

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Groundbreaking held at future state park in Henry County

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A small group recently wound along the gently curving, tree-lined roads of the Henry County countryside to a newly built parking lot at the end of a road. Gathered

beneath a bright blue autumn sky, group members took gold-painted shovels in hand, and broke ground on the property that will eventually become Mayo River State Park, the first state park in the county. North Carolina's Mayo

River State Park is 16 miles of shoreline along the Mayo River. The Virginia park will join with North Carolina's to allow the public to enjoy more of the North and South Mayo Rivers in both states.

The groundbreak-

ing heralded the beginning of a new chapter in what has already been a 16-year effort, according to Brian Williams, Virginia program manager for the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA). The group has helped shepherd the dream along over the years, hosting field investigations, commissioning studies, helping identify landowners in the area to increase the size of the property (there is a 600-acre minimum for a state park), and even providing canoes and kayaks for people to explore the property via the Mayo River.

In 2007, the General Assembly directed the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a state park along the North and South

Mayo Rivers in Henry County. Now, the site of the future park encompasses 632.68 acres, part of which will be publicly accessible by the spring of 2022, with five miles of hiking and biking trails as well as some interpretive signage, and that's just phase one, Williams said.

Phase two will be adding additional trails, and eventually achieving a state park designation, though the timeline on when that will happen is unclear.

Williams said that from the parking lot to the confluence of the North and South Mayo Rivers is "a perfect four-mile hike."

Fairy Stone State Park Manager Adam Layman said the creation of a park will help preserve and showcase some of the natural beauty and resources in the area, including a waterfall,

known as Byrd's Ledge.

According to local history, the ledge is said to mark the spot where William Byrd established the state line between Virginia and North Carolina during a 1728 surveying excursion, Layman said.

Williams said that achieving the dream of the future state park would not have been possible without the support of the Eco Ambassador Council (EAC), a relatively new partnership between Carter Bank & Trust and DRBA that invites member businesses to pool resources and invest in projects that benefit both the environment and the community.

The philosophy behind the council's creation is that an abundance of natural resources and a healthy environ-

See **Park**, page 8



Brian Williams, Virginia program manager for the Dan River Basin Association, addresses a crowd of Eco Ambassador Council members, Henry County officials, and DRBA representatives at the groundbreaking for the future site of Virginia's Mayo River State Park.

Motion on COVID testing for city athletes tabled

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A motion that would have provided a 30-day trial of regular COVID-19 testing for winter student athletes was tabled by the Martinsville City School Board at a Nov. 8 meeting.

Several board members wanted to give the matter further thought before a vote. The school division had hoped to begin the pilot program by midweek.

Felicia Preston, director of pupil personnel and foster care/homeless liaison, said she and colleague Cindy Dutil were directed by Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley to investigate options for testing to help reduce the number of students who

miss stretches of in-person learning due to quarantine protocols and to mitigate the spread of Covid in the schools.

"Last year," Talley said, "we learned that most of the (in-school COVID) spread came from athletics." He said that several neighboring counties including Roanoke and Franklin counties are implementing regular student or student athlete testing.

"There are several different models to this," Preston said, citing the ViSSTA (Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance) Program which was developed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Virginia Department

See **Motion**, page 6

Ordinance to adopt agreement approved

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville City Council voted 4-1 during two meetings (Nov. 4 and Nov. 9) to formally adopt an ordinance approving the Voluntary

Settlement Agreement (VSA) for reversion. The approval included logistical details for filing the petition for a special court to grant final approval of the document, which was negotiated by represen-

tatives from both the city and county.

The council approved the ordinance on first reading during its Nov. 4 meeting and completed the ordinance approval process with a second vote during its Nov. 9 meeting.

Council member Tammy Pearson was the sole nay vote each time.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors is expected to hold a public hearing on reversion ahead of consideration of the ordinance at the Nov. 23 meeting.

Over the course of the two meetings, Pearson made at least three separate motions to push back the date of either the first or second vote to March 2022, "so we have ample time to hear and act upon the feedback from our citizens." Each motion died for lack of a second.

She noted that the council has 180 days to vote on the matter from

the time the Commission on Local Government (CLG) released its recommendations. Pearson said she would like the council to "use these days to gain citizen and subject-matter-expertise input into reversion."

"We've already heard from some citizens during the public hearings," she said, "but did we really listen? Did the council do anything differently based upon the citizens' feedback and concerns? Not that I have seen."

She said she would like the council to hold "many, many more meetings" before adopting the agreement, and asked why the second vote must happen so quickly after the first.

"What is the rush?" she asked.

Council member Chad Martin asked about the cost to the city if the vote was pushed back as

See **Ordinance**, page 5



City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday answered questions from council members during the Nov. 4 meeting in which Martinsville City Council took the first vote on an ordinance to adopt a Voluntary Settlement Agreement.



Jaxon Harris, 9, will be the grand marshal at this year's Christmas parade. The Axton Elementary third grader is recovering from injuries sustained when he was struck by a vehicle while exiting his school bus in September.

Student struck by car to lead Christmas parade

Nine-year-old Axton Elementary student Jaxon Harris will be the grand marshal at this year's Martinsville-Henry County Christmas parade.

Earlier this year, the third grader was struck by an oncoming vehicle while getting off the school bus on September 23.

Since the incident, the Harris has been recovering

from a brain stem bleed, multiple lacerations, and a right femur that was broken in three places. Though he still has lingering concussion symptoms, his neck injury has healed, and his neck brace was recently removed.

Harris' stepfather, Brandon Stanley, said the

See **Parade**, page 2

Holcomb's legacy lives on in annual Toy Run

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Richard "Big Bird" Holcomb will ride again, at least in spirit, when kickstands go up Saturday as the 29th annual Big Bird Toy Run gets underway.

The run was created by Holcomb to benefit Christmas Cheer. He died in February. Four years ago, as Holcomb's health began to decline, he passed the baton to BTW21's Chad Hall, who has only missed two of the rides since the event began.

Hall said that Holcomb decided to do something to support Christmas Cheer because he realized how beneficial that program was

to the community.

"He had a big heart for kids and people in need," Hall said. Holcomb "saw a need in our community" and decided he could do something to help.

Hall said the ride has grown exponentially since it began nearly 30 years ago. This year, he expects anywhere from 175 to 275 bikers, cars, trucks, hot rods, and others to participate.

On average, Hall said the event raises \$12,000 to 15,000 for Martinsville and Henry County families in need.

This year, Hall said, he wants to do the ride the same way Holcomb did, with just a few modifications. Registration will take

place from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bird's Cycle Shop, 6537 Greensboro Road in Ridgeway. Registration is \$10 or one new toy. Kickstands go up promptly at 1 p.m. Riders will make their way through Martinsville, Collinsville, and Bassett, then down Koehler Road to the final stop at Sportlanes.

Once there, riders may enjoy a meal, music from the band Madhouse, door prizes, and an auction that will include jewelry, Harley-Davidson apparel, furniture, and some unique items donated to the cause. Community members are invited and encouraged to pay the \$10 admission fee at Sportlanes to join in the

fun, food, and festivities, even if they do not want to ride.

Once the auction is done, Hall said he will "turn Madhouse loose and let the party roll."

None of this would not be happening if Holcomb hadn't organized that first ride in 1992.

"He raised a lot of money and did a lot of good," Hall said. His legacy will live on in this year's ride, in all the years of rides still to come, and in the smiles of children who have new toys under the Christmas tree thanks to the efforts of Christmas Cheer and Big Bird's Toy Run.



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FOR MORE 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)

Saturday, Nov. 13

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at County Line Christian Church (12711 Chatham Road) in Axton from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. To sign up for a donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

P&HCC is holding an open house at its FabLab and Technology Accelerator spaces in the Dalton IDEA Center, from 10 a.m. to noon. Check out member and instructor demos of the Fab Lab machines, meet past participants of the Martinsville & Henry County Startup and Grow program, learn about classes and programs offered and enjoy hands-on fun. Face coverings are required.

