

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, December 25, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Drought watch impacts county, burn ban remains in effect

A drought watch advisory has been issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for several localities across the Commonwealth, including Henry County and the surrounding region.

News of the drought watch underscores the importance of residents abiding by the burn ban which went into effect in the county on December 4.

“Until we see weather conditions improve, it isn’t safe for members of our community to continue burning outside,” said County Administrator Tim Hall. “The ban is in place for the safety of our citizens and the preservation of their property. We ask for everyone’s cooperation with the burn ban until it is deemed safe enough to be lifted.”

Failure to comply with the ban may result in

criminal charges.

According to the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, an interagency group representing state and federal agencies, a primary factor contributing to the drought watch advisory is the region receiving less than 50 percent of normal precipitation over the last 60 days. Some areas have received less than 25 percent of normal rainfall over the past two weeks.

Precipitation is predicted to remain below normal with above normal temperatures over the next two weeks. The calculated soil moisture is ranked in the lowest five percent of historic values across portions of the affected regions.

Stream flows are also hovering near historic levels with the seven-day average stream flow cat-

See **Drought**, page 3



Danny Turner (far left), W.C. Fowlkes, and Lawrence Mitchell survey graves in the historically Black People's Cemetery. The three gathered to honor and remember veterans during the holiday season.

Heroes remembered during the holidays

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

On a gray, quiet Saturday morning, just a week before Christmas, three men—Lawrence Mitchell, W.C. Fowlkes, and city council member Danny Turner—gathered at the People's Cemetery, a historically Black cemetery at the end of 2nd Street in Martinsville.

The constant drizzle of a cold rain fell as they went about their work, placing wreaths upon the graves of veterans to honor their memory at the holidays.

Mitchell, Fowlkes, and Turner were among those participating National Wreaths Across America Day, a day of commemoration which, Fowlkes said, began at Arlington National Cemetery and eventually expanded to all national cemeteries.

More than 200 miles away in Arlington, and at more than

3,000 other graveyards nationwide, others were following suit, placing wreaths upon the grave markers of those who served in the Armed Forces.

“They’ve got 50,000 people out there (at Arlington) putting out wreaths,” Fowlkes said.

Turner said that some money was left over from funds raised among community members for a recent 911 appreciation event. The funds were used to buy wreaths for the 35 people from Martinsville and Henry County who are buried at Arlington. He said Fowlkes and the veterans service organization ordered other wreaths for local gravesites, which was what brought them to the graveyard that drizzly Saturday morning.

“We have been going from cemetery to cemetery laying wreaths on the graves of vets,” Turner explained, adding that

they would continue placing the wreaths over the next several days.

“We don’t have enough to put one on every grave because there’s a least 100 here (in the People’s Cemetery),” Turner said.

And there are many other service men and women buried in Martinsville and Henry County graveyards — thousands, according to Fowlkes.

This year, Turner said, veterans who recently passed, those killed in action, or those buried in graves that “look like they might need a little love at Christmastime” were among those remembered with a wreath.

Many of the veteran graves at the People’s Cemetery have been identified through Mitchell’s diligent work — many family members, many of them veterans, are buried in the cemetery. He said

See **Heroes**, page 5



Martinsville native Derrick Ziglar is the new owner of Jefferson Plaza and the Setback Building, located on the corner of Bridge Street and Church Street. He hopes his own success story will inspire young locals to continue to invest in the community.

Catalyst for change: Ziglar returns home to invest in community

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Derrick Ziglar, a Martinsville native who left the area and found success in the real estate and tech industries, has returned to help grow his community.

He recently purchased Jefferson Plaza and the Setback Building on the corner of Bridge Street and Church Street in Uptown Martinsville. Ziglar said he plans to create a unique, food-centered community gathering space unlike anything currently found in the

city.

“This is home for me,” said Ziglar, 29, who grew up on Armstead Avenue, just off Fayette Street in Martinsville. A 2011 graduate of Martinsville High School, Ziglar left home, played football as a running back at Virginia Military Institute (VMI), was commissioned in 2015 and went into the Army Reserves. He was hired by Target, working “in the leadership and operational supply chain space.” He simultaneously

See **Catalyst**, page 5

Retirees plan to honor legacy with memorial scholarship

A small group of retired educators are working to create a scholarship in memory of Amy Thompson Ferguson, a friend and former colleague.

A veteran educator, Ferguson taught 6th and 7th grades at Carver Middle School and Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School for 32 years before her death earlier this year due to complications from COVID-19.

The scholarship, which is being seeded with a \$250 donation by Ferguson’s friends, will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in either math or art. The donors chose the two majors because both disciplines were close to Ferguson’s heart. While she was a math instructor, she also raised two girls who are now teaching in art in Richmond, Virginia.

The retired teachers who are spearheading this effort are Kathy Thacker, Cindy Boyles, Amberlyn Sordelett, and Sybill Landreth — all of whom worked in the school

system with Ferguson before her passing and were a tight knit group.

“Not only were we all teaching colleagues, but we also became close friends,” said Landreth. “Amy had that effect on people and students alike. She wrapped you up in her love and caring.”

Organizers said this scholarship will allow Ferguson’s heart for her students to continue.

For many students, \$300 could help cover extra expenses or unexpected costs that might otherwise hinder them from completing their education. The scholarship will allow Ferguson’s legacy of helping students achieve their goals continue.

The organizers elected to donate the money to Patrick & Henry Community College because the family has many ties to the college. Amy Ferguson and both of her daughters attended P&HCC and her husband, Randy, has worked for P&HCC for more than a decade.

“Amy gave to the community

with her teaching, her coaching, and her support of the community college. She would want students to have the opportunity to follow their dreams,” said Landreth.

This group’s goal is to raise at least \$2,500. However, with enough support, its dream would be to endow the scholarship, which would require \$25,000.

