

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, April 2, 2022

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00



Cindy Adams, planning and zoning secretary and administrative assistant, spoke out against a proposed special use permit that would allow a skill games arcade in the Holiday Shopping Center in Collinsville during a Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting last week.

BZA denies permits for skill games

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) denied special permit requests for a number of skill game arcades in the area, including one that operated illegally for several months.

Teresa King submitted requests for two permits to allow for the establishment of two such arcades inside existing buildings. One permit was for property located at 1918-1920 Virginia Avenue in the Holiday Shopping Center in the Collinsville District; the second was for 6313 Virginia Avenue, Bassett, in the Reed Creek District.

Attorney R.J. Lackey, of Danville, represented King at the hearing and said his client has been in the skill game business for a number of years in North Carolina.

Collinsville site, Lackey said given the types of business already in the strip mall—an adult store, pawn shops, and others—it’s an area that a skill gaming area is not going to impact negatively in any way. It fits into that type of locale.”

Planning and Zoning Secretary/Administrative Assistant Cindy Adams spoke in opposition to the Collinsville permit.

While gambling already exists in the area through the Virginia Lottery and Rosie’s, both organizations give back to the community and tax players on their winnings, which was not the case with skill game facilities, she said.

“The problem is, if these things are on the up and up, why do they covertly sneak into our facilities and open up and they run and then we have to get them reported to us here at the

Regarding the

See BZA, page 5



Sen. Mark Warner said that the U.S. expects cyberattacks by Russia directed at western countries. Such attacks could affect U.S. financial and energy sectors, among other potential targets. Warner joined President Joe Biden’s call for those in the private sector to harden cyber defenses.

Warner warns against looming threat of Russian cyberattacks

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandria, warned that Russian aggression could extend beyond the real-world conflict in Ukraine and into the virtual Western world.

“It is safe to say we should anticipate that we will see Russian activity in the cyber domain directed against the West,” Warner said during a March 23 meeting with media.

Warner, a former technology entrepreneur, is the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on intelligence and co-chairman of the Senate cybersecurity

caucus.

His warning came on the heels of a similar statement on March 21 by President Joe Biden.

“This is a critical moment to accelerate our work to improve domestic cybersecurity and bolster our national resilience,” Biden said in a statement.

“I have previously warned about the potential that Russia could conduct malicious cyber activity against the United States, including as a response to the unprecedented economic costs we’ve imposed on Russia alongside our

See Cyberattacks, page 3

Jack Dalton Park to go blue for Autism Awareness Day

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Just after his second birthday, Michael Venable’s son Kylan stopped saying, “night, night.” In fact, he stopped saying anything at all.

“He was talking from about 9-months,” Venable said, “and then

one day it just changed.”

It was one of the first signs to Venable and his wife, Amber, that something might be different about their child.

Later that year, Kylan was diagnosed with autism.

The couple, both Martinsville natives who were high school sweethearts, have spent the last five years

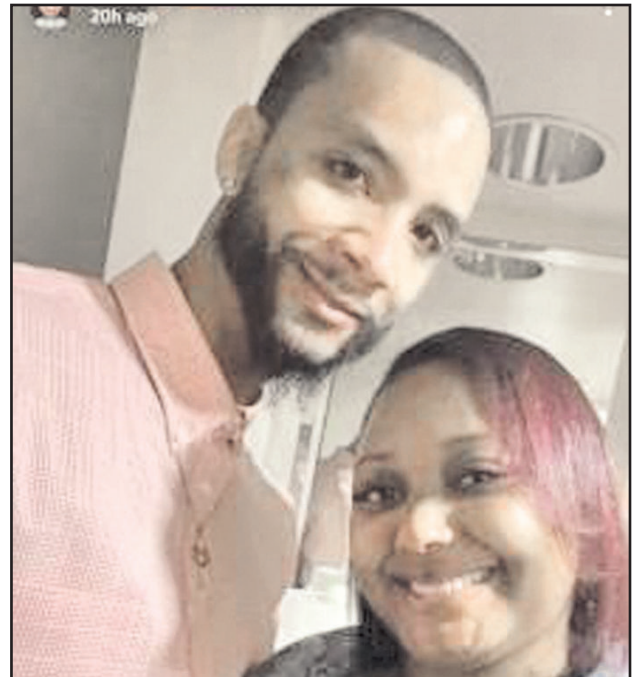
raising an autistic child. Inspired by their own experiences and the help they found in the community, the Venables have organized an event, “Light it up Blue on 4/2,” in honor of World Autism Awareness Day.

The goal of the event, Venable said, is simple—bring awareness to autism

See Go Blue, page 4



Michael and Amber Venable’s children, Kailyn (age 11), Kylan (age 7), and Kade (age 3). Kylan was diagnosed with autism shortly after his second birthday. His diagnosis led to Michael and Amber organizing this weekend’s event in honor of World Autism Awareness Day at Jack Dalton Park.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Michael and Amber Venable organized Light it up Blue on 4/2 to help connect parents with autistic children to resources within the community, to educate people about early signs of autism, and to raise awareness for the disorder.

DRBA staff among those honored at VMNH Jefferson Awards



The recipients and presenters from the 2022 Virginia Museum of Natural History’s (VMNH) Jefferson Awards Ceremony. From left: Pat Strickland, vice president of operations for Monogram Foods which was the recipient of the W. Bruce Wingo Conservation Award; Dr. Nancy Moncrief, VMNH curator of mammalogy; Dr. Eric Hallerman, professor at Virginia Tech, recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science; Dr. Hayden Bassett, VMNH assistant curator of archaeology and director of the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab; Kelli Sullivan, public relations manager for Iridium Communications, recipient of the William Barton Rogers Corporate Award; VMNH Executive Director Dr. Joe Keiper; Brian Williams, Virginia program manager, and Krista Hodges, education outreach manager for the Dan River Basin Association, co-recipients of the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education; Capt. Bill Welsh, director of business development and public outreach for CHML; and VMNH Education Manager Christy Deatherage.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Two staff members of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) were among the honorees at the Virginia Museum of Natural History’s (VMNH) annual Jefferson Awards ceremony, held in the

museum’s Hall of Ancient Life on Thursday, March 24.

DRBA’s Virginia Program Manager Brian Williams and Education Outreach Manager Krista Hodges were selected to receive the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education.

Earl Armstrong, president of the VMNH Foundation Board, said the awards were established in 1988 to “recognize scientists and educators who have made significant contributions to the natural history knowledge in the Commonwealth

See DRBA, page 5

Charity League set for spring Bargain Fair

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Bargain hunters can get their fill of great deals Saturday, with housewares, toys, clothes, décor, and even COVID-19 vaccines all available at the Martinsville-Henry County Charity League’s annual Bargain Fair. Proceeds will benefit the children of the community.

Though the league has been organizing the Bargain Fair for more than 50 years, this is only the second time the group has hosted a spring event. Bargain Fair co-chairman Sharon Mills said until 2021, the event was only held once each year, in the fall.

“Last year was our very first spring Bargain Fair, and it went over very well, so we’re going to

make it an annual event,” Mills said.

She said the fall event, which had restrictions on the number of people who could enter due to the pandemic, welcomed an estimated 500 people and raised around \$8,000.

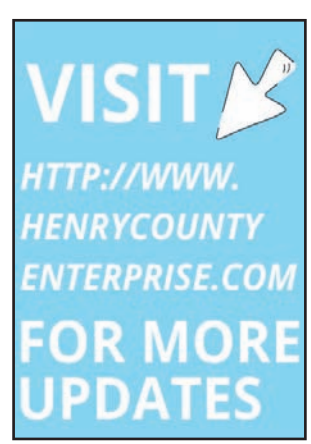
“We have had over 1,000 people that have come in before,”

See Bargain Fair, page 7



Shoppers fill the building at 242 Franklin Street in Martinsville during October’s fall Bargain Fair. Fair co-chairman Sharon Mills said the fall event raised close to \$8,000 for the Charity League’s programs serving area children, and she expects a larger crowd for Saturday’s event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Saturday, April 2

Autism Awareness Day will be recognized at Jack Dalton Park from 1-4 p.m. Vendors and food trucks will be on hand. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn about resources available for those with autism. Doctors will be on site to answer any questions.

Fido's Finds, 119 East Main Street, Martinsville, is hosting a basement sale. Every sale benefits the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call (276) 656-1101 for more information.

The Martinsville-Henry County Charity League will host its spring Bargain Fair at 242 Franklin Street, Martinsville from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Free COVID-19 vaccines will be available.

Blackberry Baptist Church, in the Sanville area of Bassett, will host a Resurrection Rally for all ages from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be games, an egg hunt, hot dogs, cotton candy, and popcorn for all to enjoy.

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting a book sale at the Martinsville Library, 310 East Church Street, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Proceeds will support the library system. A members only book sale will take place Friday, April 1 from 1-5 p.m.

Monday, April 4-Saturday, April 9

In celebration of National Library Week, the Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting a Connect with Your Library Contest. From April 4-9, come in to any branch of the library system and register for a free Meet Libby/Overdrive account and be entered for a chance to win an Echo Dot Smart Speaker with Alexa.

Monday, April 4

The Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule an

appointment, visit redcross-blood.org.

The Magna Vista Horticulture program will celebrate the opening day of its greenhouse and spring plant sale with special extended hours, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Piedmont Arts hosts the Earl White String Band, a mainstay of the old-time, folk, and dance community for more than 45 years and one of the few Black Americans preserving and playing Appalachian old-time string band music. General admission tickets are \$20 and are available at Piedmont Arts and online at piedmontarts.org.

A caregiver support group will meet from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Spencer-Penn Centre. This free program facilitated by Good Samaritan allows those caring for a friend or loved one to share the rewards and challenges of caregiving while connecting with others who understand. Attendees will learn tips to manage stress.

Friday, April 8

Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre with Travis Frye & Blue Mountain performing in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. and music begins at 6:20. Admission is a \$5 donation. Social distancing will be required and masks when that is not possible. Concessions will be sold.

Saturday, April 9

The Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting a special program, Understanding the War in Ukraine, with guest speaker Janet Demiray, former counselor for public affairs at the U.S. Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. Due to limited seating, reservations are required. To reserve your seat, call (276) 403-5430.

The Spencer-Penn Center is hosting a spring grapevine floriculture/decorating workshop from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Participants will create their own decorative grapevine wreath. Don't have a wreath? No worries! One can be purchased for \$10. All other supplies included. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For questions or to

register, call (276) 957-5757.