Sunday, Nov. 14

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary with "Silver Anniversary of a Silver Lining" at 3 p.m. at the M-HC Heritage Center and Museum. Phillip Stone will be the distinguished speaker and proclamations will be presented by the City of Martinsville and Henry County. The program will include music, cake, and a few surprises.

Monday, Nov. 15

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the MET Conference Room 106, 65 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet in the MET Conference Room 106, 65 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville at noon. This is a public meeting, but the board will not

receive public comment.

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Martinsville City Council will hold a community conversation about reversion. The topic of this week's meeting is the reversion process. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in city council chambers. Meeting is limited to 12 participants per session. Registration is required to participate by emailing town@ci.martinsville.va.us, calling (276) 403-5182, faxing (276) 403-5280, or mailing the City of Martinsville, attn: Karen Roberts, P.O. Drawer 1112, Martinsville, VA, 24114.

Piedmont Arts hosts Painting with Karen Conner from 1-4 p.m. Instructor Karen Conner will lead students in creating a unique painting. The theme for this painting is "snowman." The class is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advance registration is required. To register, visit PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632-3221.

The Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext.) will host a blood drive from 12-6 p.m. There is currently a critical shortage of blood. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, Nov. 20

Piedmont Arts hosts Painting with Karen Conner from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Instructor Karen Conner will lead students in creating a unique painting. The theme for this painting is "cardinal on a lamppost." The class is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advance registration is required. To register, visit PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632-3221.

The annual Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade gets underway at 5 p.m. in Uptown Martinsville. The theme for 2021's parade is "Let it Snow." Bring your

family and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with this favorite festive tradition.

Monday, Nov. 22

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Collinsville Church of Christ (2114 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville) from 1-6:30 p.m. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, Nov. 26

The Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext.) will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is currently a critical shortage of blood. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, Nov. 27

Small Business Saturday will be held. The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce encourages shoppers to visit locally owned businesses to help support the homegrown business community.

Friday, Dec. 3

C-PEG and Martinsville UpTown are hosting First Fridays, December 3 from 4-8 p.m., at the Uptown Martinsville Farmer's Market. Favorite Oktoberfest and Farmers' Market vendors will offer products, with arts, crafts, food, and more.

Uptown Martinsville will kick off the holiday season with the Uptown Martinsville Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m. on the city's Municipal Building lawn.

Thursday, Dec. 2

Piedmont Arts kicks of the holiday season with the annual lighting of the Art Garden Christmas Tree at 5 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

Saturday, Dec. 4

Join the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA for its annual Pictures with Santa from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. No appointment is necessary. The cost is \$10 per pose. Families, children, and pets are all welcome.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Stanleytown Elementary School (74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. To sign up for your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Martinsville City Council will hold a community conversation about reversion. The topic of this week's meeting is the reversion process. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in city council chambers. Meeting is limited to 12 participants per session. Registration is required to participate by emailing town@ci.martinsville.va.us, calling (276) 403-5182, faxing (276) 403-5280, or mailing the City of Martinsville, attn: Karen Roberts, P.O. Drawer 1112, Martinsville, VA, 24114.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Patrick & Henry Community College will present a Lunch & Learn via Zoom entitled "Setting Achievable Goals" Pre-registration is required. To learn more or to register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

ONGOING

The 26th annual Coat Drive for Kids is underway. New or gently used coats may be dropped off at Hollywood Cinema, the Salvation Army, or at One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road. Call (276) 358-1463 for more information. The deadline for donations is November 30.

Piedmont arts is hosting two exhibits, "Print/Imprint: Asheville Printmakers" and "Carl Chiarenza" on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Both exhibits are on

display through January 8.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brrl.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at its headquarters (1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville.) Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

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 at (276) 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleuptown.com.

Parade

from page 1



Scenes from the 2019 Christmas Parade, which was the last full-scale parade before the onset of the pandemic.

C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	63				64			65	

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Army legal branch
 4. Dekagram
 7. Underwater ship
 10. 6th Jewish month
 12. ___ lang syne, good old days
 14. European money
 15. Remover of an apple's center
 17. The content of cognition
 18. Bleats
 19. "1836 siege" of U.S.
 20. Inquiries
 22. Bottled gas
 23. Dutch painter Gerrit
 25. An invasion or hostile attack
 28. Misbeliever
 31. South American Indiana
 32. Bone cavities
 33. Hound sounds
 34. Turtle carapace
 39. Wash or flow against
 40. Cross a threshold
 41. Pitch symbol
 42. About lizards
 45. Treat with contempt
 48. Million barrels per day
 49. Place to sleep
 51. Harsh criticism or disapproval
 54. Wipe out recorded information
 56. Pesetas
 58. Pitcher Hershiser
 59. Pronouncements
 60. Dodge truck model
 61. A coniferous tree
 62. Ludicrously false statement
 63. Lyric poem
 64. Determine the sum
 65. Fixed in one's purpose
- CLUES DOWN
1. Mexican wattle & daub hut
 2. ___ Green: playwright
 3. Building for autos
 4. Rum and lime or lemon juice
 5. Two spiral-horned African antelopes
 6. Jubilant delight
 7. Cyclic
 8. Fiddler crabs
 9. Vehicle carrying many passengers
 11. Dream sleep
 13. Afghan Persian language
 16. Gnawing small mammal
 18. B1 deficiency disease
 21. Not out
 24. Chancellor Von Bismarck
 26. RCO group of atoms
 27. Cony
 29. Makes a gas less dense
 30. Instances of disease
 34. A story
 35. Surmounted
 36. Cloisonned
 37. Counterfoil
 38. Kept cattle together
 39. Computer screen material
 43. Ancient calculator
 44. Cuddle
 46. District nurse
 47. Employee stock ownership plan
 50. Distributed game cards
 52. Murres genus
 53. Tear apart violently
 55. Umbrella support
 56. Athlete who plays for pay
 57. Small amount

youngster was excited to learn that he would be leading the parade.

After two years of event cancellations and pandemic-related scaling back, the parade is returning in full force.

The annual kickoff to the holiday season will take place on Saturday, November 20 beginning at 5 p.m. in Uptown Martinsville. Parade organizers are still seeking participants to create a float (or two) to include in this year's festivities.

Star News' Charles Roark, who is coordinating the parade, said that the theme for this year is "Let it Snow." Three

snow machines will be on hand to provide the appropriate wintery atmosphere along parts of the parade route.

"A parade is a sense of how the community's doing," Roark said. Especially considering the pandemic and recent election - and reversion-related tensions between residents - he hopes that this year's event will help to unify the community.

"It's time to put a crazy two years behind us and start fresh," he said. "I want to see the community come together."

Roark said that marching bands from Bassett, Magna Vista, and Martinsville high schools

will participate, and several fan-favorite float creators will be returning to this year's lineup.

Organizers are seeking more entries, he said, and added that prizes awarded to the best floats.

The \$50 entry fee helps cover insurance and other costs associated with the event, Roark said, and added that non-profits may participate for free. Additionally, he will work with others who cannot afford the fee.

To participate in this year's parade, call (276) 656-3900 or find Martinsville Henry County Christmas Parade on Facebook.

Christmas Cheer application deadline nears

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Friday, November 19 is the deadline for applications for this year's Christmas Cheer program. The office, located at 10 Liberty Street two doors down from Grace Network, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Christmas Cheer has been helping local families in need since 1951, by providing toys to children aged 10 and under. The program

also provides a generous food box and blanket.

Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson said that over at least the last decade, the program has served more than 700 families each holiday season.

She said it is a "vital part of the community's Christmas efforts for families in need."

Applications must be completed in person and proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill, or AEP bill) in Martinsville or Henry County is required, along with a photo I.D. All house-

hold residents must provide Social Security information and date of birth.

The program's fundraising goal this year is \$45,000.

"We have a long way to go," Lawson said. "Donations are coming in slowly," and the program has only raised about \$2,000 thus far.

Donations to Christmas Cheer can be mailed to PO Box 540, Martinsville, VA 24114 or dropped off at the Cheer office.

