

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, April 9, 2022

(USPS-6)

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Clearview Early Learning Center students Gavyn Young (left) and Brooklyn Mack read short stories to the Martinsville City School Board to showcase the reading skills they developed this school year.

Kindergarten registration set, Clearview accepting applications

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

With the current school year nearing an end, it is time to begin thinking about the newest generation of young learners that will soon be entering the school system, either as kindergarten or preschool students.

“It hardly seems possible, but it’s time for kindergarten registration,” Dr. Tamra Vaughan, coordinator of academic interventions, Title III, foreign language, and mentoring, said at the regular meeting of the Martinsville School Board on Monday.

Martinsville schools will hold kindergarten registration Tuesday, April 26 through Thursday, April 28 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the central office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

Registration is open to children who will be 5-years-old on or before Sept. 30, 2022.

Vaughan said staff also will collect required documents at the site during registration.

According to a flyer advertising the registration days, required documents are an original birth certificate, two proofs of residence (examples include a utility bill or lease agreement), record of a current physical examination completed after Aug. 8, 2021, and an up-to-date immunization record.

Parents who register their child or children without the necessary documentation may still do so, but all documents must be submitted before the school year begins.

For those children who do not yet meet the 5-year benchmark, Clearview Early Learning Center (CELC) is currently taking applications for students who will be 3- or 4-years-old by Sept. 30.

Sheilah Williams, director of early childhood & school nutrition

See **Kindergarten Registration**, page 5

Uptown Partnership community engagement series begins Monday

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville Uptown Partnership (UP) has announced a bi-weekly Community Engagement Session Series, which is set to hold its first meeting on Monday from 6-7:30 p.m. at the TAD Space, 20 East Church Street, in uptown Martinsville.

The goal of the series is twofold. First, UP will share the recommendations made by the consulting group Downtown Economics on the community-driven Uptown Visioning Project and will then solicit input directly from members of the community—business owners, residents, property owners, and other stakeholders.

According to the announcement of the series, the sessions will provide opportunity for participants to “discuss how we begin to work together as a whole community on the implementation of the community’s revitalization efforts moving forward.”

The recommendations were developed following an extensive community visioning project and revitalization study which included discussions with individuals and groups in Martinsville, Henry County, and even surrounding areas. The results of that study and subsequent recommendations were previously shared in a Zoom meeting with a group of stakeholders and local media, which has generated a great deal of conversation within the community, including several public comments at

See **UP**, page 5

Martinsville lab monitoring threats to Ukrainian cultural sites

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A day before Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s impassioned speech before the U.N. Security Council accusing Russian invaders of atrocities against the Ukrainian people, half a world away at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville, Dr. Hayden Bassett spoke about the ongoing effort to help.

In particular, Bassett discussed the ongoing work being done right here to document and, in some cases, prevent another type of wartime casualty — the destruction of cultural sites and artifacts that are physical representations of the history, spirit, and rich heritage of the Ukrainian people.

Bassett, the assistant curator of archaeology at VMNH, also serves as the director of the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML), a partnership between the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) and VMNH. He said the lab monitors impacts to cultural heritage and vulnerabilities from threats to cultural heritage worldwide, specifically threats caused by armed conflict and natural disaster.

It currently leads the U.S. effort in monitoring and mapping cultural heritage sites worldwide, including Ukraine.

See **Lab Monitoring**, page 8



Dr. Hayden Bassett, CHML director and assistant curator of archaeology at VMNH (left) and William Welsh, CHML director of operations and VMNH archaeologist, explain how satellite imagery is used to track potential threats and damage to cultural sites. On Bassett’s screen is an image of the Ukrainian countryside just outside Kyiv which is pockmarked by artillery impact craters, some of which are as large as 10-12 feet wide.