Fort Trail Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown, is hosting a family Easter celebration beginning at 1 p.m. Travel back in time to hear stories of the people who knew Jesus and learn the true meaning of Easter. Other activities include prize giveaways, games, and an egg hunt.

Tuesday, April 12

Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan will host a community meeting at the Horsepasture Ruritan Building from 6-7:30 p.m. County Administrator Tim Hall, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry, and VDOT Resident Engineer Lisa Hughes will be present.

Wednesday, April 13

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is sponsoring its annual "Be a Part of History" blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville. To schedule an appointment, visit redcross-blood.org or call/text John Phillips at (276) 806-5022.

Friday, April 15

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

Saturday, April 16

The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department will host a benefit breakfast from 6:30-10:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit Brenner Children's Hospital.

Thursday, April 21
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 your donation, visit redcross-blood.org.

Saturday, April 23

The Spencer-Penn Centre

is hosting its 11th annual Pig Cookin' Competition from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This free event includes a barnival, vendors, cruise-in, silent auction, and more. BBQ will be available for purchase. Call (276) 957-5757 with questions.

Friday, April 29

Patrick & Henry Community College will host a diversity, equity, and inclusion forum in the Frith Exhibit Hall on the P&HCC campus. Participants will engage in healthy dialogue in a facilitated discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion. The forum will take place from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and lunch is included. The cost is \$100. To register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Saturday, April 30

Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett, is hosting a cruise in from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. Breakfast will be provided at the church.

ONGOING

The Magna Vista Horticulure Spring Plant Sale opens April 4. Weekday hours are 9-3 p.m., and some additional hours will be held. For complete information, sales, and additional hours, visit the Magna Vista Horticulture Facebook page.

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics every Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment. Beginning in April, the clinics will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, rather than weekly.

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA is hosting an adoption special through April 16. Adoption fees for all dogs 40 pounds and over are \$50. Come by Tuesday through Friday from 12-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. to find your forever friend.

Patrick & Henry Community College is organizing a virtual Leadership Learning Community. Sessions will be held from 4-5 p.m. every other Wednesday 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.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you 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 brrl.lib.va.us.

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

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact Medicaid application assistance for eligible Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Including Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, Pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care -19 to 64 years old. Questions can be answered, and applications completed by phone. In-person application assistance is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays at The Community Storehouse.Call or text Ann Walker 276 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

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

Martinsville Speedway & Blue-Emu expand partnership

Martinsville Speedway and Blue-Emu, an Official Partner of NASCAR, have expanded their partnership with the entitlement

of the spring NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Thursday, April 7. The track's first-ever consecutive three race weekend of night

races with all three premier series will start and finish with Blue-Emu sponsored races. The official name of the Camping World Truck

Series race will be the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 200.

"Blue-Emu has been a long-time valued partner for NASCAR and Martinsville Speedway, so we look forward to starting our 75th Anniversary season with the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 200 and conclude the spring race weekend with the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400," said Clay Campbell, Martinsville Speedway President. "As we race under the lights for three consecutive nights for the first time in our 75-year history, we are proud to continue to work with Blue-Emu to bring the best race experience to our fans in this anniversary season."

As part of the historic 75th Anniversary season, Martinsville Speedway will host its first-ever consecutive three race weekend of night races with all three premier series featuring the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 200 Camping World Truck Series race on Thursday, April 7, the Call 811 Before You Dig 250 Powered by Call811.com Xfinity Series race featuring NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. on Friday, April 8 and the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400 Cup Series race on Saturday, April 9.

To download the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 200 and Blue-Emu Maximum

Pain Relief 400 logo, click here.

"NASCAR runs through our veins here at Blue-Emu," said Benjamin Blessing, Executive Vice President of Marketing, NFI Consumer Products. "We are proud to continue supporting NASCAR with the addition of another race at Martinsville Speedway, not to mention being a part of Martinsville history with the 75th anniversary this year. As a long-time NASCAR partner, we can't wait to see three races under the lights this spring!"

The Blue-Emu product line is the No.1 selling emu oil brand in the United States. Blue-Emu's Original Super Strength serves as an Official Partner of NASCAR, Blue-Emu's Maximum Pain Relief Cream is the "Official Pain Relief Cream of NASCAR", Blue-Emu's Continuous Spray is the "Official Pain Relief Spray of NASCAR", and Blue-Emu's Patch is the "Official Pain Patch of NASCAR". To learn more about Blue-Emu, visit www.blue-emu.com.

2022 NASCAR Season
For the 75th Anniversary season, Martinsville Speedway will host its first-ever consecutive three race weekend of night races with all three premier series on April 7-9, featuring the Blue-Emu

Maximum Pain Relief 200 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Thursday, April 7 at 8:00 p.m., NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. competing in the Call 811 Before You Dig 250 Powered by Call811.com NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race on Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. and the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400 Cup Series race on Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

In the fall, Martinsville will host the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season finale on Thursday, Oct. 27 and penultimate races with the Dead On Tools 250 Xfinity Series Playoff race on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 3:00 p.m. and Xfinity 500 Cup Series race on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 2:00 p.m. In short track battles that can only happen at Martinsville, the fall races will crown the Whelen Modified Tour champion and set the field for the Xfinity and Cup Series championships the following week at Phoenix Raceway.

The ValleyStar Credit Union 300, the nation's biggest, richest and most prestigious NASCAR Late Model Stock Car race, will return for an evening of intense competition on Saturday, Sept. 24.

NASCAR tickets are available for purchase today via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at martinsvillespeedway.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20					21			
				22				23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31				32		33		34				35	
36					37		38			39			40
	41					42			43		44		
				45				46		47		48	
49	50			51			52				53		
54			55				56				57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64					65		
66						67					68		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Hillsides
6. A way to ingest
9. Large number
13. Southeastern Minnesota city
14. Cronies
15. Having sufficient skill, knowledge
16. Supplements with difficulty
17. Former VP nominee Palin
18. Cambodian monetary unit
19. Where coaches work
21. Secret political clique
22. A type of lute
23. Tan
24. Empire State
25. Where golfers begin
28. For each
29. Muslim inhabitants of the Philippines
31. Bird genus
33. Popular Dave Matthews Band song

36. Domesticates
38. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
39. Asian antelope
41. One who takes apart
44. Kin
45. Dresses
46. Says something about you (abbr.)
48. Doctor of Education
49. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
51. Overcharge
52. Sailboats
54. Indian musical patterns
56. Predisposition to a condition
60. Share a common boundary with
61. Wide
62. Skin disease
63. Monetary unit of Samoa
64. Source of the Blue Nile
65. Instrument
66. Red deer
67. Unidentified flying object

68. Bar or preclude
CLUES DOWN

1. Flying insects
2. Strong alcoholic spirit
3. Old
4. Moves in slowly
5. Symbol for tin
6. Having certain appendages
7. Expression of sorrow or pity
8. Type of hormone (abbr.)
9. One with an unjustified mistrust
10. Hebrew calendar month
11. Pure
12. LSU football coach
14. Unbroken views
17. Fathers
20. Part of a race
21. Hairstyle
23. Fifth note of a major scale
25. Body art
26. Amounts of time
27. Designed chairs

29. Sensational dramatic piece
30. Arrangement of steps
32. Classifies
34. Young child
35. Oh, no!
37. Astronomical period of about 18 years
40. Not or
42. Poke fun at
43. Consisting of roots
47. "___ Humbug!"
49. A way to remove
50. A confusion of voices and other sounds
52. Keyed instrument
53. Varnishes
55. Unpleasantly sticky substance
56. Unable to hear
57. A short erect tail
58. Indicates interest
59. Flow or leak through
61. British thermal unit
65. Iron

Red Cross steps in to assist those displaced by fire

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The local chapter of the American Red Cross stepped in to provide assistance to the six families displaced by a Monday apartment complex fire.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. on March 28, Martinsville Fire & EMS responded to a structure fire at an apartment complex located at 1032 Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Firefighters encountered heavy fire coming from apartment #3 of the complex. The Martinsville Police Department safely evacuated all tenants from the complex. Assistance was provided by the Henry County Department of Public Safety and Dyer's Store Volunteer Fire Department.

Unattended cooking was cited as the likely cause of the fire, which originated in a kitchen.

"Unattended cooking remains our number one cause of accidental fires," said Martinsville Fire Chief Ted Anderson. "Make sure you never leave a cooking appliance unattended while it is in use."

The local chapter of the American Red Cross responded to help the tenants that were displaced by the blaze.

Ralph Lawson, disaster program manager for the Blue Ridge territory of the American Red Cross, said 98 percent of the work the organization does is responding to house fires.

The organization is chartered by the government and is mandated to respond to every disaster, he said and explained the agency does not receive government funding to do so and relies on donations.

"We have to be asked to come in, the family or the fire department requests us come in and help with families, and we do

that a lot," he said, adding the organization helped six of the families displaced by the fire. A seventh family left the scene and has not yet reached back out for assistance.

"Those six families all left that night with a comfort kit bag that has everything in it, from toothbrushes to washcloths to soap—those basic items that you need when you're going to stay with family or to a hotel. We had some blankets, not enough blankets for everyone but we tried our best with what we had in the car, and a credit card that is loaded with financial assistance based on what's going on."

Lawson said families were asked a few questions, "and we give them that money that is used for lodging, food, clothing—they spend it any way they want to." He said the Dutch Inn in Collinsville gives the organization a special rate for families who have lost their homes.

"There were no kids in this one," he said, but added that late Monday night, he and his team responded to a fire that destroyed a mobile home in Patrick County, displacing two adults and five children.

The children received bags with a book, stuffed animal, a specially-made blanket, and other items like coloring books and crayons, in addition to the necessities like toothbrushes and toothpaste. They even received a Mickey Mouse, courtesy of a Red Cross partnership with Disney, Lawson said, and added that the organization has student backpacks stuffed with supplies to offer school-aged children.

In incidents like the Monday night fire, a Red Cross case worker will take over within 24 hours "and walk them (the family) through their next steps at recovering," Lawson said, and added that includes discussing



COURTESY OF BTW21

A fire in a Martinsville apartment complex displaced eight people, according to a press release from the city. The local chapter of the American Red Cross provided assistance to most of those people that same night, and a Red Cross caseworker will continue to help families navigate the loss of their home and possessions for several week.

a family's needs and potential roadblocks. The case worker will provide assistance for several weeks, "walking clients through resources that we have and helping them through the process."

