

Martinsville stands firm on student mask requirement, county makes masks optional

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 2 went into effect on Monday, lifting mask mandates for the state's public-school students. While Henry County Public Schools is complying with the new order, Martinsville City Public Schools has opted to continue requiring its students to wear masks while in school.

The city's announcement was made by school board chairman Donna Dillard.

"On the advice of our attorney, we will continue to follow our current policy on masking," Dillard said. "Our policy is based on CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students aged 2 and older, staff, teachers, and visitors in our schools, regardless of vaccination status."

Martinsville Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said he was not concerned about potential legal repercussions of the decision. "Even the new governor said that school divisions should follow their policy until this situation goes through the court," he said.

Seven Virginia school districts—Alexandria, Arlington, Richmond, Fairfax, Falls Church, Hampton, and Prince William County— all



Martinsville School Board Chairman Donna Dillard (left) with Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley announced on Monday that the school system would continue to require students to wear masks in schools, a decision in keeping with CDC guidelines.

filed lawsuits challenging the order.

"This is going through litigation in the courts, this was the board's policy, and on the advice of our attorney, we're just staying with our policy and see what happens," he said.

In contrast, Henry County sent a notice to families on Jan. 21 which stated that "by majority consensus of the school board," the division moved "to a mask optional status for students in our schools." Staff are still required to wear masks, the message stated.

Public Information Officer

Monica Hatchett said Wednesday that some parents opted their students out of mask-wearing, but the numbers so far are small. Though data is still coming in, so far one school reported that no students had opted out, while about 15 percent of the student population had chosen to forego masking at another.

The board previously sent a notice that included a call for caution: "It is important to note that there are several members of our school community who have health

See **Masks**, page 7



The Henry County Board of Supervisors presented Bassett Volunteer Fire Department Chief Charlie "Junior" Lynch, Jr., with the 2021 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. From left to right: (front row) Jack Dalton's widow Lois Dalton, Tommy Slaughter, Joe Bryant, Lynch. (Back row) Debra Buchanan, Jim Adams Garrett Dillard, and Ryan Zehr.

Lynch honored with 2021 Jack Dalton Community Service Award

The Henry County Board of Supervisors awarded the 2021 Jack Dalton Community Service Award to Fire Chief Charlie "Junior" Lynch, Jr., during its regular meeting on Jan. 25.

Lynch, who leads the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, was nominated by members of his company in recognition of the numerous hours he spends preparing his team to respond to fire casualties and for his leadership to inspire the next generation of firefighters.

The Jack Dalton Community Service Award is named in honor of Jack Dalton, who served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and who was serving as the Board Chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

The award is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Board of Supervisors and is presented annually to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$349,999 received from coronavirus relief funds to the school budget. The funds will be used for a variety of purposes,

See **Lynch**, page 6

Instruction tops school division's budget priorities

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Members of the City of Martinsville School Board on Monday heard the first reading of the fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 proposed budget, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley and Executive Director of Administrative Services Travis Clemons.

A public hearing and second reading of the budget are scheduled for the board's February meeting, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. in council chambers of Martinsville's municipal building (5 West Church Street, Martinsville.)

The proposed budget as presented is balanced, with anticipated revenues and budget expenditures each totaling \$27,404,205.

According to Clemons, the school division is "applying most of our funding to instruction" and instructional technology—with a little more than 77 percent of the year's estimated expenses or \$19,857,763. A large component, Clemons said, has to do with the cost of raises (\$781,874.)

Former Gov. Ralph Northam included a proposal for two, 5 percent pay raises for Virginia teachers over the next two years which, Talley told the board, would be given "across the board" for all employees.

Another significant expense is \$1,055,149 for prevention, intervention, and remediation (PIR.) This funding, Talley said, is money from the state to help address learning loss. The budget proposes using the money to fund additional teachers to reduce class size as well as reading specialists, instructional software and materials, an elementary school counselor, and instructors for at-risk students, among others.

Requests from schools in the division totaled \$437,650, and were mostly for hiring additional teachers and staff.



Martinsville City Public Schools Executive Director of Administrative Services Travis Clemons reviews projected revenues included in the division's FY22-23 proposed budget. He told the board that 77 percent of expenditures in the current version of the budget would be spent on instruction.

Martinsville Middle School requested \$195,000 for a special education teacher, a student support specialist, and an elective teacher.

Martinsville High School requested \$130,000 would pay for a special education teacher and school counselor.

Albert Harris Elementary asked for \$26,300 to hire an instructional paraprofessional, while Patrick Henry Elementary requested \$65,000 for an additional teacher.

A \$21,350 request from Clearview Early Learning

See **Instruction**, page 6

Volunteer ranks shrink as needs rise

Since the COVID pandemic began, the number of people volunteering with some area agencies and organizations has fallen off. But the need for their help has not waned.

An informal survey of several nonprofits that rely on volunteers shows that most have less help than they did one or two years ago. Their spokesmen attribute that to people being less likely to leave their homes and possibly risk getting the virus; contracting the virus themselves; or caring for others during the outbreak, among other reasons.

Many groups have adjusted their services and operations to continue serving the public with less manpower, and they all look forward to the day when people will return to volunteer service.

Following is a brief look at a short sample of the numerous area agencies that depend on volunteers. Anyone interested in helping a specific group should contact that organization.



Grace Network Executive Director Tracy Hinchcliff (from left) is shown with volunteers Melvin Johnson, Dianne Vann, Janet Fentress, Sylvia Knight, Dennis Knight and Jim Reagard. (See related story on page 3.)

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Suzie Helbert, deputy director of public safety for Henry County, has one word for anyone considering volunteering with local fire and/or rescue squads: Help!

Whether they want to volunteer at a local squad or pursue a career (paid) position with Henry County Public Safety, their manpower is needed, Helbert said.

Currently, Henry County has about 34 career staffers; it can use 40 or more, she said. Some people left due to the COVID pandemic, becoming sick themselves or having family members who became ill and needed help, Helbert said.

Volunteers and career staff work in tandem, she said. And some

See **Volunteer**, page 3

City officials introduce ordinance authorizing contested reversion

In a 4 to 1 vote, Martinsville City Council on Tuesday adopted on first reading an ordinance authorizing a contested reversion to town status within Henry County.

Council member Tammy Pearson, who attended the meeting via phone due to a potential COVID exposure, was the sole nay vote.

The council scheduled a second reading and potential approval of the ordinance for Thursday, Jan. 27.

In the ordinance, the city reiterated its desire to revert to a town and that the reversion process be "under terms and conditions appropriate to ensure an orderly transition from city to town status; adjust financial inequities; balance the equities between the parties; and ensure protection of the best interests of the city, the county, the Commonwealth, and the people of the city and the county."

The document also "authorizes the City Manager (Leon Towarnicki) and the city's legal counsel to petition Martinsville Circuit Court for an order ... "establishing Martinsville as a town

within and constituting part of Henry County, and Henry County shall be made a party defendant to the proceeding."

The ordinance is the latest in an increasingly litigious battle over the city's proposed reversion.

On Dec. 14, the Henry County Board of Supervisors voted 4-2 to reject a Voluntary Settlement Agreement (VSA) previously negotiated between city and county officials. Had the county voted to approve the VSA, the action would have triggered the convening of a special 3-judge panel that

See **Ordinance**, page 6

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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, Jan. 29

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) is hosting a paint class! Painting with Genie: Sweet Winter will begin at 1 p.m. at the Centre. All supplies are provided. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and ore-registration is required. To save your spot, call (276) 957-5757.

Monday, Jan. 31

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA (3 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

The West Piedmont Health District will provide free, drive-through PCR testing for COVID-19 from 12:30-4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory parking lot (315 Commonwealth Boulevard, Martinsville.) The tests are limited to the first 100 participants. No registration is required and there is no age limit for testing. Participants must wear a mask and no pets are allowed in vehicles.

Thursday, Feb. 3

Patrick & Henry Community College hosts a professional development workshop, Wow with Public Speaking, from 9-11 a.m. This class can be attended virtually or in person and the cost is \$49. To register, visit ph.augustoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

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.

Friday, Feb. 4

Make magical memories with your little princess at Piedmont Arts' Magical Mask-erade. This daddy-daughter-style dance offers an enchanted night of music and dancing featuring kid-friendly tunes from DJ What. Guests can create fun crafts and enjoy light snacks. The Magical Mask-erade will be held at Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per non-member couple with a \$5 charge for each additional child. The event is free for Piedmont Arts members. Get your tickets at the museum or at PiedmontArts.org.

Saturday, Feb. 5

Join the Spencer-Penn Centre and Jessica Minter for Charcuterie for your Cutie! Create your own charcuterie board to take home to share with someone or enjoy by yourself. All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-register by Jan. 31 by calling the Centre at (276) 957-5757.