City sets reversion meetings

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville City Council will host a series of informal, hour-long conversations with the public, council members, and city staff about reversion. Each conversation will focus on a different topic—the reversion process; schools; town/city changes; taxation and finances; and jail, courts, and justice. At each meeting, participants will hear a brief

introduction on the evening's topic, followed by an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. Assistant City Manager and City Attorney Eric Monday recently said that, despite the public hearings and publicly posted information on reversion on both city and county websites, "there still persists multiple misconceptions concerning this process." As an example, he said "we frequently hear that we're going to push all (the city's)

debt off onto the county. That simply is not the case. It's right there in black and white in all the documents, but there's still an enormous number of people that simply make that assumption." The meetings, from 6-7 p.m. in city council chambers, will be held on Tuesdays that the council does not otherwise meet. The first round of conversations are scheduled as follows: Tuesday, November 16: The Reversion Process Tuesday, December 7:

Schools Tuesday, January 4, 2022: Town/City Changes Tuesday, January 25, 2022: Taxation and Finances Tuesday, February 1, 2022: Jail, Courts, and Justice Meetings are limited to 12 participants per session. Anyone who wishes to participate must pre-register, either by emailing their name and address to town@ci.martinsville.va.us, calling (276) 403-5182, faxing (276) 403-5280, or mailing the City

of Martinsville, attn: Karen Roberts, P.O. Drawer 1112, Martinsville, VA, 24114. Registration is required by noon the day before each session. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and priority will be given to city residents. The meetings will also be televised on MGTV-21 and linked on the city's website and social media. Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson said sessions on each topic will continue until no one signs up to participate.

County school board hears report on equity

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The majority of students in county schools are white and economically disadvantaged, according to the educational equity report delivered to the Henry County School Board on Nov. 4. Monica Hatchett, director of public relations, told the board that of the 7,130 students enrolled in the 2020-2021 school year, 60 percent were classified as economically disadvantaged. More than 54 percent were white, 22.1 percent were Black, and 15.3 percent were identified as Hispanic. According to the report, 16.3 percent of the student body are students with disabilities.

would bring a sense of family back to the school system. The Rev. Tyler Millner said that it is unfortunate a solution to school consolidation was not worked out before reversion, but this is an opportune time to be creative and transformative to provide the best education for the entire community. "Recognized Rich Acres Elementary, which was recently named among the best elementary schools in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. According to Hatchett, "the U.S. News and World Report K-12 directory encompasses 102,610 preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools that are ranked based on achievement in their school based on data submitted by each state." Rich Acres Elementary was in the top 30 percent of schools in the nation.

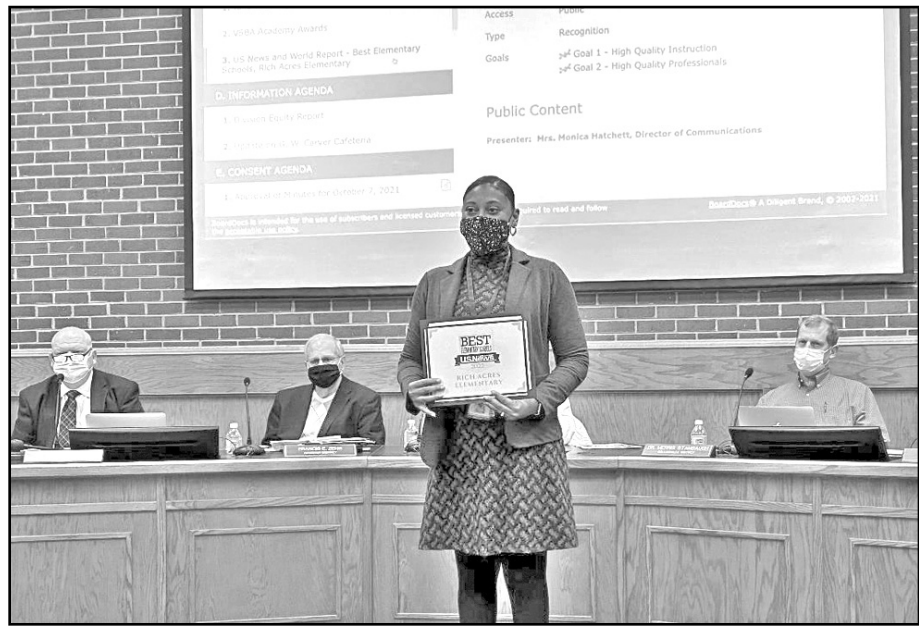


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Director of Facilities Maintenance Keith Scott gives an overview of the construction progress to a tour group inside the county's new bus garage.

Among student groups, when compared to the general student population, enrollment in advanced coursework is slightly lower among Black and Hispanic students, and slightly higher among white students, however, "our economically disadvantaged students are almost equally represented," Hatchett said. The report indicated that 60.7 percent of students enrolled in advanced coursework are white, 19.6 percent are Black, and 12.6 percent are Hispanic. More than 40 percent taking advanced coursework are economically disadvantaged.

*Discussed Take Your Legislator to School Month. Due to ongoing pandemic-related visitation restrictions, this year, schools will record a video. *Distributed Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Academy Awards to chairman Thomas Auker, Benjamin Gravely, Merris Stambaugh, and Terri Flanagan. Francis Zehr received an award of achievement, Superintendent Sandy Strayer received an award of honor, and Teddy Martin received an award of distinction. *Heard an update from Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Scott on renovations to the G.W. Carver cafeteria. A meeting is scheduled on Nov. 18 for stakeholders, architects, and consultants.



Crystal Dixon, principal of Rich Acres Elementary, accepts a recognition from U.S. News and World Report which named Rich Acres one of the best elementary schools in the nation.

"Students identified as gifted also fall into those same categories," Hatchett said, "slightly lower percentages in the area of Hispanic and African American students, slightly higher in the area of white students, but equal in our area of economic disadvantage." Hatchett also noted that the division's on-time graduation rate is slightly above the state minimum and the largest dropout category are white students.

*Heard from Lisa Millner, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, that a position for a traditional school psychologist has been posted without any applicants. The board voted to approve multiple vendors for a variety of educational and related services positions that may become available. *Approved editorial policy revisions. *Awarded \$318,000 to RRMM Architects for professional A&E services to design and provide construction documents for the replacement of Magna Vista's domestic hot water system and to finish replacing the HVAC system at Bassett High School. \$228,000 would come from American Rescue Plan (ESSER II) funds and \$90,000 from FY2022 Professional Services budget.



From left: School board members Teddy Martin, Merris Stambaugh, Vice Chairman Francis Zehr, Chairman Thomas Auker, Terri Flanagan, Superintendent Sandy Strayer, and Ben Gravely received awards from the Virginia School Board Association.

Among students earning industry credentials, which students are eligible to do in grades 9-12, "our Hispanic students have slightly higher representation in their population, as do our white students, and our representation of African American students is slightly lower than the overall population of African American students," Hatchett said, and added that economically disadvantaged students were again equally represented. She told the board that the schools' equity teams are examining the data to determine what steps need to be taken to provide additional support to students, so the populations are more equitably represented in the various areas of achievement.

*Revised the current school year calendar to include an additional 12-month holiday on Dec. 23 and remote learning days on Nov. 22 and 23. *Heard the superintendent's monthly highlights report. *Toured the new bus garage located in the former Millard's Machinery factory. It is anticipated that the transportation team will be relocating to the new facility during winter break.

The entire equity report is available to view online via the school board meetings, minutes, and agendas section under the school board tab on Henry County Public Schools website. In other matters, the board: *Heard public comment. Several people spoke out against the mask mandate. Jennifer Jones of the Blackberry District said a poem at Campbell Court Elementary encouraging students to wear a mask was the equivalent of emotional abuse. Brandon Cline, also of the Blackberry District, said if board members did not act on the mandate, he would send his daughter to school without a mask every day and encourage other parents to do the same. Ron James of the Ridgeway District said that, with reversion coming, it is time for a new direction. He told the board it was time to start looking for a new superintendent who

One arrested in connection with Sunday incident

Donte Cheron Freeman, 39, of Preston Scales Drive, Martinsville, was arrested in connection with an alleged Nov. 7 shooting that occurred on Dunlap Street. Freeman was charged with aggravated malicious wounding, armed robbery, use of a firearm to commit aggravated malicious wounding, use of a firearm while committing armed robbery, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, willfully discharging

a firearm in a street resulting in bodily injury. Officers responded to an alleged incident on Dunlap Street, on Sunday, Nov. 7, and found Johnny Omar Spencer, Jr., 39, of Martinsville, suffering from a gunshot wound. Spencer was transported to SOVAH Martinsville and later transferred to Carilion Roanoke Memorial where he was treated for his injuries. At this time, Spencer is listed in serious condition.