"We've had some folks that just need a little help, somebody advocating for them, and that's what that case worker does," he said.

The case worker can connect people to resources and assistance, including replacing glasses—one of the children in the Patrick County fire lost his glasses in the blaze, Lawson said—and helping people replace medications.

"In January, we had a death in a house fire here in the city, so our mental health folks were available" and the Red Cross was able to provide some funding to help the family with funeral expenses, which was their major roadblock to recovery, Lawson said.

"Those that come out better (after a fire) of course are

the people that have insurance, but unfortunately none of the ones from the apartment had insurance or renter's insurance at all," said Lawson. Neither did the Patrick County family, he added, meaning those families likely have a "much more cumbersome recovery" without insurance companies to reach out to for assistance.

"About 75 to 80 percent of the clients we have don't have insurance at all, so they're really at the mercy of all the groups that step up in our community and help."

Lawson said there are a number of groups, such as Grace Network and Community Fellowship Church, that provide assistance through the Red Cross. He said any other organizations willing to provide assistance to those in need may register through 211 Virginia, a free service operated by the United Way that connects people with local resources.

"Basically what happens is, if

I'm having trouble with my light bill or my rent, I call 211. They'll ask me my zip code, and their people will pull up every organization that's listed with 211" that can provide assistance. "If you're organization's not listed, you never get connected to the client."

Lawson said there are "a lot of good people that do good work that aren't registered with 211."

The Red Cross gives every client a red folder that contains local 211 listings, tips on how to clean the smoke smell from clothing and furniture, and instructions for replacing drivers' licenses, passports, and other vital documents that might have been lost in the fire, he said.

For those in need of assistance, or those who would like to help those in need, visit 211virginia.org.

Donations to the local chapter of the American Red Cross can be mailed to 1081 Spruce Street in Martinsville.

Patriot Players' Steel Magnolias cast announced

Patrick & Henry Community College's performing troupe, the Patriot Players, are bringing the classic, emotional story of Steel Magnolias to the stage. After two days of auditions, the cast has been decided.

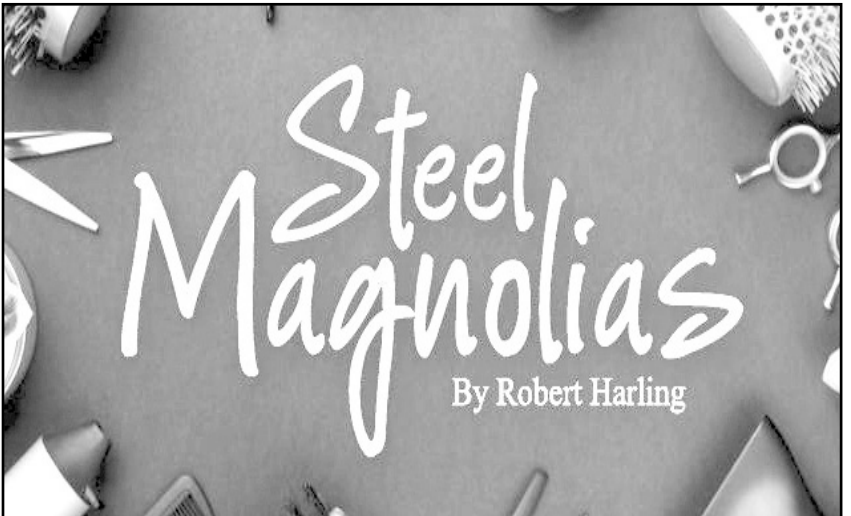
The pivotal mother-daughter pair Shelby Eatenton-Latcheri and M'lynn Eatenton will be played by the real-life mother-daughter pair Linda Young and Morgan Young respectively. The beauty shop owner Truvy Jones will be played by Tish Ownes. The shop assis-

tant Annelle Dupuy-Desoto will be played by Nicole Bridges. Two new faces to the Patriot Players' stage, Jane Reid and Bonnie Favero, will play Clairee Belcher and Ousier Boudreaux respectively. Anna Beach and Katherine Rorrer will portray salon patrons. The show will be staffed by Devin Pendleton as Artistic Director and Justin Hall as Director.

By mixing Southern-style sardonic humor with a vulnerable exploration of the pains of loss and love, the show is an emotional ride.

Laughter mingles with tears as you get a glimpse into the life of these six steely women.

The show will debut on Thursday, May 19. Only showing for one weekend, audiences will have just four opportunities to see Steel Magnolias: May 19, 20, 21 at 7 p.m. and May 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase through www.phccpatriotplayers.com or at the door. To be among the first to know when tickets become available, follow the P&HCC Patriot Players on Facebook.



Remains identified as undocumented man

The body of a man found on Smith Lake Road was identified as Ricardo Gonzalez-Rodriguez, according to a release from the City of Martinsville.

Gonzalez-Rodriguez, 53, was an undocumented immigrant who recently came to the Martinsville area, according to the release, which added that the identity was determined through medical records, DNA,

and help from the Department of Homeland Security.

On February 27, city authorities responded to a call reporting a body was found in a ditch on Smith Lake Road. Officers found the body near the Village Street intersection.

All deaths are treated and investigated as a homicide until proven otherwise.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner from the Department of Health in Roanoke determined the death to be accidental in nature.

The Martinsville Police Department is currently trying to contact family members in other states and in Mexico. If anyone has any information about Ricardo Gonzalez-Rodriguez, contact Sgt. Ratcliffe at 276-403-5331.

Society to host blood drive

"Be Part of History" with the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society at its Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum in the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Local school systems are out for spring break that week which makes it a great time for teachers and high school students to donate. Individuals donating for the first time and those

reaching blood donor milestones are especially welcome to participate. Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. If necessary, call or text John Phillips at 276-806-5022.

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U. S. needs blood. Each year 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions. General

Guidelines for Blood Donation: Be in good general health and feeling well; be at least 16 years old (16-17 years old require parental consent), weigh at least 110 lbs., and have not donated in the last 56 days.

More information is available at www.facebook.com/events/502601931208046 for more information and https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html.

Cyberattacks

from page 1

allies and partners. It's part of Russia's playbook. Today, my Administration is reiterating those warning based on evolving intelligence that the Russian Government is exploring options for potential cyberattacks."

Biden urged those in the private sector, which owns and operates most of the nation's critical infrastructure, to "harden your cyber defenses immediately."

In addition to the "steady bombardment of civilian as well as military targets" and the "punishing displacement now of close to 10 million Ukrainians," Warner said cyberattacks could be yet another element of Russia's ongoing war that could

extend beyond Ukrainian borders.

Warner said he expects Russians to target a number of sectors, including the financial and energy sectors.

On March 1, the Senate unanimously passed a bill championed by Warner requiring companies responsible for critical U.S. infrastructure to report cybersecurity incidents to the government. Currently, he said, about 30 percent of cyberattacks are reported. The bill has not yet passed the House.

Should Russians launch any such attacks, "we've never seen what cyber escalation looks like," Warner said. Whether or not an escalation of attacks in the cyber realm could

lead to military conflict is "an open question," he said and speculated that such unknowns could be why Russian president Vladimir Putin has withheld attacks in the virtual realm.

"Both the U.S. and Russia have hundreds, if not thousands, of extraordinarily sophisticated cyber tools, Warner said. The U.S. is "still looking for reasons why Putin hasn't launched more of these tools. It may be one area that he's showing some restraint" because he does not know what potential escalation could lead to. However, as Putin becomes "more isolated and less successful on the battlefield, this possibility is real," Warner said.

Online survey is active to receive input on ARPA funding use

Martinsville City Council is seeking public input on American Rescue Plan Act funding and how the community would like to see portions of the funding be used. Residents can fill out a survey at www.martinsville-va.gov/government/american-rescue-plan-act-funding. Residents can also email their suggestions or questions to ARPA@ci.martinsville.va.us.



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OPINION

Regarding people who deserve to get slapped in the face

All anyone could talk about this past week was Will Smith slapping Chris Rock in the face at the Oscars. But if there's one guy who could be forgiven for coming out of the audience and slapping people for being jerks to his wife, it's Patrick G. Jackson, husband of Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

(Sorry for the bait and switch. I've got nothing to say about Chris Rock and Will Smith other than Rock was great in the fourth season of Fargo on FX, so check it out.)

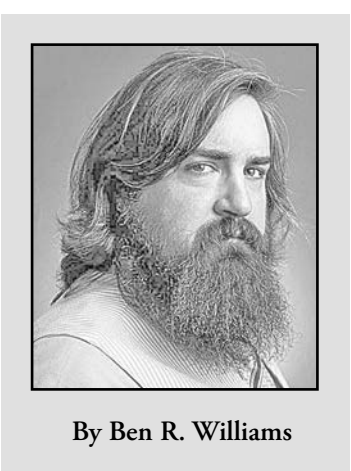
Judge Jackson is not just qualified to be on the Supreme Court; she is arguably more qualified to be on the Supreme Court than anyone currently on the Supreme Court. Only Justice Sonia Sotomayor has also served as a Circuit judge and a District judge. Jackson comes to the Supreme court with more than eight years of experience as a judge, which is more than Justices John Roberts, Elena Kagan, Clarence Thomas, and Amy Coney Barrett combined at the times of their confirmations. She has served on the D.C. District Court for almost eight years, which would give her

the most trial court experience of any sitting Supreme Court Justice confirmed within almost a century.

When cable news blowhard Tucker Carlson, a man who perpetually looks like a dog being shown a card trick, said that he wanted to see Jackson's LSAT scores, it was a demand both insulting and absurd. It would be like hiring Frank Lloyd Wright to build your house and then asking to see his college GPA. Number one, it was probably pretty good, and number two, it hasn't mattered in a very long time.

Considering Judge Jackson's incredible qualifications, her Senate confirmation hearings should have been brief and uneventful. And maybe that would have been the case if we weren't living in a country where half of our politicians have become shrieking red-faced demagogues who stand for nothing beyond feigned outrage at made-up culture war bu... bunkum. We'll go with bunkum.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, the worst thing to happen to the state of Tennessee since the Fraterville Mine disaster, asked Judge Jackson to define a



By Ben R. Williams

“woman.” This question obviously had something to do with hating transgender people, but as far as what it had to do with being qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, your guess is as good as mine.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lindsey Graham, a man whose moral compass is less accurate than a drunk throwing darts in a pitch-black room, peppered Judge Jackson with questions about her past sentencing of pedophiles. While the sentences handed down by Jackson in the past are well within judicial sentencing guidelines, Graham did his level best to paint Jackson as having a

soft spot for pedophiles. By the way, last year, Lindsey Graham voted to promote Jackson to an appellate court, which means that now he's either lying through his teeth about her or he's an inhuman monster. To be fair, I suppose it could be both.

