

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, December 11, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director of Grace Network, which is celebrating 15 years of service.

Grace Network marks 15 years of service to the community

For the past 15 years, area residents facing crisis situations have been able to turn to Grace Network for help in keeping their utilities turned on, roofs over their heads and food on their tables.

Over the past 15 years, that help has been worth more than \$3.17 million that has been donated by area churches, organizations, foundations, businesses, grants, individuals and others.

Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director of Grace Network, tells the story of one client to illustrate the impact Grace assistance can have. The client, a single mother and nurse being treated for a rare form of breast cancer, had to move from full-time to part-time work due to her treatment. Because of that loss of income and the high cost of genetic testing to determine if her daughter had the

predisposition for the cancer, the woman fell behind on her electric bills.

With Grace's help, the woman was able to move forward. "The wonderful part is that the tests came back and her daughter was fine," Hinchcliff said. "It was a happy ending all the way around."

See **Grace Network**, page 3

County officials to revisit reversion agreement Tuesday

Debbie Hall
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The Henry County Board of Supervisors will discuss a Voluntary Settlement Agreement (VSA) related to reversion at its Dec. 14 meeting.

The agreement between the county and the City of Martinsville was discussed by the board at the end of a Nov. 23 public hearing. However, the board took no action at the time.

In other matters at the 3 p.m. meeting in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building, the board will:

* Consider a path forward for realignment of the county's magisterial district. With the release of updated Census information every 10 years, localities are required to revisit magisterial district borders to ensure all requirements are met based on population. This process was impacted by delays in receiving Census data

because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

* The firm of Creedle, Jones and Alga, P.C., will present its audit of county accounts for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

* Consider buying land from Anne Viperman and accepting donated land from Newco, Inc. to develop Riverview Park. In July, the county was awarded \$495,000 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy 56 acres adjacent to the Smith River Sports Complex. A local foundation is donating 60 acres. Combined, the county will have approximately 117 acres for the new park.

* Hear from two residents - the Rev. Tyler Millner plans to discuss reversion, and Doug Stegall will discuss health insurance.

* Hear an update on

See **Reversion**, page 2

Draper spreads a TAD of Christmas cheer with toy drive

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Wayne Draper is hoping to make Christmas morning a little bit brighter for some families this year.

The owner of Right Now Remediation and Restoration and the TAD Space, Draper has partnered with Healthy Families West Piedmont and Infant & Toddler Connection of the Piedmont to create the Holiday Hope Toy Drive.

Community giving is nothing new for Draper, who said he has organized similar efforts in other places he has lived. The inspiration for this endeavor came from a decade-old memory that popped up on his Facebook page, during which a man was so moved by a donation to his organization that both Draper and the other man were in tears.

For this drive, he wanted to choose organizations that "meet the needs we're looking to meet," namely ensuring that donated toys go to local families rather than being sent outside of the area. Additionally, he wanted to partner with organizations serving a diverse group of families and individuals.

"We work with families from all walks of life, but a lot of those we serve are facing challenges" stemming from work, COVID, or life, said Sherry Winn, of Healthy Families West Piedmont and Infant & Toddler Connection of the Piedmont. Both programs operate under the auspices of Piedmont Community Services.

"Families always want to have something special at Christmas," she said. "They will be so excited and thankful to have something extra" to give their children during the holidays.



Wayne Draper, owner of the TAD Space, organized the Holiday Hope Toy Drive to provide new toys for Christmas to infants, toddlers, and older children in Martinsville and Henry County.

Connection provides early intervention support and services for young children with developmental delays or a medical diagnosis that typically leads to such delays, Winn said of the program that offers support to the families of the children as well, providing strategies to work with their children, often by contracting with physical or speech therapists.

Winn said Healthy Families West Piedmont specialists are often described as "living, breathing how-to manuals," providing support services to new parents who are facing various challenges or stressors.

The program offers information about child development, helps parents learn to build healthy parent-child relationships, and develop parenting skills. Links to whatever resources parents may need also are available, including healthcare, food, and mental health services.

"Whatever families need help with, we try to link them," Winn said.

& Toddler Connection serves 141 young children and Healthy Families serves 49 families across Henry, Franklin, and Patrick counties and the city of Martinsville.

Draper hopes that many of those children and families will be receiving toys from Holiday Hope donors this holiday season. He is specifically seeking donations of new, unopened toys to give children the joy of opening and owning something brand new. Though toys of all kinds are welcome, he said he hopes donations include battery-powered toys, educational toys, and items such as board games to help promote family bonding.

He has already assembled a list of businesses to support the drive, including Miss Kitty's Restaurant, G2 Cars, Rudy's Girl Media, VLNZ, Unique Styles and Designs, Brenda's Catering, Theory of Soul Band, his own Right Now Remediation and Restoration, and a host of Greek organizations

See **Toy Drive**, page 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Precious, a Shih-Tzu adopted from the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA, was instrumental in earning a \$5,000 grant through Petco's Love Stories program. He posed for a photo at the check presentation ceremony in Roanoke.

A dog's tale: Precious wins hearts and funds for local SPCA

Precious, a Shih-Tzu adopted from the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA, is giving back to the shelter that took him in.

Recently, his extraordinary tail, er, tale, helped him earn \$5,000 for the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA from which he was adopted. The money came from Petco's Love Stories initiative, which invites pet adopters to share the story of how their pet has changed their life.

Precious' story was submitted by Lynchburg's Angela Blazer, the former caregiver of an elderly Navy veteran, Colin Smith, who has since died. Due to Smith's age, health, and the COVID-19 pandemic, he was barely able to leave the house, Blazer wrote

in her Love Stories submission.

Seeking a way to help Smith, Blazer learned of The Veteran Project, founded three years ago by Jenny Cole. Operating under the umbrella of the Lynchburg Area Veteran's Council, the project matches veterans with rescue dogs. Cole remembered interviewing Smith, telling him it might take some time to find the right dog to match his request for a "little, fluffy one." Dogs like that get adopted quickly, she cautioned.

However, just nine days later, Cole said she received a call from E.C. Stone, then director of the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA,

See **SPCA**, page 6

Burn ban issued in county

Henry County Administrator Tim Hall has issued an immediate ban on all outdoor burning in the county due to continued dry conditions.