The Dyer's Store Volunteer Fire Department (3230 Chatham Road, Martinsville) will be hosting its Brunswick stew fundraiser. A quart of stew is \$9 and pickup is 11 a.m. Preorder your stew by calling the station at (276) 638-3184, contacting any of the department's firemen, or by sending a message to the Dyer's Store Vol. Fire Department Facebook page.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

The West Piedmont Health District will provide free, drive-through PCR testing for COVID-19 from 12:30-4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory parking lot (315 Commonwealth Boulevard, Martinsville.) The tests are limited to the first 100 participants. No registration is required and there is no age limit for testing. Participants must wear a mask and no pets are allowed in vehicles.

Friday, Feb. 11

It's Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre! Visit the Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) for music by the Gap Civil old time band in Alumni Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. and music begins at 6:20. Admission is a \$5 donation to the Centre and concessions will be sold. Come out and enjoy some great music!

Wednesday, Feb. 16

The West Piedmont Health District will provide free, drive-through PCR testing for COVID-19 from 12:30-4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory parking lot (315 Commonwealth Boulevard, Martinsville.) The tests are limited to the first 100 participants. No registration is required and there is no age limit for testing. Participants must wear a mask and no pets are allowed in vehicles.

Thursday, Feb. 17

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.

Sunday, Feb. 20

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) will

host a barn quilt class from 12-4 p.m. All supplies are provided and pricing is based on size, ranging from \$75 to \$85. The registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 11. For more details or to register, call the Centre at (276) 957-5757.

Thursday, Feb. 21

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Collinsville Church of Christ (2115 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, Feb. 23

The West Piedmont Health District will provide free, drive-through PCR testing for COVID-19 from 12:30-4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory parking lot (315 Commonwealth Boulevard, Martinsville.) The tests are limited to the first 100 participants. No registration is required and there is no age limit for testing. Participants must wear a mask and no pets are allowed in vehicles.

Saturday, March 26

The Martinsville-Henry SPCA, the Martinsville City Police Department, and PetSense are partnering to host a microchip clinic from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at PetSense (240 Commonwealth Blvd. W, Martinsville.) The cost of a microchip and registration is \$10. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers for the safety of the animal.

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.foresthillspc.com/mhc-warming-shelter.html.

Patrick & Henry Community College is organizing a virtual Leadership Learning Community! If you have leadership questions, P&HCC can connect you with answers through this virtual community. Participants have the opportunity to collaborate and brainstorm current, real-time challenges and successes with fellow leaders while learning from each other or gaining

insights from professionals skilled in areas of concern. Sessions will be held from 4-5 p.m. every other Wednesday from January 12 through June 22. Prices range from \$225 for 12 sessions all the way to \$25 for individual sessions. For more information or to register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Piedmont Arts hosts three exhibits: "Our Living Past: Platinum Portraits of Southern Music Makers," "Dear B.J.: Postcards from the Pandemic," and "Tara Compton." All exhibits run through March 12. Museum admission is free.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you out for a trek along the trail! Meet as a group and walk along a different trail each week. Explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 to find out where the week's trek is happening! Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

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 brll.lib.va.us.

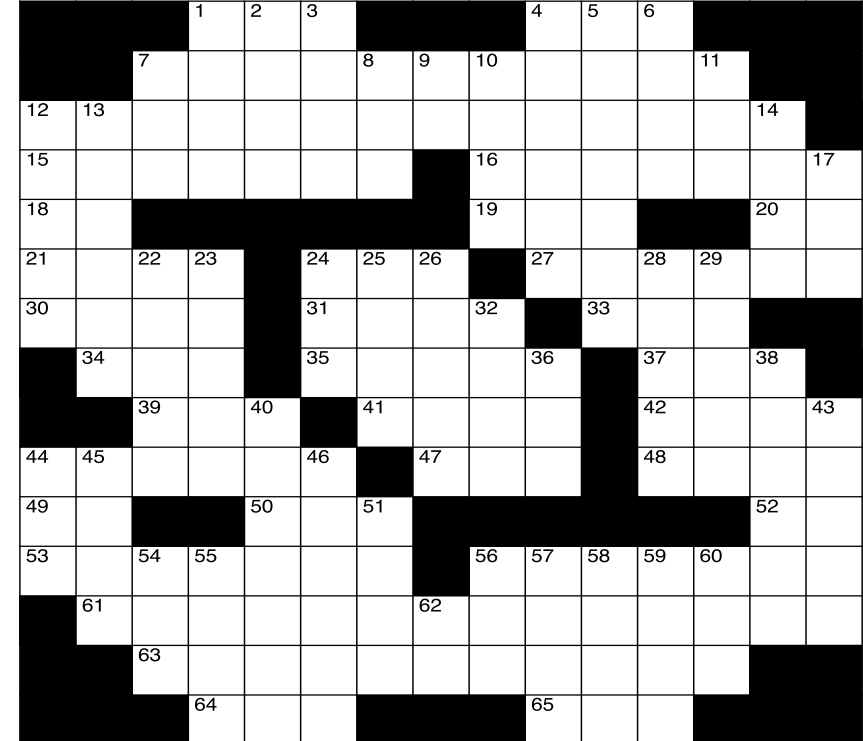
The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at their headquarters (1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville.) Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

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. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | 37. ___ student, learns healing | 3. This (Spanish) | 32. Database management system |
| 1. Brew | 39. Military official (abbr.) | 4. Essay | 36. Similar |
| 4. NY ballplayer | 41. Matchstick games | 5. Continuing indefinitely | 6. Tool for lifting food |
| 7. Rigid external covering in some animals | 42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two | 6. Partner to Adam | 7. Dry white wine drink |
| 12. Promotional materials | 44. Distant planet | 8. Spanish be | 9. Smaller quantity |
| 15. More high-pitched | 47. A type of residue | 10. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series | 12. (Scottish) island |
| 16. Widely cultivated cereal | 48. Punk art icon Jimmy De___ | 13. Church officer | 14. Large wrestler |
| 18. Dormitory employee | 49. Millinery | 15. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series | 17. Polite address for women |
| 19. Bad act | 50. Canadian media firm | 16. Money given in support | 22. Famed Susan Lucci character "___ Kane" |
| 20. One's mother | 52. Type of withdrawal | 23. Mason ___ Line | 24. Disfigure |
| 21. Scored perfectly | 53. Spicy | 25. Asian nation | 26. Rage (Span.) |
| 24. Space station | 56. Dish of minced meat or fish | 26. Rago (Span.) | 28. Khoikhoi peoples |
| 27. Exchange for money | 61. Noted previously | 29. Opera solo | 32. Database management system |
| 30. Edible seaweed | 63. Happily | | 36. Similar |
| 31. Iranian city | 64. "Partridge" actress Susan | | 38. Move up and down playfully |
| 33. Lakers' crosstown rivals | 65. Not present | | 40. Alfalfa |
| 34. Nothing | | | 43. Satisfied |
| 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation | | | 44. Baseball official |
| | | | 45. Large, flightless bird of S. America |
| | | | 46. Money given in support |
| | | | 51. Flower cluster |
| | | | 54. Beginning military rank |
| | | | 55. Russian weight measurement |
| | | | 56. Explosive |
| | | | 57. An individual unit |
| | | | 58. Midskirt |
| | | | 59. Weapon featuring balls |
| | | | 60. Used of a number or amount not specified |
| | | | 62. Unit of measurement |

Axton's Hur Eli Marin Salgado among nearly 1,800 to graduate last fall from the University of Iowa

Marin Salgado, of Axton, was among the nearly 1,800 undergraduate, graduate and professional students conferred their degrees last month at the University of Iowa.

Marin Salgado was a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences whose program of study was Political Science. The degree awarded was a Bachelor of Arts.

Despite the challenges of navigating their college education through a pandemic, Hawkeyes like Marin Salgado persisted. They continued to excel and stretch. To engage and choose and serve.

Take for example, the 22 students and alumni who won Fulbright scholarships to conduct research, teach English, or undertake creative projects abroad, making Iowa a top-producing institution of Fulbright students nationally for the sixth consecutive year. Or the students who produce The Daily Iowan, which was named by the Associated Press for 2020-21 as well as the 2021 Iowa Newspaper of the Year by the Iowa Newspaper Association. Or the 19 honors students whose retelling of The Great Gatsby garnered a film option.

Not only have our students persisted, they have pushed to achieve more. Hundreds of student volunteers raised funds for Dance Marathon, helping pediatric cancer patients and their families at UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, while the student-run UI Mobile Clinic offered free telehealth services and vaccinated more than 1,000 people.

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Volunteer

from page 1

people who started in volunteer positions have grown into career slots, she added.

"It is a true combination. We depend on both," Helbert said. Most if not all of them also work two jobs, such as full-time with Martinsville and part-time with Henry County agencies or vice versa.

EMT and firefighter training each takes about 200 hours or more, and paramedic training takes more than two years, according to Helbert.