To raise the funds, Landreth said organizers “are asking each person who knew Amy or whose child was taught by her and each person who knows Randy or their girls.” With enough support, “our goal to reach out to students struggling financially will happen.”

The P&HCC Foundation is accepting donations for the Amy Thompson Ferguson Art and Math Scholarship. Donations can be made online at donatenow.networkforgood.org/patrickhenryfoundation or by cash or check to the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation. For additional information, call (276) 656-0250.



City official accepts new job in Roanoke, will remain in Martinsville

Martinsville City Council member Chad Martin said Tuesday that he has accepted a position with the Department of Environmental Quality in Roanoke.

However, Martin said that he is primarily able to work remotely, and the new job will not require him to move from Martinsville. The new post also will not impact his ability to serve on council.

City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday said that council members are required to reside full-time in Martinsville. He said

that questions have come up in the past about the residency of other city council members but “there’s no hard and fast definition of ‘residency’ in the Code of Virginia, “a lot of it is a question of ‘what’s your intention?’”

Courts “typically look at things, like where do you spend the majority of your time, where are you registered to vote, where does your mail come,” he added.

While Martin is having some problems in getting his mail delivered, Martin said that has been a recurring

issue at his apartment complex.

“I have had some things bounce back and people have told me. ‘Hey, your mail’s not getting to you,’” he said.

The issue has been more pronounced since his former roommate moved out, Martin said.

“For some reason, they just assumed that I was no longer there” too, he added.

While that issue may have prompted concern about his address, Martin said that he plans to remain in Martinsville.

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UPDATES



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To find an appointment, visit **vaccinate.virginia.gov** or call **877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682)**. Assistance is available in more than 100 languages. Those with hearing impairments should **dial 711**.

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)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

The West Piedmont Health District will offer free community COVID-19 testing from 1-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Martinsville Armory (315 Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville.) No referrals or pre-registration is required and there are no age restrictions for testing. Masks will be required. Spread holiday cheer, not COVID! For more information, contact the Henry-Martinsville Health Department's Care Resources Coordinator Gloria Martinez at (276) 638-2311.

Thursday, Dec. 30

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To schedule a donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

2022 Saturday,

Jan. 1

The Henry County Bike Club will host its annual New Year's Day event, Get Outside and Ride, Run, or Walk! Start your new year off right by getting healthier while exploring the Martinsville-Henry County community. Anyone interested in participating should meet at Chain of Fools Bicycle Shop (28 Fayette Street, Martinsville) at 10 a.m. for some New Year's Day exercise! Participants can meet at Hugo's for lunch after the event. The club requests participants bring a donation of canned or perishable food for Grace Network. For more information call (276) 336-8529.

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Martinsville City Council will hold a community conversation about reversion in city council chambers at 6 p.m. The topic is town/city changes. The meeting is limited to 12 participants. 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. Registration is required by noon the day before the 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.

Thursday, Jan. 6

The Henry County School board will hold its regular monthly meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville. The meeting will also be livestreamed on Henry County Public Schools' Facebook page.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Join Piedmont Arts for Art at Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. This event offers a final chance to view the exhibits "Print/Imprint: Asheville Printmakers," "Carl Chiarenza" on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and "Tools of Happiness" before they close. The event is free

and open to the public. Complimentary refreshments are provided by the Piedmont Arts Guild. RSVP by Jan. 5 to (276) 632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Friday, Jan. 7

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at Blackberry Baptist Church (3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, Jan. 14

Come join in the fun for Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre! Music begins at 6:15 p.m. in the Alumni Hall and concessions will be available.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at Stone Memorial Christian Church (3030 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville) from 12-5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

ONGOING

The Warming Center of Martinsville and Henry County, located at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church (725 Beechnut Lane) is open to provide a warm place to sleep, a warm

meal, and personal supplies at no cost to those in need. Anyone who needs transportation to the center can be picked up at 6:45 p.m. at the Martinsville library and 6:25 p.m. at the Collinsville library. Weekly schedules are posted at the Martinsville library, YMCA, and on the MHC Warming Center Facebook page every Saturday. For more information, call (276) 207-9660. Anyone who wishes to volunteer at the Warming Center or make a donation can find more information on Facebook or at www.forsthillspc.com/mhc-warming-shelter.html.

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 brl.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 (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. Call the center at (276) 647-9585.