Unusually dry weather conditions have created a high risk of wildfires, and as of December 4, all outdoor burning is prohibited until further notice. The only exceptions are covered gas, electric or charcoal barbecue grills/smokers and manufactured outdoor wood furnaces.

"Henry County hasn't seen this level

of fire danger since our last burn ban in September 2019," said Lisa Garrett, Fire Marshal. "Conditions are dangerous, and we need everyone to understand the seriousness of this issue. We need this ban for everyone's protection."

Residents are asked to cooperate by adhering to the ban until it is rescinded. Failure to comply may result in criminal charges.

A permit for outside fires may be obtained under certain conditions. Call the Fire Marshal's Office at (276)

634-4660 or visit www.hcdps.com for more information.

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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, Dec. 11

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a book sale from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the basement of the Martinsville Branch Library, 310 E. Church Street. Books are on a variety of topics - decorating, crafts, entertaining, and cookbooks; lots of Christmas themed children's books, young adult, and inspirational and religious books. There are even some special books on trains for that train lover on your Christmas list. Proceeds benefit the library system.

Piedmont Arts will host Winter Barn Quilt Painting from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for artists and aspiring artists ages 12 and up. Participants will paint a 12 x 12 inch barn quilt with instructor Lisa Martin. Choose from 8 design options! All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advanced registration is required by visiting PiedmontArts.org.

Sunday, Dec. 12
The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is hosting its annual Christmas Music Program beginning at 3 p.m. in the historic Henry County Courthouse. All are invited to enjoy the talents in our community and beautiful Christmas trees on display. Admission is free.

TheatreWorks Community Players will perform a Reader's Theatre production of "An O. Henry Christmas" at 2 p.m. Reader's Theater combines the magic simplicity of a radio drama with the intimacy of the Black Box experience. The cast will explore these soulful characters as they encounter O. Henry's classic Christmas

tales and allow the hope and spirit of Christmas to change their lives. Tickets are available online at twcp.net or at the door.

Monday, Dec. 13

The Martinsville City School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the city council chambers of the Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Thursday, Dec. 16

Patrick & Henry Community College is hosting a Workforce Programs Open House from 6-7 p.m. in the Frith Exhibit Hall (645 Patriot Avenue) on the campus of P&HCC. This free event will offer information about the short-term workforce training programs offered at P&HCC and the funding assistance available.

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext.) from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, Dec. 18

The Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department (17815 A.L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway) will host a country buffet breakfast from 6-10 a.m. The cost

for adults is \$8 and \$4 for children under 10. All carry outs are \$8.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at Mount Hermon Church of the Bretheren, 144 Mount Hermon Church Road, Bassett. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Monday, Dec. 20

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at New College Institute from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022

Martinsville City Council will hold a community conversation about reversion. The topic of this week's meeting is town/city changes. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in city council chambers. Each meeting is limited to twelve participants per session and anyone who wishes to participate must pre-register 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. Citizens must register 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.

ONGOING

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.

Reversion

from page 1

delinquent tax collection efforts by Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.

* Consider projects for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Each year the West Piedmont Regional Economic Development District, which serves Henry, Patrick, Franklin, and Pittsylvania counties, the cities of Martinsville and Danville, and the town of Rocky Mount, compiles an updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The plan will be forwarded to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to maintain the eligibility of the participating localities to receive EDA funding.

* Consider setting a date and time for the board's 2022 Organizational Meeting, as required soon after the first of the year. During that meeting, the board also will set its meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year and elect a chairman and vice-chairman.

* Consider an additional appropriation of Four-for-Life Funds. The county recently received \$53,422.72 from the Commonwealth's Four-for-Life, return-to-localities fund. This fund is derived from a fee charged by the state on each vehicle registered in the county. The funds must be used for emergency medical services training, supplies, or equipment. In the past, the funds were

distributed equally among the five rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety for ambulance operations. If the board chooses to divide the funds among the six departments equally, each will receive \$8,903.78.

*Consider meeting in closed session to discuss appointees to Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board, and Southern Area Agency on Aging; discuss pending legal matters; the acquisition or disposal of real estate; as-yet unannounced industries and personnel matters.

The board also will meet at 6 p.m., to discuss:

*A resolution recognizing the 70th Anniversary of the Martinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

*Hear an update on General Highway Matters by Lisa Price-Hughes, resident engineer of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

* A swearing-in ceremony for newly elected officials that include Henry County Board of Supervisors members Jim Adams, Blackberry District; Joe A. Bryant, Collinsville District; Garrett L. Dillard, Iriswood District. Henry County School Board members Thomas E. Aufer, Blackberry District; Elizabeth A. Durden, Collinsville District, and Benjamin E. Gravely, Iriswood District.