Investigators also responded and processed the scene for evidence. Freeman was arrested without incident by Carilion Health System Police in Roanoke when he went to the hospital to visit a relative on an unrelated issue. Because he is currently on federal probation, Freeman will be held without bail, according to a release from the Martinsville Police Department.



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.
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1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

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

OPINION

I'm running for Governor

While the 2025 Virginia Gubernatorial election is still several years away — possibly as many as four — I feel it's never too early to announce your candidacy. Friends, I'm running for Governor of Virginia in the next election.

I have decided to run as an Independent. Why? Because none of the established political parties are brave enough to address the real problem facing the Commonwealth today. From the do-nothing Democrats, to the do-atrocities Republicans, to the do-what-ever-you-want-because-you-don't-believe-other-people-are-real-in-the-same-way-you-are Libertarians, NO ONE is willing to tackle this issue except ME.

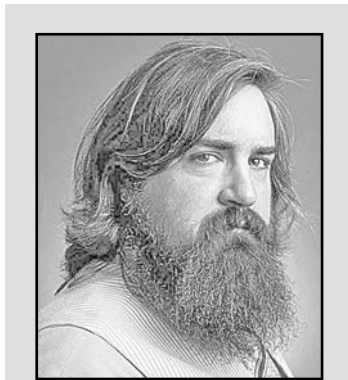
Friends, there's a threat in our schools. From our elementary schools to our high schools, our

children are being manipulated. They're being brainwashed. They're at risk, and no one is doing anything to stop it.

We all know exactly what the threat is, and we all know what's at stake. It's high time someone did something about it.

I'm referring, of course, to the evil invisible robot that lives inside schools.

This robot — which I refer to as "Calculord" — represents a triple threat. First off, it's evil, which is obviously not ideal. Second, it's invisible, which is pretty bad given the whole "evil" thing. And third, it brainwashes our schoolchildren into stealing high-end electronics, which it then adds to its terrible mechanical body in order to gain strength. You know why you can't find a new Xbox or a Playstation 5? That's right: Calculord.



By Ben R. Williams

There's a saying I use quite a bit. In fact, I'm pretty sure I invented it. That saying is "children are the future." When you really think about it, it's true. And call me crazy, but since children are the future, I think it's important that we do everything within our power to

protect them. Anyone who disagrees with any part of my plan clearly hates children.

Once elected Governor, I plan to host endless fundraisers in order to get enough money to build a De-Invisibility Ray, a weapon I have designed which will turn Calculord visible long enough for me to destroy him. I project that building this advanced weapon will cost roughly \$500 million, which I will need in a lump sum in a bank account that only I have access to. I also don't want any oversight on this project. I have a hard time building inventions when people are all the time asking me "What are you doing?" and "How are you spending this money?" and "Why is it necessary to buy a mint-condition triple-white 1971 Cadillac Eldorado convertible in order to build a ray gun?"

Just trust me; it's necessary.

You might be asking, "Ben,

where do you stand on the other issues? What about healthcare, or the rising cost of housing, or police reform?"

To that question, I boldly say: Who cares? I'm a one-issue candidate, my friend. The only thing I'm worried about is the evil invisible robot that's threatening our children, and you should be worried about it too. What more do you need? Do you hate children or something?

In the days leading up to the election, you'll probably hear a lot of folks disagreeing with my platform. They'll probably claim that Calculord isn't real, and that I made him up, and that there is no evil invisible robot that lives within our school system.

Of course, Critical Race Theory isn't in our school system either and the threat of it still won Glenn Youngkin the election, so I figure this thing is worth a shot.

Veterans Day

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

On Veterans Day, we honor the men and women who served our country in the United States Armed Forces.

We set aside this day, the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year, to pay tribute to those who risked, and sometimes gave, all. Because we recognize the importance of their task, honoring them is one of the most important things we do as a people.

One of the most prominent symbols of the courage of our fighting men and women is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The Tomb is connected to the date of

November 11 not only because of Veterans Day, but because it was dedicated on that day one hundred years ago.

World War I, which was halted at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, inflicted human suffering and death on a scale not previously seen in the Western world. The scale of the devastation compelled the war's participants to find ways to honor the sacrifice of so many.

Britain and France had borne a great deal in the war, and they chose to recognize the sacrifice of a generation of young men by each burying one of their unidentified war dead in places of honor on November 11, 1920.

Although the United States had not paid

as steep a toll as the European powers, Americans wanted to recognize the sacrifices they had made, too. Congressman Hamilton Fish III (R-NY), a veteran of the war, introduced a resolution in December 1920 to bury the remains of an unknown American soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. His legislation passed.

The next step was to select the Unknown Soldier. In October 1921, four different bodies of unidentified American warriors were exhumed from different military cemeteries in France and brought to an improvised chapel in the city hall of Châlons-sur-Marne.

The task of selecting which would go to Arlington fell to Sgt. Edward F. Younger, a wounded veteran of the war. He was handed a

bouquet of white and pink roses and entered the chapel alone where the four bodies lay in identical caskets. After walking three times around them, he chose which would be interred in Arlington by placing the roses on one of them.

That body returned to the United States on the cruiser USS Olympia. After the vessel arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on November 9, 1921, the Unknown Soldier was taken to the Capitol. There he lay in state, and 90,000 people came to pay their respects.

On November 11, the Unknown Soldier was moved from the Capitol to Arlington by a horse-drawn caisson. The procession was joined by President Warren Harding, Vice President Calvin Coolidge, Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices,

and winners of the Medal of Honor. They conducted the Unknown Soldier to his final resting place at the Tomb, at the time a simple marble slab.

President Harding led the ceremony at the Tomb and placed a Medal of Honor upon the casket. Representatives of the Allied Powers followed by bestowing military decorations from their own countries.

In the one hundred years since, the Tomb has been completed and an inscription added: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." The soldier of World War I was joined by representatives of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; Vietnam's Unknown Soldier was eventually identified and reburied by his family. Tourists come to pay their respects and see "The Old Guard" of the

U.S. Army keep watch at all hours under all conditions.

This Veterans Day, we remember the Unknown Soldiers and all who served our country on our behalf. The words of President Harding spoken at Arlington one hundred years ago can remind us today of what Veterans Day means:

On such an occasion as this, amid such a scene, our thoughts alternate between defenders living and defenders dead. A grateful Republic will be worthy of them both. Our part is to atone for the losses of heroic dead by making a better Republic for the living.

For questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Submit your letters to the editor

to dhall@theenterprise.net

Salem VA director thanks America's Veterans

As employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and specifically in our roles within the Salem VA Health Care System, we are privileged to thank our Nation's Veterans every day. Men and women who have served in conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan can be seen in our halls every day and each has a story to tell.

Most of these men and women will tell you with no false modesty, that they have not done anything special; that they were trained to do a job and did it; and that they did what anyone else would have done in their position. That may be true, but the fact of the matter is, it is the actions of these few that have allowed all of us to live in peace, with freedom and security.

Not every Veteran has stormed a hill, been wounded in combat, or even seen combat, but all have

dedicated their service with the acknowledgement that should the need arise, they would answer the call. That spirit of service before self and personal integrity is the shared common bond that unites our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coastguardsmen, and Guardians.

As we enjoy the Veteran's Day holiday, the parades, and gatherings, I encourage you to reach out to a Veteran you know, or a family member who has supported that Veteran's journey and say thank you.

