framed and sentenced to die on a trumped up charge of rape!
- ★ While our Colored Troops are dying in Korea, the U.S. Supreme Court refuses to act to save the lives of these 7 Negro men!

The Jimcrow courts have rendered a verdict of hate, but they reckon without the people who love justice and peace!

THE REAL VERDICT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN YET!

ONLY YOU CAN GIVE IT! COME TO THE GIANT CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST RALLY

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
4100 South Parkway
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th -- 8:00 P.M.

Hear:

- MRS. JOSEPHINE GRAYSON, Wife of one of the victims!
- MAHALIA JACKSON, Internationally Famous Jubilee Singer!
- CHURCH CHORAL GROUPS in Songs of Freedom!

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR THE LIVES OF THE MARTINSVILLE SEVEN TODAY!!!

- Write GOV. JOHN BATTLE, State Capital, Richmond, Virginia Demanding Full Pardon.
- Join the C.R.C. "FREEDOM CRUSADE" to Virginia January 28. (For details call HA. 7-6391)
- Give to the "MARTINSVILLE DEPENDENCE FUND."

Beat the Jimcrow Frameup! Write, Wire Today!

Issued by Civil Rights Congress of Illinois, 638 S. Dearborn, St., Room 546, Chicago, Ill.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF DESMOND KENDRICK.
Copy of a poster issued by the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois announcing a protest rally in support of the Martinsville Seven.

..., and he would get hot."

"There's a lot of trauma there," Kendrick said. His mentor, Richard Gravely, "knew Mrs. Floyd ... and he would get upset when he talked about it."

"Mrs. Floyd, according to her nephew, she always had mental issues until she died after that," Kendrick said. "I know it's still a hard thing for (the families)" on both sides.

He worries that constant reminders of the case will only serve to divide the community.

"It's a part of our history that you've got to

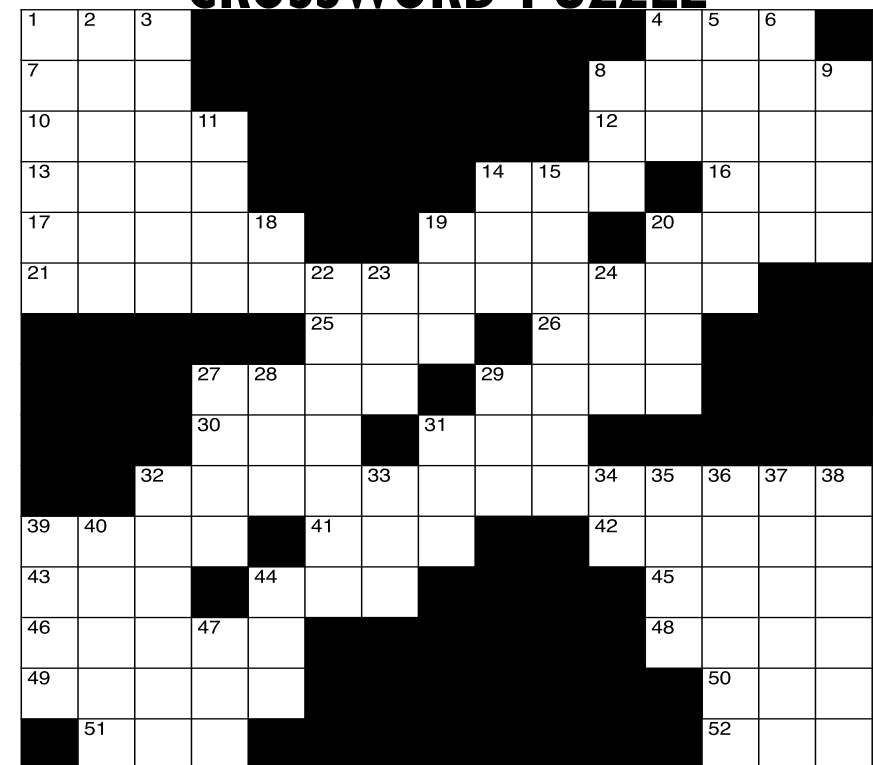
keep," said Kendrick. "You can't forget about it, but you got your limits on things too."

Holland thinks the right path, though, is to discuss the case and have it represented. Her organization plans to create an oral history project to include family members and people in the community.

"It's to get folks to talk about it and maybe heal a little bit from the pain of it," she said.

To contact the initiative, call (276) 226-4318. For more information on the Martinsville Seven, visit www.martinsville7.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Midway between east and southeast</p> <p>4. Sun up in New York</p> <p>7. Japanese honorific</p> <p>8. Czech name for Prague</p> <p>10. Ochocinco's first name</p> <p>12. Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)</p> <p>13. Scots word for "home"</p> <p>14. Upper class young woman (abbr.)</p> <p>16. Monetary unit of Albania</p> <p>17. Raise</p> <p>19. Drain of resources</p> <p>20. Uncultured, clumsy persons</p> <p>21. Hikers use them</p> <p>25. Retrospective analysis (military)</p> <p>26. Tibetan form of chanting</p> <p>27. Influential European statesman</p> | <p>29. Soluble ribonucleic acid</p> <p>30. Monetary unit of Romania</p> <p>31. Round green vegetable</p> <p>32. Well acquainted with</p> <p>39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid</p> <p>41. Basics</p> <p>42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton</p> <p>43. Snake-like fish</p> <p>44. Tall deciduous tree</p> <p>45. Russian river</p> <p>46. Long Balkans river</p> <p>48. Ancient Greek coin</p> <p>49. Senegal's capital</p> <p>50. Unwell</p> <p>51. Snout</p> <p>52. Low bank or reef of coral</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Abstain from</p> <p>2. Vast desert in North Africa</p> <p>3. Cover the crown of a tooth</p> <p>4. A major division of geological time</p> <p>5. Urban center</p> <p>6. Crook</p> <p>8. Parts per billion (abbr.)</p> <p>9. Questions</p> <p>11. A pack of 52 playing cards</p> <p>14. Recording of sound</p> <p>15. Pithy saying</p> <p>18. Atomic #22</p> <p>19. Soviet Socialist Republic</p> <p>20. Plant with ridged seedpods</p> | <p>22. Innate</p> <p>23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)</p> <p>24. Soda receptacle</p> <p>27. Spanish stew: ___ podrida</p> <p>28. Viet Cong offensive</p> <p>29. Large body of water</p> <p>31. Beginning military rank</p> <p>32. Dissimilar</p> <p>33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.)</p> <p>34. Shows who you are</p> <p>35. Chinese dynasty</p> <p>36. Type of verse</p> <p>37. African nation</p> <p>38. Former Bucks star Michael</p> <p>40. Showed again</p> <p>44. Body part</p> <p>47. Steal</p> |
|--|--|--|--|



Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals today agreed to review the cases of seven Martinsville men sentenced to death for rape. The seven are, left to right, Booker T. Miller, Frank J. Jr., Howard Lee Hairston, Joe Henry Hampton, John Clabon Taylor, Francis DeSales C... and James Luther Hairston.