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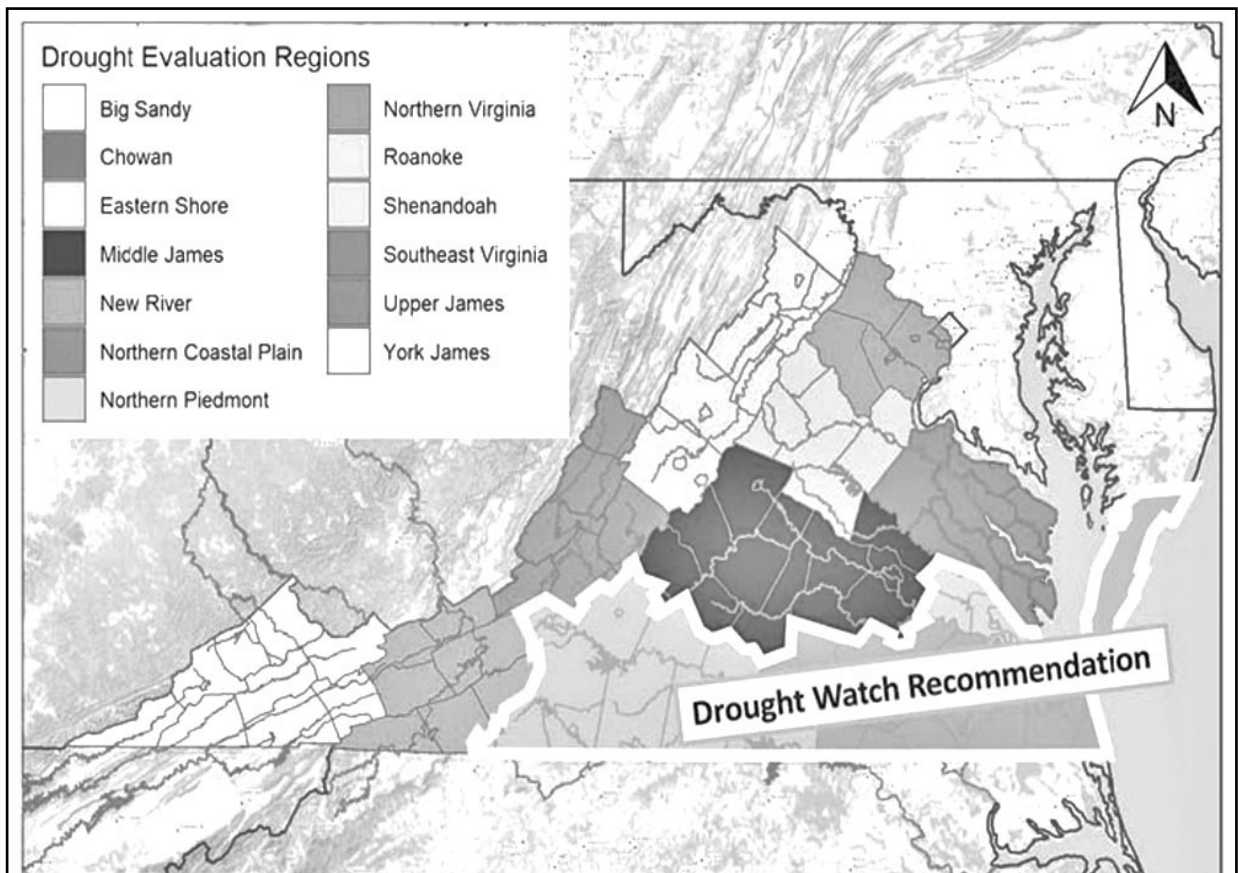
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Drought

from page 1



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CLUES ACROSS

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- Sea eagles
- Tails in Italian
- Monocot genus
- Mother or father
- The Jungian inner self
- Covered with gold
- Residual oil
- Signs up for school
- Furniture for daily meals
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- Lower limb
- Guy (slang)
- Get free of
- Snake-like fish
- Adult female bird
- Formal window coverings
- Break into small pieces
- "1836 siege" of U.S.
- Made violet-red
- Food chopper
- Removes writing
- Ethiopian monetary unit
- Wine bottle
- Containers
- English prelate
- Wm. Ralph
- Small storage
- structure
- A jelly-like substance
- CLUES DOWN**
- A brief comment
- Sultanate of NW Borneo
- Importune
- Forelimb
- Models of ethical behavior
- Harangues
- This (Spanish)
- Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
- Sang at Christmas door to door
- Partly or nearly blind
- Posterior pituitary gland hormone
- American Nurses Association (abbr.)
- The 7th Greek letter
- Strives to equal
- Toff
- Coleoptera insects
- The color of blood
- Slipped by
- Of she
- A short musical passage
- CNN's founder Turner
- Radioactivity unit
- Exculpation defense
- Walking back and forth
- Come forth from
- Oxalis
- A soft twilled fabric of silk
- The two large chest muscles

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egorized as "below normal" for approximately 80 percent of stream gaging stations across Virginia. The measurements were within the lowest 10-24 percent of historic flows, according to the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force.

The drought watch advisory impacts five Drought Evaluation regions in Virginia: Chowan, Eastern Shore, Roanoke, Southeast Virginia and York James. The next stage after a drought watch is a "drought warning."

Warnings are issued when the onset of a significant drought event is imminent. As officials wait to see if conditions improve, residents can take an active role in lessening the effects of the dry weather by adhering to mandatory restrictions such as the burn ban.

Call the Fire Marshal's Office at (276) 634-4660 with any questions.

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

OPINION

On student loan forgiveness

I graduated from high school in 2003 and went straight to college. There was never any question I would do so.

I'm not saying that to brag; it's just that for many of the members of my generation, college was never an option, it was an expectation. That's changed a bit in recent years; today I routinely see posts on social media encouraging young people to pursue a trade. That certainly wasn't the case when I was in high school, though.

From the time I was in middle school, the adults told me and my classmates that we had to start thinking about college. If you didn't go to college, you were condemning yourself to a life of back-breaking misery. You would have to get a job at Amalgamated Ditch digging holes all day and then refilling them, and you would never get paid above minimum wage. You didn't want that, did you? Of course you didn't! College was the only way.

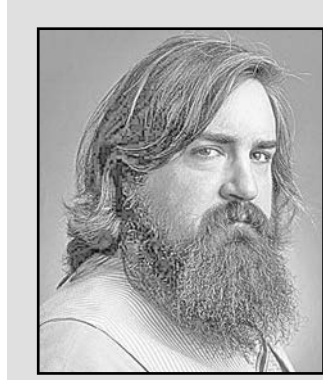
Now of course, we were told that we would have to take out loans to go to college. But we were also told that paying back those loans was never going to be a big deal. Once we left college with our fancy degrees, we would

be able to get great jobs and pay those loans back promptly. It was all but promised to us.

High schoolers are smarter than we give them credit for being, but they're also inexperienced and naive; how could they not be? And so we all trusted the teachers and guidance counselors and older folks when they told us that college and the loans that came with it was the only path forward.

I graduated in 2007 with my B.A. in English, and I don't regret it for a minute. I knew that a degree in English wasn't going to lead to the most lucrative job offers, but it was my passion. And in any case, I was made to understand that it didn't really matter what my degree was in; the important thing was that I had one.

After graduation, I struggled to find a job. I'd had the poor fortune to graduate on the cusp of the The Great Recession, the first of several once-in-a-lifetime economic crises that my generation has had to endure. I couldn't get a good job because I was under-experienced; I couldn't get a crummy job because I was overqualified. I eventually found a decent job and kicked



By Ben R. Williams

off about five years of chronic underemployment before I was able to finally start doing things I enjoyed and (about five years after that) make a living wage.