Flagpole dedicated at Clocktower



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A flagpole dedication ceremony was held last week at the Lester Group's Clocktower at Commonwealth Centre (300 Franklin Street.) Among those in attendance were Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson, city council member Danny Turner, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Watkins, Vice President of the Lester Development Corporation Andrew Palmer, George Lester, and Lester Group President and CEO Jay Dickens.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Polish city</p> <p>6. Very eager</p> <p>10. Identifies a specific person or thing</p> <p>14. Tennis great Naomi</p> <p>15. One concerned by professional advancement</p> <p>17. PGA Championship reward</p> <p>19. A fashionable hotel</p> <p>20. Norse mythology after-life location</p> <p>21. Stood up</p> <p>22. Car mechanics group</p> <p>23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)</p> <p>24. Broken branch</p> <p>26. Astronomy unit</p> <p>29. East Asian nursemaid</p> <p>31. "Airplane!" actor</p> <p>32. Exclamation that</p> | <p>denotes disgust</p> <p>34. "Batman" villain</p> <p>35. Downfalls</p> <p>37. Philippine province</p> <p>38. Once-vital TV part</p> <p>39. Valley</p> <p>40. Tax</p> <p>41. Classic Scorsese film</p> <p>43. Subway dwellers</p> <p>45. Book part</p> <p>46. Taxi</p> <p>47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour</p> <p>49. Swiss river</p> <p>50. Founder of Babism</p> <p>53. Have surgery</p> <p>57. Withdrawal from a larger entity</p> <p>58. Lot's father</p> <p>59. Greek war god</p> <p>60. 2,000 lbs.</p> <p>61. Lemur</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Quarrels</p> <p>2. Right away</p> <p>3. Comedian Carvey</p> <p>4. Egyptian unit of weight</p> <p>5. A Brit's mother</p> <p>6. Tropical tree</p> <p>7. One who speaks Gaelic</p> <p>8. NHL legend Bobby</p> <p>9. Vacation spots</p> <p>10. Military personnel</p> <p>11. Shakira's don't lie</p> <p>12. Wimbledon champ</p> <p>13. Teletypewriter</p> <p>16. Mistakes</p> <p>18. Whale ship captain</p> <p>22. Thus</p> <p>23. From end to end</p> <p>24. Kids love him</p> <p>25. One and only</p> <p>27. Fencing swords</p> <p>28. Taxis</p> | <p>29. Basics</p> <p>30. Refuse of grapes</p> <p>31. Go quickly</p> <p>33. French ballet dynasty</p> <p>35. Most open</p> <p>36. Popular soap ingredient</p> <p>37. US time zone (abbr.)</p> <p>39. Items of food</p> <p>42. Backbones</p> <p>43. Infrequent</p> <p>44. Blood type</p> <p>46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter</p> <p>47. Dutch colonist</p> <p>48. Pike</p> <p>49. Egyptian sun god</p> <p>50. A cardinal is one</p> <p>51. From a distance</p> <p>52. Bolivian river</p> <p>53. N. American student organization (abbr.)</p> <p>54. River (Spanish)</p> <p>55. Chinese life force</p> <p>56. Chinese surname</p> |
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Sixth graders at Martinsville Middle School have grand opening of 1800s museum



Niema Merritt answering questions about the Trail of Tears.



William Wall and his California Gold Rush Mining site.



Robert Fulton's Steamboat by Josiah Lucas.

Students in Beverly Woody's sixth grade Social Studies class at Martinsville Middle School created a museum featuring displays of historical figures and events last week.

The students also acted as tour guides, discussing their projects with students, faculty, and staff.

Woody said she wanted the children to create a museum rather than just undergo another test or examination.

"History is so much more than just remembering facts and

dates," said Woody. "Projects like the museum are three-dimensional and breathe life into people and places from the past. When we study our history, we build a connection between the past and the future. Future generations will have more appreciation and understanding of the hardships and sacrifices of those that came before them. In turn, these people and places from the past will be more respected and revered."

Sixth grader Niema Merritt explained that her favorite part

of the project was being able to choose a topic of interest to showcase. She focused on the Trail of Tears, a series of forced displacements of Native Americans between 1830 and 1850.

"I chose the Trail of Tears because in class, we read about a young Cherokee boy that lost his father and mother along the Trail of Tears and he was left all alone," said Merritt. "I wanted to learn more about him and the lives of the Cherokee people. Doing a presentation like this

gave me so much more freedom to learn and tell others about the experiences of the Cherokee."

Sixth grader William Wall chose the California Gold Rush for his project "because I have always been interested in gold. It's shiny and it's worth a lot. Plus, I like mining. I don't do it personally, but the aspect of mining seems to speak to me."

Echoed the excitement, sixth grader Iriana Newbillsaid, "I loved that we did a presentation rather than a test because it is hard to study for tests, but this

was fun! I still learned a lot, too. I hope we do another one."

"We are proud of the work our students have done in developing their critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship necessary to meet the Profile of a Virginia Graduate," said Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Angilee Downing. "We also appreciate our staff for their dedication and work in creating a love of learning while developing these skills in our students."

Grace Network from page 1



Grace Network volunteers Jean Rood (left) and Pandora Gill. Rood has been volunteering with the organization for all 15 years it has existed.



Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director (right), meets with volunteer Glenda Hambly.



Volunteers Judy King (far left), Janet Fentress, and Ashby Pinkard collect food from Grace Network's food pantry shelves.

THE BEGINNING

Before 2006, people in crisis sometimes went from one church to another to seek help. That drained resources and was akin to "throwing money to the wind," Hinchcliff said.

Seeking a better option, a few area churches, with the help of the local Ministerial Association and a small grant, formed a board to find a new way to help those in an emergency or crisis. They created Grace Network, a faith-based organization that does not seek government grants or funding.

From the start, the organization's mission has been helping people in crisis maintain their housing and utilities and feed their families, Hinchcliff said. That mission has never wavered.

Clients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis during Grace's week-day office hours. All clients are screened and interviewed by volunteers to determine their financial situation, their crisis and what help Grace may provide.

Clients must live in Martinsville or Henry County, and they must provide identification and proof of their income and expenses.

There is no income limit for getting assistance, Hinchcliff said, adding that she is proud of that. "We look at the story of the individual regardless of where they are financially," she said, telling of one middle-class couple that was about to lose their home because they were spending all their money on the medical bills of the husband, who had cancer.

Learning each client's story is important,

Hinchcliff said. "We always strive to find out how they got to the situation they're in, what are they doing to get out of it and how can Grace assist."

There are caps on the assistance available to clients, she said. Often, if a person can pay or get funding for part of an outstanding bill, Grace will pay a share in hopes of avoiding a utility shutoff or eviction, for instance.

Hinchcliff compares poverty to a fragile spider web. When one thread is broken, the entire web can easily fall apart, with no safety net or backup plans. That is when Grace Network and other organizations may be able to help, she said.

"We know people who live in poverty for the most part will get by on their limited resources," she said. "But when an emergency happens — (such as) the car breaks down — they don't have savings" or a credit card to help see them through. So "they rob Peter to pay Paul" until they are in a crisis situation.

"We are not caseworkers, but we can stop the bleeding when they've fallen off the cliff," Hinchcliff said. "That was the whole intention" of creating Grace Network.

Once the crisis is averted, or the bleeding has stopped, Hinchcliff said, "Then we have a responsibility to connect them (clients) with other agencies" to make people aware of the vast resources available in the community to help.