To encourage and train help, Helbert said a recruiting academy is being held locally for the first time. The academy, in partnership with Franklin County, began in November and has a full roster of 11 students who attend training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. When they finish in February and pass their state and national exams, they will be ready to be EMTs (emergency medical technicians) and firefighters.

If the recruiting academy model program continues, Helbert said she expects other area agencies will take part.

"It's widely seen as a good idea," she said. "It's one tool but a huge step to a solution" of boosting manpower.

To find personnel in the past, Helbert said she took part in job fairs, contacted colleges and churches and held classes, although COVID halted that for a while. She also encourages class instructors to bring their students into the squad buildings to spark their interest in serving.

"Everybody can contribute something," she added.

Martinsville Fire Chief Ted Anderson agreed. The city department has both career and volunteer personnel. About 10 volunteers help support the department, with fundraising and performing other roles suited to their certification.

Volunteers can start as young as age 16. "Getting started early sets up a nice career path" which can lead to work as a firefighter or paramedic, Anderson said. Even if a person does not go that route, he added that service "looks great on a resume" and costs little or nothing.

Anyone interested in volunteering or a career position should contact Henry County Public Safety or any area fire or rescue squad station, Helbert said. Those interested in volunteering with the Martinsville department should call (276) 403-5325.

HENRY COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

The Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett is helping more people with fewer volunteers than it had before the pandemic.

The pantry has about 25 volunteers, which is about five fewer than it had before the COVID spread. Yet it is assembling and distributing 15 percent more food boxes than it did as recently as last fall, as well as providing other services, according to Site Director Sharon Mills.

The increase in the need for food boxes can be attributed to government subsidies expiring, people in quarantines or unable to work because their children are quarantined and other factors, she said.

The pantry distributes food weekly; in the past it was done monthly, she said. Also, the pantry gets referrals for help, such as for people who have lost their homes to fires.

"We were absolutely affected by COVID," Mills said, explaining that few of the pantry's previous 30 volunteers have remained.

The average age of the pantry's volunteers is 75, and many felt uncomfortable leaving their homes as the pandemic took hold, she said. When they finally did begin to get out, the pandemic started to worsen, she added.

Mills said most volunteers are recruited by word of mouth or Facebook postings. She also calls those who helped in the past to see if they want to return, and private groups, such as employees, church groups and clubs, sometimes lend a hand.

The pantry also welcomes help from people with community service hours to fill. Mills said some of those people have found it to be a blessing to help their neighbors.

Almost all of them "are shocked at the needs in the community," she added.

The volunteers spend about six hours a week packing 1,500 to 2,000 food boxes every month. The food comes from Feeding Southwest Virginia, donations from area organizations and companies, and special purchases. The pantry also boxes food for groups such as the Salvation Army, churches, assisted living centers and others, Mills said, adding that has become a central location for such groups and services.

However, she expects the quantity of food the pantry receives to decrease as the federal government returns distributions to prepandemic

levels. Mills said the pantry will raise more funds to buy food and offset that drop.

Mills said the volunteers are efficient at boxing food, but recently some have been diverted to help sort clothing donations. Some of the clothes and related items came to the pantry when the Salvation Army closed its thrift store, Mills said.

"Now we're working more as a partnership in the community," providing one-stop help for people in need, she said.

The pantry's clothes closet occupies 4,000 square feet of the former Bassett Printing building, called "Riverwalk." The food pantry occupies 5,000 square feet of the building.

At this time, the closet has a good supply of women's clothes but needs children's and men's items, coats, blankets and housewares, Mills said.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call the pantry at (276) 629-1369.

GRACE NETWORK

Using industry-standard figures to calculate the monetary value of volunteers to Grace Network, the sum comes to \$2,055 a week or nearly \$107,000 a year.

But to Grace Executive Director Tracy Hinchcliff, the volunteers are "priceless," and that is an understatement, she said.

Grace Network, on Liberty Street, helps area residents at risk of losing their housing or utilities or not feeding their families because of a crisis.

Unlike paid employees, Hinchcliff said volunteers work from their heart and because they want to help the community. The \$107,000 is a valid assessment of their value to Grace, she said, but "the value of the heart is what matters to me."

Grace could not survive without its volunteers. It operates five 3 1/2-hour shifts every week. At full staff, each shift has 12 volunteers, most of whom help once a week. Hinchcliff and a part-time bookkeeper are the only paid staff.

Before COVID hit, Grace had a roster of 150 volunteers. Now, it has 115 active volunteers, Hinchcliff said.

"COVID probably accounted for the biggest chunk of volunteers" who did not return after the agency closed briefly at the height of the pandemic, she said. Others left due to normal attrition and personal reasons, she added.

Operating with 35 fewer volunteers has been harder, and means fewer clients sometimes can be seen, she said. But the number of people seeking help also has declined as residents relied on government stimulus money and other programs to avoid crises, she said.

Now, however, things are starting to pick up and "Grace is open for business and open for volunteers," Hinchcliff added.

To recruit volunteers at first, she tapped the 125 churches who supported the agency. She also took part in job and resource fairs, and she uses social media such as Facebook.

Most volunteers come to Grace via word of mouth, Hinchcliff said. "So many people come to us; they want to learn more about Grace Network and want to help. That speaks to the integrity of Grace Network in the community. It has a good name and people want to be part of that," she added.

Volunteering at Grace Network is different from many other agencies because of the commitment required, Hinchcliff said. "At Grace, there is so much paperwork" and so many procedures to follow that training can take one to two months, she said. "That's why it's important they have a commitment to be here."

People who want to volunteer at Grace or some other agency should talk to family and church members and friends about opportunities in the community and what would be a good fit for them, Hinchcliff said.

"Volunteering is what we all are called to do as Christians, but you want to find a good fit," she added. That means "finding the right job for the right person that they are capable of doing and enjoy."

Grace can be reached at (276) 638-8500.

UNITED WAY

The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville had adapted its Day of Action to the COVID pandemic.

Philip Wenkstern, executive director of the local United Way, said the event's focus has changed from projects to supplies.

In the past, volunteers — many from area businesses — performed service projects for agencies and groups throughout the community. But as the pandemic worsened, businesses did not want to risk exposing their employee-volunteers to the virus, possibly making them sick and affecting business operations, he said.

Now, the volunteers collect specific supplies requested by the agencies, Wenkstern said. For instance, he

Helping others unites Grace Network volunteers

If you ask a group of Grace Network volunteers why they give their free time to a crisis center, many will say they want to give back to their community. Others will say they like to stay busy. Still others hope to meet like-minded people.

But eventually they all come back to the same motivation: They want to help people in need.

Jim Reaghard has volunteered with Grace Network since shortly after it opened in 2006. His reason for serving with Grace is simple: "Helping people," Reaghard said. "This has become my passion. I think God put me here."

His reward is equally as straightforward: Hugs, thanks, "seeing people sighing" with relief and saying, "Thank God," he said.

Janet Fentress has worked in Grace's food pantry for about a decade and volunteers at least three days a week. Most volunteers pitch in one day a week.

"I like to stay busy and it's something for me to do. I like helping people and (in some cases) when they get all the way around (the pantry) and have two buggies full (of food), they're crying," she said. "They are so excited about it."

Reaghard and Fentress are two of the 115 volunteers who man the crisis center on Liberty Street in Martinsville. It is a one-stop resource for people facing a crisis in maintaining their housing, keeping their utilities on or feeding their families.

Grace is a faith-based organization supported by 125 local churches who contribute money, food and sometimes volunteers. The agency also receives contributions and grants from other sources.

The volunteers fill several roles. The lead is the top spot on each of the five shifts Grace is open each week, and he or she determines if a client will get help with a bill or food. Each client is met by a greeter who welcomes them; a screener who checks their identification and financial documents; and an interviewer who reviews those documents, listens to the cause of the person's crisis and recommends a course of action to the lead. An assistant and receptionist also man Grace's office, and other volunteers do data entry work and other functions.

Clients getting food proceed to the pantry where volunteers help them "shop" through shelves of donated food.

Many of the volunteers are retirees, but not all. Reaghard and fellow volunteer Melvin Johnson both were employed when they started serving at Grace; both now are retired.

"I squeezed in when I could work" at Grace on days he wasn't on his paid job, said Johnson, who started at Grace in 2010. "I made it work."

Johnson had a troubled past but that life "didn't fit me. It wasn't who I really was," he said. "I didn't want my record to be what I was known for."

"Once God blessed me and healed me, I had a desire to give back," he added.

Many of the volunteers are retired teachers who are well organized, outgoing and good communicators, Reaghard said, adding that many have become good friends.

"The quality of people is superb," he said. "We get some great volunteers."

Dianne Vann is one such retired educator who has served as a lead and interviewer almost since the beginning of Grace. Her experience as a teacher helped her as an interviewer, she said, and although she mostly is a lead now, she likes to serve as an interviewer sometimes to stay in touch with people and hear their stories.