I'm one of the very lucky ones. I only struggled for a decade and my student loans are finally paid off. Many of my friends aren't so lucky. They had to take out far more loans than I did and are now saddled with tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands in debt. The interest rates are so awful that they can never get ahead.

Consider my friend Ashleigh. "I took out \$58,000 in loans for six years of school," she told me

recently. "In the last ten years I've never missed a payment and now I owe a grand total of \$72,000."

Ashleigh's situation is absurd, but it certainly isn't uncommon. She's not the only person I know who has consistently paid their student loans and now owes more than they borrowed. It's defeating.

However, you know what's even more defeating? My generation was told that if we didn't go to college, we would end up flipping burgers. And now, when we struggle to find decent-paying jobs in our fields, those same people say, "What, are you too good to flip burgers?"

The college loan situation is just one of many false bills of goods that were sold to my generation, but it's also one of the most crippling. I literally know a guy who told his student loan company that if they didn't reduce his monthly rate, they would never get any money at all because he would die of starvation. They grudgingly lowered the rate.

President Joe Biden ran on the promise of helping people who are saddled with student loan debt, and right now, he has the power to sign an executive order eliminating between \$10,000 and \$50,000 worth of debt per person. He could also

simply extend the federal student debt relief deadline that is currently slated to end on Jan. 31, 2022. In all likelihood, he isn't going to do either, and people who were struggling to pay back their outrageous loans before COVID turned the world upside down and triggered the fastest inflation we've seen in nearly 40 years are going to struggle even harder.

All of this is made even more galling by the fact that as I write this, Biden is on the cusp of signing a \$768 billion defense bill. No one is questioning whether or not we have the money to pay for our bloated military industrial complex, but when it comes time to help U.S. citizens, we can't possibly afford it.

What's the solution? To any high schoolers reading this, I offer the following bit of advice: if you want to learn a trade, do it. I'm 37 and I'm still thinking about becoming an electrician. However, if you want to go to college, go ahead and take out those loans.

Don't worry about paying them back, though. Before anyone can collect, one of two things will happen: either the entire college loan system will collapse under its own weight, or society will. Either way, free money!

Holiday Stress Busters

Bryan Golden
Contributing writer

41% of those polled are stressed by the holidays. Fortunately, there are many ways to bust holiday stress.

Set realistic goals. Your expectations should correspond to your circumstances, time, and money. Don't try to outdo family and friends. You don't have to impress anyone.

A wonderful holiday season doesn't have to be expensive. Set a manageable budget and stick to it. Determine before you

go shopping how much you will spend on food and presents. Entertaining doesn't have to cost a lot. Sumptuous meals can be prepared without expensive ingredients. Use your imagination and creativity.

If there are lots of people on your gift list, contact them and agree to a maximum cost for each gift. They will probably appreciate a pre-set spending limit as much as you will. Consider making your own gifts, such as baked goods or crafts.

A variety of free or low-cost activities are avail-

able. Many communities provide holiday programs such as parades and winter carnivals. Informal gatherings with friends and family can be lots of fun without obligating anyone to host a big party.

Accept relatives and friends for who they are. Put aside differences; don't try to resolve them during gatherings. Bringing up past issues will not add to the seasonal joy.

Divorced parents need to be extra sensitive to their children's emotions. Make chil-

dren's needs a priority and avoid using them as pawns. Children want to spend time with both of their parents so work together to facilitate reciprocal visitation.

If you are hosting a meal or party, ask each guest to bring a dish. Delegate responsibilities to your spouse and children. Everyone will feel included and no one has to carry the full load.

Don't snap at others. Have rules and guidelines for older children returning home for the holidays. Ask guests to supervise their children if they get too rambunctious.

Plan ahead for what you want to accomplish

before the holiday rush starts. You can pace yourself if you have enough time. Spreading out activities leaves you calmer and more relaxed.

Prioritize what you want to accomplish. Organize your time to allow for the most important tasks. Say no to requests that don't fit your plans. Be flexible.

Make time for yourself. Maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating properly, exercising, and getting enough sleep.

It's normal and ok to feel sad during the holidays. Life is unpredictable and brings many changes. Don't compare today with the good old days from your past. Take charge of your life. Don't

act like a victim. Spend time with supportive and caring people. Help others by volunteering. Whenever you bring a smile to someone's face, you will feel better too.

Make realistic resolutions. Set goals you can accomplish. Don't abandon your resolutions after a few weeks. After the holidays, actively working towards your goals will keep you positive and focused on the good in life.

(Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com. Copyright 2021 Bryan Golden)

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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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

Club donation earmarked for playground improvements



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently made a \$400 donation to Sanville Elementary School for improvements to the outdoor playground. Shown is Club President Tim Stone (left) presenting the check to Sanville Elementary School Principal Joshua Eanes (right).

P&HCC to receive funds to support STEM students

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation received a \$5,000 grant to support students in P&HCC's science, technology, engineering, and math-related programs (STEM). The award was made possible through the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education and the Micron Opportunity Fund.

The purpose of this grant is to help students in STEM programs remain on their path to college completion. The \$5,000 could help cover expenses such as textbooks, supplies, transportation, or

childcare. Without additional aid, the uncalculated costs of attending college—such as childcare or transportation—can become a barrier to completion for some students. This grant could help alleviate those kinds of concerns thus helping students to focus on achieving their academic goals.

"For many of our students, unexpected expenses can be make-or-break in their college journey. A flat tire, a change in job hours that require them to pay for additional childcare, or any number of things can hinder a student's completion," said Tiffani Underwood, director

of the foundation. "Grants like the Micron Opportunity Fund really make a big difference to help give students the little extra bump they need to keep going."