Martinsville Seven, 1949

NEA SERVICE

City school reports positive COVID-19 case on first day of school

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville City Schools' COVID-19 mitigation factors were put to the test early in the school year. City students returned to the classrooms on Monday, August 9.

By Tuesday, August 10, Cameron Cooper, Principal of Patrick Henry Elementary School, sent a letter to parents informing them "that a student or staff member has been diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This person was on the school premises on Monday, August 9, and did have direct exposure to other members of our school community."

The letter stated that the school would continue to remain open, and that staff is "working closely with the Henry-Martinsville Health Department to identify anyone who had close contact with the person." The letter defines close contact as "being within about 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period."

If a student or family member is identified

has having been exposed to COVID-19 through the infected individual, "the Henry-Martinsville Health Department might call you," the letter stated.

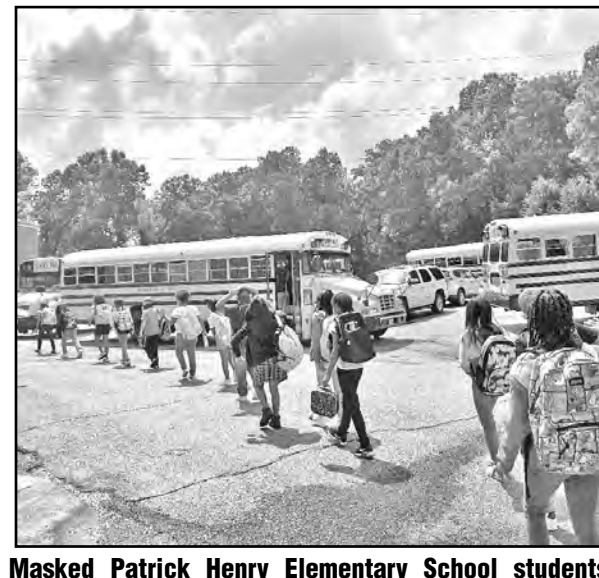
In "indoor K-12 settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing masks and the school has other prevention strategies in place. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in indoor K-12 settings," the letter added.

It also encouraged anyone who has not been fully vaccinated, and who may have had close contact with the COVID-positive person, to get tested and self-monitor for symptoms of the virus including cough, shortness of breath, and fever.

The "Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommends that people with close contact exposure who are not fully vaccinated stay home (quarantine) for 14 days after their last exposure," the letter stated. Those who have tested positive and recovered from COVID-19 in the past three months do not have to quarantine if they do



A sign reads "Superheroes wear masks, you can too! #besafe" outside of Patrick Henry Elementary School.



Masked Patrick Henry Elementary School students load buses to go home at the beginning of their second week of school.

not show new symptoms, it added.

The school cleaned and disinfected affected areas, in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Henry-Martinsville Health Department.

"You can help these efforts by promoting the following healthy behaviors and practices," the letter said. "Stay at home from school or work if sick, even if symptoms are mild. Avoid close contact

with people who are sick. Get the COVID-19 vaccine if you are eligible. Children aged 12 years or older can get vaccinated."

Parker Gunn, Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator for the city school division, said in an emailed statement "at the beginning of school, we followed our health plan based on CDC guidance and approved by our school board. We are continuing to work with our local health

department to provide our students and staff with a safe environment."

The Martinsville City Schools' health plan includes guidelines for students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

"Students/staff who are symptomatic will be isolated as soon as possible, away from the office, staff, and other students," the plan states. "Symptomatic persons will don a face mask and sit in a room separate from all other students/

staff."

The guidelines also state that any room that houses someone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should be well-ventilated and disinfected once the symptomatic individual has left the area.

Gunn did not comment on how many people the infected individual might have had close contact with or if there have been more positive cases reported within the Martinsville City school system.

Average SNAP benefits to increase as food plan is modernized

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan used to calculate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

As a result, the average SNAP benefit – excluding additional funds provided as part of pandemic relief – will increase by \$36.24 per person, per month, or \$1.19 per day, beginning on October 1.

As directed by Congress in the 2018 Farm Bill – and with the expressed support of President Biden's January 22 Executive Order – USDA conducted a data-driven review of the Thrifty Food Plan. The resulting cost adjustment is the first time the purchasing power of the plan has changed since it was first introduced in 1975, reflecting notable shifts in the food marketplace and

consumers' circumstances over the past 45 years.

In its re-evaluation, USDA was driven by the latest available data on the four key factors identified in the 2018 Farm Bill: current food prices, what Americans typically eat, dietary guidance, and the nutrients in food items. For example, the revised plan includes more fish and red and orange vegetables to align with recommendations in the Dietary

Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. Additionally, the plan was calculated using updated purchasing data – collected from stores versus self-reported by households – to reflect the current price of foods in today's marketplace. The revised Thrifty Food Plan also includes a modest increase in calories to support an active lifestyle.

The 2021 Thrifty Food Plan puts healthy food in

reach for SNAP families. Recent evidence consistently shows that benefit levels are too low to provide for a realistic, healthy diet, even with households contributing their own funds toward groceries. A USDA study published earlier this summer found that nearly nine out of 10 SNAP participants reported facing barriers to achieving a healthy diet, with the most common barrier being the cost of

healthy foods. These findings were echoed in listening sessions USDA held with a broad range of Thrifty Food Plan stakeholders.

The reevaluation concluded that the cost of a nutritious, practical, cost-effective diet is 21 percent higher than the current Thrifty Food Plan.

For questions about your SNAP benefits, contact your SNAP state agency.

New data shows population losses in Patrick, Henry and Martinsville

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Patrick County, Henry County, and the City of Martinsville all saw a population loss over the last decade, according to detailed population and demographic data from the 2020 census released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), a nonprofit, nonpartisan public access group, released an online Census Lookup tool which allows viewers to "see how population and demographic data have changed over time in

your area," according to an email announcing the database.

Patrick County's population declined 4.8 percent or 882 people since 2010. Of the people counted in the 2020 census, 89.3 percent were white, 4.8 percent were Black, and just over 5 percent identified as multi-racial, Asian, or other. 3.2 percent of the population counted were Hispanic or Latino, an increase from 2.4 percent in 2010.

According to VPAP's website, "The US Census Bureau tracks Hispanic/Latino ethnicity separately from race. People who iden-

tify as Hispanic/Latino can be of any race."

Henry County also saw a population loss, with a 5.9 percent (3,203 people) decrease since 2010. Of the people counted in the 2020 census, 68.8 percent were white, 21.9 percent were Black, and just over 9 percent identified as Asian, multiracial, or other. 6.5 percent of the population identified as Hispanic or Latino, up from 4.7 percent in the 2010 census.

Martinsville's population saw a 2.4 percent decrease since 2010, or 336 individuals. 43.9 percent

of the population is listed as white, 45.2 percent as Black, 5.7 percent as Multiracial, and 4.4 percent fell under "Other." 7.6 percent of people counted identified as Hispanic or Latino, an increase from the 2010 census' 4 percent.