Partnerships with other agencies are "essential in any community if it is going to be successful in moving the needle of poverty," she added.

Today, in addition to grants and other donations, Grace Network is supported by 125 local churches of all denominations. Some provide volunteers; some make monthly donations; some contribute food; and some do all three, Hinchcliff said. There is no minimum or maximum support required of a church.

"We are blessed that we do have an exemplary reputation in the community because of the way we treat people" and provide assistance, she said. As a result, donors "know the funds will be put to good use."

The agency is governed by a 15-member board. About 40-50 percent of the board members are active volunteers who can give input on the day-to-day operations of Grace Network, and the rest are a diverse group of area residents who "all have a heart to help," Hinchcliff said. They may serve a maximum of two, three-year terms on the board.

THE NUMBERS

Statistics on Grace Network cases and dollars show an average of 3,500 clients and \$211,448 each year respectively. Cases ranged as high as 4485 in fiscal 2012-13 to as low as 1,337 in fiscal 2020-21. (Figures are given for cases rather than clients since some clients may seek help more than once in a year.)

During those years, the highest total payout for client services was \$308,017 in fiscal 2008-09. The lowest were \$154,741 in fiscal 2019 and \$163,327 in fiscal 2020.

Hinchcliff attributes the declines of those two years to the covid pandemic, but she expects the caseload

and spending to rebound eventually. Like other agencies, Grace Network closed in April 2020 due to the pandemic, but it gradually resumed services, providing food boxes and then other services through efforts coordinated with other agencies and organizations.

For instance, local hotels agreed to house people whose family members were sick so they would not become ill. Hinchcliff delivered food to two single mothers who had children but no resources for food or other needs.

"We took it one day at a time and one problem at a time," she said.

Eventually, the Grace offices at 16 Liberty St., Martinsville, reopened to see clients as the volunteers returned to serve.

Aside from Hinchcliff and a bookkeeper, Grace Network is staffed entirely with volunteers. Before the pandemic, Grace averaged 150 volunteers; now there are about 130. Twelve volunteers are needed for each of the six shifts when Grace Network serves clients (Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays 4-7 p.m.)

Hinchcliff recruits volunteers constantly because fewer clients can be seen when the office is not fully staffed. Volunteers go through a one-hour orientation session, followed by an extensive training period that includes shadowing other volunteers.

Grace also has processes in place to protect it against fraud, Hinchcliff said. "Fraud is out there; we can't be naive to it,"

she said.

The Charity Tracker computer network, which was created through the United Way, not only steers clients to other organizations for help, but can also help as a fraud-protection tool that shows what area agencies have served a client. This data base has proven to be one of the best tools in helping Grace Network be efficient and effective, Hinchcliff said.

THE FUTURE

Hinchcliff said she feels prepared for whatever the future holds, in part because the covid pandemic showed how agencies — especially local, autonomous ones such as Grace Network

— can come together to meet the community's needs.

She hopes that someday Grace Network will not be needed, that hunger, strife and her job will not exist.

However, "the reality is that there will always be poverty on this earth. That's the way the world works," she said. "But I believe it's our charge as Christians to help those less fortunate as it's been for hundreds of years."

So looking five to 10 years into the future, Hinchcliff predicted, "Grace will still be here." For more information on Grace Network, how to volunteer or how to contribute, call 638-8500.

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OPINION

The agony and the ecstasy

For five years now, my hobby has been collecting and repairing pinball machines. I see no signs of stopping; the madness has fully taken hold.

Lately, however, I've also begun learning how to repair old arcade video games; your Pac-Mans and Galagas and Space Invaders and whatnot. It's a lot like pinball repair except there are much higher voltages involved and you run the risk of blowing yourself through a wall if you touch a monitor in the wrong place. It's pretty exciting!

I do freelance repairs for people, and I'm often asked if I enjoy doing these repairs. My answer is always the same: I enjoy it up until the exact moment that I don't.

Allow me to provide an example, a tale of what happens in the slam-bang, thrill-a-minute world of arcade repair. I'm sure the three people still reading at this point will find it quite enjoyable.

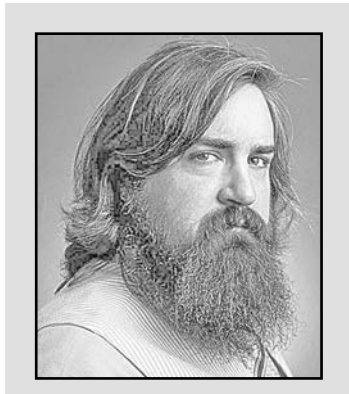
A few months back, I purchased an original Donkey Kong arcade machine from a nice fellow in Roanoke. It worked great for a while, but as will sometimes

happen with a 40-year-old piece of electronics, it eventually developed an issue: the image on the monitor began slowly scrolling to the left.

It's pretty hard to play the game when the monitor is constantly scrolling to the left, so I started investigating how to fix the issue. I replaced some parts and made some adjustments, but the issue persisted. Finally, someone on a Facebook group pointed me in the right direction: my power supply, he said, needed to be recapped.

The power supply is the thing that takes the electricity from the wall and feeds it into the other components of the machine, and if the voltages coming from the power supply aren't right, it can cause all sorts of problems. "Recapping" a power supply means replacing all of the capacitors, which are basically little batteries that store an electric charge.

A capacitor kit for Donkey Kong costs about \$25. A new power supply, on the other hand, is only \$40. But I wasn't about to wimp out and replace a perfectly



By Ben R. Williams

good power supply; I was going to undergo an extremely tedious process in the name of learning a new skill and saving \$15.

On pinball machines and many arcade games, the power supply is just a circuit board; you remove a couple screws, it pops right off, and you have easy access to the capacitors.

This is not the case with Donkey Kong, however, because Nintendo apparently hated the people who worked on their games. No, the Donkey Kong power supply consists of two cir-

cuit boards that are sealed inside a metal cage made of pure hate.

I removed the power supply and began taking the cage apart. It was held together with about 20 tiny screws, all of which appeared to be made of compressed aluminum foil because the heads stripped the moment I turned my screwdriver. It took nearly an hour just to disassemble the puzzle box and get to the circuit boards inside.