According to the Micron website, the company "partners with universities around the globe in support of programs and people that inspire the next generation of technology innovators and leaders. Our grants support student experiences, faculty researchers, and programs to help create pathways for underrepresented students to achieve their aspirations in engineering."

Catalyst

from page 1

begin investing in real estate and found success.

Two years ago, Ziglar transitioned to Dallas, TX, and eventually had an opportunity share his story on a real estate-focused podcast.

"That's really when everything started to change for me," Ziglar said. "I always wanted to be this corporate executive, working 9 to 5, making six figures, happy, just a traditional thing. I thought I'd invest on the side and eventually grow a nice portfolio to pay for my retirement."

The podcast "brought a lot of people to my doorstep," Ziglar said, of conversations that were mostly about the educational aspects of real estate investing. Those conversations gave Ziglar an idea—he wanted to create a virtual educational platform for real estate investors like himself. That idea became his startup tech company, Zelite, which he's been diligently building for the last year and a half.

Zelite's origins as an education-focused company lie in Ziglar's own experiences growing up.

"My family never knew about financial literacy," Ziglar said. "I wasn't taught anything about money, credit, any of that. The majority of people I grew up around, if not all, had horrible credit, never had any money, so (financial literacy) was important for me."

As a 23-year-old, Ziglar said he was already making more money than anyone in his family ever had, and he saw what a difference financial literacy could make in his life and his ability to grow his wealth.

"I always had that passion for figuring out how I could create a lane for other people to do similar things. We can all do it, but sometimes we just don't know the information, and sometimes certain information is hard to obtain so people just don't worry about it," he said.

"We've drastically evolved," said Ziglar of the company. His team is currently looking at implementing artificial intelligence machine learning to help users with the process of evaluating and managing properties. By doing that, "we can take a lot of guesswork that people have about real estate and remove some of the confusion and hesitancy people have to help them make smart investing decisions."

Even as he built Zelite, Ziglar remained active in real estate investing, which ultimately led him to buying the properties he now owns in Martinsville.

On a recent visit to the area, Ziglar said his longtime friend, Hasan Davis, walked him through Uptown and told him about the city's revitalization efforts.

Ziglar said he was initially doubtful that those efforts would succeed.

"I grew up here, I left, I've been gone for the last 10 years, and everything still looks the same, if not a little worse," he said.

Then, Ziglar met Kathy Deacon, the director of Martinsville's Uptown Partnership. Ziglar said he lived in the Staunton, VA, for four years and witnessed first-hand the success of its downtown revitalization which Deacon was a part of.

"If she was a part of that, and helped make it what it is today, then I'm sold," Ziglar said. But he knew Deacon couldn't do it alone.

"She needs stakeholders, she needs people who think like she thinks to help do all this." He decided, "I want to be part of it, I want to be a driving force. I want to do something big and amazing and wonderful."

"If I'm going to invest," Ziglar said, "I'm going to invest in my community."

In August, Ziglar became the owner of the properties in Uptown Martinsville.

Though he is not yet prepared to share specifics of his plans for the properties, in general terms, Ziglar said he is working to create a community gathering space centered around food.

"There's nothing like it around here," he said. "It's going to be something that's very different for the community."

The idea came from exploring what he thought was missing in Martinsville.

"It's about creating something for the community, and food is a huge thing," he

said, adding that people travel to Greensboro, N.C., Danville, and other places for culinary experiences. He wants to ensure those kinds of experiences are available locally.

The new enterprise is not just about adding another chapter to his already impressive success story, Ziglar said, adding that he is thinking about the bigger picture, too.

"How do we do something that's going to help everybody out, give people a space that they want to be in, create different jobs, and stimulate a small economy? What we've been working towards is a great way to do that," he said.

"Historically, I want to be part of transforming Uptown by creating a space where you want to bring other people," who would visit businesses like Uptown Pinball and the TAD Space, Ziglar said. "Now you're starting to create an Uptown area where people are coming here and spending money, and that's ultimately going to help all the small businesses around us."

Ziglar said he hopes to have his new business up and running by spring of 2023, but "there's a lot of work that needs to be done. It's an old building, it wasn't built to do anything remotely close to this, so there's a lot we'll need to change, adjust, get up to code."

Currently, Ziglar said he is exploring what needs to be done to "whitebox" the building, or get it to a blank slate stage before the real transformation can begin. Though it will take a lot of work and money to get the initial renovations done before moving forward, Ziglar thinks the time and money are worth it.

"The last thing I would ever want is to have the building open and running and then we have something like flooring issues." Once that first phase of construction is complete, "I think it'll start to move a lot quicker," he said.

All told, Ziglar estimated the project will cost nearly \$5 million.

The new endeavor will bring about some changes in Uptown. Though Hugo's Restaurant and Sports Bar will remain, Ziglar said the other businesses currently occupying the buildings, including La Plazita, will ultimately need to move.

However, "we have plenty of places for businesses to exist—there's a lot of empty space around here," he said, adding that he is committed to helping them transition to new locations when the time comes.

"My goal isn't to ever hurt or harm business, it is just about 100 percent elevating the community, so with that, some things just have to change, otherwise you never get to that point," he said.

Ziglar also hopes to elevate the community by using his knowledge of the tech industry and his resources to help local small businesses expand their reach beyond Martinsville and Henry County.

Also, Ziglar said he hopes to inspire local youths with his success story.

"I didn't have many examples growing up of what right looks like, so being a young man trying to figure out life and do the right thing, I try to be the best example I can," he said, adding that he tries to connect with local high school students to both motivate and educate them.

"They need to see people who come from where they come from who have made great money. They don't see that here. There are people that have it, but they don't look like me. They need to see people like them who are doing great things, who give them information, resources, tools" to be successful, he said.

He said he wants today's students to believe in their community, engage with it, and contribute their talents as adults to helping the community thrive rather than moving elsewhere in search of their own success story.