All three localities have faced a population decline over the last two decades. Patrick County's population at the 2000 census was 19,407 and by 2020 had fallen to 17,608. In Henry County the population in 2000 was 57,930 and now sits at 50,948. Martinsville's population has been in steady decline since 1980, when

the population was 18,149. By 2000, it had fallen to 15,416 and, according to 2020 data, is 13,485.

Overall, Virginia saw a 7.9% population increase since the 2010 census, which translates to 630,369 more people. According to VPAP's website, "While the state grew as a whole, 62 of Virginia's 133 localities lost residents in the past 10 years, primarily in the Southwest and Southside regions."

VPAP's Census Lookup tool can be accessed at vpap.org. More information on the U.S. census can be found at census.gov.

Federal unemployment benefits to end Sept. 4

The Virginia Employment Commission began notifying customers that all COVID-19 related federal unemployment programs, as originally authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, and extended through the Continued Assistance Act (CAA) of 2021 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, will end on Sept. 4, 2021.

Since the beginning of these programs, the VEC has issued over \$14 billion in benefits, providing an unprecedented amount of economic support to Virginians during the pandemic.

The following federal unemployment programs are affected:

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which provides an additional \$300 weekly payment for any claimant who is eligible for at least \$1 of an underlying unemployment compensation program.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides benefits for claimants who are unem-

ployed as a direct result of COVID-19 and not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or PEUC, including those who are self-employed or are gig workers.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides an extension of benefits after a claimant has exhausted regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Mixed Earner

Unemployment Compensation (MEUC), which provides an additional \$100 weekly payment to certain claimants who have at least \$5,000 in self-employment income in the most recent taxable year, prior to their application for regular unemployment compensation.

The VEC will process and pay benefits to eligible claimants for all weeks of unemployment

ending on or before the date of termination in accordance with guidance from the United States Department of Labor. If a claimant is entitled to benefits and the claim is found to be valid after that date through a subsequent determination or appeal, the claimant will be paid those funds, even after the federal programs have ended.

With rising wages

and an all-time high number of job openings, VEC and its partners at the Virginia Career Works Centers are working to support workers as they seek

to restart their careers. For more information on job openings and other services offered to support job seekers, please visit www.vec.virginia.gov.

Labor Day Weekend

DOMINION VALLEY PARK, STUART, VIRGINIA

Friday, September 3
5:30 pm

Mark Bishop
The Churchmen
The Sound

Saturday, September 4
5:30 pm

Cain
The Singing Cookes
The Harvesters Quartet

Sunday Morning Worship
Music by The Singing Cookes
Message by Brother Ricky Rogers

Visit: dominionvalleyllc.com • patrickcounty.org

Admission:
Friday \$25.00 each
Saturday \$25.00 each
2-Day Pass \$40.00 each
8 and under are free

Camping Available
\$20.00 per night
Sites have electricity and water.

Concessions Available



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

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.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OPINION

Never get off the boat

Back in high school, I wrote a paper about Vietnam War movies for one of my history classes.

As best I recall, the paper concerned how movies about the Vietnam War approached the war — whether they were for it or against it — while factoring in when those movies were made. I can't remember if it was a good paper, but the research certainly wasn't too burdensome. I watched the stone-cold classics like *Apocalypse Now*, *The Deer Hunter*, and *Full Metal Jacket*, along with such solid entries as *Platoon* and *Hamburger Hill*.

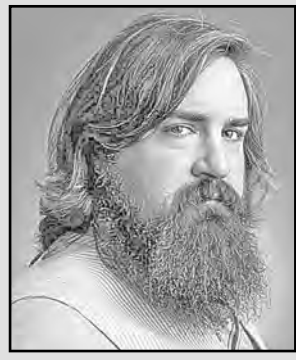
Of course, I also watched *The Green Berets*, the 1968 John Wayne film that was a financial success and a critical embarrassment and remains the only pro-Vietnam War film I'm aware of. My favorite scene is when John Wayne, inexplicably playing an active-duty Green Beret at the age of 61, places a beret on the head of a young South Vietnamese boy named Ham Chuck, informs him

that “you're what this thing's all about,” and then they both walk along the beach as the sun sets in the east. It's not a great war movie, but it's a remarkable comedy.

As part of the paper, my professor asked me to interview some actual Vietnam veterans. Fortunately, I had two relatives who had served and they were more than happy to sit down with me and talk about their experiences.

Those experiences, as you might imagine, were not pleasant. It's hard to remember now, but I think at least one of them had been drafted. They talked about the loss of life, the heat and humidity and yellow mud, the Agent Orange, the constant fear of being shot to death by an unseen enemy like so many others before them. It was a brutal, traumatic experience.

Near the end of our conversation, I asked them a question that I'm now wise enough to never ask a veteran who served after World War II.



By Ben R. Williams

“Do you think the war was worth it?”

They both grew very quiet and looked down at their cups of coffee.

“I hope so,” one said.

Those three words, delivered unconvincingly, made me understand the horror of the Vietnam War in a way all the movies never could. The horror was not merely the death and trauma and bombings and gunfire. The horror was also watching U.S. government employees pile into a Huey helicopter as Saigon fell in 1975 and

realizing that all of the sacrifice meant nothing.

It's been said that history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes. After watching U.S. government employees pile into a helicopter on the roof of the embassy in Kabul this week, that rhyme feels pretty lazy. The War in Afghanistan was not merely a retreat of the Vietnam War, it was a retreat of Ken Burns' Vietnam War documentary: incredibly long, incredibly depressing, and almost everyone knew how it was going to end before it even started. I remember my friend Jordan, one of the smartest people I've ever known, telling me that Afghanistan was going to be Vietnam 2. That was back in late 2001 when we were both in 11th grade.

Plenty of people are blaming Joe Biden for pulling out the troops and allowing Afghanistan to fall to the Taliban. Others are blaming Donald Trump for his Feb. 2020 peace treaty with the Taliban to withdraw all U.S. troops in 14 months. But frankly, the fall of Afghanistan was inevitable since we first dropped troops there 20 years ago. If we had

left ten years ago or if we had left ten years from now, this was always going to be the end result. We should have learned from the Soviets when they invaded and occupied Afghanistan for almost the entirety of the 1980s; you can't fight another country's battles for them.

I feel terrible for the Afghani people, the vast majority of whom are just innocent folks who want to live their lives free of terror. I feel especially terrible for the Afghani women who will inevitably suffer the most under Taliban rule.

And I also feel terrible for the U.S. troops who served there and the families of those who didn't make it back. War is a terrible business under the best of circumstances, but when the dust has settled, the survivors can usually point to something and say, “You see that? The war made that good thing possible.”

I'm not sure if the dust will ever truly settle in Afghanistan. In the meantime, we'll all be left somberly staring into our cups of coffee, struggling to say that we like to think it was all worth it.