And let us not forget Sen. Ted Cruz, who has consistently beaten out ticks for the title of “America's Most Hateful Invertebrate.”

Cruz needed Judge Jackson about Critical Race Theory. He questioned her about anti-racist books at the school her children attend. At one point he held up a children's book called “Antiracist Baby.”

“This is a book that is taught at Georgetown Day School to students in pre-K through second grade,” Cruz said. “Do you agree with this book that is being taught with kids that babies are racist?”

That's an actual thing that Ted Cruz said, which prompted Jackson to sigh before answering. I also sigh when I hear Ted Cruz speak; it's the sound that happens when part of my soul leaves my body.

Cruz continued to harangue Jackson, one of our nation's

most distinguished jurists, about whether or not she had read a bunch of children's books that argue racism is bad. She responded, with far more civility than I could ever muster, that “they don't come up as my work as a judge, which I am respectfully here to address.”

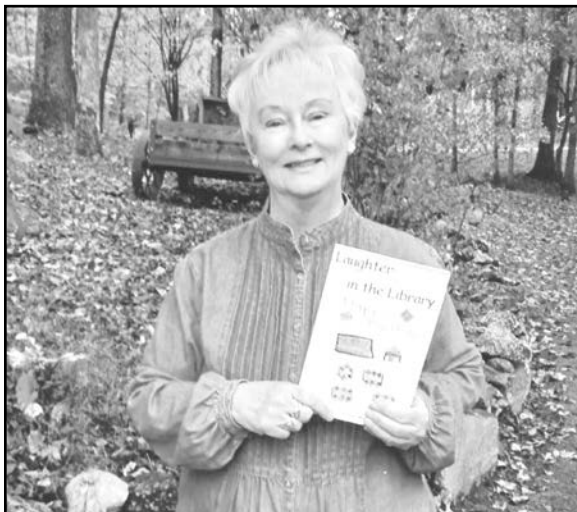
This is just a small sampling of the absolute absurdity that many members of the Senate heaped on Judge Jackson. It's testament to her character that she handled it all so calmly.

The strange thing is, I don't remember these same Senators asking Justice Brett Kavanaugh about racism. I don't remember anyone asking Justice Amy Coney Barrett about the definition of a woman.

It's almost as though Judge Jackson was treated differently for some reason. Maybe it's the fact that if confirmed, she would become the first Black woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court. Maybe racism is so deeply ingrained in our society that any attacks on racism are perceived by some as attacks on society itself.

As it happens, there's a term for that. It's called Critical Race Theory.

Youngman to discuss book



Debbie Youngman

A new author, Debbie Youngman, will talk about her book “Laughter in the Library,” at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12 in the Bassett Historical Center. Youngman will share stories about her career as a

librarian and educator in the Virginia and North Carolina school systems. This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. Masks are optional.

Library to host talk on war in Ukraine

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Janet Demiray, former counselor for public affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, will speak at the two branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library next week, delving into the history and details of the current conflict in Ukraine.

The talk, “Understanding the War in Ukraine: Background on the Fight to Preserve a Nation,” will be at the Patrick County branch library on Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m. and at the main Martinsville library Saturday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m.

Due to limited seating, reservations are required for both events and can be made by calling the library.

Leandio Gravely, program coordinator for the library, said the event, like all library programs, is deeply rooted in the library's mission to “provide free, friendly service and access to timely materials that educate, enrich, and entertain the entire community.”

He said this program “will provide an opportunity for our community to see and meet an individual that has actually worked and lived in Ukraine.”

According to a bio provided by Gravely, Demiray, a Patrick County native who lives in Stuart, spent 35-years with the U.S. State Department, with emphasis on the

countries of East and Central Europe, including Russia and Ukraine. Since retiring from the State Department, she has returned to Ukraine many times on educational programs and as an election observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Gravely said Demiray is a long-time library supporter and approached the branch manager of the Patrick library with the desire to connect with the community and help them understand current events from the perspective of someone who has lived and worked with Ukrainians.

“I think with this program, we'll connect the dots of the humanity” of the conflict. He said news reports don't necessarily help people outside of the conflict realize that “these (people) are human beings, just like we are, and (this program) makes the connection that this is a human life” being affected by the Russian invasion.

“You see someone here in Martinsville that has lived there and has met those people who are being impacted by the war, it's really powerful.”

Gravely said Demiray is donating a book, “The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine” by Serhii Plokhy, which will soon be available for check-out to further help the community understand more about the country.

Reservations for the Patrick County event can be made by calling (276) 694-3352. To reserve a seat at the Martinsville talk, call (276) 403-5430.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Janet Demiray, a Patrick County native and former employee of the at U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, will speak the Patrick County and Martinsville branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library next week. Her talk, “Understanding the War in Ukraine: Background on the Fight to Preserve a Nation,” will seek to help the community understand and humanize the current conflict in Ukraine.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Debbie Hall, *Editor*

dhall@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

Callie Hietala, *Reporter*

newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager*

advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

(540) 230-1129

Liz Moonbury, *Advertising Specialist*

advertising@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

Give us your view:

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

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

Go Blue

from page 1

and help parents recognize the signs.

“It's such a range of different symptoms,” he said. “We'll be educating parents” not only about what to look for, but about resources that are available in Martinsville and Henry County to help.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, range people, restricted interests and repetitive behaviors, and symptoms that affect their ability to function in school, work, and other areas of life.

Generally, as with Kylan, symptoms appear within the first two years of life.

In addition to regressing verbally, Venable said Kylan's behaviors changed. He developed a sudden interest in spoons, beating them on his own chest. His grandmother bought a drum set for her grandson, who played with the new toy, but “it wouldn't be the normal tapping” you might expect from a 2-year-old.

“We paid attention to (the changes), but we didn't know” those changes could be signs of a larger issue, he recalled.

The Venables called their pediatrician, Nurse Practitioner Lea Lineberry of Compassionate Care

Pediatrics, who referred Kylan to the Children's Clinic of Roanoke. Venable said that doctors observed him for several hours before diagnosing him with autism.

That diagnosis “was really hard for our family,” said Venable, who said it took him nearly a year to accept it.

“It's just a tough, tough pill to swallow. It's like the air is knocked out of you,” he said.

Kylan is now 7-years-old. His family, including older sister Kailyn, 11, and younger brother Kade, 3, adjust their activities to accommodate his feelings and sensitivities.

“We have to plan around Kylan,” Venable said. “If we go to a high school basketball game, at every time out and at the end of every quarter, there's a horn that goes off. He doesn't like extreme noises, especially if he's caught off-guard ... we have to make sure that the places we go are centered around him,” which involves a great deal more pre-planning than many families do for outings and activities.

Venable hopes that parents of other autistic children will take advantage of the opportunity to share their own stories—the struggles and the joys—at Saturday's event, which will be held at Jack Dalton Park.

The event was initially

planned for 2020, but was put on hold due to the pandemic. Venable, who works for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's rent relief program, said he and his wife, a phlebotomist at the Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, did the majority of the work and planning with help from several volunteers.

In addition to the opportunity to share stories, Venable said three food trucks and about 60 vendors will be on site. A DJ will provide music for the festivities, and there will be games, bounce houses, and door prizes.

“It's going to be a humongous day, definitely bigger than we thought it would be,” he said, adding that he also hopes the event will help connect parents to resources in the community.

“We want to bring that awareness and let people know there are available resources in the Martinsville-Henry County area,” he said.

Lineberry, Kylan's pediatrician, will be at the event, as will Dr. Mary Beth Noonan of Children First Pediatrics, representatives from ACME Therapies, and the new PHS Autism Center. The Center for Pediatrics is sending literature to be distributed.

Venable encouraged anyone who learns they have an autistic child to immediately

seek out resources.

“Research shows early intervention for autism increases major long-term positive effects on symptoms and later skills,” he said. “So, the sooner you go, the better it will likely be for your child.”

He recommends the Center for Pediatrics. “They are really good, caring people” who help with occupations therapy and speech therapy.

Kylan goes every Tuesday, and the visits have helped the young boy with communication and comprehension.

“Kylan can 100 percent comprehend,” Venable said. “If we tell him to sit down, he can sit down, if we tell him to pick up his shoes, he can do that.”

Kylan still is largely nonverbal. “He may blurt out a word every now and then, but other than that, there hasn't been a significant change in his verbal skills,” Venable said.

However, there is still a chance Venable will one day be able to speak with his son again, will one day hear him say goodnight.

“We've read stories where someone diagnosed at 2-years-old didn't start speaking until they were 9, 10, or 11. There's definitely still a chance. We trust in God for that,” he said.

DRBA

from page 1

of Virginia.”

They were named for Thomas Jefferson because “one of the chief interests of his life was studying natural history in Virginia.” Armstrong said that Jefferson’s book, “Notes on the State of Virginia,” contains “a valuable compendium of what was known at the time about natural history here in Virginia.” Additionally, his creation of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition and his preservation of the records of the journey and of the specimens collected positioned Jefferson as one of the Commonwealth’s first and foremost conservationists. The significance of Jefferson’s contributions to the study of natural history is reflected in the numerous species and one genus named for the former president, Armstrong said.

VMNH Education Manager Christy Deatherage presented Williams and Hodges with their medals, emblazoned with Jefferson’s portraits.

Deatherage said Williams and Hodges were “outstanding educators” who “not only care deeply for our environment but are also passionate about educating audiences of all ages on its importance to healthy living and the existence of all life on earth.”

Williams has been with DRBA since 2008 while Hodges has been on staff for 11 years.

“Individually and collectively, they have been instrumental in facilitating numerous education projects throughout the Dan River Basin region,” including installing a monarch waystation at VMNH to attract pollinators “and provide all the resources necessary for monarchs to successfully sustain their migration.”

Deatherage said Williams and Hodges are working on numerous projects, including the installation of another monarch waystation in Danville, renovating the South Martinsville River Access to accommodate a riverside family area, enhancing Fieldale Park with access steps and a trail, and adding educational signage to J. Frank Wilson Park in Martinsville.

The two also are involved with trail and river access construction occurring throughout Danville, Martinsville, Patrick and Rockingham Counties, she said.