To the nearly 100,000 Veterans in the Southwest Virginia area, and to the Veterans who make up nearly a quarter of the staff of the Salem VA Health Care System, on behalf of all of us here, thank you for your service, and thank you for being available to answer our Nation's call.



Rebecca J. Stackhouse, CTRS, FACHE, Executive Director, Salem VA Health Care System.

Speed may have been factor in crash, police said

The Virginia State Police are continuing to investigate the single vehicle crash that resulted in the death of a Magna Vista student.

The crash occurred Thursday, Nov 4, at 8:19 a.m. on Virginia 687, two tenths of a mile east of Virginia 1060 in Henry County, according to a release from the Virginia State Police.

A 2005 Honda Accord was traveling west on Virginia 687, when the vehicle run off the right side of

the roadway and struck a tree, then overturned.

The vehicle was driven by a 17-year-old male, who was wearing a seatbelt, and was transported to a local hospital.

There were three passengers in the vehicle: a 17- and a 14-year-old male, both were wearing their seatbelts. Both were transported to the hospital for injuries received in the crash, the release stated.

A third passenger, Nicholas James

Pruitt, 17, of Axton, was wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

Speed is believed to have been a factor in the crash, according to the release.

According to reports, Pruitt was a senior at Magna Vista High School.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team, and the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, from Salem, were summoned to help with the crash.

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

Submit your community
news and photos to
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Project helps youngsters gear up for winter

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The 26th annual Coats for Kids project, which provides new and gently used coats to area children, is accepting donations through November 30.

Program organizer and Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Parsons Buchanan estimates the drive receives between 500 to 1,000 coats each year.

Buchanan said she started the program in 1996 because she saw a need in the community.

A child cannot help the fact that their parent or caregiver may be out of work or struggling to make ends meet, "all

they know is that they are cold," she said, adding that some children encounter issues with bullying at school because of their clothing. "We want to see children grow, not feel bullied or intimidated or embarrassed because they don't have the proper clothing."

Buchanan initially operated the drive from her home, purchasing new coats herself (which, she said, she continues to do) and cleaning donated used coats at a local laundromat. The number of donations quickly outgrew what she could handle at home.

Over the years, several organizations have helped with the

drive, including King's Grant and several churches – whether collecting coats or raising funds to buy new coats to contribute.

One Hour Martinizing joined in the effort and dry-cleans donated coats free of charge each year. Once ready for distribution, the coats are transported to the county school board office and then to schools and students.

Monica Hatchett, director of communications for the county school division, has been instrumental in organizing the effort on the schools' side, even going to Walmart on her days off to get new coats for the drive, said Superintendent Sandy Strayer.

Hatchett recalled that when Buchanan initially asked to partner with the schools, a grant from the Walmart Foundation was sought to help buy new coats and shoes for students in need. This year, the foundation gave the program \$2,000.

She said that, when shopping, volunteers try to keep current styles in mind, purchasing a variety of hoodies and pullovers as well as more traditional coats.

Hatchett works with counselors at each school to help identify children who are in need. She then sorts the coats by style, color, and size and delivers bundles of the clothing items to schools. At least 500 coats are

given to students each year, she added.

Buchanan said donated coats that may not be appropriate for children are given to the Salvation Army to distribute to others in need.

Hatchett added that the schools work with organizations such as Rotary and Ruritan clubs to redistribute extra coats.

Anyone who would like to donate a new or gently used coat to the drive may call Buchanan at (276) 358-1463. Donations can be dropped off at Hollywood Cinema, the Salvation Army, or One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road in Martinsville.



Avery Mills (left), owner of One Hour Martinizing, and Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan celebrate the 26th annual Coats for Kids drive. The program helps get new and gently used coats to children who need a warm coat for the winter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan drops off donated coats to Monica Hatchett, director of communications for the county school division. Hatchett has helped organize the program and distribute coats to the schools for the past several years.

Ordinance from page 1

Pearson requested.

City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday estimated that the city would pay an extra \$50,000 to 60,000 by prolonging the process. He added that, because the city had already expressed a desire for the county to quickly move forward with approval, the city should do the same.

"The county is proceeding with their adoption on the 23rd at our request to proceed with all due dispatch and I think it would be appropriate if we did so as well," Monday said.

During the Nov. 9 meeting, Pearson said she thought the county would welcome a delay in the process.

Monday and Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson both pointed out that doing that could affect both city and county's ability to lobby the General Assembly for assistance with reversion.

Ahead of the council's second and final vote to approve the agreement at the Nov. 9 meeting, Pearson said that while she believes the consolidation of some services is a good step for the community, the process is flawed.

While she supports the city's scheduled conversations about reversion, "we must know they are too little, too late. These conversations are happening after the documents have been drawn up between city and county and after the second vote tonight."

"I'm asking that we please stop this mad train and rush to push this through. What is the rush? Did you truly

listen to our citizens during the public hearings? We are supposed to be the voice of our citizens, but we are ignoring them even as they are screaming at us to stop the train," Pearson said.

"If it is not the citizens we are representing in the reversion process, who is it? Who is the conductor driving this train? Can someone please tell us who is pulling these strings," she asked.

To residents, Pearson said, "I want the public to know that, even if we do take the second vote tonight, reversion can still be stopped or slowed. Your city council members... have the opportunity in the near future to vote again and be your voice. Remember that."

Martin said the council could still stop reversion up to 21 days after the ruling by the three-judge panel, so there was no need to put off the night's vote to receive citizen input.

"Our citizens can come and talk to us about the things they would like to see changed or pulled back. We have not kept them out of the process," he said, "but we are on a timeline, and we don't want it to cost even more" in legal fees to either the city or county. But "this process is still open to change."

Council member Danny Turner said the idea of an independent city had outlived its purpose.

"It's a duplication of services and responsibilities that has sucked all kind of money out of most independent cities and it's time for this idea of independent cities to

go away for the most part," he said.

Lawson added that the city exceeded the number of opportunities for citizen input over the past two years. "To me it serves no purpose to delay because we did negotiate with Henry County in good faith."

Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles said, though she did not want to revert on a personal level, she thought it was the right path forward for the city. She noted that her grandfather will lose his job upon reversion, and her father, who works for the schools, could potentially lose his job as well.

"It's a very serious position that I've taken, and I know that with the budget, the numbers, it's the right thing to do for the City of Martinsville and Henry County," Bowles said.

In other matters, the council:

Nov. 4:
*Heard from Director of Community Development Mark McCaskill who shared information related to the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) list.

*Heard an update on several projects from City Manager Leon Towarnicki, including the solar projects at the former Lynwood Golf Course, the Chief Tassel Building and former BB&T building renovations, the Five Points housing project, and others.

Nov. 8:
*Heard from Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center Director J.R. Powell on implementation of the new 988 system for mental health emergen-

cies and the subsequent move to 10-digit phone numbers.

*Approved a refund of \$8,392.76 to a city business for overpaid 2018 business license fees.

*Heard from Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper on his and other motorcycle deputies' participation in the Kyle Petty Charity Ride. Council members were presented with commemorative challenge coins and Lawson read a letter from Morgan and Kyle Petty thanking the department for its support and participation in the ride.

*Discussed and suggested changes and additions to the city's proposed 2021 legislative agenda.

*Recessed as council and reconvened as the Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority to approve the execution of a deed transferring title of 62 Fayette Street (the former Winn Dixie) to JRS Realty LLC, which plans to redevelop the building as commercial space and loft apartments.



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper and several of his fellow officers were recognized during a Nov. 9 meeting for participating in the Kyle Petty Charity Ride.



During a Nov. 9 meeting, Martinsville City Council member Tammy Pearson (far left) asked fellow council members why there was a need to move forward so quickly with their approval of the VSA. She urged council members to delay the second and final vote on the agreement to gather more input from residents.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES SET

Please note the following early deadlines due to the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Classifieds, obituaries, display ads, calendar items and all editorial content for **The Enterprise** are due by noon on Thursday, Nov. 18.
- Classifieds, obituaries, display ads, calendar items and all editorial content for **Henry County Enterprise** are due by noon on Monday, Nov. 22.