Neurodegenerative Diseases

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

My last column addressed legislation I have supported to better overall health care. This week, I want to focus on neurodegenerative diseases. The most notable of these diseases are Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Huntington's, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's.

On July 29, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “The Path Forward: Advancing Treatments and Cures for Neurodegenerative Diseases.”

During this hearing, my colleagues and I questioned a panel of agency administrators from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). We had a second panel, which consisted of physicians and patient advocates. The two panels dis-

cussed the complexities of these diseases and the government's role in providing resources and developing treatments.

My lines of questioning to the panels focused on ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and Huntington's disease. Though these diseases are relatively rare, they affect several people I know or knew personally. Consequently, I have a special interest in furthering and perfecting research in these areas.

Neurodegenerative diseases cause nerve cells to break down over time. ALS primarily impacts physical function through deterioration of the muscles, leaving the mind intact. Huntington's disease, on the other hand, affects physical and mental abilities by attacking the brain as well as the body. Both eventually lead to the loss of movement and speaking capacity, meaning patients require round-

the-clock care.

Even after decades of investigation, no cure has been found for either ALS or Huntington's disease, and there are very few treatment options. While unique challenges accompany the study of diseases that occur infrequently, I believe the government can do more to advance this research.

A swimming friend of mine has been battling ALS for several years. Desiring to support efforts to learn about the disease, he enrolled in a NIH study. It was a study requiring only 25 participants. And yet, recruiting a mere 25 people took nearly a year. This is unacceptable, particularly given that the average life expectancy for folks with ALS is 3-5 years. I pushed Dr. Walter Koroshetz, director at the NIH, to increase recruitment process efficiency.

Further, because medical studies rely on participants from a wide

variety of backgrounds, I emphasized the need to recruit patients from all geographic areas. Patients from certain ethnic groups and those who reside in rural areas are traditionally underrepresented in research studies. But telehealth technology is allowing that to change. I was encouraged to learn NIH is beginning to use this tool.

To offer my support for expanding research for ALS, I have co-sponsored HR 3537, the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act. This bill would award grants to help facilitate patients' access to investigational medications and fund further research and development of drugs used to treat ALS.

ALS is supposed to be a rare disease, but I have known a number of people who have had this malady. Among those who lost their battle were Mike Aheron, Julie Mullins, and my friend, former Delegate Ray Robrecht. These numbers seem high

based on national averages, so I wanted to know if there is any evidence of geographic outbreaks. Or if environmental exposure could be a component of diagnosis.

Dr. Jinsy Andrews, of Columbia University, responded that exposure to environmental issues might be a contributing factor, but there is not yet enough research to prove a direct correlation.

While the cause of ALS is unknown, experts have proved that Huntington's disease is genetically transmitted.

Another friend of mine from Salem died from Huntington's disease. I asked Kala Booth, a Huntington's disease caregiver and patient, about the medications currently being prescribed to treat Huntington's. She replied, “There is nothing to treat it right now, but they (current drugs) are to slow the progression of it.”

She also shared that the lack of treatment and deterioration of their brains often leads to feelings of

hopelessness, putting many at risk of suicide. I commend Miss Booth's courage and resilience and the courage of all battling this disease.

In response to her testimony, I was happy to sign on to HR 2050, the Huntington's Disease Disability Insurance Access Act. This bill would accelerate payment of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and Medicare eligibility for those with Huntington's.

Current treatment practices do little to actually cure these diseases and provide minimal physical changes for the patients. As someone who has witnessed the devastating impacts of some of these neurodegenerative diseases, I will continue to support legislation promoting research for treatments and cures.

For questions, concerns, or comments, contact my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at www.morgan-griffith.house.gov.

Your Health Means Everything: Protect It with Immunizations

If a researcher were to sit down at the end of 2021 and tabulate and record the number of times individual key words were mentioned over the course of the year, “vaccine” would surely be near the top. The advent of COVID-19 vaccines and the key role they have played in slowing the spread of the virus and helping us get closer to pandemic's end has not only been at the forefront of global discourse but has also served as a reminder of how effective vaccination — or immunization, as it is also known — can be in protecting us from a number of illnesses both mild and severe.

Of all the things we have learned throughout this historic time, the one fact that perhaps can have the farthest-reaching impact for each of us individually and collectively is that our health means everything. It has always been true but perhaps never truer than now. We have been reminded of how fragile our health can be and how essential it is to do all that we can to protect it so that we can enjoy the things we love and take advantage of all that life has to offer.

One of the safest and most effective ways we can protect not only our health but the health of others is by getting vaccinated against preventable diseases. Immunizations are recommended for all ages, from birth through senior adulthood. Following recommended vaccination schedules can help ensure that you and your family stay healthy and protected from preventable serious disease. And it helps make your community healthier too, by reducing the spread of infectious illness.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and a time when many of us are gearing up for another school year — perhaps in person for the first time since spring of 2020. So, it's a perfect time to check your child's immunization record, make sure they're up to date on recommended vaccines and make an appointment with their pediatrician to make up for any that are missed. And while you're checking on theirs, don't forget to double check yours, too. Adults can benefit from

vaccines as well, including some that can help prevent illnesses like shingles, hepatitis A and B, and certain cancers that can result from disease infection. Below is a quick, at-a-glance breakdown of recommended vaccinations for different ages.

Birth, 1-2 month and 6-18 months (3 doses)
Hepatitis B
2, 4 and 6 months (3 doses)
RV (Rotavirus)
6 months and up
Influenza (yearly)
2, 4, 6-18 months and 4-6 years (4 doses)
IPV (Polio)
2, 4, 6 and 12-15 months (4 doses)
Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)
PVC13 (Pneumococcus)
12-15 months and 4-6 years (2 doses)
MMR (Measles, mumps and rubella)
Varicella (Chickenpox)
12-23 months (2 doses)
Hepatitis A
2, 4, 6, 15-18 months and 4-6 years (5 doses)
DTAP (Tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough)
11-12 years
HPV (Human papillomavirus) (2 doses)
Tdap (DTaP booster)
MenACWY (Meningococcal disease)
16-18 years
MenACWY (booster)
15 years and up (a good rule of thumb is to get a booster on the “5”s — 15, 25, 35, etc.)
Tdap or td (Booster every 10 years)
50 years and up
Zoster recombinant (Shingles)
65 years and up
PPSV23 (Pneumococcus)

Recommended vaccinations for children and adults alike may alter depending on factors like health conditions, lifestyle and other characteristics, so it's important to maintain a good dialogue with your primary care provider and pediatrician on which immunizations you and your family should receive and

when. And if you're an adult who may have missed some of the recommendations above, you may be able to get catch-up immunizations. Check with your provider about what's right for you.

If you have not yet received your COVID-19 vaccine, please consider doing so. Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (2 dose regimen) and the J&J COVID-19 vaccine (1 dose) are authorized for ages 18 and up, and the Pfizer vaccine (2 dose regimen) is authorized for ages 12 and up. If you are female and between the ages of 18-50, the J&J vaccine is accompanied by a rare but increased risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). Talk with your provider about the right COVID-19 vaccine for you.