"It's very gratifying," she said. "You find a whole new circle of friends (volunteers) who are like-minded. ... It's supportive to see other people with the same

kinds of goals and concerns you have."

While volunteers share a desire to help people, they all bring different skills to the agency.

"Everyone brings their own gifts," said Sylvia Knight, who also has been with Grace since around the time it began. "I use the gifts God has given me."

That is why Johnson prefers to interview clients rather than being a lead. The lead makes decisions, he said, but as an interviewer, he often can use his knowledge of the community and available programs to help people.

Fentress likes working in the food pantry because clients there have already been approved for help, she said. They are happy to follow a list of available foods, with the quantity determined by their household size, and they can choose items they want, she added.

"Grace helps so many people and people are so grateful for everything we do," Fentress said. "Food is the feel-good part."

Knight agreed. "Choice is good for them, and they left with a happy heart," she said.

Knight started serving in Grace's food pantry but when that became difficult physically, she moved to the screener spot. Her husband, Dennis Knight, joined her at Grace when he retired from the ministry a decade ago, and he has served as an interviewer, lead and board member.

"He had seen how meaningful it was to me so he wanted to get involved" with Grace, Sylvia Knight said.

Dennis Knight and others said they often get as much as they give at Grace.

"I feel I've received as many blessings as I've given or more," he said, referring to other volunteers who have become friends as well as clients he has helped.

"Almost every time I've interviewed I've had feel-good clients. That is the person who comes in — it may be their first visit. They've managed but then they suddenly hit a bump in the road and they're so grateful" for Grace's help, Knight said.

He told of a first-time client he recently worked with who was embarrassed to ask for help.

"When I told her what financial help we could offer, tears were running down her face," he said. When he offered her food from the pantry, the woman refused and said she had enough food. "Others need it more," he said she told him.

"Gratitude just comes out," Knight added. "They've been blessed. They are not blessed any more than I was blessed."

That is not to say everyone gets everything they want from Grace. Some people get upset at that, but volunteers explain that they must follow guidelines and rules in their actions, Vann said.

"I explain that we have a huge need ... and we have limited resources," she said.

Volunteers also get frustrated when they cannot do as much as they would like for someone, Sylvia Knight said. "You can never satisfy" all the needs.

Vann noted another stressor.

"Often you cannot put what you've heard aside when you leave," she said. With particularly sad cases, "you do what you can, but you just can't solve all the issues. You never feel like it's enough."

When that happens, Vann said she "prays and asks God about it."

Grace's supporting churches and volunteers span all denominations, but Dennis Knight said any differences between them stop at the agency's doors.

"I have said to persons that in a way, Grace is like what a church should be. We come here; we serve together. We are not all from the same denominations, but you don't think about it. It's like a big family," he said.

"We're coming together to make a difference in our world ...," Knight added.

said Grace Network might need certain foods or personal hygiene items, which the United Way then would ask volunteers to provide.

Wenkstern noted that there is a need for a central resource to match people interested in volunteering with agencies or organizations needing help. At one time, states could apply for a federal grant that would fund such a data base, he said, but it never happened.

The United Way website lists volunteer opportunities it provides at unitedwayof-hcm.org/volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities at several area non-profits also can be found through the new 2022 Non-profit Resource Guide compiled by the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Harvest Foundation and Economic Development Corp. The guide can be accessed at martinsville-

See Volunteer, page 8



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OPINION

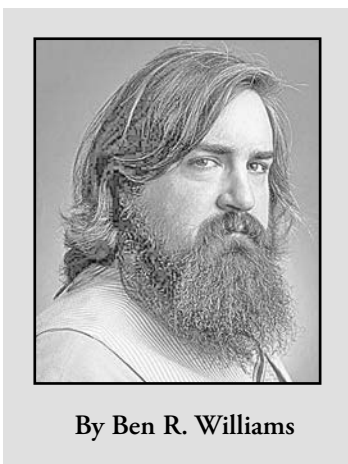
Regarding Homer Simpson

I love The Simpsons. I don't mean that I like to watch The Simpsons when it comes on TV. I mean that I consider seasons 3-8 of The Simpsons to be not only the finest comedy program ever created but one of mankind's towering achievements. I have memorized massive amounts of dialogue from The Simpsons. I can relate any topic back to a joke from The Simpsons (just ask my long-suffering girlfriend). I own a Simpsons Pinball Party pinball machine. On one occasion, I played a game of Simpsons Trivial Pursuit at a Christmas party and I had to stop after one game because I knew every single answer and I was undefeatable.

I will confess, like many long-time fans of The Simpsons, I haven't watched a lot of the newer episodes. I find they're missing a lot of the heart and humor that the classic era episodes contained. There are still some gems in there, but it's pretty hard for a show to maintain the same high level of quality for 33 years.

One example of this is a season 18 episode of The Simpsons called "That '90s Show." In this episode, Homer recounts the early days of his relationship with Marge in the 1990s when he was in a grunge band.

For fans like me, this episode was — and I don't think I'm exaggerating here — a war crime.



By Ben R. Williams

It has long been canonically established that Homer Simpson is in his late 30s. Since the show started in 1989 (or 1987, if you include the shorts on The Tracey Ullman Show),

that means a young Homer went to Woodstock, and that Homer and Marge dated and married in the late 1970s.

It also means that this presents a problem for the writers of the modern-day Simpsons, because after 30-plus years on the air, Homer should at least be in his late 60s. However, since the characters cannot age, the writers instead occasionally attempt to retcon their history in order to modernize it. "That '90s Show" aired in 2008, so even that episode is already 14 years out of date.

You see, the weird thing about watching modern episodes of The Simpsons is that I'm now 37 years old, making me roughly the same age as Homer — he's anywhere from 36-40, depending on the episode. That means Homer is a millennial! Even though the media often makes it sound as

though millennials are whiny little children, millennials were born between 1981 and 1996, making members of my generation between 25 and 40 years old.

And this leads me to one of the main reasons I can't get into new Simpsons episodes.

I generally have no problem suspending my disbelief. I can believe that Homer Simpson has been a professional boxer. I can accept that he's collected used cooking grease to make easy money. I can accept that he's been a monorail conductor. I can even accept that he's been an astronaut.

But I simply cannot accept that Homer Simpson, a millennial, is able to afford a house and two cars and support a stay-at-home wife and three children on a single income.

Boy, I really hope somebody got fired for that blunder.

Weekly Update

Del. Les R. Adams
16th House District

The work of the Virginia General Assembly for the 2022 regular session is now well underway. The first year of this biennium term, the legislature will convene in Richmond through early March to consider legislation and other policy proposals that, if passed, will go into effect later this year.

The start of this session was marked by a real sense of excitement and opportunity for new leadership that promises to change the trajectory of the Commonwealth from the direction charted by the Democrats. As you know, since 2020, Virginia government suffered under one-party rule with the previous Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General all working together with majorities in the House of Delegates and state Senate to push an aggressively leftist agenda, with little room for compromise.

This circumstance was exacerbated following

recent federal elections that resulted in a Democrat Presidency and Democrat majorities in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. For Virginians at every level of government, they witnessed policies that were hostile to traditional values, restricted the liberties of the law-abiding, undermined public safety, and were endlessly and unnecessarily divisive. Fortunately, with the results of the 2021 November elections, the bleeding stopped, as citizens across the state soundly rejected that agenda.

Now, for the first time in eight years, Virginia has a Republican in Governor Youngkin who, with Lieutenant Governor Sears and Attorney General Miyares, swept the executive branch elections. Their success coincided with the return of a Republican majority in the House of Delegates, where I am privileged to serve, ending what was for the Democrats the shortest-lived tenure of any legislative majority in living memory.

Now, the work of restoring Virginia government is in progress as we seek to reestablish liberty, protect parental rights, provide for the public safety, respect the taxpayer, and seek ways to unite our Commonwealth under shared Virginia values. Left behind are the needlessly divisive and ideological objectives champi-

oned by the previous majority.

But that does not mean that this new, conservative perspective will proceed without challenge. Democrats still control the Senate here at the Capital and will likely continue to do so until the next state elections in November of 2023 may determine otherwise. The fights will continue, as witnessed by the immediate opposition mounted against Governor Youngkin following his post-inaugural issuance of executive orders affecting school policies related to masks on students.

Likewise, our slim majority in the House of Delegates leaves little room for error. As evidenced by their speeches on the floor and bills they filed, many of which I have already addressed in committee, the policy objectives of the Democrat party have clearly not pivoted, despite the recent elections that featured record setting voter turnout. I intend to provide specific examples of these measures in future updates.

For now, please know that I consider it the utmost privilege to again represent your interests in the House of Delegates. It is an honor I never take for granted.

To contact my office, mail correspondence to 16th House District, P.O. Box K, Chatham, Virginia, 24531 or call (434) 432-1600 in Chatham or (804) 698-1016 in Richmond.