Once I had access to the circuit boards, I began the painstaking process of removing each capacitor with my desoldering gun, finding the capacitor with the correct values from the kit I'd purchased, and then carefully soldering the new capacitor in place.

Capacitors, much like batteries, have a positive and a negative; there are two wires sticking out from each capacitor, and you have to make sure that you have the capacitor oriented correctly when you solder it in place. If you insert the batteries backwards in your TV remote, the remote doesn't work; if you solder a capacitor in backwards, it blows up. It's a real "measure twice, cut once" kind of situation.

For reasons known only to some old guys at Nintendo, there are about 30 capacitors inside the Donkey Kong power supply. I soldered them in, one after the other, and then put the power supply back together. The entire process took two and a half hours.

I put the power supply back in the cabinet and wired it up. I was utterly convinced that I'd messed up somewhere, that I'd put at least one capacitor in backwards or broken something. When I turned the power on, I was convinced that I would hear a loud "POP" and then watch the power supply burst into flames.

With a shaking hand, I flipped the switch.

There was no explosion, no fireball. I took out my multimeter and measured the voltages coming from the power supply.

They were perfect. Absolutely dead-on. I couldn't help but smile, realizing that my repair skills had just reached a new level.

Then I looked at the screen and saw that the image on the monitor was still scrolling to the left.

I enjoy arcade repair up until the exact moment I don't.

No to Vaccine Mandates

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

Over the past few months, I have heard clear opposition from many residents of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District to President Biden's coronavirus vaccine mandates.

I share this opposition and have expressed it before in this column. I am vaccinated, and I urge others to consider getting vaccinated themselves if they are not already, but I believe such a decision should be left to an individual based on his or her beliefs and health.

Since President Biden announced his planned mandates on September 9, much has happened.

His announcement was only the first step of the process. He issued executive orders on that date extending the man-

date to federal employees and contractors. Two other mandates, however, had to go through more extensive regulatory procedures.

One, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), required vaccinations or continuous COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated individuals at any private employer with 100 or more employees. The other, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), imposed vaccine mandates on health care providers participating in Medicare and Medicaid.

Legal and constitutional questions surround these mandates. For example, can a health care provider, such as a hospital, face extensive, burdensome, and onerous new requirements

on employees in order to continue its participation in Medicare and Medicaid?

Both of these mandates constitute overreach by the Federal Government, and they skipped the full rulemaking process, which requires notice and comment periods.

These mandates intrude into the affairs of ordinary Americans and their employers. Further, they are counterproductive.

We heard testimony to this effect during an October hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, on which I serve. One of the witnesses was Ballad Health CEO Alan Levine. He noted the challenges faced by rural hospitals in recruiting and retaining staff under normal circumstances, let alone during an ongoing pandemic.

During the time allotted to me for questions, I pointed out that a one size fits all mandate would exacerbate those challenges. At a time when health care workers feel the strain of their continuous efforts against the coronavirus, the last thing the Federal Government should do is put in place more burdens.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal, Seema Verma, CMS Administrator during the Trump Administration, further spelled out some of the consequences of the mandate for hospitals:

Already-exhausted healthcare workers would have to work longer hours to compensate for the termination of unvaccinated colleagues, leading to more burn-out and retirements. This could lead to delays in care, or the postponement of needed healthcare services. If patients put off needed surgeries or preventive services

like mammograms that can lead to more diagnoses of advanced diseases, which are more complicated and expensive to treat.

I support using the tools at Congress' disposal to push back against the Biden Administration's overreach. I along with others introduced a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the OSHA rule, and I spoke at a press conference advocating for it.

Lawsuits have been filed by various parties opposed to the mandates, and they have met with success in some federal courts so far.

The OSHA rule was stayed on November 12 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, meaning it cannot be enforced at present.

The CMS rule was blocked by two district courts, which found that the agency likely exceeded its authority and that the plaintiffs sufficiently demonstrated that they

would suffer irreparable harm if the rule was not prevented from going into effect while litigation continues. In our area, Ballad Health suspended its vaccine requirement as a result.

The final word on these cases has not been pronounced, but I am encouraged that courts have recognized legal and constitutional problems with vaccine mandates.

Opposition to vaccine mandates respects a person's rights. I have talked to people in the district who, like me, are vaccinated but just don't think it is the government's business. We can look after each other and take care of our own health without any more edicts from Washington.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, my Washington office at (202) 225-3861, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
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Give us your view:

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

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

Foundation contributes to annual coat drive

The Matthew Wayne Wade (MWW) Foundation made its annual donation to the 2020 Coats for Kids drive last week. The drive is led by Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District Supervisor in association with Avery Mills, owner of One Hour Martinizing, and Henry County Public Schools. The program provides warm coats to area

children.

Members of the MWW Foundation would like to thank everyone that donated to and supported the Coats for Kids Drive this year. Foundation members are grateful that they are able to continue contributing to the drive each year in order to provide children in need coats to stay warm. The MWW

Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in the memory of Matthew Wayne Wade, has participated in the Coats for Kids drive since 2013. For more information or how to donate or become a supporter of the foundation, visit <https://www.winebyriver.com/mww-foundation/> or find Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation on Facebook.



From left: Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, One Hour Martinizing owner Avery Mills, and Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation members Tanya Martin and Brad Hughes.

OBITUARIES

Zachary "Zach" Allan Rowe

Zachary "Zach" Allan Rowe, 36, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. He was born on January 19, 1985, to Bobby Ray Rowe, Jr., and Wanda Kay Secrest Rowe. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, James David Secrest.



Mr. Rowe served in the United States Army and was self-employed as a diesel mechanic. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his daughters, Makayla Nichole Rowe and Adaleigh Ann Rowe both of Martinsville, VA; son, Matthew Allan Rowe of Martinsville, VA; brothers, Eric Rowe (Jennifer) of Clemmons, NC and Jacob Rowe (Elizabeth Jones) of Roanoke, VA; aunt, Sherry Keatts of Martinsville, VA; uncles, Jason Rowe of Martinsville, VA and Steven Rowe of Stocksedale, NC; paternal grandparents, Bobby Ray Rowe, Sr. and Gail Rowe of Martinsville, VA; and maternal grandmother, Maggie "Boots" Secrest of Martinsville, VA. Also surviving are numerous cousins, friends, and extended family.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, with Minister David Deisher and Minister Lee Ashley officiating.