Our health means everything, and immunizations can have tremendous benefits when it comes to protecting your health and that of your family and community. Make sure you're up to date on yours today. For more information on immunizations recommendations by age, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

If you would like to speak with a provider about your or your child's immunizations, call 844.GO.SOVAH or visit the Find a Doctor tab at SovahHealth.com to make an appointment and get connected with the care you need.

By Stacey Humphreys,
CPNP, Pediatrics



Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area
HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
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www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Hospital system limits visiting hours due to community spread

Sovah Health is limiting patient visitation to only afternoon/evening hours. Visitation hours will now be from 1 to 6 p.m. These limited hours, which will decrease COVID-19 exposure for our staff and patients, have been implemented effectively immediately on both campuses — Danville and Martinsville.

Visitors are still not allowed for high-risk patients. These patients include those being cared for in our behavioral health unit, patients who are in isolation, immunocompromised, or are under observation or test positive for COVID-19. Some exceptions may apply for those receiving end-of-life care or are deemed clinically necessary.

“Our hospital’s top priority is safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our patients, providers, employees and community,” said Alan Larson, Market President, Sovah

Health and CEO, Sovah Health — Danville. “We know how important loved ones are in the healing process for our patients. Therefore, we will continue to proceed with caution by providing limited visitation due to the rise in community spread.”

Patients are still limited to one well visitor during visitation hours per day. There are no changes to visitation for the emergency department, pediatrics, labor and delivery patients, or surgery. Visitation hours will be 7 days a week from 1 to 6 p.m. Only one visitor will be allowed during those hours each day. Visitors will not be allowed to switch out during that time block. All visitors must be 18 or older, will be screened upon entry and are required to provide their own mask and wear a visitor security pass sticker while in the facility. Visitors who do not pass the screening at entry

will be asked to reschedule their visit until they are symptom-free.

As of August 17, Sovah’s Danville campus was diverting all but local emergency vehicles and the Martinsville campus was on temporary diversion for part of August 16. Larson said the diversions are not necessarily related to COVID-related capacity issues.

“I can confirm we are seeing a rise in COVID-19 positive patients at both (Martinsville and Danville) facilities,” Larson said in a separate statement. “Community members experiencing a medical emergency should still call 9-1-1 or go to their nearest emergency room.”

The Virginia Department of Health currently lists both Martinsville and Henry County as having high rates of community spread. Between August 8 and 14, the 7-day case total

for Martinsville was 114, a 27.3 percent COVID-positivity rate. This is a sharp rise from 14.3 percent positivity between August 1 and 7.

Henry County also saw a sharp increase in cases. The most recent 7-day case total for Henry County, measured between August 8 and 14, was 11.4 percent or 139.1 new cases. Between August 1 and 7, Henry County’s positive test rate was 7.8 percent or 66.4 new cases.

According to data from the VDH, to-date Martinsville has seen a total of 1,680 cases of COVID-19. Of those, 172 were hospitalized and 79 died from the virus. In Henry County, 4,925 positive cases have been reported along with 392 hospitalizations and 124 deaths.

As of August 17, there were only seven localities in Virginia that did not have substantial or high



Sovah Health, Martinsville

rates of community spread - Richmond County, Fairfax City, Bath, Covington, Manassas Park, and Manassas City.

Data related to the spread of Coronavirus in Virginia can be found at [vdh.virginia.gov](https://www.sovahhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19-preparedness-information).

For additional updates on how the hospital is

working to maintain a safe and supportive environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [SovahHealth.com](https://www.sovahhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19-preparedness-information). To view the system’s full visitation guidelines, visit <https://www.sovahhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19-preparedness-information>.

Uptown from page 1



A Vision Uptown door hanger with survey questions on the back.



Natalie Hodge, president of Uptown Partnership’s Board of Directors, welcomed the crowd to the kickoff.



Consultant Chuck D’Aprix described the visioning process at the kickoff event for Martinsville Uptown Partnership’s Community Visioning project. Council member Tammy Pearson and consultant Cheryl Groce-Wright were among those in the audience.



Survey drop-off boxes like this one located at the corner of Bridge and Church streets are in several locations to help make participation easy.

community revitalization, D’Aprix manages two consulting firms, Downtown Economics and Community Engagement and Charrette Associates (CE&CA). According to the CE&CA website, D’Aprix has consulted in more than 300 communities across the country and has served on the design assistance teams for the American Institute of Architects and as a leader for Main Street Resource teams.

Veronica Fleming and Cheryl Groce-Wright, D’Aprix’s partners at CE&CA, also attended the kickoff. Both have long histories with community engagement and development.

According to the CE&CA website, Fleming was the Senior Program Officer at Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), where she led the Building Sustainable Communities Initiative. More recently, she worked with Richmond, VA’s Storefront for Community Design where she “employed an array of engagement tools, securing community and stakeholder input to determine the highest and best use for an abandoned bank building.”

Groce-Wright is the founder and CEO of Kaleidoscope Collaborative RVA in Richmond, a consulting firm “serving as a proactive and effective champion for racial equity, empowered communities and inspired citizens.”

“We as a team are committed to hearing your voices and really making your voice a part of what the visioning plan will look like,” said Groce-Wright at the kickoff event. “Citizen-driven is the key to how we’re going about this.”

“Our feeling is that the west side and the African American community was not as engaged as

it should have been” in previous studies, said D’Aprix in an interview with Henry County Enterprise. “We feel as though we have an obligation to the community to reach deep into neighborhoods that have previously been left out of the process.”

As part of that effort to reach deep into the community, volunteers gathered on August 14 to begin the process of distributing door hangers with survey questions about Uptown printed on them. The eventual goal is to put a hanger on the door of every residence in Martinsville.

These surveys can be filled out and left at one of several drop boxes placed at the corners of Fayette and Massey streets, Fayette and High streets, and Bridge and Church streets. The survey also can be completed online at [VisionUptown.com](https://www.visionuptown.com). A confidential phone line with a voicemail box is also available for citizens to leave their thoughts and suggestions. It can be accessed by calling (276) 212-1828.

Already, the volume of survey responses has been “far better than we expected,” said D’Aprix. “The energy around this is unlike anything I’ve seen... There is a serious energy around people wanting to say, ‘this is

what we need.”

“Toward the end of September, we’ll be having large community meetings to really tell you what we’re learning,” Groce-Wright said. At these meetings, the team will “begin to outline what kinds of changes might be possible” with the aid of visuals such as maps. They will then invite further community input.

The consulting team wants to emphasize that this visioning process will not result in, as D’Aprix put it, “just another study.”

“I think that people feel Uptown has been studied to death,” said D’Aprix. A video screened at the kickoff event showed that at least six studies have been done on Uptown between 1993 and 2015, but little to no action has been taken based on those studies.

“We’re here to do a study, but most importantly, an implementation plan and a vision. We’re not report writers,” D’Aprix said. “We’re vision-capturers, and that vision comes from the community.”