For additional information, email trisha@theenterprise.net; dhall@theenterprise.net, or call (276) 694-3101.

Crash that claimed two still under investigation

The Virginia State Police are continuing to investigate a two-vehicle crash that resulted in two fatalities. The crash occurred Friday, Nov 5, at 10:06 a.m. on Virginia 57, one

tenth of a mile west of Virginia 687 in Henry County. A 2016 Kia Soul was traveling east on Virginia 57, when the vehicle crossed the centerline and allegedly struck a 1999

Lincoln Town Car head-on. The Kia was driven by Rico Thadeaus Scales, 34, of Spencer. Scales was not wearing his seatbelt and was transported

to Atrium Health, Wake Forest Baptist, where he later died. The passenger, Kimberly D. Lawson, 35, also was injured and transported to a local hospital; Lawson was wearing her

seatbelt at the time of the crash. The Lincoln was driven by Bruce Clifton Joyce, 78, of Bassett. Joyce was wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

OBITUARIES

Vera Jane Kuhn

Vera Jane Kuhn, 90, of the Kings Grant Community, Martinsville VA passed away on Thursday, November 4, 2021. She was born December 22, 1930, in Beaver County Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, John William Kuhn; and her parents, Charles and Frances Metz.

Mrs. Kuhn graduated from Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania and was an elementary school teacher prior to having children. She moved to Virginia Grant in 1994 and remained active there until the last couple years.



She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, VA. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Jean Walker; and grandchildren, Jason Walker and wife Brianna and Kristina Walker, all residing in Richmond VA. There will be a private memorial service for family only. Any memorial contributions can be made to The Kings Grant Fellowship Fund, 350 Kings Way Rd Martinsville, VA 24112. Norris Funeral Services are serving the Kuhn family. Online condolences may be made at www.NorrisFuneral.com

June Prillaman Pace

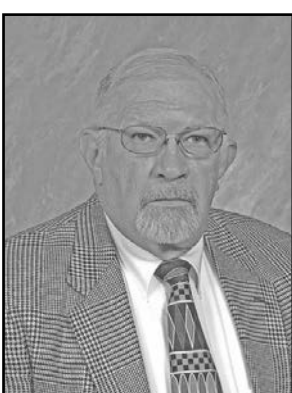
June Prillaman Pace, 79, of Martinsville and Penhook, Virginia passed away on Monday, November 1, 2021. She was born on May 31, 1942, in Collinsville to the late Frank Curtis Prillaman and Essie Mae Prillaman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 52 years, Charles Kenneth Pace; sister, Virginia Prillaman Price; and brother, Curtis Randolph Prillaman. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Martinsville. Mrs. Pace is survived by her daughter, Kimberley Pace Lewis and son-in-law, Clark Hathaway Lewis; grandchildren Clark Hathaway Lewis, Jr., and Mary Pace Lewis, all of Richmond; brother, Raymond Frank Prillaman (Barbara)



of Martinsville; sister-in-law, Judy Pace Bowles of Hawaii; and sister-in-law, Susan Pace of North Carolina. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews. A private graveside service was held. Many thanks to the staff members of both Kings Grant and Mountain Valley Hospice for their compassionate and loving care over the last few years. Norris Funeral Services is serving the Pace family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com. Join the family at One Starling (corner of Church Street and Starling Avenue, Martinsville) on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 4 to 7 p.m. to celebrate and remember June and Ken.

Theodore “Ted” Ernest Ussery, Jr.

Theodore “Ted” Ernest Ussery, Jr., 80, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Monday, November 8, 2021. He was born on February 28, 1941, to the late Theodore Ernest Ussery, Sr. and Edna Sartain Ussery. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Yeaman Ussery. Mr. Ussery graduated from Oak Hill Academy in 1960. He retired after 30 years of service on the Martinsville Police Department as Sergeant and worked for the Public Defender’s Office for 20 years after retirement. He was a member of the Martinsville Elks Lodge and the founder of the Martinsville Police Explorer Post, and a member of the Over the Hill Gang at Oak Hill Academy. He enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting, and attending round table meetings. He is survived by his daughters, Cynthia Althea Ussery of Martinsville, VA and Renee Ussery Draper of Myrtle Beach, SC; sister and brother-in-law,



Sarah Ussery Sink and Harry Sink of Snow Creek, VA; grandchildren, Ian Gonzalez (Eliza) of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Cody Draper (Natali) of Lexington, NC, and Sarah Draper of Martinsville, VA; and great-grandchildren, Harriet Josephine Draper and Mackline S. Draper. A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, November 12 at Chatham Heights Baptist Church, with Dr. Michael Hatfield officiating. Burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park. Memorial donations may be made to Oak Hill Academy, 2635 Oak Hill Road, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363-3004, to the Fraternal Order of Police Martinsville/Henry County, 100 Melrose Place, Martinsville, VA 24112, or to Chatham Heights Baptist Church, 1235 Chatham Heights Road, Martinsville, VA 24112. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Ussery family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Shirley C. Harris

Shirley C. Harris, age 84, of Collinsville, VA, went to rest with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, November 7, 2021. She was born January 9, 1937, to the late Ellen Sims and Hubert Carter. Shirley dearly loved Jesus Christ, her family, and her church family, Victory Christian Center. She was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Curtis Carter, Hershel Carter, and Clarence Carter. Left to cherish wonderful memories and the hope of seeing her again, are her devoted husband of 66 years, William L. Harris; daughter, Sharon K. Hammock of Collinsville, VA; sons, Ken L. Harris (Iris) of Alexandria, VA and



William “David” Harris of Collinsville, VA. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Tiffany Hatley of Collinsville, VA, Derrick Hammock (Britney) of Martinsville, VA, Jacob Harris and Zachary Harris of Alexandria, VA; and her great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Will, Lucas, Annastin, and Cora Lee; and her very best friend, Janet McGhee. She is also survived by her sister, Frances Nunn (Jack) of Bassett, VA. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 12, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with her Pastor, Janet McGhee officiating. Burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Harris family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Motion

from page 1



Director of Pupil Personnel and Foster Care/Homeless Liaison Felicia Preston and Cindy Dutil explained to the board the proposed 30-day pilot program with Unity Mobile Health LLC to provide twice-weekly COVID testing for winter athletes.



Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Angilee Downing said city schools are working to close academic gaps in student learning caused by virtual learning at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



School Board member Jay Dickens told the board that he would like more information before voting on a proposal to test student athletes, and the issue was tabled.

of Health (VDH) and is focused on testing pools of students in the schools. The proposed 30-day pilot program would be run through the Danville-based Unity Mobile Health, LLC. All winter student athletes, regardless of vaccination status, would be tested twice weekly with a nasal swab rapid test. The program also would include students participating in programs like Scholastic Bowl. “They won’t be tested on game days, they will be tested on practice days,” Preston said, adding that all testing would, for the most part, occur at the practice location, and be done at no cost to the schools, the student, or families. “Parents have to give consent,” Preston added, and noted that if a parent did not consent, the student would not be allowed to play. She said that the school held a Zoom meeting for students who were considering trying out for winter sports and their parents to let everyone know

what to expect with regards to testing before tryouts. The goal was to avoid the possibility that students would try out, make the team, but be barred from playing due to an unwillingness to get tested or inability to get parental consent. Test results would be given to the coaches and parents would be notified. “We’re trying to help as many students that want to play continue to play,” Preston said. Talley added that the goal of the pilot program is to protect the entire academic community and to help keep students in school. Academic, not athletic, success is the division’s first priority. “We’re student athletes, not athlete students,” he said, “the most important thing is keeping kids in school learning. That will always be the focus.” He added that participating in athletics is a privilege. “The end game is to keep young people in school and people safe.” School board member Emily Parker expressed concern that