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

Hardin Hairston Edwards

Hardin Hairston Edwards, 81, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Thursday, December 2, 2021, at his home. He was born April 14, 1940, in Danville, Virginia to the late Fletcher Edwards, Sr. and Eula Dykes Edwards.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Robert Dalton; stepmothers, Ollie Edwards, and Eveline Edwards; sons, Carl Scott Edwards, Sr. and Robert Eugene "Bump" Edwards, and sister, Dollie Littles.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army and the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of 32 Degree Mason Piedmont Lodge 152, American Legion Post 42, Shriner Piedmont Mens, Life Member Kazim Temple, Post 1990 Commander for 7 years (Organized it), 6th district Commander, Western Zone Commander, Life member DAV American Legion and DAV chapter 52 of Martinsville. Hardin was also a Veteran of the Year for the area Veterans Groups and was a member of the M-HC Veterans Honor Guard.

He is survived by his wife, Judith "Faye" Doolin Edwards; sons David Gene Edwards and Frank Graves Edwards; sister, Patsy Haynie; brother, Fletcher Edwards, Jr.; five grandsons; one granddaughter; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was on December 5, 2021, with Rev. Haywood Alcorn officiating. Burial was in Highland Burial Park, Danville VA.

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

Eunice Gwendolyn Wingfield

Eunice Gwendolyn Wingfield, 66, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away December 4, 2021, at SOVAH Martinsville Hospital. She was born January 19, 1955, in Martinsville to the late Everette Albright and Fannie Simpson McCollum. She had worked in Customer Service for Wal-Mart. She was affiliated with Morgan Ford Christian Church, where she loved to go.



Kimberly Whiteley (Marlon) and Angela Carr (Timmy); sons, Derek Roberson-Deal (Jon) and Eric Roberson (Summer); grandchildren, Kash Hasworth, Marlon Whiteley, Jr., Sierra Carr, Alyssa Roberson and Justin "J.C." Covey; great-grandchildren, Skylin Hasworth, Harlan Hasworth, Krew Hasworth, Sadiee Covey, and Trey Whiteley.

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

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Lou Ashburn, and a brother, Mike McCollum. She is survived by her daughters,

Sandra M. Walsh

Sandra M. Walsh, 77, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at her residence. She was born on November 25, 1944, in Manchester, NH to the late Clarence Murphy and Priscilla Shirley Murphy.



Terry Murphy, and Michael Clouthier. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Jeremy (predeceased), Mykel, Marc, and Megan Chadwick, and many nephews.

Mrs. Walsh was a member of River Life United Methodist in Jacksonville, FL.

She is survived by her husband, Carl Walsh; daughters, Lisa Chadwick and Marlene Walker-Golden; son-in-law, Austin Chadwick; sister, Dawn Spooner; brothers, Doug Murphy,

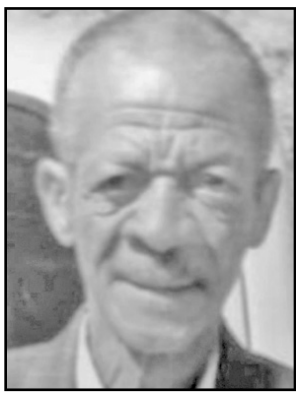
The family will be holding a service in the spring in North Hampton, NH.

Memorials may be made to a Hospice of the donor's choice in memory of Sandra.

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

Lester Leon Via

Lester Leon Via, 75, of Washingtonville, New York passed away November 25, 2021, at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital. He was born November 28, 1945, in Stuart, Virginia to the late Lester Lee and Viola Vaughn Via. He had worked as Mechanic and machine operator for 40 years. He loved to fish and weld.



Hairston and Delores Barbour; brothers, Jesse Via and Lawrence Glenwood Via; special cousin, Earl Penn; and eight grandchildren.

His funeral will be Friday, December 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Wright Funeral Service with Elder David Cabiness officiating the service. Interment will be in the Only Way Church of Christ Cemetery, Goblintown Road, Stuart, Virginia.

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

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dolly Hairston Via, and a sister, Shirley Barbour.

He is survived by a daughter, Lisa Barte (Michael); a son, Anthony "Tony" Via (Linda Michelle); sisters, Susie

Emmett Smith Grogan

Emmett Smith Grogan, 84, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at King's Grant Health Care. He was born on March 23, 1937, in Bassett, VA to the late Jeter Haynes Grogan and Anne Smith Grogan. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Jeter Grogan.



Reidsville, NC; and sister, Sarah Finney of Gloucester, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Myles Grogan, and Kayla Grogan both of Lexington, NC; two step-grandchildren, Brandon Souder, and Taylor Souder both of Charlotte, NC.

Mr. Grogan served in the United States Army and was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and North Carolina State University. He worked as a chemist at E.I. DuPont.

He is survived by his wife, Ann McDonald Grogan of the home; sons, Stuart Grogan (Cynthia) of Lexington, NC, and James "Tony" Grogan of

A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Norris Funeral Services with Chaplain Paul Johnson officiating. The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. Burial will be in Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Veola Draper

Veola Draper, 77, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away December 5, 2021, at her residence. She was born July 16, 1944, in Axton, to John Nelson Preston and Alice Lee Tinsley Wade Preston. She had worked as a cook. She was of the Holiness faith. She loved her family, cooking, was a homemaker, and loved spending time with her family and grandchildren.

F. Preston, Maxine Gilbert, Jannie Grey, Barbara A. Holland, Lessie Stockton and Rosie Emma Tinsley; grandchildren, Angela A. Kidd, Jesse G. Kidd, Jr., and Jordan G. Kidd; great-grandchildren, Tylyric Pettie, Nascence Pharr, Nakhyia Pharr, Xzayvion Preston Kidd (Khyree), Ashyia Kidd, McKenzie Bruce, Kal-El Kidd, Je'nyah Kidd, Meriah Pharr, Xavier Pharr and Jaycee Kidd.