D’Aprix and his team expect to issue a final report around November “but it’ll be in the form of a video using local folks explaining what we found because the energy

comes from you all, not a consultant. So, I’m here to capture that energy and put together a pretty good vision for the future.”

In addition to helping create a vision for Uptown, the team also intends to identify some funding sources to help Martinsville move toward achieving that vision.

D’Aprix sees a lot of opportunity in Martinsville.

“The architecture and the sense of history are really marketable assets,” he said.

The support of the Harvest Foundation, which funded operations of the Uptown Partnership for two years along with the community visioning project, and having Jeff Sadler, the former statewide coordinator for the Virginia Main Street Program, on board as the city’s Housing and Revitalization Coordinator (a position also funded with support from Harvest), are helping keep the energy around revitalization alive.

“Having Jeff in town, that is something I think every community under 20,000 would love to have,” D’Aprix said.

There are, of course, challenges. Two-way streets through the

Uptown “should be on the table and getting the community to recognize that there are so many available places for a business” are two issues D’Aprix sees. “Some building upkeep is something that can be addressed.”

Even with those challenges, D’Aprix is hopeful for Martinsville, in large part because of the team that has come together to support Uptown Partnership and the consultants.

“I am amazed at how quickly this new nonprofit (Uptown Partnership) has coalesced and created a sense of energy around Uptown. That’s almost unheard of.” He said the Partnership is “a nonprofit that is about to change the face of Uptown.”

He emphasized that the community visioning project isn’t just one more study.

“This is a vision and implementation plan,” he said. A plan that, perhaps, could even serve as a model for what other communities can repli-

cate. “We’re at the precipice of great things.”

He related a story, “I was standing outside the Walmart for two days this week doing interviews with people. There was a woman in her late 80s and I asked about Uptown, and she looked me square in the eye and she said, ‘It can be done. It’s ready. All the pieces are there.’ I took great faith in that, and I expect going forward, you’re gonna see a lot more changes. The energy is here. The people are here. We just need to hear from you.”

Kathy Deacon, director of Uptown Partnership, summed up the goal during her welcome at the visioning kickoff.

“Show up. Share your voice. Share your vision for what this community needs,” she said. “Because the vision for the community does not come from Up, does not come from the city, it doesn’t come from any of the other organizations. The vision for this community is yours.”



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218 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, VA

Virginia DMV to offer drop-off service for vehicle titling

Customers who have purchased a vehicle from another individual or a business that is not a motor vehicle dealer/dealership and need to apply for a Virginia title may soon opt to drop off applications at any Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service center (CSC) for processing.

This new service started August 16, and further enhances the agency's expanding and diverse service portfolio. It will result in more appointment opportunities available for people who need in-person service.

Virginia titles for vehicles purchased from most dealerships are processed by the dealer. Titles for vehicles purchased from individuals or businesses that are not dealerships (known as a casual sales) are processed by DMV in three ways: by mail, by appointment at a full-service DMV CSC or DMV Select location, and now by drop-off service at DMV's 75 full-service CSCs.

Customers can bring completed applications and supporting documents to an office, without an appointment. Staff will review to ensure the appli-

cation package is complete for processing and provide the customer an acknowledgment of receipt. DMV will conduct the transaction within five business days. Customers can opt to either pick up the credential at the same location or have it mailed to them. Customers who want same day service must schedule an appointment.

"As we continue to migrate services online and reinvent the traditional ways of conducting DMV business, we are creating more efficient service options for Virginians," said DMV Commissioner Richard

D. Holcomb. "The ability to drop off titling applications and payment will provide a convenient way for more Virginians to access critical DMV services."

To prepare for this new option, customers should first fill out the required form and gather the necessary information to bring with them. Before arriving to drop off the required paperwork, customers should make and retain copies.

Payment is required at the time of submission, by check or money order. Fee information is available at <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/dmv201.pdf>.

Typically, a titling fee and the motor vehicle sales and use tax are due at the time of titling the vehicle. If registering a vehicle at the same time, the registration fee should also be included. Any additional fees owed will be billed.

If customers have previously scheduled an appointment for this transaction, DMV urges them to cancel that appointment by accessing the confirmation email.

For more information visit www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#titling.asp.

NASCAR and National Science Teaching Association launch new Science and STEM curriculum for teachers nationwide

NASCAR and the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) announced the launch of a new science and STEM learning curriculum for K-8 science teachers across the United States. The racing-themed science lessons will be available free of charge to educators nationwide on NSTA.org.

The collaboration between NASCAR and NSTA, the global leader in promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, is designed to arm educators with fun and engag-

ing content and activities for teaching science and STEM. NASCAR and NSTA worked together to create a series of unique science lesson plans including lessons on aerodynamics, friction and motion, light, sound, and more.

"We are thrilled to partner with NSTA, a passionate community of science educators and professionals devoted to teaching and offering science resources to kids across the country," said Pete Jung, Chief Marketing Officer, NASCAR. "This collaboration provides NASCAR

an incredible opportunity to make an impact in science education while introducing new generations to the sport."

Teachers will be able to access 18 racing-themed lesson plans and a STEM at the Track resource guide featuring an additional three activities through a landing page available on NSTA's website. Educators will also learn about the newly available NASCAR curriculum through an ad that will run in Science Scope, NSTA's award-winning, peer-reviewed practitioner journal

for middle level and junior high school science teachers.

For the second consecutive year, NASCAR will support the annual National Conference on Science Education, taking place in Chicago in 2022.

"It's very important to get students excited about the everyday science around them and the partnership between NSTA and NASCAR will provide educators with tools they can use to link important science concepts, such as force and motion and energy, to key elements

of a sport so many students enjoy," said Erika Shugart, NSTA Executive Director. "We are very excited about this collaboration and urge all teachers to check out the free quality lessons and activities we have ready for them as they go back to school this fall."

Through its relationship with NSTA, NASCAR will work to bring elementary and middle school students to race events via free and discounted tickets and special family events hosted at NASCAR racetracks.

Rural care facilities to get funding boost

The Biden-Harris Administration announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making up to \$500 million available in grants to help rural health care facilities, tribes and communities expand access to COVID-19 vaccines, health care services and nutrition assistance.

President Biden's comprehensive plan to recover the economy and deliver relief to the American people is changing the course of the pandemic and providing immediate relief to millions of households, growing the economy and addressing the stark, intergenerational inequities that have worsened in the wake of COVID-19.

"Under the leadership of

President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA is playing a critical role to help rural America build back better and equitably as the nation continues to respond to the pandemic," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "Through the Emergency Rural Health Care Grants, USDA will help rural hospitals and local communities increase access to COVID-19 vaccines and testing, medical supplies, telehealth, and food assistance, and support the construction or renovation of rural health care facilities. These investments will also help improve the long-term viability of rural health care providers across the nation."

Applicants now may apply for two types of assistance: Recovery

Grants and Impact Grants.

The Biden-Harris Administration is making Recovery Grants available to help public bodies, nonprofit organizations and tribes provide immediate COVID-19 relief to support rural hospitals, health care clinics and local communities.