Ultimately, Ziglar hopes to inspire others to think just as he thought when he took that fateful walk-through Martinsville's Uptown in the early days of its revitalization.

"Come be a part of the change. Come be a catalyst for that," Ziglar said. "You can give back, you can show the people in your community—the people who have seen you grow from the kid on Armstead to where you are now—what's possible."

OBITUARIES

Maxine Cobler Bondurant

Maxine Cobler Bondurant, a lifelong resident of the Snow Creek Community, passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, in Blacksburg, VA after a brief illness. Due to declining health, Maxine had resided with her granddaughter, Crystal Williams Roberts and her husband Jamey Roberts, in Blacksburg for the past few years.



memory. In addition to family, she was very blessed over the years with the very best caregivers, Mandi Woods and Janet Williams.

Maxine loved her Snow Creek Community, her family, and her church. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church where she served on various committees and helped

organize senior activities. The funeral was held on Friday, December 17, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. The Rev. Jim Steel officiated. Burial was in Boones Chapel Church of the Brethren Cemetery in Penhook, VA. Memorial donations may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, 2370 Snow Creek Road, Martinsville, VA 24112 in her memory. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Bondurant family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Maxine was born on February 24, 1937, to Harold Jackson Cobler and Susie Richardson Cobler. She is predeceased by both of her parents; her only child, Charles Terry Williams; her brother, Robert Allen Cobler; and her sister, Cornelia Cobler Taylor. She is survived by her granddaughters, Crystal Williams Roberts (and husband Jamey) and Carrie Ann Williams of Vinton. In addition, she had four great-grandchildren: Kamryn Roberts, Traye Roberts, Jasper Williams, and Journie Williams. Maxine also had numerous nieces and nephews who are left to cherish her

Mary Jane Hill White

Mary Jane Hill White, 66, of Martinsville, VA passed away Friday, December 17, 2021, at her daughter's home surrounded by her family and friends. She was born March 4, 1955, in Mount Airy, N.C. to the late James Edward Hill, Sr. and Charity Elizabeth Spencer Hill. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Paula White; sister, Pamela Sue Hill; and brother, James Edward Hill, Jr.



VA; and brother, John Ellis Hill and significant other, Cindy Seay of Bassett, VA. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Caitlyn Nicole Wray, Chloe Wray, Caleb Wray, Elizabeth Hankins, Kascidee Hankins, Joshua Wingfield, Taylor Wingfield, and Taya Wingfield; great-grandchildren, Liam and Kheani; and many nieces

and nephews. Ms. White was a member of Valley Chapel Pentecostal Holiness Church and was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Post #3739.

She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Wingfield and husband, Kelly of Martinsville, VA; sisters, Barbara Hill Jolley of Ridgeway, VA, Patricia Hill Zeigler and husband, Clarence of Ridgeway, VA, and Shirley Hill Moser and husband, Larry of Collinsville,

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. Pastor Jody Pollard officiated.

Memorial donations may be made to Valley Chapel Pentecostal Holiness Church, 201 Breckenridge Cir, Axton, VA 24054.

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

Dempsey M. Jones, Jr. "Butch"

Dempsey M. Jones, Jr. "Butch," 78 of Collinsville, VA went home to his Lord on Sunday, December 19, 2021. He was the son of the late Dempsey M. Jones, Sr. and the late Mary Garner Jones. He was born in Bassett, VA on October 31, 1943. He was a graduate of Bassett High School and Patrick and Henry Community College. He was a longtime, faithful member of Smith Memorial United Methodist Church in Collinsville, VA.



of Wilmington, N.C. Also surviving is his mother-in-law, Mildred T. Goode; aunt, Edith J. Harris of Fieldale, VA; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Carl and Rosy Goode of Raleigh, NC; and a special cousin, Carrie Lee Drewett of Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Shirley Goode Jones of the residence; daughter, Leanne Jones Sykes (Aaron) of Collinsville, VA; son, David M. Jones (Jennifer) of Wilmington, N.C.; grandson, Tyler J. Brooks of Tulsa, OK and two granddaughters, Mackenzie Nicole Jones and Peyton Garner Jones

The memorial service was held on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at Smith Memorial United Methodist Church. The Revs. Daniel Guenther and Robert Edwards officiated.

Memorial donations may be made to Grace Network, P.O. Box 3902, Martinsville, VA 24115.

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

Heroes

from page 1

his family was one of the first to buy a family plot on the property.

Since moving back to Martinsville after his retirement from Washington D.C.'s Justice Department, Mitchell, who also worked for a time in archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, has combed through the timber and tangles of the cemetery, working to find graves.

"There's a whole line of World War II (graves) over there on the pauper's side," he said of the area in the cemetery where the poorest were buried. He has identified roughly 200 military graves in the cemetery, "and those are the ones we know of."

The task is not as straightforward as reading identification on a headstone. Sometimes, he explained, families could

not afford to purchase a military grave marker for their loved one due to the expense. Sometimes, he said, because of the cost, families purchased no stone at all, opting instead to mark a grave by planting the spiky-leaved yucca plant over the burial site. The plant, which is non-native to Virginia, is visible across the cemetery grounds.

Turner added that the location of those graves would be recorded in the family Bible.

Mitchell's family members are buried near the entrance of the cemetery. He said he had several relatives, including his father, who served in various conflicts, among them WWII and Korea.

"When I was growing up, (my father) couldn't stand thunder," Mitchell recalled. The elder

Mitchell, also named Lawrence, drove troop and supply trucks during WWII. After landing in Europe, Mitchell said his father went to North Africa, driving truckloads of troops from place to place as troops commanded by German General Erwin Rommel bombed the convoys.

Turner said his father served in WWII but, due to his age didn't see

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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combat. He worked in logistics, primarily carrying supplies.

Besides participating in the National Day of Commemoration, Turner said he hopes placing the wreaths and honoring the fallen dur-

ing the holidays will help keep their memories alive.