Her service will be Friday, December 10, 2021, at noon at Refuge Temple Ministries with Pastor Alan Preston officiating. The family will receive friends one hour before the service. Interment will follow in Carver Memorial Gardens.

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

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Luster Draper; sisters, Rosie Lee France and Margaret Tinsley; brothers, William T. Wade, Joe L. Preston, Sam Willie Preston, Clarence Wayne Preston and James D. Preston.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by a daughter, Lisa Kidd (Jesse); sisters, Arlene Reynolds, Carolyn Belcher, Sally

Elizabeth Donovan Martin

Elizabeth Donovan Martin, 93, of Martinsville, passed away Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at her home. She was born May 11, 1928, in Henry County to the late Albert Hass Donovan and Mamie Ingram Donovan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Samuel Martin, Sr.; a son, Joe Martin, Jr.; and brother, Harrison L. Donovan.



Mrs. Martin is survived by her daughter, Lisa Martin Westmoreland (Rev. David); son, Gary K. Martin; grandson, Alex Westmoreland; and great-grandson, Wyatt Westmoreland.

She had graduated from Martinsville High School and was a member of Fieldale United Methodist Church. She had been employed by DuPont and retired from Martinsville Memorial Hospital as an LPN.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Stanleytown United Methodist Church, with Rev. David Westmoreland officiating. The family will receive friends for one hour before service.

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

Guarding against holiday scams

With the holiday season approaching, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry reminds residents that scams typically increase during this time of year, and so-called porch pirate activity also tends to rise.

Track deliveries online. Many companies offer a text message or email notification when your package has been delivered.

Provide delivery instructions. If packages must be left while you are not home, try to have them left out of sight from the street.

Consider installing a video doorbell or other camera system. These systems can help law enforcement should an incident occur.

Request a signature confirmation of delivery.

Insure valuable items. Report any suspicious activity. It's essential to give as much information as possible that describes the potential suspects, their vehicles, and their direction of travel.

Be cautious of other types of scams:

We have recently had complaints of subjects going door to door offering to do work typically performed during the warm months such as driveway sealing or paving.

Legitimate companies do not ask you to pay with money cards or gift cards.

If you receive a call alleging that a family member has been arrested or injured and you need to send money, research before sending anything. Law enforcement agencies do not accept pre-paid money cards.

Speak with elderly family members to warn them, help protect them and their finances.

The basic rule of thumb is, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

See more on page 6

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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CLASSIFIEDS



COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **December 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases.

Case S-21-25 Bridges for Recovery-Bassett, LLC

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Substance Abuse Disorder Organization / halfway house for women. The facility intends to be licensed for up to 16 residents at one time. The property is located at 9850 Virginia Ave in the Reed Creek District and is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 5.8(5)26-29.

Case S-21-26 Timothy R. Osgood

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a billiard parlor/pool room and entertainment center in the existing building. The property is located at 2716 Virginia Ave in the Collinsville District and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 29.7/56.56B.

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

Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

R	A	D	O	M	A	G	O	G	T	H	A	T		
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OBITUARY from page 5

Frances Jean Hall Kilby

Frances Jean Hall Kilby passed away at her home on Sunday, December 5, 2021. She was the wife of the late Herbert (Hub) Kilby. She was a lifelong resident of Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia.

She was truly the most caring, self-less, inspirational wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. Her love for her family was evident in everything she did. If there was ever an angel on earth, it was her. She devoted her life to caring for her family, raising two children, then helping to raise her two grandchildren. She also played a huge role in caring for her 6-year-old great-granddaughter, who she adored. She doted on her grandchildren, even to the point of being renamed "Rocksteady" by her grandson who was a huge Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle fan from the age of 2. That nickname stuck and for the past 30+ years she has been Rocksteady - a most fitting name as she was the 'steady as a rock' influence in her family.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Wiley R. Hall and Ruby Stone Hall; her husband, Herbert (Hub) Kilby; infant brother Roy Lee Hall; brothers Wiley R. "Buddy" Hall, Jr, William "Brack" Hall, and Roger "Stuart" Hall (Nancy).

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Allan Kilby (Shawn) of Huntersville,



NC; her daughter, Cindy Kilby Davis of Ridgeway, VA; grandson, Steven S. Davis; granddaughter, Stacey J. Davis (Max Hall), all of Ridgeway; great-granddaughter, Willow M. Davis; brothers David Hall (Lois), of Snow Creek, Virginia, Michael J. Hall (Vicki) of Louisville, KY; sisters, Ruby "Joy" Smith and Charlotte Griffith, both of Martinsville and Nancy Wray (Richard) of Eden, NC. She is also survived by numerous (great) nieces, (great) nephews, and many others who will miss her greatly.

A visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2021 at McKee-Stone Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 12 p.m. in the chapel, officiated by Reverend Dr. Libby M. Grammer. Interment will be in Roselawn Burial Park.

Special thanks to Dr. James Iernia and his staff for their unending contributions to keeping Frances with us for all these years. Words can't express our sincere appreciation of you all.

Special thanks also to Ravenel Oncology Center. The doctors and staff there are amazing and such a heaven-sent blessing to our community.

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

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeatonemartinsville.com.

Toy Drive from page 1

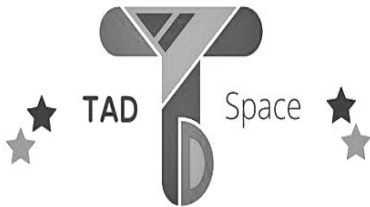
like the Martinsville Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Draper said he wanted to send a "huge shout out and thank you" to everyone who has already participated and to all



those who will.

Donations to the Holiday Hope Toy Drive can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the TAD Space (20 East Church

Street, Martinsville) through December 20. While monetary donations to buy toys will be accepted, Draper said he prefers that donors shop and select a toy or toys themselves.



HOLIDAY HOPE TOY DRIVE


Help make this Christmas merry and bright for the young boys and girls of Martinsville and Henry County.