These funds may be used to increase COVID-19 vaccine distribution and telehealth capabilities; purchase medical supplies; replace revenue lost during the pandemic; build and rehabilitate temporary or permanent structures for health care services; support staffing needs for vaccine administration and testing; and support facility and operations expenses associated with food banks and food distribution facilities.

Recovery Grant applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are expended.

The Administration also is making Impact Grants available to help regional partnerships, public bodies, nonprofits and tribes solve regional rural health care problems and build a stronger, more sustainable rural health care system in response to the pandemic.

USDA encourages applicants to plan and implement strategies to:

- *develop health care systems that offer a blend of behavioral care, primary care and other medical services;
- *support health care as an anchor institution in small communities; and
- expand telehealth, electronic health data sharing, workforce development, transportation, para-

medicine, obstetrics, behavioral health, farmworker health care and cooperative home care.

Impact Grant applications must be submitted to your local USDA Rural Development State Office by 4 p.m. local time on Oct. 12, 2021.

USDA encourages potential applicants to review the application guide at www.rd.usda.gov/erhc.

USDA Rural Development is prioritizing projects that will support key priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration to help rural America build back better and stronger. Key priorities include combatting the COVID-19 pandemic; addressing the impacts of climate change; and advancing equity in rural America. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Festival from page 1



Crowds line up for the Stanleytown Ruritan Pancake Breakfast – a traditional kickoff to the Bassett Heritage Festival.



Youngsters enjoy playing games at a pre-pandemic festival.



Festival goers fill the street while visiting booths during a past festival.



The Henry County Sheriff's Office leads the community parade, which marks the end of the festival.

Farmstead On A Hill

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ing D's Hot Ice food truck, will offer concessions for sale throughout the day. The Southern Gentlemen, who describe themselves as the "barons of Southern bluegrass," will provide musical entertainment. The group's energy and soaring southern harmonies are sure to elicit some toe-tapping. The festival culminates

for organizing the festival in 1993, in partnership with Bassett Furniture Industries. Though no one may be able to pinpoint when it began, one thing is certain, the festival continues to be popular. "We didn't get to do the festival last year because of the pandemic," Turner said. This year, the Bassett community is ready to gather and celebrate its heritage once again. Festival sponsors and supporters include Collinsville Printing, the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, Bassett Funeral Service, the Bassett Volunteer Rescue Squad, the Henry County Sheriff's Department, and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

BHS grad signs with Emory & Henry



Bassett High School graduate Darius Hairston signed to play football at Emory & Henry College. Pictured at the signing are (seated, L to R): Cara Hairston, mother and Darius Hairston; (standing, L to R): AD Jay Gilbert, Coach Brandon Johnson, Principal Tiffany Gravelly, Assistant Coach Darryl Johnson.

MVHS student honored for achievement



Magna Vista High School recently recognized Finley Underwood with a silver "Revere" bowl from the Virginia High School League in recognition of Underwood's being named the Group 3A Male Athlete of the Year. He is the first student athlete from MV to have ever received this distinction.

Ride from page 1

and Mary Short, were killed in 2002. Jennifer was 9-years old at the time of her death. There have been no arrests in the case. "We've raised over \$40,000 in 18 years," Reynolds said, adding that 57 Bassett High School students have benefitted from the scholarship, which is overseen by the Kiwanis Foundation.



Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry (right) and Rockingham County N.C. Sheriff Sam Page were among those attending the 18th annual Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Ride. Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, (not pictured), led the ride.

OBITUARY

Freddie Gray Naff

Freddie Gray Naff, 85, of Henry, Va. passed away on Friday, August 13, 2021. He was born in Franklin County July 4, 1936, to Rudolph Calvert Naff and Lillian Doss Naff. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by an infant son, Micheal Gray Naff and a brother, Clarence Naff. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Gaynell Turner Naff; son, Jeffrey Freddie Gray Naff and his wife Linda; daughter, Annette Naff; grandchildren, LeAnne Naff, Lorin Ashby (Eric), Caleb Naff (Taylor) and Heather Naff; great grandchildren, Reagan Ashby, Sidney Naff, Nathaniel Ashby, and Lacey Naff; brothers, RC Naff Jr., Eddie Naff, David Naff (Sheila), and Bobby Naff; sisters, Nola Turner, Lorene Hall (Dewey), Rachel Wood, Viola Pearce (Bryant), and Judy Prillaman (Ray); sister in law, Mae Naff; and many beloved nieces and nephews.



Mr. Naff was a very faithful member and true servant of Mill Creek Baptist Church and worked 60 years as a building contractor. He loved his family with all of his heart and focused his life around them. He was an avid go kart racer and a top engine builder in the 1970's. He won countless races at Rockingham Motor Speedway and Charlotte Motor Speedway in the World Karting Association. He also loved watching NASCAR races. Out of respect for Mr. Naff's wishes, all services will be private. Those wishing to send flowers may send them to McKee-Stone Funeral Home, 109 Broad Street, Martinsville, Va. Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

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Historic enrollment anticipated in preschool programs

Increased investment in Virginia's two largest state-funded preschool programs is expected to result in historic enrollment for the upcoming school year, according to Gov. Ralph Northam.

The Commonwealth has authorized \$151.6 million to Virginia Preschool Initiative and Mixed Delivery in fiscal year 2022, a \$60.9 million increase from the previous school year and more than twice the investment made in fiscal year 2018.

As a result, the Virginia Department of Education's Virginia Preschool Initiative and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's Mixed Delivery Preschool Grant Program anticipate serving more than 25,000 three and four-year-olds this fall, as employers reopen and students safely return to in-person instruction.

Federally funded early childhood programs are also now open to more families in Virginia than ever before. Families earning up to 85 percent of the state median income with young children are temporarily eligible for Virginia's Child Care Subsidy Program

thanks to HB 2206 sponsored by Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn, which Northam extended last month. The program is serving more than 20,000 children, which is 94 percent of its pre-pandemic total. Federal Head Start and Early Head Start Programs are funded to serve 14,463 children this school year and all sites are working towards full in-person enrollment by January 1, 2022.

"Access to high quality early learning is critical for children's development, and the Commonwealth's investment in early childhood education is a major reason Virginia was named the best state to do business for the second year in a row," said Northam. "Increasing school readiness is more important than ever as we recover from the pandemic, and this historic commitment puts us one step closer to offering a great start for all Virginia children."

Since 2018, First Lady Pamela Northam has traveled over 10,000 miles to nearly 200 schools and early childhood programs along with staff from the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia

Department of Social Services, and members of the General Assembly. Her engagement with parents, educators, business leaders, and other stakeholders led to legislation and investments in early childhood education from the General Assembly in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Mrs. Northam's 2021 Back to School Tour kicked off August 18 and 19 with eight stops in Southwest Virginia.

"We're excited to get back on the road to meet children and families who now have access to quality in-person early learning programs for the first time thanks to these transformative investments," she said. "This is also a chance to thank the superhero educators who have adapted to provide safe and supportive environments for our littlest learners to thrive."