NASCAR Hall of Fame & Martinsville Speedway unveil 75th anniversary exhibit



Richard Petty and Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell view the Martinsville Speedway 75th anniversary exhibit.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame and Martinsville Speedway on Tuesday unveiled a year-long exhibit honoring the track’s historic 75th Anniversary season at a press conference in the Hall of Honor featuring Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Region and long-time Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell, Senior Advisor to NASCAR Mike Helton, Senior Vice President, Racing Development & Strategy Ben Kennedy, NASCAR Hall of Famers Richard Petty (2010) and Dale Inman (2012) and NASCAR Hall of Fame Executive Director Winston Kelley.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the NASCAR Hall of Fame to recognize the history and tell the story of Martinsville Speedway,” said Clay Campbell, Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Region, NASCAR and Martinsville Speedway President. “Since the first race won by Red Byron in 1947, Martinsville

Speedway has been home for our family and generations of NASCAR fans. We invite race fans to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame this year to learn more about our historic 75 years in motorsports.”

The first-ever display honoring a track’s historic anniversary at the NASCAR Hall of Fame will be open to the public over the next year. The exhibit showcases many historic Martinsville Speedway artifacts including the first Martinsville Speedway grandfather clock that was awarded to Fred Lorenzen on Sept. 27, 1964, the last non-grandfather clock winner’s trophy awarded to Fred Lorenzen on April 26, 1964, Jeff Gordon Helmet from his 93rd and final career victory (and ninth at Martinsville) on Nov. 1, 2015, and more.

“We are proud of the NASCAR Hall of Fame’s status as the recognized home for honoring NASCAR’s evolving history, celebrated heritage

and family-oriented traditions, and we are thrilled to join in the celebration of Martinsville Speedway’s 75th anniversary,” said Winston Kelley, NASCAR Hall of Fame Executive Director. “Since NASCAR’s inception, Martinsville Speedway has been part of every level of NASCAR competition—from the grass roots to the Cup Series—with the Earles family at the helm from day one and a partnership with the France family that began in the early 1950’s. So many of our Hall of Famers have experienced tremendous successes, memorable victories and career highlights at Martinsville, all of which are highlighted in our first-ever display honoring a track’s historic anniversary. We look forward to sharing the stories of Martinsville’s incredible impact and contributions to the history of NASCAR with our guests.”

Founded in 1947 by H. Clay

See **NASCAR**, page 5

Mementos and memories: time capsule contents revealed

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

After half a century encased behind a marble slab at 1 Ellsworth Street in uptown Martinsville, the contents of Piedmont Trust Bank’s time capsule

were revealed at an event that drew a crowd of several dozen people on Friday, April 1.

Beyond finally seeing what was inside, the event marked a reunion

See **Time Capsule**, page 3



Above, A.J. Hice holds his son, Groves, and looks on along with Lynette Newman (far right) look on as the marble slab marking the location of the time capsule is removed from the side of the building that formerly housed Piedmont Trust Bank. Top right, City Manager Leon Towarnicki holds up the time capsule, covered in signatures, for the crowd to see.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Saturday, 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, contact the Centre at (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.

It's family day at the Fab Lab! In this hands-on family activity, participants will customize a wooden notebook using the laser cutter. Fab Lab Family Day is from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Register at ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-5461.

The Harvest Youth Board is hosting its first annual Books & Bunnies event. Visit the Smith River Sports Complex (1000 Irisburg Road, Axton) from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. for Easter egg hunts, crafts, fun activities, and free books for children ages 0-12!

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 attend.

The Bassett Historical Center (3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett) will host author Debbie Youngman in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial

Meeting Room beginning at 11 a.m. Her first book, "Laughter in the Library," is inspired by her career as a librarian and educator in the Virginia and North Carolina school systems.

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 redcrossblood.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.

Wednesday, April 20

Victory Baptist Church (1300 Dillons Fork Road, Fieldale) will host special singing featuring The Cooper Sisters beginning at 7 p.m. All are invited.