Richmond Report

Bill Stanley
State Senator

We have now finished week-two of the 2022 General Assembly, and my office is in full swing developing and introducing new legislation that will better serve the citizens of Senate District 20. Each of my 23 bills have been written

to improve the education experience for our children by addressing school modernization, expanding educational and workforce training opportunities at NCI in Martinsville, and incentivizing our public school systems to bring shop class and the trades education back to our high

schools. Equally important, I am proposing to significantly expand telehealth services and funding in the rural, urban and medically under-served areas of Virginia, particularly for the home bound patient where paramedic transportation and immediate patient care may be paramount. And of course, I have introduced legislation that will further safeguard health and welfare of com-

panion animals, and especially those that are used in Virginia for experimentation purposes. You will find more detail on some of my bills below.

As Thomas Jefferson once said, "vigilance is the eternal price of liberty," and being aware of and involved in your state government is important for every citizen; decisions are being made here at the Capitol every day for the next sixty days

that will affect your daily life.

Various committees meet each day, both in the morning and afternoon, and the full Senate is in Session every week-day beginning at noon. I encourage you to witness first-hand the way the legislative process unfolds each day of session; if you see something you like, don't like, or want more information about, please feel

free to contact my office and let your thoughts be known.

If you've had the opportunity to watch the livestream of a Senate session this year, you may have difficulty identifying which senator is talking. The problem is not with the camera, but with the full-length plexiglass cages into which each senator has

See Stanley, page 7

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henrycountyenterprise.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Angela Sailor, CRT and Classic Literature

The Washington Post says that Governor Youngkin's selection of Angela Sailor (as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) has left Democrats "fuming." How could Democrats be upset when, not only a woman, but a black woman, has been appointed to such an office? Said "fuming" proves that our interactions and political desires revolve solely around ideas rather than skin color or gender.

Sailor is a promoter of education in American History, believing that while there are plenty of blemishes there are also many shining moments. As we approach Black History Month I believe it beneficial to read the classic literature that shaped America and helped bring emancipation.

While many use Harriot Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom" as a slur Abraham Lincoln referred to Stowe as, "the little lady who brought about the great big war." In the preface Stowe wrote, "Another and better day is dawning... more in unison with the great master chord of Christianity." Her religion led her to be an abolitionist.

School board goals

2022 is no time for Fluffy Bulletin Boards or lip service from the School Board. Their job is hiring a competent superintendent, setting school policy and overseeing all fiscal matter — thus making sure the employees working under the direction of the Superintendent are equally competent.

Policy Changes: 2.6 million - a windfall from the 1% 20-year sales tax with another roughly 2.6 MILLION to come would improve wages for teachers, school personnel, benefits for bus drivers, and bring employees up to the state average; plus, open trade schools and expand programs. This is legal and implementable.

Fiscal Efficiency: School Maintenance must only use licensed

As murmurings began on the possibility of a Civil War, Emerson favorably said, "Gunpowder smells good." When the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed, Emmerson simply said, "I will not obey it, by God." Emmerson's religion led him to be an abolitionist.

While some wish Huckleberry Finn was removed from school libraries for its racial slurs, I believe that it should be read by all. Twain went from a Confederate volunteer to writing a story in 1885 that presented a former slave, Jim, as the hero.

Not only literary history, but religious history shows the beauty of American values. The early 1800s in American are often referred to as "The Restoration Movement." According to Davidson's "History of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky" hundreds of thousands of Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians abandoned their creeds, and sectarian titles in order to follow only the Bible, calling themselves only Christians or disciples. Three of the most famous men were Barton Stone, Thomas Campbell, and his son, Alexander Campbell.

According to his autobiography

contractors and stay within budget. (DO NOT try now to borrow from the 2.6 million for a bad debt.) Use an Inventory Specialist to monitor employees — reducing inefficiency and focusing on best working practices. Spend money wisely.

Establish Taxpayer Confidence: Public Parent Groups-Town Hall Meetings have a purpose. With input given, it's been 9 months...so what are the "Short-Term and Long-Term" plans...the "Timeline" to tackle the big issues, find solutions, and fix the problems?

Looking Back: During the race, a school board candidate berated and harshly criticized me, first for being single, and then for talking too straight about the school needs. Now, allegedly, this 14-year resident — with

Stone emancipated his slaves in 1801. In 1845 Alexander Campbell wrote on page 259 of his paper, Millennial Harbinger, "I have set free from slavery every human being that came in any way under my influence or was my property." Leroy Garrett, Harvard Ph.D. recipient, notes on Alexander's action, "If a master freed his slaves, he was required by law not only to provide a living for them, but he was also responsible for all their conduct, being liable for any crimes they might commit." Great risk was taken to do right.

On page 101 of Dr. Harrell's book, Quest for a Christian America, it's said that in 1819, Thomas Campbell, a Kentucky resident, was reprimanded for violating state law in that he publicly taught an "assembly of negroes." Rather than submit he moved to Pennsylvania.

American history is filled with shining moments and Mrs. Sailor's appointment is one of them. Not for any specific gender or color, but for Virginians, and for Americans.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

children still in public school (who professed to know the problems) ran on a platform of getting involved and working with the community — wants to lay the blame of the district's problems on the shoulders of the parents — saying they are not getting involved. Sadly, some parents will never get involved. (Apparently single citizens, and those without public school children, have no value or merit. Why?)

At some point, the School Board must be decisive and make progress. Delaying and blaming are real morale downers.

School Board, do your job. Taxpayers are watching.

Ray Reynolds,
Collinsville

OBITUARIES

Christopher Ray Agee

Christopher Ray Agee, 48, of Axton, VA passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at his residence. He was born on May 16, 1973, in Martinsville, VA to Kathy Hall Agee and the late Billy Ray Agee. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Nina and Jess Agee and maternal grandparents Elma and James Hall.



by his loving Police Brothers and Sisters at the Danville City Police Department.

The funeral was held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, with Pastor Ron Goss officiating. Burial will follow the service at the Agee Family Cemetery in Axton, VA.

Donations can be made to the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Norris Funeral Services in Martinsville is serving the Agee family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Mr. Agee was of the Baptist Faith, and he worked at the Danville City Police Department.

He is survived by his mother Kathy Hall Agee; fiancé, Krystina Kirk; numerous aunts and uncles, and nieces and nephews. He is also survived

Wilma Alderman

Wilma Alderman, 96 of Martinsville, Va. passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022. She was born February 25, 1925, in Coeburn, Va. to Garland Bentley and Sophia Mullins Bentley.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Noblin Alderman Jr.; son, Jack Alderman; granddaughter, Dawn Alderman.

She is survived by her daughter, Diana Finney; grandchildren, Wes Alderman (Tara), Michelle Greer (Tim) and Christopher Alderman (Emma); four great grandchildren and sister, Nita Bentley.

Mrs. Alderman was a homemaker



who loved her family and taking care of them. She loved cooking and was very dedicated to exercising daily and working crossword puzzles.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 28, 2022, at Henry Memorial Park and will be officiated by Reverend George Hearn

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 308 Craighead Street, Suite 104, Danville, VA 24541.

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

To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Hazel Clarke Hill

Hazel Clarke Hill, 94, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2022. She was born on June 14, 1927, to the late John Dillard Clarke and Fannie Maude Lovell Clarke. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wesley Hill; son, Stacy Lee Hill; sister, Rachel Clarke Woodson; brother, Rexford Grey Clarke; and nephew, Ernest Woodrow Hite.



Bart of Kansas, and Melvin Glenn Aldrich III of Nebraska. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

Family and friends may visit with the family at Mrs. Hill's home, at 3500 Mt. Olivet Rd. Martinsville, VA 24112.

The family asks that memorial donations be made to Mt. Olivet Christian Church, C/O Mrs. Edwin Pace, 215 Lovell Dr. Martinsville, VA 24112, or to Mtn. Valley Hospice, 730 E Church St, St #13, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Mrs. Hill was a member of Mt. Olivet Christian Church and a member of the Mt. Olivet Ruritan Club.

She is survived by her son, Damon Grey Hill (Brenda) of Martinsville, VA; grandsons, Michael Clarke Hill (Kristina) and Robert Dandridge Hill (Samantha) both of Martinsville, VA; step-grandchildren, Katherine Sue

Richard Lawrence Harris

Richard Lawrence Harris, age 80, of Collinsville, Virginia passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022. Lawrence was born March 11, 1941, in Erwin, Tennessee to the late Roy and Dolly Harris.

In addition to his parents, Lawrence was preceded in death by his sister Jeanette Young and brothers, Herbert Harris, and Eugene Harris.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years Carolyn Harris; daughters, Mikki Styons (Doug) and Cindy Wynn (Irby); grandchildren, Harris Styons (Olivia), Lea Styons, Jacob Wynn, and Joseph Wynn.

Prior to his 34-year ministry at Stone Memorial Christian Church in Collinsville, Lawrence was a minister at Eastside Christian Church in Elizabethton TN, Buffalo Valley Christian Church in Johnson City TN,



and Brick Christian Church in Watauga TN. Lawrence loved his family members and his church family. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and working in his garden.