Deatherage said Williams “constantly works with community partners on conservation, restoration, master planning and asset developing projects”

throughout the basin while managing DRBA’s recreational programs which includes identifying, planning, and constructing parks, river accesses, and trails all while providing “a wealth of environmental programs for all ages.”

Hodges, Deatherage said, provides education both in the classroom and in nature for over 5,000 youth annually. She created the Eco Learning Portal, “a virtual environmental education platform for teachers of every grade level in every county in the Dan River Basin” and numerous engaging public programs.

“Brian and Krista are a tremendous asset to our region and go out of their way to foster collaborative partnerships,” Deatherage said, and congratulated both “on this well-earned award.”

“When I started at DRBA nearly 11 years ago,” Hodges said, “some amazing work had already been completed,” including the organization’s Trout in the Classroom program. “While still utilizing those wonderful programs, I saw the opportunity to expand DRBA’s environmental education outreach into a robust series of programs that would engage thousands more youth annually.”

“It is truly and honor and it is very humbling to be recognized within our own community and by our peers,” she said.

Williams opened his remarks with a quote from John Muir who said, “in every walk with nature, one receives far more than they seek.” Williams said “we know it’s necessary for the human spirit to be in nature, to be out there observing it” and experiencing it in various ways.

“One thing I know for myself is we need those wild places. We need those places that we can go and rest and recharge our batteries, restore our soul,” William said. “You need to get kids on the side of the river for just an hour, get their feet wet ... that’s the way you get them. You can drive them across a bridge and point at the river and tell them you need to protect that part of the land. Until you’ve set foot in that river and let it flow around you, you don’t understand what it means.”

Williams said DRBA wants to teach people of all ages that “the natural environment is our community” and to develop a sense of community in the outdoors.

“This is not only well deserved peer recognition for Krista and

Brian, but it also illuminates the mission and vision of DRBA,” said Mark Estes, president of DRBA’s board of directors. “This is an excellent example of how education in the classroom coupled with an outdoor experience resonates by instilling the importance of protecting and preserving the natural resources within our Dan River Basin. Mentoring and equipping our next generation by providing a unique outdoor experience, preserves the legacy of our heritage and assures the future of water quality within our region. Essentially, all the water that we will ever have is already here, and right now.”

Dr. Nancy Moncrief, VMNH curator of mammalogy, presented Dr. Eric Hallerman, a professor in Virginia Tech’s Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, fellow at the American Fisheries Society, and Fulbright Scholar, with the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science.

“(Hallerman’s) many contributions to science are evidence that he shares Jefferson’s passion for our natural world.” Those contributions include scholarly publications (including 4 books), teaching and mentoring students, and professional and public service, Moncrief said.

Hallerman said he was grateful and humbled by the award, and discussed some of his work using the tools of molecular genetics to inform fisheries and wildlife conservation, including his work the native brook trout.

He acknowledged that his work was not done alone. “In a letter to Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton wrote, ‘if I have seen further, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants.’ That means, if I am in a position to contribute to the natural history of Virginia, it’s because I have benefitted” from the work of colleagues, mentors, and collaborators, he said.

Dr. Joe Keiper, executive director of VMNH, presented the W. Bruce Wingo Conservation Award to Monogram Foods, represented that evening by Monogram Vice President of Operations Pat Strickland. The award recognizes significant conservation efforts in Virginia.

“Monogram is very forward thinking,” Keiper said, “and over time have implemented new waste management systems at its plant” using modern techniques to treat its waste products “in a way that’s environmentally ben-



Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) Virginia Program Manager Brian Williams (left) and DRBA Education Outreach Manager Krista Hodges were co-recipients of the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science, presented by Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Education Manager Christy Deatherage and VMNH Executive Director Dr. Joe Keiper.

eficial” and does not strain the local infrastructure.

Keiper said the system allowed the company to treat 75,000 gallons of wastewater per day onsite, which would otherwise have gone into the local infrastructure. Heat from these processes was recycled, Keiper said, and put it back into the manufacturing process to make it more efficient.

Strickland said Monogram has 9 manufacturing locations across the country, including Martinsville. “Monogram is committed to investing in the communities in which we do business,” he said. “We are stewards of the environment and stewards of all the resources that are entrusted to us.”

He said Monogram had a 1.5 million gallon anaerobic digester which converts food waste into methane gas, which is then used to produce electricity.

He said the Monogram Loves Kids Foundation also supports outreach education at VMNH.

“We want to invest not only monetarily, but also humanly in the communities in which we do business,” he said.

Dr. Hayden Bassett and Capt. Bill Welsh, U.S. Army Reserve, presented Iridium Communications, Inc. with the William Barton Rogers Corporate Award, which was accepted by Iridium Public Relations Manager Kelli Sullivan.

Iridium provides communications capability to the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML). According to the VMNH website, CHML is a “partnership between VMNH

and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) that provides global monitoring capability for cultural heritage sites threatened by armed conflict and natural disaster.” It also is a key component of the reactivated Army Monuments Men unit. Bassett said he and his team are currently monitoring the destruction of cultural sites in Ukraine by invading Russian forces.

Real-time communications between Bassett and his team in Martinsville and Army Monuments officers globally are facilitated by Iridium’s technology.

“This is an incredible partnership,” Bassett said, and noted that Iridium has provided Ukraine with a number of satellite phones to aid in communications. The phones will continue to work even when traditional telecommunications are down.

“We’ve all been without cell phone service before,” Welsh said. “It’s a lot worse when you don’t know where you are, you don’t speak the language, and you don’t know what message is being received by the people you’re counting on to keep you safe. With our partnership with Iridium, that was a thing we didn’t have to worry about.”

“Iridium is the only satellite network that covers the entire planet, pole to pole, connecting people and things, and it is especially exciting to have the opportunity to connect people doing such important work,” Sullivan said. “We look forward to continuing this partnership and continuing telling this story.”

BZA

from page 1

county? We get complaints about it—the traffic, the fights, the shootings, and things like that.”

“All (the applicants) here have never had a county license (to operate one of these facilities,)” she said, “because they know they’re illegal here.”

Lackey argued that Adams’ critiques applied to other business owners who failed to follow proper procedure, and that he and King were there to do things correctly.

Lee Clark, director of planning, zoning, and inspections, said “your client did open without a business license, your client did open covertly without following the law. That isn’t everybody else. That is your client.”

Clark read into the record a letter from Amy Charles, the store manager of Cosmoprof, which is directly adjacent to the Collinsville property owned by King.

“When they were open from the end of December to beginning of February, I had customer complaints daily about it,” Charles wrote.

She said her shop’s parking spaces were constantly occupied by those going to the facility and “they also allow smoking inside, which made our store smell horribly.”

Additionally, “there was several times we had people screaming at each other outside of the gaming business on the sidewalk, which caused safety and security concerns for my employees,” she wrote.

Under current Virginia law, Clark said skill games are defined as illegal gaming devices and any machines

that operated must have an exemption to an “otherwise complete ban.”

The first such exemption, he said, was granted in 2020 during a special session of the General Assembly dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From that, certain skill games were allowed to operate from July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021. Each machine was required to be registered and regulated by the Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC), and had a tax assessed of \$1,200 per month per machine, which contributed revenues to a COVID-19 relief fund.

“Every machine outside of this registration became an illegal gambling machine,” Clark explained, and when state legislators did not act to extend that exemption beyond June 30 2021, “all machines operating under that license became illegal gambling devices once again” as of July 1, 2021.

Now, Clark said there is a temporary second exemption following a lawsuit filed in Greensville County Circuit Court which, on Dec. 6, entered a temporary injunction against the enforcement of that skill game ban, currently set to expire May 18. According to Clark, that injunction is limited to those games already taxed and regulated by ABC prior to July 1, 2021.

Clark said that he was “personally involved in a number of free-standing facilities here in Henry County that were investigated and found to be operating illegally. Our local Commonwealth’s Attorney opined that they were, in

fact, illegal.” Clark said all were served notice and “all chose to leave this community.”

Those at Thursday’s hearing requesting special use permits were “extremely similar to those that were deemed illegal by our local Commonwealth’s Attorney,” Clark said.

After the BZA voted 4-0 (board member Sandra Hairston was absent) to deny King’s first request, and the public hearing for the second Bassett permit was opened, Lackey unsuccessfully attempted to change the scope of the requested special use permit, saying Clark’s claims about the illegality of skilled gaming in Virginia did not pertain to King’s request.

“We can’t open a skill gaming facility as the law stands now in the Commonwealth,” he said. “That’s very clear.” He stated the applicant was requesting “a special use permit for amusement” including public billiard parlors and pool rooms, bowling alleys, dance halls, golf driving ranges ... and similar forms of public amusement recreation.”

He said King was looking for the flexibility to choose what she put in the space. “We may put a convenience store in there, we may put a billiard room in there, any of the other uses” that are allowable under Virginia code.

“We should have a right as citizens of the community to open a pool hall or to open a skating rink or a health club. So to rely on the illegality of one use that’s being used in other places” is not appropriate for this particular request, he argued.

Lackey previously stated during the first public hearing that his client’s request was “for a skill game facility.”

BZA chairman Manker Stone pointed out that the application for the special use permit filled out and submitted by King specifically listed “sweepstakes, fish tables, and stand-up skill games.”

Clark read into the record a number of letter from property owners writing in opposition to King’s requests. One, from Pauline Martin, said that a “sham operation similar to this” opened in the property now owned by King several years ago, before the pandemic. Neighbors encountered “very late, noisy hours, traffic issues, and even gunshots.”

Leah Manning also wrote about the same previous operation, adding that traffic along U.S. 220 “was queued in the median/crossover, resulting in congestion” and patrons “parked alongside the shoulder of Highway 220,

causing dangerous conditions.”

She also complained of “loud, vulgar language from the parking lot” and wrote that a shooting took place in the parking lot.

Ultimately, the board unanimously denied both of King’s requests.

In other matters, the board:

- *Denied a special use permit for Manish Patel, who requested the permit to allow for the establishment of an arcade for skill games inside an existing building located at 2484 Virginia Avenue in Collinsville. The permit was denied due to Patel’s failure to appear at the hearing.
- *Approved a special use permit from Charles Roark and Star News Corporation for the construction of off-site general advertising signs on properties located at 17521 A.L. Philpott Highway and 35 Preston Road in the Horsepasture District and 2475 Appalachian Drive in the Collinsville

District. On a recommendation from Clark, the board’s approval came with the conditions that the permit be exercised within 5 years, the signs will be removed if left vacant for a period of 12 consecutive months, and a form of surety must be submitted prior to the issuance of sign permits guaranteeing the structures would not evolve into unsafe or abandoned structures without means of removal.