We will be collecting new unused toys at:

TAD SPACE
DECEMBER 1ST - 20TH
MON-FRI 9AM - 5PM

20 E. Church St
Martinsville, VA.

For more information on the Toy Drive email us at toys@thetadspace.com.



SPCA from page 1

one of six shelters she works with on the project. Several new dogs came in, and they were just what she had been looking for. "This has never happened before," Cole recalled Stone telling her of how quickly Smith's request was fulfilled.

Cole met Blazer and Smith at the SPCA and there, Smith saw his little, fluffy dog for the first time. Despite protestations from Cole and Blazer that the dog was a male, Smith was insistent on the name of his new companion—Precious.

After bringing Precious home, "Colin smiled and laughed more than he had in ages," Blazer wrote. The aging veteran "took a miraculous turn for the better."

The newfound bond between dog and man was too brief. Precious went home with Smith in August, 2020. In October, Smith passed away. Cole said Precious' fate weighed heavily on Smith's mind before his death.

At Smith's request, and with permission from the Veteran Project and Veteran's Council, Precious went home with Blazer.

Sensing that Precious would be able to provide companionship and comfort to others as he already had to

Smith and herself, Blazer wrote that she and the little, fluffy dog became a certified therapy dog team with the national Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

The certification process, Cole said, comes with stringent requirements, making the duo's accomplishment even more extraordinary.

Aside from bringing comfort and joy to those he meets as a therapy dog, Precious has also been able to give back to the organization that took him in, with the potential to earn even more. Blazer's story about Precious' incredible journey was selected as one of Petco's 100 Love Stories winners this year, earning the SPCA a \$5,000 grant.

Pending board approval, the funds will be used to purchase additional medical equipment needed for the newly opened Louise R. Lester Spay & Neuter Clinic, SPCA board member Patti Covington said.

The SPCA could win an additional \$25,000 grant, depending on the results of a voter's choice award. Online voting closes December 15.

To read Blazer's story about Precious, visit petcolove.org/love-story/precious/. To learn more about the Veteran Project, visit myshadowtraining.com/the-veteran-project.

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE WOULD LIKE TO LET OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY KNOW THAT IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EDITION!

Christmas Greetings

are now being accepted. If you'd like to place one in the Henry County Enterprise, please contact:
Liz at (276) 693-3713 or advertising@theenterprise.net

Gifts presented to honor service of WWII veterans on anniversary



City Council member Danny Turner (left) presents a gift basket courtesy of Rising Sun Breads to WWII veteran John McCain.



Houston Smith was a tail gunner in World War II.



Turner presents a gift basket to Cawley "Dick" Stine who served in World War 2 and lives in Martinsville.



Ed Linker (center) served in the US Navy during World War 2 and lives in Martinsville.

Holiday events planned at the library

The following events will be held at one or more branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library to help celebrate the holidays.

*On Dec. 16 & 17, all branches will offer a Santa's Surprise Giftbox Giveaway. Giftboxes contain an activity, craft, or treat and a special surprise from Santa. Available while supplies last for children ages 10 and under (child must be present to get gift box).

* On Dec. 17-22, Bassett and Martinsville branches will host an exclusive Letters to Santa program. There will be a special Express Mailbox directly from the North Pole set up at both the Bassett and Martinsville branches. Santa's helpers will be available to help with taking photos and putting letters in the mailbox. Special treats will be distributed to children who bring in their letters (while supplies last.) For children ages 10 and under

(child must be present to get treat)

*Beginning Monday, Dec. 20, all branches will participate in the Blue Ridge Regional Library System's 2nd annual Holiday Cheer Food Giveaway. Each library branch will provide meals for those in need in its signature red totes. Patrons can stop by any one library branch to get a free tote that includes a meal. Totes will be distributed until all have been claimed. Families in need may collect one free tote at one branch of the library system.

For more information on these or any other programs, contact your local library branch:

Bassett Branch Library: (276) 692-2426; Collinsville Branch Library: (276) 647-1112; Martinsville (Main): (276) 403-5430; Patrick County Branch Library: (276) 694-3352; Ridgeway Branch Library: (276) 956-1828

SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN


THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO START YOUR COLLEGE CAREER!

P&HCC CLOSED
12/23/21 - 1/3/22

OPEN ADVISING
1/6&7/22

CLASSES BEGIN
1/10/22

You can register remotely while we're away!



MOST STUDENTS WILL QUALIFY FOR FREE MONEY FROM FEDERAL AND STATE SOURCES!

WE'LL HELP YOU GET WHAT'S YOURS!

Patrick & Henry Community College

WWW.PATRICKHENRY.EDU
276-638-8777
ADVISING@PATRICKHENRY.EDU

P&HCC is an EEO institution.

Clarification:

It was incorrectly reported in last week's "Community health workers 'just getting started'" that all of Karen Millner's family have received a COVID-19 vaccine. Some of Millner's family members have received a vaccine. We regret the error.



CROWN
Brand-Building Packaging™

HIRING EVENT

Looking for a new job with a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits? Meet with Crown representatives and apply on site!

Location: Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT)
Address: 870 Commonwealth Crossing Parkway, Ridgeway, VA 24148

Multiple Positions Available:

- ✓ Mechanics
- ✓ Supervisors
- ✓ Quality Inspectors
- ✓ Engineers
- ✓ Chemical Process Operators
- ✓ Accounting
- ✓ Electricians
- ✓ Millwrights
- ✓ Fork-Lift Operators
- ✓ And Many More!

Next Steps:

1. Find more info and a full list of available positions at YesMartinsville.com/Crown.
2. Apply online prior to hiring event and bring your résumé.
3. Dress to interview.

THURSDAY

DEC 16

9 AM - 3 PM

SATURDAY

DEC 18

9 AM - 2 PM

Starting pay

from \$19-\$35

per hour

depending

on position.



Catching COVID Can Cost You a Lot

- Lost time with loved ones
- Serious long-term health effects
- Major medical bills
- Missed workdays and wages

Don't risk it. Join the 5 million Virginians who have already received their COVID-19 vaccine.

It's how we'll all move forward together.

Visit vaccinate.virginia.gov to schedule your vaccination appointment.