The funeral was on Friday, January 21, 2022, at Stone Memorial Christian Church, officiated by Gerald Holly, Greg Sexton, and Larry Owen. A private interment was held at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to Stone Memorial Christian Church, 3030 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville, Virginia 24078.

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

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

Madeline Shelton Hubbard

Madeline Shelton Hubbard, 79, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022. She was born on January 2, 1943, to the late George Compton Shelton and Mary Emma Shelton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Helen Shelton Hedrick, Marion Shelton Hutson, and Mary Louise Shelton; brothers, Reuben L. Shelton, Orelle Foster Shelton, Walter Eugene Shelton, and Johnny Curtis Shelton.



Headen, Marybeth Hubbard

Deadmond (Jonathan), Bryan Hubbard (Amber), Madeline Reynolds, and Makenna Reynolds; and great-grandchildren, Elyse, Zuri, Ivy, Chloe, Kinsleigh, Lincoln, and Gwen.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, January 31, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Reverend Alan Vaughan officiating. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2022, also at the funeral home. Burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made Chatham Heights Christian Church, 4020 Sunset Dr. Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Madeline was a member of Chatham Heights Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Wendell Ray Hubbard of the residence; daughters, Cynthia Hubbard Headen (Mark) Martinsville, VA and Melody Hubbard Reynolds (K. Scott) of Collinsville, VA; son, Wendell Ray Hubbard II (Carol) of Collinsville, VA; sister, Dorothy Hedrick of Gretna, VA; grandchildren, Dustin Headen (Jessica), Gavin Headen (Meaghan), Devon

Nellie "Nell" Compton Lovell

Nellie "Nell" Compton Lovell, 93, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022, at her residence. She was born on September 14, 1928, to the late Sally Wall Compton and William Riley Compton. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Walter Lovell, Jr.; her brothers, James William Compton, and Henry Clay Compton; and her sisters, Mamie C. Wilson, Mattie C. Davis, Frances C. Moore, and Vergie C. Herndon. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.



volunteer for CONTACT Helpline, member of the TRIAD S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors and Lawpersons Together), Former Volunteer at Memorial Hospital Martinsville/Henry County, Member of the J.B. Singers, and was voted 'Outstanding citizen of the Year' 2005 by the Martinsville Police Department. She was employed by Pannill Knitting Company for five years, Globman's Department Store for five years and Lee Telephone Company-Centel for thirty-two years.

The family would like to thank Nellie's caregivers over this past year for their love and care.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, with Pastor Tim Gearheart officiating. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, US-58, Martinsville, VA 24112 or to the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Norris Funeral Services in Martinsville is serving the Lovell family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

She was the heart of her neighborhood. For any event, or if you needed a lending hand, she was there. Although she didn't have children of her own, many considered her their mother, grandmother, aunt, or trusted friend. Nell was always giving and enjoyed taking care of others.

Mrs. Lovell was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church where she was a former Sunday School teacher, Treasurer of Church, and Sunday School Superintendent. She was also a Member of the Finance Committee, Church Council, Trustees Committee, Member of the Cora Lee Bible Class, and Adult Choir at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

Nell was President of the Young at Heart Senior Group since 1988, Former

Christopher Thomas Wyatt

Christopher Thomas Wyatt, 38, of Fieldale, passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at his home. Chris was a beloved son, grandson, brother, nephew, cousin, and friend.



Tommy and Paula Wyatt of Collinsville, who loved him more than words can express. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Beth Marlowe (Josh) of Bassett, and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. His memory will live on forever through those who loved and cherished him.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Stone Memorial Christian Church in Collinsville. The family will receive friends one hour before the service, from 1 until 2 p.m., and other times at the home of Tommy and Paula Wyatt in Collinsville.

Memorials may be given to a charity of choice.

Chris was born in Eden, N.C. on May 8, 1983. He graduated from Fieldale-Collinsville High School in 2001. Throughout his youth, he enjoyed playing football and baseball. He loved fishing and anything outdoors such as hunting, camping, and 4-wheeling. He worked as a painter and did home improvements.

Chris was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Ken and Juanita Barrow, and Edward Jones, and paternal grandparents, Vernon, and Nancy Wyatt.

Chris is survived by his parents,

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Ordinance from page 1

would ultimately decide whether to grant Martinsville town status.

Following the county's rejection of the VSA, the city on Dec. 20 filed a claim for arbitration with The McCammon Group, Ltd., citing provisions in the previously approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and in the VSA laying out steps and requirements for settling disputes.

On Jan. 4, the county approved a motion to file a complaint for declaratory judgement in Henry County Circuit Court to stop the city's attempt to force the board to comply with the agreement. In a statement, the county stated that, since no ordinance was adopted to approve the VSA, it was not bound by the terms of the document.

City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday on Tuesday said, "it is their position that the VSA that they signed and voted to approve twice is essentially a Kleenex with no legal ramifications whatsoever."

This most recent ordinance, according to Monday, is "another step to activate the 3-judge panel" and is statutorily required to proceed with a contested reversion.

"It is our position that once this 3-judge panel is up and run-

ning, all matters relating to the county's breach of their contractual obligations under the VSA—and what we have spent relying on their representations that they were negotiating with us in good faith—should become part of the hearing in front of the panel," he said.

The city can ask the arbitrator to award the city "all of the money that had been expended from the time the county agreed to begin negotiations" in September of 2020 up until it's rejection of the VSA in December 2021, Monday said.

Additionally, Monday said, "I think it's quite obvious that the county is actively lobbying to change the legislative structure that governs reversion, which is also a violation of the VSA, and it would be our position that what we are currently having to expend to fight that effort in the General Assembly is also recoverable."

Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville, and State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, have filed bills in both the House and the Senate which, if approved, would require a voter referendum on reversion.

Council member Danny Turner said while some county officials may have had intentions of act-



Vice-Mayor Jennifer Bowles, (left), presents Martinsville NAACP President Naomi Hodge-Muse with a proclamation acknowledging February 2022 as Black History Month.



City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday discusses the city's ordinance on a contested reversion with city council during its Jan. 24 meeting. He said the ordinance was the next step in activating a 3-judge panel which ultimately would rule on the city's ability to revert to town status.

ing in good faith (Chairman Jim Adams of the Blackberry District and Tommy Slaughter of the Reed Creek District both voted against rejecting the VSA), the majority did not. "It's time to move on," he said.

He said he believes "it's absolutely obvious that the county participated in a stall attempt to get to the General Assembly session, even to the point that they're trying to interfere in city council elections."

In other matters, the council:

*Read a proclamation acknowledging February 2022 as Black History Month.

*Heard from staff from the Commonwealth Preservation Group and the Department of Historic Resources, who shared information on a grant-funded project to update and expand the Martinsville Historic District.

*Heard a presentation from

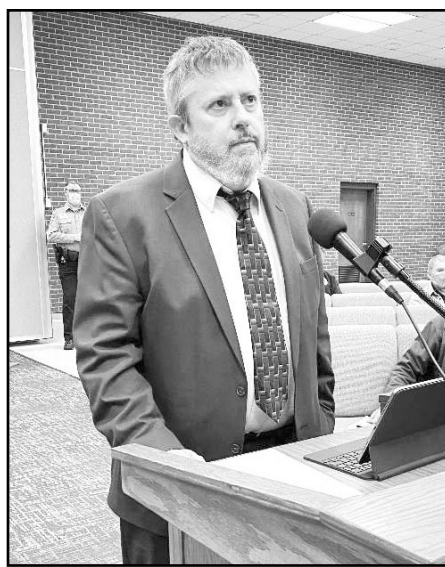
United Way Executive Director Phil Wenkster and staff from the National Housing Trust on the results of a recent needs assessment study for eviction in Henry County and Martinsville.

*Heard an update on operations from Blue Ridge Regional Library Director Rick Ward.

*Approved minutes from its Jan. 11 meeting.

*Approved the quarterly finance report.

Lynch from page 1



Rick Ward, executive director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, told the board about library activities and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the system would be seeking a 5 percent raise for its employees in the coming year.



Public Information Officer Brandon Martin updated the board about naming bridges to honor Henry County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

including assisting the needs of homeless students and incentives for school bus drivers.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$45,176 received from the Library of Virginia to assist the Circuit Court with

records preservation.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$45,000 received as a grant from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation to be used for initial engineering and surveying of

Riverview Park.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$30,000 received as a grant from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation to be used for a new entrance sign for Philpott Lake and Marina.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$52,550 received from state and federal asset forfeiture funds to be used to buy uniforms for new and existing officers at the Sheriff's Office.

*Awarded a contract in the amount of \$178,088.50 to Sheehy Ford for the purchase of 5 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

*Awarded contracts in the amount of \$306,600 to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc., and \$255,800 to Vest's Sales and Services, Inc., for the purchase of air packs and turnout gear for local volunteer fire departments and the Department of Public Safety. Funds from the American Rescue and Recovery Act (ARPA) will be used to cover the cost of the items.