*A hearing scheduled for Axton Solar was withdrawn two days before the scheduled meeting. Clark said the company intends to resubmit the case within the next several months.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
B	R	A	E	S	E	A	T	P	A	C	K	
E	A	G	A	N	P	A	L	S	A	B	L	E
E	K	E	S		S	A	R	A	H	B	I	E
S	I	D	E	L	I	N	E	S		C	A	B
	S	A	R	O	D	S	U	N				
T	E	E	P	E	R	M	O	R	O	S		
A	R	A	S		S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T
T	A	M	E	S		M	O	L		S	A	I
S	E	P	A	R	A	T	O	R		C	L	A
	S	A	R	I	S		D	O	B		E	D
E	B		R	O	B		P	R	O	A	S	
R	A	G	A	S		D	I	A	T	H	E	S
A	B	U	T		B	E	A	M	Y	A	C	N
S	E	N	E		T	A	N	A		F	L	U
E	L	K	S		U	F	O		E	S	T	O

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, *STRETCH* your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101, or to reach our advertising specialist directly, call (276) 693-3713 or email advertising@theenterprise.net.

OBITUARIES

Janie Stowe Cassell

Janie Stowe Cassell, 72, of Ridgeway, VA passed away Sunday, March 27, 2022 at her home. She was born January 3, 1950 in Stuart, VA to the late William Robert Stowe and Virginia Layman Stowe. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Randolph Manning; second husband, John David Cassell; and her siblings, Kathy Spencer, Debra Wilson, Bobby Stowe, and Randy Stowe.



Janie was a member of Grace Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son, Roy Darrell Manning, Sr.; grandsons, Josh Manning, Roy Manning, Jr., Blaine Reynolds, and Bennett Reynolds; and brother, David

Stowe.

A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel and other times at Janie's home. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2022 at Grace Baptist Church, with Pastor Dennis Wingate officiating. Burial will be at Old Center Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Rockingham County Pregnancy Center, 424 W. Kings Highway, Eden, N.C. 27288.

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

Linda Wyatt Harbour

Linda Wyatt Harbour, 79, of Ridgeway, VA passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born on August 21, 1942, in Henry County, VA to the late Malcomb Alfonzo Wyatt and Annie Mayhew Wyatt. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sisters, Frances W. Price, and Virginia Doris Wyatt; brothers, Jesse M. Wyatt and Vernon T. Wyatt; and special aunt, Minnie Wells.



Mrs. Harbour graduated from Drewry Mason High School and attended Granbery United Methodist Church. Linda had a special love for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband,

Clarence W. Harbour of the home; son, Jeffrey Warren Harbour of Raleigh, NC; sisters, Erma Hylton of Centre, Alabama, Pauline Robertson of St. Petersburg, FL, Lorieene Wyatt of Midlothian, VA; brother, Charles Edward Wyatt of Ridgeway, VA; and her grandchildren, Logan Matthew Harbour and Daniel Chase Harbour of Raleigh, NC.

The funeral was held on March 31, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services. The Rev. Tom Blair officiated. Burial was at Mountain View Cemetery.

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

Wanda Mae Preston

Wanda Mae Preston, 54, of Toano, Virginia passed away March 24, 2022 at UNC Chapel Hill. She was born April 10, 1967, in Martinsville, Virginia to Claudia Mae Hairston Preston and the late Ernest Edward Preston.



She was preceded in death, in addition to her father, by her sisters, Claudia Tina Moyer, and Bernice Preston; and brother, Infant Leander Preston.

In addition to her mother, Claudia Mae Hairston she is survived by her daughter, Courtney Penn; sisters, Eva

Marleen Redd, Samona Simmons, Sidney Lewis; brother, Bishop McDaniel Preston, Thurman Preston, Michael Preston, Ozzie Preston, Darius Kevin Preston, Steve Preston, and Pastor Avery Preston.

The funeral was held on March 30, 2022, at Greater Love Ministries, with Pastor Avery Preston officiating. Burial was at Fair Haven Memorial Park.

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

Rev. Hurshel Willis Boggs

Rev. Hurshel Willis Boggs, age 91, died at his home on March 24, 2022, surrounded by his family. H.W., or "Huck" as he was known to his family and friends, was born August 7, 1930 in Huntington, WV. He was the youngest of seven children. He served in the US Air Force from 1948 to 1952, and was stationed at Fürstentfeldbruck, Germany as part of the Berlin Airlift. He was honorably discharged in 1952 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He and his wife, Monalee Robinson Boggs ("Ponnie"), were married in 1950 in Alexandria, VA and were married for nearly 67 years until Monalee's passing in 2017.

H.W. felt the call of God upon his life shortly after he accepted Christ as his personal Savior in 1953. He joined the Assemblies of God fellowship in 1954, and was later ordained in Bluefield, VA. Together with his wife Monalee and his children, H.W. planted and pastored churches throughout the Appalachian District of the Assemblies of God, totaling over fifty years in the ministry.

He modeled a life lived faithfully in pursuit of Jesus, and instilled Biblical principles in his children and grandchildren. He loved fiercely, gave generously, made friends



wherever he went, and was devoted to the comfort and well-being of those around him.

After retiring, H.W. and his wife enjoyed traveling and spending time with their family and friends.

H.W. is survived by his children: Terry Furrow (Ronnie), John Boggs (Bev), Patty Sills (Jamie), and Jim Boggs (Sandy). He was preceded in death by one

daughter (Louisa Ann), one son (Hershel Phillip), and his beloved wife Ponnie (1929-2017). They were blessed with 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Swansonville PH Church in Dry Fork, VA on Wednesday, March 30, 2022. The Rev. Michael Hearp officiated.

Donations can be made to "Ponnie's Fund." This fund was established by H.W. after his wife's passing to honor her memory, and offer assistance to families in crisis.

The mailing address is Stewardship of Ponnie's Fund, Swansonville Pentecostal Holiness Church, 16300 Mt Cross Road, Dry Fork, VA. 24549.

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

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

Peggy Young Adams

Peggy Young Adams, 75, of Bassett, Virginia passed away Friday, March 25, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born June 15, 1946, in Bassett, Virginia to the late Reggie "Red" Young and Mae Bradley Young.



Peggy loved spending her time with family. She loved traveling and was of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Donna Elaine Kennon; sisters, Gloria Jean Adams and Iris Shelton; brothers, Norman Young, Kenneth Young, Maxie Young and Odie Young; granddaugh-

ter, Kimarie Dawn Kennon.

She was survived by her husband, Douglas W. Adams; son, Douglas Wayne Adams, Jr.; granddaughter, Ashley Wyrick; grandsons, Walter Glenn Light III, John Hoyt, and Shane Young; great grandchildren, Ashtian Wyrick, Payton Wyrick, Skylar Wyrick, and Bryson Wyrick.

A graveside service was held on March 29, 2022, at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Jeffery "Jeff" Lee Hall, Sr.

Jeffery "Jeff" Lee Hall, Sr., 60, of Fincastle, VA passed away on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. He was born on December 21, 1961 to the late Larry Hall and Edna Rose Hall. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a sister, Linda Marie Rose; and a brother, Glen "Andy" Hall.



Mr. Hall worked as a supervisor in newspaper printing, having worked for the Martinsville Bulletin/Supplement Company. Jeffery was a great storyteller and lit up the room with his contagious smile. He loved his family and being with them, and eating meals together. He volunteered coaching baseball and basketball teams throughout Martinsville and Henry County.

He is survived by his daughter, Shannon LeAnne Hall (Chad Thompson) of Myrtle Beach, SC; son, Jeffery Lee Hall, Jr. of

Myrtle Beach, SC; ex-wife and friend, Elizabeth Estep of Gulfport, MS; sisters, Judy Rose Gleason of Martinsville, VA and Penny Sue Doss of Collinsville, VA; brothers, Marcus Clay Hall of Richmond, VA and Matt Hall of Mt. Sterling, KY; and grandchildren, Braylon Lee Hall and Christian Dallas Hall both of Myrtle Beach, SC. Also surviving are many nieces nephews and extended family.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to ALS Association, 1300 Wilson Blvd. Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22209.

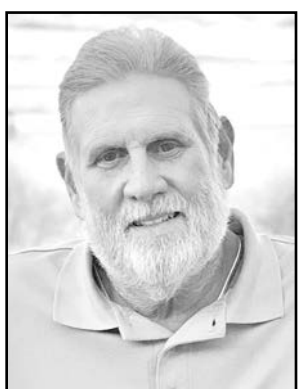
Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Hall family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Jeffrey Lynn Davis

Jeffrey Lynn Davis, 60, of Bassett, VA passed away Thursday, March 24, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital surrounded by family and friends. He was born November 19, 1961, to the late Arthur E. Davis and Mary Ramsey Davis. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Eldred Davis.

Jeffrey graduated from Bassett High School and was a member of Fort Trial Baptist Church. He attended Danville Community College where he received his HVAC Technician certification. After receiving his certification, he worked for Prillaman and Pace, Bassett Walker, McKinney's Heating and Air, and retired from Ferrum College. Jeffrey loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing and especially baseball.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years,



Jane Ann Davis of the home; children, Kasey Davis and Corey Davis of Bassett, VA; granddaughter, Cora Lynn Margaret Davis; siblings, Shelia Ebbert of Stuart, VA, Phillip Davis (Paula) of Bassett, VA, Jenny Nichols (Todd) of Martinsville, VA, and sister-in-law, Teresa Davis of Bassett, VA. Also surviving are many loved nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on March 27, 2022, at Fort Trial Baptist Church. The Rev. Tony Beach and Dr. Joey McNeill officiated. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorial donations may be made to Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown, VA 24168.

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

Kay Setliff

Kay Setliff passed away on Monday March 21, 2022 at the age of 79.

She was born March 13, 1943 in Rockingham County, NC and has been a resident of Pascagoula since 2009. She was a former manager of IHOP for 14 years in Martinsville, VA and a former employee of Dutch In Motel & Convention Center for 26 years in Collinsville, VA. She was a longtime member of Trinity Pentecostal Church in Pascagoula.

She was preceded in death by her mother and best friend, Iris Gray Martin; devoted father, Charles Reid Martin and loving brother, Charles Ronald "Ron"



Martin.