"You're not really dead until you're totally forgotten," he said, quoting a line he heard while at Arlington.

Thanks to the work

of Fowlkes, Turner, and Mitchell, the memories of those who served continue to live on, their grave sites marked by a wreath, a visible marker that, at Christmas, their stories and their sacrifice will be remembered.

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JANUARY 19, 2022
FEBRUARY 16, 2022
MARCH 16, 2022
APRIL 20, 2022
MAY 18, 2022
JUNE 15, 2022
JULY 20, 2022
AUGUST 17, 2022
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
OCTOBER 19, 2022
NOVEMBER 16, 2022
DECEMBER 21, 2022 (Tentative)

Deadlines for applications for public hearings (special use permit, rezoning, etc.) are approximately 30 days before the scheduled Planning Commission meeting. This allows staff proper time to advertise and have all supporting documentation prepared. All Planning Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, at 4:00 p.m., on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Planning Commission meeting dates may be subject to change due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances. Once action is taken on an application by the Planning Commission, the application is then forwarded to the City Manager's office to be considered at a public hearing with City Council. For further information regarding the Planning Commission please contact Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us or (276) 403-5156.

Submit your
community news
and photos to
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City school students collect food for tornado victims

Students in Martinsville City Schools participated in Coins for Kindness on Dec. 15 and 16, collecting donations from faculty, staff, and students to be sent to those affected by the tornados in Kentucky. All donations were sent to United Way of Henry County & Martinsville, earmarked for tornado victims.



Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley and Philip Wenkstern, director of the United Way of Henry County & Martinsville, with donations collected by city school students.

Northam congratulates future SEED Fund students

Gov. Ralph Northam congratulated future SEED Fund students in Martinsville-Henry County with a video.

Northam said to this year's kindergarten class, "We believe in you. We want to be with you every step of the way and help you make your dreams come true. Listen to your parents and teachers when they tell you college is possible and waiting for you at home. We know you can do it. We are so proud of you and what your future holds."

The Harvest Foundation in September announced a \$10.3 million investment over 13 years to guarantee the SEED Fund at Patrick & Henry Community College will provide a college education at no cost for high school graduates in MHC.

"I am very excited about the SEED program and its future impact on the Martinsville community," said Dr. Zeb Talley, superintendent of Martinsville City Public Schools. "This will send hope to all our youth and families. In addition, it will lessen the opportunity gap for everyone."

Sandy Strayer, superintendent of Henry County Public Schools, said she is grateful to share this important gift with students and their families as they look to the future.

"As we continue to encourage our students to

aim for their goals, the opportunity to extend their learning by attending P&HCC through the SEED Fund is a guarantee that those who wish to prepare for careers that require higher education can do so without also encumbering debt," Strayer said.

Jeannie Lowery is a kindergarten teacher at G.W. Carver Elementary School who said she's thankful to the Harvest Foundation and P&HCC for investing in the future of local children.

"It's such a great feeling to talk to a kindergartner about their dreams for the future, about going to college to fulfill those dreams, and knowing that it's a reality for them," Lowery said.

Harvest President Kate Keller underscores Northam's prevailing message of hope as a beacon for future SEED Fund students and the entire community.

"As Gov. Northam shared in his video to local kindergartners, an entire generation of students has reassurance and hope through the SEED Fund that they can attend college and pursue their future dreams," Keller said. "It all starts with a vision and hope for a brighter future. We can't move forward in our community without hope."

Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College, said

the SEED Fund is part of the community's resurgence.

"As Gov. Northam noted, SEED is really about the future of this community as an entire generation of students will never have to ask, 'Can I afford to go to college?'" That is the kind of investment that redefines and accelerates the economic renaissance already underway in our region."

To qualify for the SEED Fund, a high school graduate must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5. They must be a resident of Martinsville-Henry County and have in-state residency status at the time of the award. SEED students must file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year, and complete eight hours of community service before July 31 for each year of participation.

Students are eligible immediately following graduation from high school, completing a GED program (high-school age population only), or a homeschool program. Once an application to the fall semester at P&HCC is completed, an application to the SEED Fund must be completed on time.

To find out more about the SEED Fund, visit www.patrickhenry.edu/seed. Visit www.the-harvestfoundation.org for additional information on the foundation and its programming.



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

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Kindergarten teachers at G.W. Carver Elementary School show off their SEED t-shirts. Pictured from the left are Amber Eanes, Jeannie Lowery, and Kate Elliott.

EDC continues growth for jobs, tax base in Martinsville-Henry County

The Harvest Foundation will invest a total of \$7 million over the next four and a half years at the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) to continue MHC's upward trajectory of job creation, wage growth, and tourism.

"A robust economy with diverse businesses offering living-wage jobs is at the bedrock of a thriving community," said DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation. "The EDC is our largest recruiter for jobs and industry to Martinsville-Henry County. They work to attract outside investment from national and international companies to bring jobs to the region that pay living wages. It is our hope that this long-term investment from Harvest will

support the EDC in its commitment to continued stability and lasting success."

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, local jobs in the manufacturing workforce increased at a steady clip from 2013 to 2019 following 22 consecutive years of net loss. Up against the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the EDC maintained its highly successful record in job creation and increasing the local tax base.

Since July 1, 2018, the EDC assisted with eight new company announcements, nine expansions of existing companies, creating 1,358 new jobs, and facilitated \$379.5 million in capital investment for Martinsville-Henry County. The average weekly wage rose from \$579 in 2010 to \$696 in 2020.

For every dollar The Harvest Foundation invested at the EDC since 2019, \$59.96 was brought back into the community.

"The Harvest Foundation's continued support of the EDC's holistic mission is vital to our success and is much appreciated," said E. Larry Ryder, chairman of the EDC's Board of Directors. "This multi-year commitment exemplifies the strong partnership that has been forged through the years, and the EDC looks forward with anticipation to what can be accomplished for our region in the future."