*Held a public hearing and approved a request by Bernice J. Crowe, Jr., to rezone approximately 0.5 acre of the Blackberry District from suburban residential to rural residential, allowing for the placement of a single-wide manufactured home.

*Held a public hearing and approved a request by Barry Nelson to rezone approx-

imately 16.76 acres of the Horsepasture District from Industrial to suburban residential for the development of the property into single-family residences.

*Heard a presentation from Rick Ward, executive director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, on the current operations of the library system and programs offered to the public. He told the board the library system would be seeking a 5 percent raise for its employees in the coming year.

*Heard an update from Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.

*Heard an update from Public Information Officer Brandon Martin on naming bridges to honor fallen law enforcement officers in Henry County. Martin said seven officers who lived or worked in the county who were killed in the line of duty have been identified. They are George Melvin Brown, George S. Frame, John Hughes Mitchell, John J. Johnston, Paul Edward Grubb, J. Michael Philippi, and Willis Herman Ferguson. He said that so far, appropriate bridges have been identified for five of the seven officers.

*Heard from Doug Stegall, of Collinsville, who discussed reversion and school funding.

Instruction from page 1

Center covers adjusted line amounts, furniture, and \$608 designated as "personnel."

Division-level requests totaled \$43,900, including \$4,700 for safety features on buses, \$3,200 for pupil personnel services, and \$36,000 to cover repairs and inflation costs for technology.

The cost of the division's health insurance plan is unknown at this point, according to Talley, who told the board a company had been selected.

Overall, this fiscal year's budget reflects an increase in \$4,063,492 in estimated expenses. However, Clemons said, the division will not seek additional local funding to cover the increase. Rather, a hike in state funding, coupled with state sales tax revenues and state grants, will make up the difference.

Clemons said the school division expects to receive an additional \$3,569,208 in state funds over last year, including a compensation supplement accommodate the 5

percent raises recommended by Northam, nearly \$1 million for a hold harmless fund for enrollment, and slightly more than \$1 million in PIR funding.

Overall, the budget proposal anticipates \$18,845,499 in state entitlement funds, \$6,219,545 in local funds, and \$623,992 in other funds. The totals presented to the board also included \$1,715,169 in capital funds, for the total \$27,404,205 in anticipated revenues. Talley said the capital funds would not be included in the real operational budget as the city typically "puts a placeholder" on those funds.

Clemons said the division's capital improvement list includes upgraded lighting with high-efficiency or LED bulbs division-wide, which, he said, would ultimately save in the long term in utility costs. Roofs are an ongoing issue, he said, and acknowledged that recent repairs have left many in good shape. Other "major wish list items," Clemons said, include a gym addition and



The board recognized Janie Fulcher (second from left) for her years of service as board clerk. She stepped down from the position at the end of 2022. From left, board chairman Donna Dillard, Fulcher, vice-chairman Yvonne Givens, board member Emily Parker, and Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. Board members Jay Dickens and Tony Jones attended the meeting via phone.

new/redesigned parking lots at Martinsville High School.

As the budget makes its way through the General Assembly, "we don't anticipate that there will be a drastic change, because most of the (candidates) campaigned this year on supporting education and this is a budget that truly supports education," Talley said. "We're hoping that it stands."

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from Coordinator of Academic Interventions, Title III, Foreign Language, and Mentoring Dr. Tamara Vaughan, who recognized Patrick Henry Elementary

reading specialist Kelly Ramirez, who recently earned her National Board certification in literacy, reading, language arts—early and middle childhood. Ramirez said she has been at Patrick Henry for 8 years and has worked for the last 3 years to earn her certification. Vaughan said the division currently has 6 candidates going through the certification process.

*Recognized Patrick Henry Elementary principal Cameron Cooper for her recognition from the Virginia Department of Education's Office of School Quality as a quality school leader in coaching conversation.

*Presented a school board service award to Janie Fulcher, who stepped down as the board clerk at the end of 2021.

*Heard from Talley on the division's celebration of Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week.

*Heard from Athletic Director Thomas Golding, who recognized student

athletes Andy Garcia and Michael King. Garcia, who, he said is the division's first all-state football player since 2016. King was the first wrestler during Golding's time at Martinsville to win both the Big Orange and Sarah Wilkes tournaments.

*Heard from CEO and Executive Director of the Martinsville YMCA Brad Kinkema on the partnership between the organization and city schools.

*Approved minutes from the Dec. 13 board meeting.

*Approved the financial report for the period ending Dec. 31, 2021.

Important dates:
*Feb. 2: 2-hour early dismissal

*Feb. 3: parent/teacher conferences (12-7 p.m.)

*Feb. 15: next regular school board meeting and school budget reading (6 p.m.)

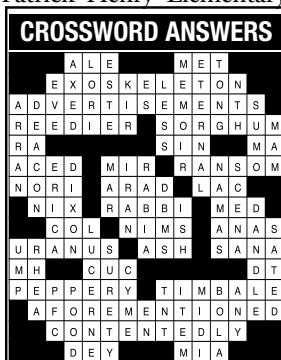
*Feb. 25: tentative date for vaccine clinic at Martinsville High School (rescheduled from Jan. 28)



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Masks

from page 1

concerns that warrant mask wearing for those individuals. They may also ask students and staff members to consider wearing a mask as an additional protective measure when they are together.” While it is not required that someone asked to wear a mask comply with this request, mask wearing is still encouraged when school community members feel it is appropriate to do so.”

The notice also referenced Virginia Senate Bill 1030, which was signed into law March 30, 2021, and directs school divisions to follow “to the extent practicable” CDC guidelines regarding quarantine and isolation periods. “At this time,” it read, “those guidelines state that an unmasked school community member who is exposed to COVID must quarantine.”

However, mask-wearing could prevent the need for a student to miss school, the notice stated. A student, staff member, or teacher who is exposed to the virus while masked and/or fully vaccinated or boosted and/or has had COVID within the last 90 days, will not need to quarantine.

“We have been masking and it has been effective in keeping schools open,” the notice stated. “We continue to encourage mask wearing and will assume you plan for your child to continue to do so; however, if you prefer for your child to opt out of wearing a mask, please contact your student’s school or teacher.”

It also indicated that the school would continue to provide COVID tests for anyone who wanted one and was exhibiting symptoms, providing N95 masks for staff members who opted to wear one at work, and continuing with regular sanitizing and deep cleaning practices.

All students are still required by federal law to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses, it stated.

Stanley

from page 4

been placed. All senators are assigned to their own individual isolation booth surrounding their desks.

The effect of all this plexiglass can be visually disorienting on a television screen, as the camera must capture the senator who is speaking through several layers of reflective plexiglass and metal framing. It isn’t any easier in the chamber. When a colleague addresses the chamber, it’s very difficult to see them unless their cage is near yours.

These cages are not there because of Senate Republicans. We objected to them, but the Democrat majority has insisted they remain up. Inconsistently, there are no such cages in Senate committee or subcommittee rooms. There, senators sit beside one another without obstructions in a cage-free environment. And our Democrat colleagues attended outgoing Governor Northam’s State of the Commonwealth Address and Governor Youngkin’s Address to the General Assembly in the House chamber, which has no such barriers. But despite these plexiglass impediments, the business of the Senate remains steadfast and uninterrupted in spite of these temporary and inefficient barriers.

Here’s a brief summary of some of my bills for this session. The full context of the Bills may be viewed at <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+mbr+S82C>. The “SB” that precedes each bill signifies it’s a “Senate Bill.”

SB80 - A bill that would make it illegal for State Election Officials and local electoral boards to accept certain gifts and funding from a private individual or non-government organization. We saw this in the last election where big corporations (such as Facebook, Amazon, etc.) were giving money to state boards of election to “get out the vote” efforts; while it appeared benign on the surface, the real intention of these efforts by these big corporate fat cats was to shape the vote to fit their political narrative, which has no place in a free and fair election in this country, and in the Commonwealth.

SB 81 - A bill that amends and reenacts provisions of the Code of Virginia relating to the Air Pollution Control Board. This bill preserves the primacy of elected local governments and the decisions that they make for their citizens over bureaucratic and often politically partisan advisory panels.

SB82 - A bill that stipulates when a city becomes a town, the police department or sheriff’s department of the former city ceases to exist, officers of the former city police department sheriff’s department shall be entitled to purchase motorcycles that previously belonged to the police department or sheriff’s department at the same cost as the city’s original purchase price. This bill passed the full Senate on January 20.

SB84 - Permits the New College Institute (NCI) in Martinsville to provide its own noncredit workforce training/certification courses independent of local community colleges in support of regional industry needs, when the local community college cannot or does not provide such training needed for businesses in the area. This bill passed out of Senate Committee Education & Health on January 20.