The Virginia Department of Education became the single point of accountability and oversight for all publicly funded early childhood programs in Virginia thanks to new laws that took effect July 1, 2021. Its new Division of Early Childhood Care and Education brings together 120 full time

employees, many of whom transitioned from the Virginia Department of Social Services, to focus on increasing access to high-quality, publicly funded early childhood care and education programs. Recent data from the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program showed that 52 percent of Virginia's kindergarteners ended the school year still needing support to build foundational skills in literacy, math, self-regulation, and/or social skills.

"We know that 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs before the age of five, so high-quality early childhood education programs are a key strategy to increasing student achievement from kindergarten to after graduation," said Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane. "A unified approach across all early learning settings is more important than ever as we emerge from the pandemic and equip the next generation of students to succeed in the 21st century workforce."

More than 23,600 students across 126 school divisions are projected to be served by Virginia

Preschool Initiative classrooms in the 2021-2022 school year. This compares with approximately 18,000 total children served by Virginia Preschool Initiative programs in 124 divisions before the pandemic. Thirty-seven school divisions will serve a combined total of about 1,600 three-year-olds in their Virginia Preschool Initiative classrooms. This is the second year of a pilot program to provide young learners with multiple years of preschool experience to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Nearly 1,500 three- and four-year-olds will be served by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's Mixed Delivery Grant Program across 45 localities. This compares to 239 children in 9 localities from 2020-2021.

\$151.6 million has been authorized to Virginia Preschool Initiative and Mixed Delivery for the fiscal year 2022. This is a \$60.9 million increase from the previous school year, and more than twice the investment made in fiscal year 2018.

Head Start and Early

Head Start funding will serve more than 14,400 children in Virginia this school year.

More than 20,000 children were participating in Virginia's Child Care Subsidy Program as of August 16, 2021. This is a 51 percent increase from March 2021, meaning an additional 7,325 children are served through expanded eligibility. \$316.3 million from the 2020 federal relief dollars were invested in Virginia's early childhood system. As a result, 95 percent of licensed and regulated child care and early education programs are now open and serving children in person.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant received \$793 million of additional American Rescue Plan dollars approved by the General Assembly in August 2021.

To learn about Head Start and Early Head Start contact your local school division.

To help address workforce shortages in child care, qualifying child care businesses may qualify for up to \$500 "Return to Earn" bonuses for new hires without a match requirement.

TAD from page 1

The TAD Space isn't all about work, though. They've also created what they call the Zen Space. "You leave the phone outside, come in, relax. It's more of a get away from work kind of space," said Tania. A hallway has been transformed into Inspiration Alley, filled with framed inspirational posters and seating. "Let's say you're having some sort of writer's block or you need some sort of motivation, this is where you'd come for that," Tania said.

On the fourth floor are executive office spaces, with large windows to

allow plenty of natural light, enough space for a desk and, if desired, a conference table, all of which is provided by the TAD Space.

To make sure they were creating a space that people would be happy to work in, the TAD team invited locals to come work in the space for a day and listened to their feedback, what they liked and didn't like, even down to whether the chair they sat in was comfortable or not.

That attention to detail paid off, with modern design and professional facilities perfectly mar-

ried in each co-working and private office space. It is a new look and new life for a historic building in Martinsville's Uptown. And the facility isn't even done yet.

The basement is currently storage for tables and chairs from the building before it was renovated, but the TAD Space team is already envisioning a new life for the area. On tours, they ask visitors what they would like to see the basement become. "Daycare is a very common answer," Tania said.

Pricing for the various areas in the TAD Space range from \$15 for a day in one of the smaller office spaces up to \$600 for a month's rental of a private Executive Suite. Daily, monthly, and yearly memberships are available. Conference rooms and the TADCast studio are both available at \$50 an hour.

Housed in the former

Rucker Plaza at 20 East Church Street, the TAD Space has been in the works for over two years. That's around the time Wayne Draper and his family moved back to Martinsville. Draper was "born and raised right here in Martinsville and Henry County," he said. "I've lived in Miami, I've lived in Tennessee, I've lived in Richmond a couple times, Roanoke a couple times, and I most recently resided in New Jersey." The family moved back after Draper was laid off from his job in corporate America due to a reduction in force. The returned to Martinsville to be closer to family and friends where he and a partner created Right Now, a commercial and residential construction company. But, as Wayne said, "I've always had more than one hustle. Always." So he turned his mind toward the TAD Space.

Wayne enjoyed the high energy of working in a sales and marketing environment, but had a hard time finding an office space that captured that same energy. "I've had multiple offices and traditionally when I go to them, when you first walk in you can kinda see a tumbleweed going across and you can see people literally walking around lifeless. You can see it. Everybody feels defeated."

He envisioned a space that would foster energy, collaboration, and creativity. Above all, he wanted to invest his time in an effort that would make people happy.

"For me, when doing any business venture, I try to make it tie back to what makes me happy. That's when you know you've found your purpose, is because you would do that and you would do it in such a way that you wouldn't care if

you even get compensated at the end of the week because you're fulfilled."

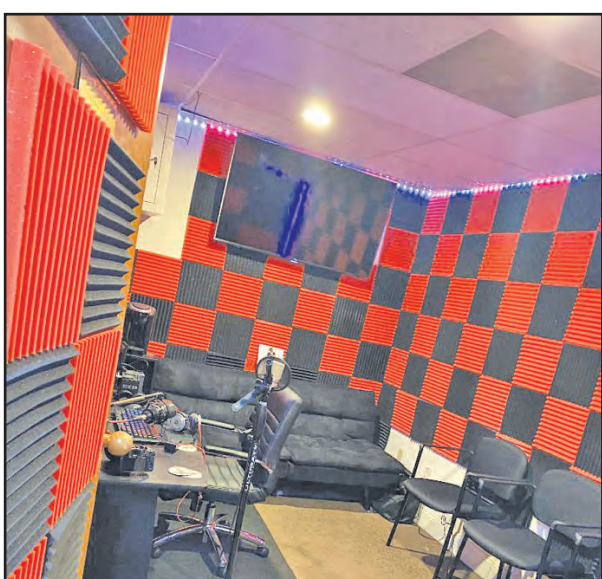
So what makes Wayne Draper happy?

"I've been in entertainment for over twenty years. I used to throw functions and events a lot, coming up. A lot in Martinsville. . . but I did a lot more outside of Martinsville. . . Seeing people happy makes me happy."

It seems safe to think that the people who come to work and play in the TAD Space will be very happy indeed.

"There's nowhere else that really rivals what we have. It's like a corporate playground, that's how I think of it," said Joshua Moore, the TAD Space's manager. "This is the first of its kind."

He pauses, standing at the entrance to the Vision Vault, which is his workspace for the day. "It's a new season for Martinsville."



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The Focus Forum conference room.



One of several lounge areas in the TAD Space.



The Zen Space.



The TAD Space Ballroom.