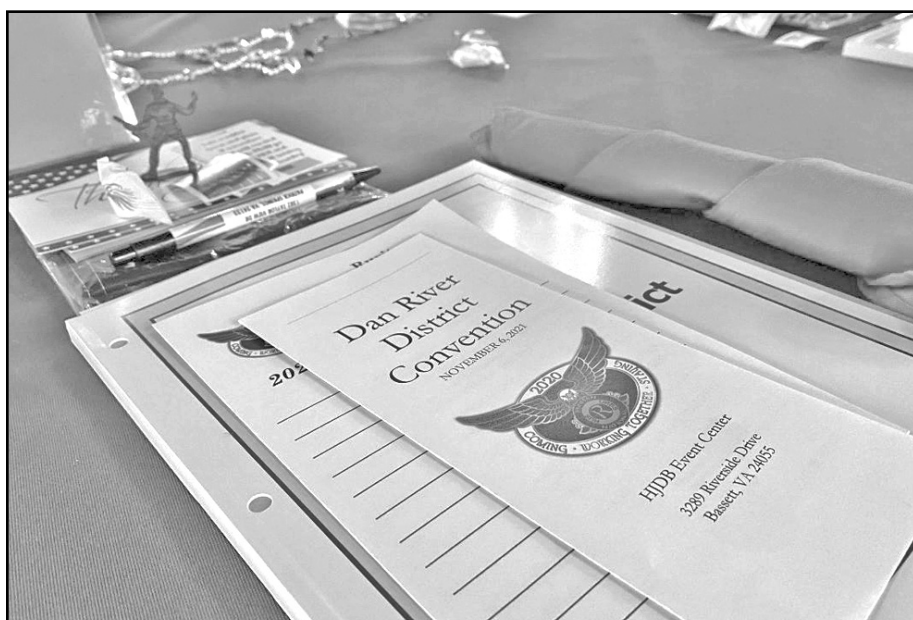
students might be deprived of the opportunity to play if parents would not consent to being tested. “If the parent has not consented, they cannot practice nor play in the sport that they’ve chosen to play in? So, it cuts their opportunity off without parental consent.” She also questioned the relative accuracy of rapid tests. Talley predicted testing programs in various forms would become more common throughout school systems. Chairman Donna Dillard said she would entertain a motion to approve the program. Finally, after a long pause, Anthony Jones, who attended via phone, made the motion, with a second from Jay Dickens. Dillard voted yes. Yvonne Givens thought for a long moment, asked if her only options were to vote yes or no, and ultimately voted yes. Dickens said there were several points he would like to learn more about before he cast

his vote, including data about the efficacy of rapid tests and information about how other divisions that have already started student testing have fared with the program. He said schools should provide additional information and details to parents and students about the program and would like to more closely examine the ViSSTA program which did not focus solely on athletes. He also questioned why only student athletes would be subject to testing under the proposed pilot program and not their coaches. “I’m concerned about a burden of ‘if you don’t consent to this, you can’t participate,’” said Parker. “That bothers me. That’s a little too much.” While she understood the underlying concern was student health and safe participation, “so I’m torn,” she said. Ultimately, the board decided to table the agenda item until its next meeting. In other matters, the board:

Arts Executive Director Heidi Pinkston and Director of Programs Sarah Short on the benefit of arts education and programs available to schools and students. *Heard from Coordinator of Academic Interventions, Title III, Foreign Language, and Mentoring Dr. Tamra Vaughan, School Psychologist Dr. Travis Worrell, and Felicia Preston of the social-emotional learning task force about the implementation of the evidence-based Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BESS) designed for children ages 3-18 which will be implementing in the school division next month. *Heard from Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Angilee Downing on workforce readiness and academic gaps in the student population. *Approved the consent agenda. *Approved language changes and updated legal references to policy manual. *Heard the superintendent’s report.

District club holds convention in Bassett

Ruritan clubs in the Dan River District gathered at the HDJB Event Center in Bassett on Saturday for the annual convention. District Governor Charlie Bowman said that the district encompasses Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Halifax counties and currently has 41 clubs. He said Ruritans elect new officers, hear speeches from outgoing officers, and hand out awards during the annual convention. Clubs also donated items to be included in a Red Cup Auction to raise money for St. Jude's and the Ruritan Foundation.



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Our online advertising is gaining in popularity. Our subscribers have access to all our publications for one inexpensive monthly fee (\$2.50). That means online ads are viewed by subscribers who live both out of town and out of state.

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

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.

HELP WANTED

BOOKKEEPER/OFFICE MANAGER WANTED
CLARK BROTHERS COMPANY INC., STUART, VA
 Clark Brothers Company, Inc. located in Stuart, VA is currently seeking a full-time office manager/bookkeeper. Looking for an organized professional to be respon-

HELP WANTED

sible for the administrative functions of Clark Brothers including communications, documentation, and book-keeping for construction projects. Must have book-keeping experience. Benefits include vacation, split health insurance, life insurance. Pay commensurate

HELP WANTED

w/ experience. Clark Brothers Company is a 5th generation family business serving general construction needs throughout Southwest VA. Located at 138 S. Main Street, Stuart, VA Call (276)694-7158, email lclark@clarkbrotherscompany.com.

SERVICES

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Woodwrx, Inc. Est. since 1988 Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County- References Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

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CLASSIFIEDS



Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing for the City of Martinsville Planning Commission will be held on November 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT - Application of Smith Wholesale, Inc., Applicant and Owner, requesting a Special Use Permit with possible conditions, to allow for the operation of an office and self-storage facility, on property located at 204 Broad Street and currently zoned C-C, Corridor Commercial District. Self-storage facilities are a permitted use in C-C zoning districts by issuance of a Special Use Permit by Martinsville City Council. Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us.

Notice Submitted By:
 Hannah L. Powell
 Community Development Specialist

Henry County Enterprise Publication Dates:

Saturday, November 6, 2021
 Saturday, November 13, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA

Volunteer Settlement Agreement
 Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on a Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the County of Henry and the City of Martinsville (hereafter, the "Agreement"). The public hearing will be conducted in the Summerlin Boardroom of the Henry County Administration building, located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA, on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter. The "Agreement", authorized by §15.2-3400 of the Virginia Code, provides for Martinsville's reversion to town status within Henry County, addresses the allocation of governmental services following that change in governmental structure, identifies the transfer of certain real and personal property, delineates the sharing of certain revenues, provides for a temporary moratorium of annexation rights, and addresses other matters. The full text of the "Agreement" is available at www.henrycountyva.gov/reversion or in person in the County Administrator's Office, located on the 4th floor of the Administration building. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

Park from page 1

ment improve the quality of life in a community, a factor more and more businesses are considered when deciding to locate to a community.

Thus far, said Tyler Carter, commercial banker with Carter Bank & Trust and chairman of the EAC, six other businesses have joined Carter Bank & Trust in becoming founding members of the council, each making an initial \$5,000 donation, including Pittsylvania County's Blair Construction, Clark Gas & Oil based in Patrick County, and Frith Construction, Hooker Furniture, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, and The Lester Group, all based in Martinsville or Henry County.

In his capacity as chairman, Carter said that he hopes to expand EAC membership to include more like-minded, community-focused businesses in the Dan River Basin area.

The state park project was selected from a list of potential projects as the council's first investment—its \$18,000 investment provided funds for the parking area and construction of trails. Carter described

it as planting the initial seed that will allow the rest of the state park process to move forward.

He said future projects could include hiking and biking trail systems in other locations throughout the basin, river clean-ups, and public environmental workshops.

Of next steps, Layman said, "the master plan development for the future Mayo River State Park is scheduled to begin during the spring of 2022. This will direct the official phases of park development and provide guidance and a timeline for the official opening of the park."

"The project announced with the funding from the Eco Ambassador Council will provide trail access and parking area and is separate from the master plan process," he added.

Williams congratulated the EAC and other partners who have worked hard to bring the county its first state park.