SB85- Provides that before a city can revert to a town, such an act must be approved by the citizens of that city by referendum. The election ballot shall contain the following question: “Should the city of Martinsville become a town?” I love the City of Martinsville and its people. We don’t make any more cities in Virginia, and I believe that the fate of this great city should rest with its people, and they deserve to vote on whether they want reversion, or not.

SB90 - Requires a breeder that breeds dogs or cats for scientific/medical experimentation that no longer has need for a dog or cat in their possession to offer for release the dog or cat to a releasing agency (like a Humane Society) for eventual adoption. I am not a big fan of the use of dogs and cats for experimentation, but if they do, they should give that companion animal, a chance at life in a loving forever home once they have fulfilled their obligation to science.

SB276 -Stipulates any local governing body may, by resolution, allow the local school board to retain any funds appropriated to it by the local governing body that are unexpended by the school board in any year to finance school capital modernization projects.

SB603 – Would require the State Board of Education to make recommendations to the General Assembly for amendments to the Standards of Quality to establish standards for the maintenance and operations, renovation, and new construction of public elementary and secondary school buildings. This bill will define what is a “modern” school facility in Virginia, and should help in the modernization process of our schools that are located in our rural and urban areas.

SB613 - Requires school principals to report criminal offenses to law enforcement and allows the parents of student may contact local law enforcement for further information if they so desire. It is an honor for me to carry this bill on behalf of Governor Youngkin.

SB614 - Requires the Commonwealth Attorney and the Courts be advised when bail is granted to a person accused of a crime that is an act of violence. I am also honored to carry this bill on behalf of Attorney General Miyares.

SB628 - Establishes the Public School Trades Incentive Program for the purpose of providing grants on a competitive basis to any school board that seeks to restore high school programs that teach students skilled trades that lead to earning industry-recognized certifications or credentials. Grants from the fund can also be used to create or restore middle school programs that encourage and recruit students to participate in high school programs that teach students skilled trades that lead to earning industry-recognized certifications or credentials.

SB633 - Requires health care providers and health care insurers to provide a true and accurate description of care provided and the related costs for each itemization. The bill also defines terms used in the statute.

SB663 - Would provide for payment of telemedicine services performed by emergency medical services, such as our EMTs and Paramedics. This bill would create an expanded payment system for telemedicine services performed by EMT’s called to render medical assistance. Currently, the emergency medical system only covers the cost to transport patients. This bill would set up the payment structure to EMS services that will also be expanded. This is very important for our region given the scarcity of medical facilities and the number of people who are unable to travel to receive basic medical assistance. Called “Para-telemedicine,” this emerging healthcare option will be an important advancement in our region.

If you’re planning a visit to the Capitol between now and March 12, please stop by our offices in Room E504 of the Pocahontas Building located across from the Public Entrance to the Capitol on Bank Street. If you want to contact us about an issue being considered during this year’s session, email at District20@senate.virginia.gov or call (804) 698-7520.

Helbert named to Dean’s List

Cara E. Helbert, of Bassett, was named to the 2021 fall semester Dean’s List at Bridgewater College. Helbert is a Biology major at Bridgewater.

Helbert was among more than 500 students named to the Dean’s List, which was announced by Dr. Leona A. Sevice, provost and executive vice president.

Students on the Dean’s List have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Bridgewater College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Founded in 1880, it was the state’s first private, coeducational college. It currently is home to approximately 1,500 students.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

Martinsville (Main) FULL-TIME CIRCULATION ASSISTANT The Blue Ridge Regional Library seeks an individual with experience dealing with the public and the ability to perform varied clerical and technical tasks in providing service to patrons at the circulation desk in a full-time position. A working knowledge of computers and high school diploma or equivalent required. To download an application and view a complete job description, visit our website at www.brll.lib.va.us. The Blue Ridge Regional Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Martinsville (Main)

PART-TIME ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ASSISTANT Under the supervision of the Electronic Resources Supervisor, the Electronic Resources Assistant provides assistance and backup in maintaining the library’s technology programs. A knowledge of personal computers including hardware support, repairs, OS support, and application software. To download an application and view

a complete job description, visit our website at www.brll.lib.va.us. The Blue Ridge Regional Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Collinsville Branch PART-TIME CIRCULATION ASSISTANT The Blue Ridge Regional Library seeks an individual with experience dealing with the public and the ability to perform varied clerical and technical tasks in providing service to patrons at the circulation desk in a part-time position. A working knowledge of computers and high school diploma or equivalent required. To download an application and view a complete job description, visit our website at www.brll.lib.va.us. The Blue Ridge Regional Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FERRUM COLLEGE HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR THE MANAGER OF AUXILIARY SERVICES

Join the Panther Nation and experience a variety of learning opportunities for you and your family while working in a welcoming and serene setting at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ferrum College has an immediate opening for the Manager of Auxiliary Services. This position provides oversight of (1) campus events for internal and external customers, (2) the Campus Store along with its in-person and online operations; and (3) the Ferrum College Mail Services. The Manager helps to ensure outstanding guest experiences for College-sponsored events and overall departmental excellence by supporting students, faculty, staff, and visitors in all areas under his/her supervision. Specific duties include supervising and training of staff, establishing and implementing short-term and long-term departmental goals, developing and monitoring department budgets, and ensuring compliance and risk management. A successful candidate will understand the need to be flexible to ensure customer satisfaction and innovative to pursue new opportunities to introduce Ferrum College’s educational and hospitality offerings to potential students and guests alike.

If you have a Bachelor’s de-

gree and at least three years of experience in coordination of activities and events, customer service and support, supervising and deploying staff as well as excellent collaborative communication skills, we would love to have you join our team. A Master’s degree in business or communications as well as experience in retail and hospitality are a plus. This position requires evening, holiday, and weekend hours on occasion as well as the ability to lift, walk, stand, and reach for extended periods of time.

We offer a competitive compensation package including medical, dental, life, STD/LTD insurances; tuition waiver for employee and tuition exchange for eligible dependents of employee, paid holidays, personal and sick leave and vacation; and a 403(b) retirement plan. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a Ferrum College application to resumes@ferrum.edu or forward to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. Background checks are required.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the full-time position of Admissions Counselor to become part of a successful recruitment team. Regional travel and extensive follow-up with student applicants through multi-communication channel approach is required. This position reports to the Dean of Admissions.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor’s Degree (required)
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with a team
- Excellent organizational skills
- Computer skills including proficiency in Google’s G Suite and Microsoft Office
- Valid driver’s license and good driving record and/or ability to obtain a driver’s license by start date.

We offer a competitive compensation package including medical, dental, life, STD/LTD insurances; tuition waiver for employee and tuition exchange for eligible dependents of employee, paid holidays, personal and sick leave and vacation; and a 403(b) retirement plan. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a Ferrum College application to resumes@ferrum.edu or forward to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. Background checks are required.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter of interest and resume with names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references to: resumes@ferrum.edu or Human Resources Department, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **February 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.
Case R-22-03 Wayne A. Willard / Twin Oak Properties, LLC
The property is located in front of 51 Sandy River Road in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 56.1/8D. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.05-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant intends to develop commercial self-storage units on the property.

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

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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made.com/working-here/ and scrolling down to the Non-profit Resource Guide.

VITA TAX PROGRAM

One of the “most volunteer-intensive” programs the United Way has is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Wenkstern said. It offers free tax help to people who generally make \$57,000 or less, those with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need help preparing their tax returns, according to its website.

But now, as the federal tax season begins, the local VITA office is operating with 12 volunteers, eight fewer than usual, according to Lisa Frick, community impact coordinator for the United Way.

“We had a couple (of volunteers) who were hesitant about coming back because of COVID,” she said. Others took paying jobs and could not volunteer, and some found that tax preparation was “overwhelming, too challenging” and they decided against it, Frick added.

To compensate and because of COVID, the VITA staff changed its operations. In the past, clients came in without appointments and waited, often surrounded by other potential clients, to meet with a tax preparer. Now, Frick said clients drop off their paperwork, which is checked and copied, and then they leave. All items are locked up for security reasons and a preparer compiles the tax return later.

When the return is ready, the client makes an appointment to return for the material, she said, adding the turnaround usually takes about a week.

Clients like the appointments because they eliminate waiting around the office, Frick said. Volunteers like it because there is less pressure to prepare the return with the client waiting, she added.

“It works better for everyone,” she said. “We may stick with it” after the pandemic.

Before COVID hit, the local VITA program did about 2,100 returns each tax season, Frick said. Last year it did 1,780 and she is hoping for 1,800 this year.

To find more volunteers, Frick said she has relied on word of mouth, asked churches to post their need for help in their bulletins and contacted educational institutions and alumni associations.

“We love our volunteers” and they are passionate about the service, she said. “We’re like family here.”

VITA, located at 10 Liberty St. in Martinsville, is making appointments now and started seeing clients Jan. 18. Call (276) 403-5976 for an appointment or for more information about volunteering with VITA.

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