Traditional economic development remains at the forefront of the EDC's mission in recruiting new companies to the area and supporting existing businesses with expansion

needs. However, the EDC focuses on a host of other projects and programs designed to create positive outcomes for each and every resident in Martinsville-Henry County.

Its tourism program, which includes a state-certified visitor center, works to develop vibrant uptown spaces, active outdoor recreational opportunities, and beautiful event spaces. The EDC also partners with community organizations working in housing, childcare, community asset planning and development.

Business development programs at the EDC highlight entrepreneurship and focus on growth and development companies that have less than 25 employees. Training and educational workshops are available to business owners, as well as

support with government procurement and contracts.

The EDC also manages Martinsville Made, a workforce development initiative responding to industry needs by facilitating the recruitment of highly skilled workers via its new aggregate jobs portal. Its internship program, which was placed on hold in 2021 due to the pandemic, will resume in 2022 with internships linked to existing career openings.

The EDC is a unique organization that creates positive outcomes for each resident in the community. To find out more, visit yesmartinsville.com, martinsvillemade.com and visitmartinsville.com.

Visit theharvestfoundation.org for additional information on the foundation and its programming.



Coleman selected 2021 Realtor of the Year

The Martinsville, Henry and Patrick Counties Association of Realtors, at its annual installation luncheon, recognized Beverley Coleman, Rives S. Brown, as Realtor of the Year. Each year, the Association selects a realtor who has been nominated for this prestigious award.

"I really don't know of anyone more deserving of this award than Beverley. She consistently provides the highest level of professional services to her clients and she always goes the extra mile," said Rives Brown Coleman, Principal Broker of Rives S. Brown.

Coleman was born and raised in Martinsville-Henry

County. She graduated from Virginia Tech. In 2001, she obtained her Real Estate License and has been a realtor at Rives S. Brown for more than 20 years and she has more than \$100,000,000 in sales during her tenure. Through her dedication to her clients, she has received numerous sales awards and has been the Top Producing Agent in the Martinsville, Henry and Patrick Counties Association of Realtors in 2015 and 2017.

In addition to her real estate accomplishments, Coleman is active in the community. She is a vestry member of Christ Episcopal Church and past president and sustaining member of the Charity League of

Martinsville and Henry County. Coleman has also served the community on the following board of directors: Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services, Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, United Way of Martinsville and Henry County, and Piedmont Arts.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed selling real estate in Martinsville, Henry, and Patrick Counties for more than twenty years. I have made lifelong friends with many of my buyers and sellers. The realtors in our association are wonderful to work with and make selling real estate a pleasure," said Beverley Coleman.

New incentive announced for Martinsville entrepreneurs

The City of Martinsville was selected to receive the Governor's Community Business Launch grant through a highly competitive process across the state of Virginia, according to the Advancement Foundation. The \$90,000 grant will multiply business development training and resources to enable new or existing businesses to accelerate growth and success through The Gauntlet Business Program and Competition™.

Now in its 8th year, The Gauntlet is Virginia's largest business program and competition and offers a proven formula to develop business knowledge, pairing entrepreneurs with mentors, and open up numerous resources for new and expanding businesses. Gauntlet has served over 650 entrepreneurs, developed a mentor network of 250 professionals and awarded over \$7 million in resources including grants, cash, and in-kind

prizes.

"Small business is the backbone of community vitality," says Annette Patterson, President of the Advancement Foundation. "Together, community leaders, resource agencies, and entrepreneurs across the region are joining forces to engage local assets that will provide support for innovation and business development. We are accelerating business success by shortening the learning curve for business owners, connecting entrepreneurs to knowledgeable business strategists, and providing needed resources to implement innovative strategies for growth. The Gauntlet is the platform by which we can bring all the pieces of the puzzle together quickly, while building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem. This program and competition are more important now than ever."

The City of Martinsville aims to diversify its retail business mix with a focus on

main street small-scale manufacturing and businesses that fit within its Main Street Transformational Strategies of "Handmade, Craft-made, Artisan," and "Uptown Living". The Martinsville Uptown Gauntlet Community Business Launch Program will attract shoppers seeking a product development "experience" and destination retailers including local artisans; and will foster a livable Uptown through mixed use property development. At completion of the 2022 CBL program, The Gauntlet Business Program and Competition™ in Martinsville will create or expand 3 businesses and create at least 5 jobs.

Uptown is excited to add The Gauntlet Business Program and Competition to the existing Startup and Grow business launch and expansion programs being offered to entrepreneurs in the Martinsville-Henry County area through collaboration between Martinsville-Henry County Chamber

of Commerce/C-PEG and Patrick and Henry Community College. Uptown Partnership's Executive Director, Kathy Deacon, said of this addition.

"To be able to provide an additional resource to entrepreneurs wanting to start a business in the Uptown Martinsville business district feels like a win/win for our community and the entrepreneurs whose innovation and commitment make Uptown so special. We are looking forward to working with The Advancement Foundation, The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce/C-PEG, and many other stakeholders to ensure that both programs are successful."

The Gauntlet program and competition invites entrepreneurs wanting to start or expand their business in the City of Martinsville to register for the highly targeted effort.

Other regional partners that are Gauntlet participants include the Alleghany

Highlands including Covington and Clifton Forge, Botetourt County, Troutville, Fincastle, Buchanan, Rockbridge County, Lexington, Glasgow, Buena Vista, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Bedford County, Town of Bedford, Big Island, Smith Mountain Lake, Forest, Floyd County, Roanoke County, and The Town of Vinton and beyond to register for the 8th annual GAUNTLET Business Program & Competition!

The GAUNTLET includes business training, mentorship, scaling strategies, and much more! Anyone can participate in the classes and decide to compete for over \$300,000 cash and prizes.

Virtual classes will be held every Tuesday starting February 1, from 6 to 7:30 pm.

The GAUNTLET application is available online. To access the online application, FAQ, and schedule, visit www.TheAdvancementFoundation.org.

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