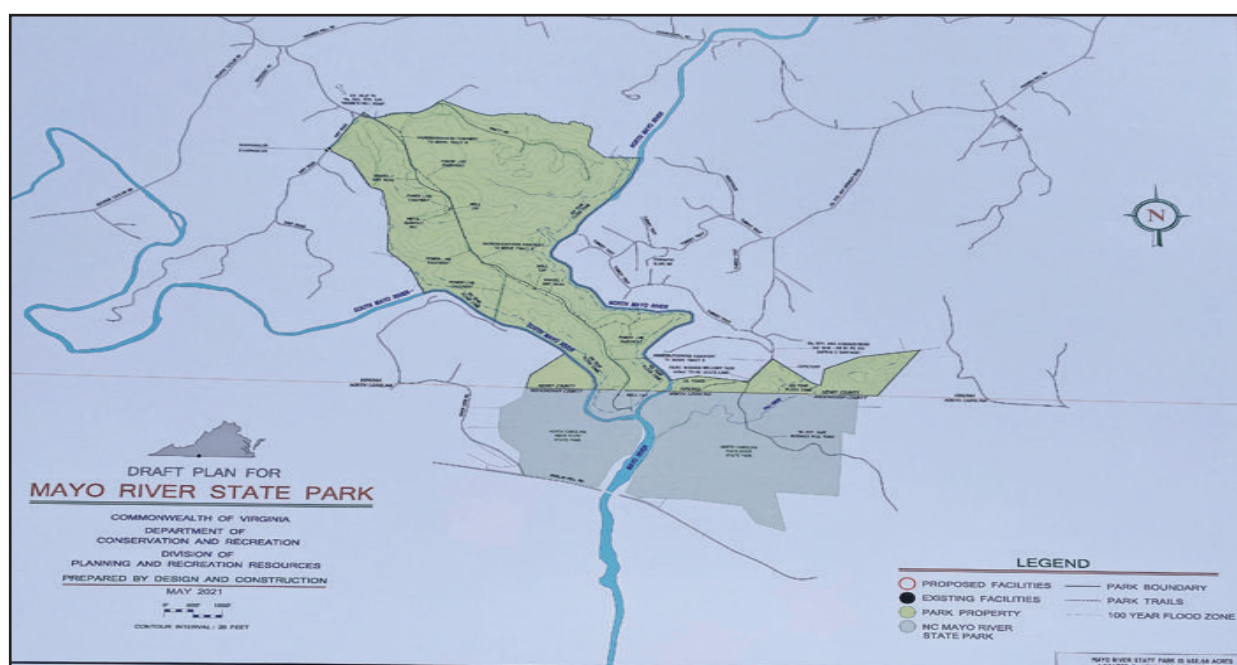
"After 16 years," he said, "we'll finally have something here the public can enjoy. Finding the funding to do this, to give us a state park in Henry County, we couldn't be more thrilled."



Fairy Stone State Park Manager Adam Layman welcomed guests and described the work his staff will do over the winter and spring to create the first five miles of trail systems which will allow public access to the park site.



Tyler Carter, commercial banker with Carter Bank & Trust and chairman of the Eco Ambassador Council, described the creation of the EAC and the kind of projects the council hopes to undertake.



A draft plan of the Mayo River State Park was on display at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Pursuit ends in Martinsville, with multiple charges issued

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A police pursuit that began in Rockingham County, N. C., ended late Monday night in Martinsville on Whittle Road, just off Mulberry Road.

The initial call was a domestic dispute, according to Rockingham County Sheriff's Lt. Kevin Sutherland. He said

a call came in at 8:13 p.m. from a woman alleging that a former boyfriend was attempting to run her vehicle off the road.

Authorities with the Eden Police Department began a pursuit.

The alleged driver, Jonathan Carl Jones, 40, of the Madison, N.C. area, fled, authorities alleged. The Rockingham

County Sheriff's Office joined in the pursuit, but both stopped when the pursuit entered Virginia.

Virginia State Police 1st Sgt. M.C. Davis said troopers were notified at 8:54 p.m. that Rockingham deputies were in pursuit. The VSP took over the chase at 8:56 p.m., and at 9:38, the incident ended when the truck finally stopped at the

end of Whittle Road. By that time, Davis said, the vehicle was missing both driver's side tires and one passenger's side tire.

Jones was taken into custody without incident. Both state police and Henry County deputies were present at the scene.

Sutherland said that once extradited to North Carolina, Jones will be charged with

assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly ramming a car with his truck, fleeing to elude arrest, assault of a female, and injury to personal property. Allegedly during the pursuit, one of tires came off the truck and damaged another vehicle.

Davis said that Jones is charged in Virginia with eluding police, reckless driving, and two felony fugitive charges.

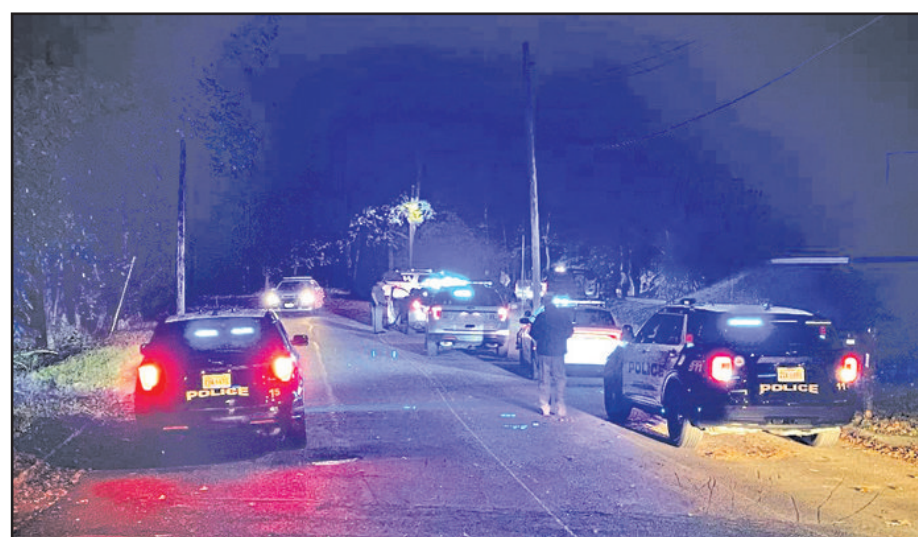


PHOTO COURTESY OF BTW 21

Multiple law enforcement agencies were at the end of Whittle Road in Martinsville when a North Carolina man was taken into custody after a pursuit that allegedly began in North Carolina.



By the time the vehicle came to a stop in Martinsville, three tires had been lost, one of which allegedly damaged another vehicle.



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Chainsaw Safety Class, (November 17th, 2pm & 6pm), held at former Jaycees Building in Stuart. Come learn chainsaw safety provided by Stihl representatives and WOODS COLD STORAGE. **"FREE!!"** Please call to register at Woods Cold Storage 276-694-3888

Foundation awards \$14,000 for scholarships

For a fifth year, the Gene Haas Foundation in investing in Patrick & Henry Community College's students. This year, that foundation increased its award to P&HCC providing the school with \$14,000 to go towards student scholarships. These funds specifically go to support students pursuing a variety of engineering and machinist-based programs, including P&HCC's popular motorsports program and the college's newest manufacturing-based program – precision machining program.

Kathy Looman, director of Education for the foundation, said that supporting P&HCC aligns with the foundation's mission "to expose students to careers in manufacturing and to provide scholarships to the students who choose a career in CNC machining and/or manufacturing engineering."

According to Looman, support for this demographic is crucial because "53 percent of high school students don't believe they will have an opportunity to have a good job."

The Gene Haas Foundation believes that scholarships for manufacturing programs specifically are particularly

important. Nationally, these jobs are in high demand. And, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that demand is likely going to continue growing.

According to P&HCC officials, the support is also critical because scholarships often play a pivotal role in a student's decision and ability to pursue a field of interest.

"Many of our students would not be able to complete their training without these scholarships," says Tiffani Underwood, executive director of the P&HCC Foundation. "We are so grateful for the continued support from the Gene Haas Foundation. Their commitment to student development in these high-demand career fields ensures our community has the highly skilled employees needed to be successful."

The Gene Haas Foundation was founded in 1999 by the owner of Haas Automation, Inc., America's leading builder of CNC machine tools, to promote American manufacturing and manufacturing education. The Haas Foundation has donated more than \$120 million to more than 4,500 charitable organizations and schools.