She is survived by a niece, Katrina Maheu (Mike) of Ferrum, VA; sister-in-law, Paulette Welch (Mark) of Rocky Mount, VA; great-nephew and nieces, Maxx, Scarlett and Envy; devoted cousin, Sybil Bowman of Pascagoula, MS and numerous other cousins, relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held on March 27, 2022, at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Pascagoula. Memorials can be made in her name to the charity of your choice. Condolences may be expressed online at www.obryant-okeefe.com.

Death Notices

FOX

Tommy L. Fox, 70, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, March 26, 2022, at his residence.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is handling arrangements.

KNUTH

Linda Mae Knuth, 76, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away March 26, 2022, at SOVAH Health of Martinsville.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is handling arrangements.

MAYES

Janie Mayes, 74, of Ridgeway, Virginia passed away Friday, March 25, 2022.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is handling arrangements.

FULLER

Elizabeth F. Fuller, 81, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, March 26, 2022, at her residence.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is handling arrangements.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

WE OFFER FLEXIBLE
ADVERTISING PACKAGES,
IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS
OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101
OR (276) 693-3713.

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.

SERVICES

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

HOUSE PAINTING
House Painting, interior, exterior, also log cabins, and deck staining.
Call George Scott (540) 250-1409.

SALES

HUGE Estate/Yard Sale.
April 2nd @ 8 AM. sharp inside at Ross Harbour Church on Elamsville Road. Outside sales start earlier. Furniture, lamps, garden tools, garage & shop tools, craft items, NICE dolls, cast iron, Household, cookware, kitchenware, linens, seasonal. So much MORE! Don't miss this one! 10 + loads. Great prices!

HELP WANTED

FERRUM COLLEGE
Farm Museum Interpreter (Seasonal)
Ferrum College is seeking outgoing Museum Interpreter's

HELP WANTED

to work with visitors at the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum's (BRIM) living history farm museum. The primary duties of the interpretive staff are to greet visitors; to guide them through the museum facilities; to talk about various aspects of local history and culture; to demonstrate life in the 1800's by carrying out household, farm, and garden tasks; and to assist visitors in hands-on educational activities of the period. BRIM interpreters usually wear period costumes during farm tours and some other museum events. The BRIM provides costumes and training. The Farm Museum Interpreter position is seasonal (primarily April through October). The work schedule varies, and some weekend work is required. A qualified candidate must be able to communicate effectively with visitors of all ages and must have the ability to learn and carry out 1800-period lifestyle tasks such as open-hearth cooking, handcrafts, heirloom gardening, and heritage breed farm animal feeding. Interested candidates should submit an application or resume to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088 or e-mail to resumes@ferrum.edu. Background check required. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring - Multiple Seasonal Positions!

HELP WANTED

Beach Maintenance Ranger, Beach Ranger (Lifeguard), Boathouse Ranger, Contact Ranger, Food Service Ranger, Housekeeping Ranger, Maintenance Ranger.
Apply online at www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs or at the park office, 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171. (276) 930-2424. DCR is EOE.



CLASSIFIEDS



Velyvis joins Sovah Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Sovah Health announced that John Velyvis, MD has joined its medical staff and is offering orthopedic services for patients in Martinsville and Henry County and the surrounding region at Sovah Orthopedics and Sports Medicine – Martinsville.

“We are excited to have Dr. Velyvis join our team of talented providers at Sovah Health,” said Spencer Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of Sovah Health - Martinsville. “His orthopedic background and training will be an asset to our community and provide access to high-quality orthopedic care, right here close to home.”

Dr. Velyvis received his Doctor of Medicine from Columbia University College (New York, NY), completed his residency at Albany Medical College (Albany, NY), completed his fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA), and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Harvard University (Cambridge, MA). His degree in biomedical engineering has helped him implement the latest technological advances into his surgical practice, allowing patients to recover faster with less pain. As an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Velyvis specializes in hip

and knee replacements, reconstructive surgery, sports medicine, knee and hip surgery, arthritis, arthroscopic surgery, and general orthopedics.

Dr. Velyvis is accepting new patients, and appointments may be made by calling 276.638.2354. The practice is located at 1100 E Church St. in Martinsville, VA.



John Velyvis, MD

Stuart man held in alleged pursuit incident

A Stuart man was arrested following a motor vehicle pursuit early Monday, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

At 9:30 a.m., the Patrick County 911 Communications Center received a call from a property owner on Big A School Road that someone had broken in to a storage building on their property. The caller confronted the white man, who allegedly then fled in a maroon-colored Toyota pickup truck.

Patrick County Sheriff’s investigator Oscar Tejeda spotted a vehicle matching the description on New

Hope Church Road and attempted to initiate a traffic stop.

The driver allegedly began to recklessly elude Tejeda on New Hope Church, American Legion and Martin Farm roads.

The pursuit ended an estimated 1.5 miles later at 645 Martin Farm Road, when the driver stopped the vehicle and allegedly fled on foot.

Keith Allen Charles, 34, of 645 Martin Farm Road, was apprehended a short distance later, and charged with breaking and entering, petty larceny, felony elude law enforcement, obstruct-

tion of justice and destruction of property.

Investigators determined that Charles allegedly stole the Toyota pickup from Henry County on Sunday. A felony charge of motor vehicle theft is pending by authorities in Henry County.

The truck was returned to its rightful owner, according to the Smith.

Tejeda was assisted by Patrick County investigator Jason Kruse, and the Henry County Sheriff’s Office. Charles is being held without bond in the Patrick County Jail.

Bargain Fair

from page 1

she said. “I think now that we’re starting to get into this post-pandemic (time), we’ll start to see that size group come in again.”

The addition of a spring event was made possible in large part by the building, located at 242 Franklin Street in Martinsville, provided to the group at “a very affordable rate” by Lester Properties. This allowed the group to store items in one location year-round.

“Before what we had to do was store all of the donations that would come to us either in our own homes or we had a warehouse we would go to,” Mills said. “We would have to pack everything up a day or two before the Bargain Fair and take it to a space that was being rented or provided to us and we would have to set everything up. Then we would have to completely clear out that space” once the event was over.

Mills said volunteers took nearly a full week off from work to move everything into that year’s venue and set it all up in time, but “now we’ve actually got a location to call ours.”

Having a year-round location also has allowed league members and other volunteers to spend more time organizing items ahead of the fair, making it even easier for shoppers to find what they need.

“We are even better organized than we were in the fall,” Mills said. “We got a fantastic donation of additional shelves to be able to put

our shoes up on shelves.”

In the spirit of greater organization, the shoes also are arranged by size.

“We’ve never been able to do that before,” Mills said. “When you’re trying to take a whole warehouse of stuff and put it out in a week, it’s almost impossible to have it out and sized.”

Mills said items in the spring sale include tables, sofas, chairs, desks, holiday décor, athletic wear and equipment, linens, housewares, small appliances, wine glasses, coffee mugs, serving ware, children’s toys and games, and clothing. And that is just a sampling of what will be available.

Even with a year-round facility making some aspects of the event easier, Mills said league members and other volunteers still put a good deal of work into making the Bargain Fair happen.

“Every (Charity League) member is required to provide at least six hours of service,” Mills explained. “Additional committees are assigned more time than that. Bargain Fair co-chairs put in about 150 hours each, working specifically with the fair.”

Mills’ co-chairman for this year’s even is Tiffany Morton.

She said many other members put in additional hours as well, even just working in the warehouse.

“We have a lot of additional time beyond that, going out to do property pickups for people who might want to donate a sofa and don’t know

how to get it to us. We beg and plead for friends with pickup trucks,” she said with a laugh.

The league hosts a public drop-off day each month for the community to bring items in to donate to the Bargain Fair.

Mills said the league, which consists of around 30 women, has worked with a number of other organizations “that have come in and helped us out, donating their time and resources to be able to pull this off.”

Those organizations include the National Society of Black Engineers, high school Beta Club students, community college students, and members of a local service fraternity.

Around 40 volunteers will be on hand on Saturday alone, Mills said, and added that she couldn’t even begin to estimate how many people have helped with the event in various ways between the end of the fall fair and this week-end.

“This is a huge undertaking,” she said.

All the time, effort, and volunteer hours put into the fair ultimately benefit area youth. Funds raised at the Bargain Fair support the Charity League’s many efforts, including scholarships for high school seniors.

“We also help out with 4-H camp,” she said. “We help with children in the school system who are identified as needing” certain items such as shoes, clothing, and bedding. “We will provide those items to



Sharon Mills serves as co-chairman for the Charity League Bargain Fair alongside Tiffany Morton. Mills said she and Morton each put in around 150 hours working on the event, with help from other league members as well as other volunteers and organizations in the community.

(children) as needed,” Mills explained.

Other programs sponsored by the organization include the Touch A Truck program. Held annually at the Martinsville Speedway, the event gives children a safe environment to interact with and learn about different types of vehicles they might see on the road, including fire trucks, garbage trucks, construction vehicles, and ambulances.

The league’s dedication to helping the community will extend beyond raising funds to support area children this year. The women of the Charity League are also helping to make

COVID-19 vaccines available to shoppers who want either a first shot or a booster.

Mills said appointments are not needed to receive a vaccination, which are provided at no cost. Vaccinations also will be available at the league’s upcoming Spring Fling on April 30, courtesy of a partnership with the health department, public safety, the Coalition for Health and Wellness, and United Way.

Mills said the fair is a wonderful opportunity to shop while keeping prices low, a benefit that is particularly needed with ongoing rising costs.

“You still need to have

clothing for your children or you might like to have a new wardrobe without it costing an arm and a leg,” she said. “With current gas prices and food prices, you need to save where you can and this is a great place to do that.”

The Martinsville-Henry County Charity League’s Spring Bargain Fair will take place Saturday, April 2 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 242 Franklin Street in Martinsville. Purchases can be made with cash or card. To learn more about the Charity League and the work it does to help children in the community or to make a donation, visit charityleague.org.

Lawmakers opt for study over elimination of jail, prison fees

Safia Abdulahi
Capital News Service

Incarcerated people and their loved ones will continue to pay fees that advocates and some lawmakers say are too stiff.

Senate Bill 581, introduced by Sen. Joseph Morrissey, D-Richmond, initially proposed to eliminate jail fees related to the costs of an inmate’s keep, work release, or participation in educational or rehabilitative programs. Additional costs include telephone services, commissaries and electronic visitation systems.

Paulettra James, the co-founder of Sistas in Prison Reform, said she spent thousands of dollars providing funds for her son and husband, both of whom are incarcerated. Her husband is currently incarcerated at Deerfield Correctional Facility in Southampton County and her son is at Coffeewood Correctional Center in Culpeper. The fees go toward commissary expenses, phone calls, stamps and taxes, James said.

“One thing statistics and science has shown is that individuals who have constant contact with their loved ones are less likely to recidivate,” James said. “It’s important for families to stay in touch with their loved ones, it gives them a sense of hope, a sense of stability and a sense of being loved.”

Findings from the non-profit research and advocacy group Prison Policy Initiative back that up. Incarcerated people, along with their families and loved ones, also have better health, and improved

school performance when they have contact.

Legislative Action

Del. Patrick Hope, D-Arlington, introduced a companion bill with identical objectives to Morrissey’s measure, but it added language incorporating prisons.

Lawmakers made several amendments to Hope’s bill which resulted in the development of a workgroup study led by the Department of Corrections.

Morrissey’s amended bill established a workgroup led by the State Board of Local and Regional Jails which will involve law enforcement organizations and advocacy groups.

“Although a workgroup was not the ideal scenario, I look forward to reviewing the outcome of the published study from the workgroup,” Morrissey stated.

The Senate bill was drafted by Shawn Weneta, a policy and advocacy strategist with the Virginia ACLU. Weneta served approximately 16 years on a 30-year embezzlement conviction and was pardoned by former Gov. Ralph Northam.

The measure would have cut hidden taxes, increased public safety and kept families connected, according to Weneta.

“The people that can’t afford to send the least to somebody that is incarcerated are having to pay the most,” Weneta said. “It’s predatory profiteering off the backs of people who can least afford it.”

The incarcerated are a “captive market” which gives the state government control over the price of goods and services,

according to legislative liaison Ben Knotts with Americans for Prosperity in Virginia.

“When we told the committee that in some cases they were charging \$40 for 100 count of Advil in some of these jails, I mean their mouths literally hit the floor, they were shocked,” Knotts said.

Morrissey said he introduced the bill to regulate and decrease costs within jails, including costs related to phone calls, emails and commissary items.

“These high-priced items and services do not simply burden those incarcerated; these costs fall mostly on the shoulders of an inmate’s family and loved ones,” Morrissey stated in an email. “We, as members of the General Assembly, cannot let these practices continue.”

Commissary Fees

A commission is earned from commissary sales, which includes items such as toothpaste, feminine products and food.

Benjamin Jarvela, deputy director of communications with the Virginia Department of Corrections, stated that VADOC takes a 9.5% commission for commissary sales. The rate is expected to drop to 9% by this summer.

VADOC commissions “are among the lowest in the country,” according to Jarvela, who stated that commissary commissions in several other states exceed 30% or more than triple the VADOC rate.

Commissary sales fund programs and “quality of life services” for inmates, including travel assistance for families of inmates who qualify, according

to Jarvela. The funding also helps cover cable TV and recreation equipment costs, he stated.

Communication Costs

VADOC takes about a 5 cent commission for every email sent, according to Weneta.

The email fees are used to supplement funding for inmate post-secondary educational programs and vocational education, according to Jarvela. There are glaring disparities between jails across the state in how much inmates are charged for a 15-minute phone call, according to the Prison Policy Initiative.

Hampton City Jail and the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center charge about \$11 for a 15-minute call. Many other Virginia jails charge around \$4 or less, according to 2019 data from Prison Policy Initiative. Inmates housed in jails around Virginia that use the telephone provider service Securus often pay the highest rates, the report shows.

Telephone service providers collect about \$2 for phone calls to Hampton City Jail while family and friends of inmates are charged about \$10. This leaves the sheriff to collect about \$8 per 15-minute call, according to Weneta.

“What’s happening is that the sheriff is artificially quintupling the price of a phone call and collecting an 800% commission on that call,” Weneta said.

Advocacy groups such as the Humanization Project, Worth Rises, and Americans for Prosperity researched where the imposed fees went.

“We discovered that in the last five years, the

sheriff’s offices in Virginia have collected over \$183 million in commissions, yet only spent about \$9 million of that in programs to benefit people that are incarcerated,” Weneta said.

The Virginia Sheriffs’ Association supported the legislation and will take part in the workgroup to “address any issues that are documented which reflect excessive charges,” stated Executive Director John W. Jones. The authorized fees allow jails to provide inmates with virtual visits from families and support inmate work programs, which allow sheriffs to locate employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated, according to Jones.

“All of the money collected under the Code are used exclusively for the benefit of inmates in the care of sheriffs,” Jones stated in an email.

Some fees are targeted to harm the people who cannot afford them, Weneta said. For example, it costs \$6 to deposit \$25 into an inmate’s trust account, but only \$10 to deposit \$300, he said.

The introduced legislation proposed that fees charged when depositing to an inmate’s account could not exceed 3% of the amount received.

Prison vendors take advantage of families with low income and limited financial means, according to Bianca Tylek, executive director of Worth Rises. The nonprofit organization is focused on dismantling what it said is a multibillion-dollar exploitative industry. Tylek has led several campaigns to make jail phone calls free.

“We know that people often don’t have \$300 to put on an account and so you know, typically those who are making deposits that are in much smaller amounts are getting exploited the most,” Tylek said.

Impact on Families

Many families of the incarcerated deal with financial burdens to communicate through email and phone calls. Over a third go into debt attempting to pay the correspondence fees, according to the Who Pays Report. The report was a national community-driven research project with multiple partners.

“What we found in our research is that one in three families go into debt just trying to stay in contact with an incarcerated loved one, and those fees were most egregious in the jails,” Weneta said.

Knotts said that a woman in his congregation helped raise her incarcerated daughter’s son.

“She can barely afford diapers, we’ve had to help her cover the cost of diapers and essentials,” Knotts said. “One of the things that she really struggles with is the amount of money it costs to talk to her daughter.”

The report for the study is due December 2022. Morrissey hopes the workgroup will help legislators write a bill next year that would better regulate costs, he stated via email.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

February’s unemployment rate dipped

Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Friday announced that Virginia’s unemployment rate fell to 3.2 percent in February while total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 21,300 jobs. The Commonwealth’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent is 1.4 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 14,138 to 4,291,990, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,330 to 136,004. The number of employed residents rose by 17,468 to 4,155,986. Virginia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which fell from 4.0 to 3.8 percent.

The Commonwealth’s labor force participation rate increased slightly

by 0.1 of a percentage point to 63.0 percent in February. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

“Given our current economy and business environment, now is a great time to forge a career and join the workforce in the Commonwealth,” said Youngkin. “Although we see an uptick in the labor force participation, my administration is laser focused on continually increasing our labor participation rate.”

“With a 3.2 percent unemployment rate in February, Virginia continues to outperform most states,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Caren Merrick. “The number of employed residents grew while our labor force rose significantly last month.”

“The latest jobs figures indicate that Virginia is trending in the right direction,” said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. “The increase in February payroll jobs is encouraging, as year-over-year job growth was spread across most industries.”

Virginia was tied with Georgia for the fourth lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate among the Southeast states behind Oklahoma, Alabama, and Arkansas. Virginia was tied with Georgia for the sixth lowest rate among the states east of the Mississippi. Indiana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Alabama had lower rates. Virginia

was ranked 17th in the nation for the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate.

Over the year employment growth in Virginia had been positive for six consecutive two years ago in February 2020 but dramatically changed course with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2022, Virginia’s over-the-year job gain of 2.9 percent was less than the 4.6 percent increase nationwide.

From February 2021 to February 2022, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 111,900

jobs, an increase of 2.9 percent. In February, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 99,600 jobs, while employment in the public sector gained 12,300 jobs. Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, nine of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment increases while two saw employment decreases. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 55,300 jobs (+16.4 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in professional and business services, up 18,300 jobs

(+2.4 percent). Other job gains occurred in trade and transportation (+15,600 jobs), government (+12,300 jobs), and education and health services (+6,000 jobs). Within government, local (+12,600 jobs) and state government (+1,000 jobs) both gained jobs over the year while federal government saw a decrease in employment (-1,300 jobs). The largest job loss during February occurred in finance (-2,900 jobs) to 207,200. The second largest decrease occurred in manufacturing with a decrease of 2,200 jobs to 236,200.

Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears discusses rural issues with ag leaders

Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears turned an invitation to speak into an opportunity to listen, asking farmers at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation’s March 22 board of directors meeting which agricultural issues are most important to them.

A self-described “city girl,” Sears emphasized her commitment to addressing issues related to agriculture, forestry and rural life. Discussion topics included commercial solar facilities, broadband expansion, Chesapeake Bay water quality goals, local food grants, forestry preservation and proper funding for Virginia Cooperative Extension and the state’s soil and water conservation districts.

“The reason I want to hear from you—nobody can sing your song like you do,” Sears said. “When you have skin in the game, you pay attention to what is coming out of your state legislature and ensure your representatives know how you feel about the issues that affect you.”

“Where are we heavy-handed, or where do you need a safety net? We don’t know unless we talk to you.”

Farm Bureau board members Robert Mills of Pittsylvania County and Jerry Jenkins of Lunenburg County said solar facilities continue to encroach on productive farmland in their districts. HB 206 recently passed in the Virginia General Assembly; it will require the

state to conduct a two-year study analyzing the impact of solar projects on prime agricultural and forest lands. But more farmland and forests could be lost during that time, Mills said.

“I don’t blame farmers and landowners who converted to solar, because it’s very lucrative,” he explained. “There is a lot of unproductive land that would be great for renewable resources like solar energy, that’s not producing food and fiber. It’s a quick dollar that hurts agriculture—the original sustainable industry.”

Sears said she would convey Farm Bureau’s support of HB 206, sponsored by Del. Michael Webert, R-Marshall, to Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Making history as the state’s first female lieutenant governor and first Black woman elected to statewide office, Sears presides over the Virginia Senate and is a member of several state boards, commissions and councils.

“The doors you have knocked down, the road you have traveled to get to this position—thank you for what you’re doing for women,” said Faye Hundley of Essex County, who chairs the VBBF Women’s Leadership Committee. “Having you in this position speaks loud and clear to women involved in Farm Bureau, and everywhere, that women can do anything.”

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

21

BTW

Your Neighborhood Network

The Southside's
#1 Local TV Station