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 redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, April 23

Infinity Acres Ranch (136 Joppa Road, Ridgeway) is hosting the Infinity 5K Ranch Run. Participants will race around the ranch. There is also a 1-mile and done run for those who want to spend more time visiting with animals on the ranch. For more information or to register, visit InfinityAcres.org or call (276) 358-2378.

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. Contact the Centre at (276) 957-5757 with any questions.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at 2285 Fairystone Park Highway. This service is free to all residents of Martinsville and Henry County. Items to bring include solvents (paint thinner, turpentine, etc.), paints, fuels, lead acid batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges, and similar items.

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA (132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville) will host a Kitten Shower from 12-4 p.m. The SPCA conference room will be open for donation drop-off. Those interested in helping also can visit the SPCA's Amazon wish-list for easy online shopping: <https://www.spcamhc.org/donate/spca-wish-list>.

Wednesday, April 27

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule your donation, visit redcrossblood.org.

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. To register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1

Tickets are available at the SPCA for the Belk Charity Sale. Tickets are \$5 each and are redeemable at Belk for \$5 off your purchase with an extra 25 percent off April 29-May 1 only. The \$5 purchase is given directly to the SPCA.

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 Horticulture Spring Plant Sale is open. 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! If you have leadership questions, P&HCC can connect you with answers through this virtual community. Participants have the opportunity to collaborate and brainstorm current, real-time challenges and successes with fellow leaders while learning from each other or gaining insights from professionals skilled in areas of concern. Sessions will be held from 4-5 p.m. every other Wednesday 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 out for a trek along the trail! Meet as a group and walk along a different trail each week. Explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 to find out where the week's trek is happening! Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit 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. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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68								69					70	

CLUES ACROSS
 1. Midway between south and southeast
 4. Celebrations
 9. Pulpits
 14. Pin
 15. Rare laughing
 16. Parts of the circulatory system
 17. Financial term
 18. Pearl Jam frontman
 20. Cores of vascular plants
 22. Strong sharp smell or taste
 23. City in S. Korea
 24. One from Damascus
 28. Short message at the end of an email
 29. It cools your home
 30. Towards the mouth or oral region
 31. Intestinal pouches
 33. Boys and men
 37. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet

38. Former CIA
 39. A way to arrange
 41. Body cavity
 42. The Great Lake State
 43. A type of seal
 44. Stop for a moment
 46. Ancient kingdom
 49. Of I
 50. White clerical vestment
 51. Songs to a lover
 55. Prices
 58. Sun-dried brick
 59. Where to park a boat
 60. One who values reason and knowledge
 64. Partner to feather
 65. Sailboats
 66. Actress Zellweger
 67. Type of screen
 68. Country singer Haggard
 69. Puts together in time
 70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN
 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
 2. PA transit system
 3. Leaves a place
 4. Sweet greenish fruit
 5. Lends support to
 6. Chap
 7. Singer Di Franco
 8. Water at boiling temperature diffused in the atmosphere
 9. Asserts to be the case
 10. Doctor (Spanish)
 11. Auction attendee
 12. Characterized by unity
 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
 19. Way to analyze video
 21. Nonclerical
 24. Tree resin
 25. The academic world
 26. Khoikhoi peoples
 27. Infer from data
 31. Arrives

32. Apart
 34. Takes on cargo
 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
 36. Takes apart
 40. Dorm official
 41. Secondary or explanatory descriptor
 45. Relating to wings
 47. Speaker
 48. Situated in the middle
 52. Loop with a running knot
 53. Alaska nursing group (abbr.)
 54. Beloveds
 56. Establish by law or with authority
 57. Border river between India and Nepal
 59. Millisecond
 60. Revolutions per minute
 61. They —
 62. ESPN broadcaster Bob
 63. A place to stay

ENGAGEMENT

Curtis-Selden



Terry Curtis Jr. and Angel Curtis are pleased to announce the wedding engagement of their daughter, Peggy Anne Curtis, of Stuart, Virginia, to Benjamin Caleb Selden, of Chicago, Illinois.

Curtis' maternal grandparents are Walter Lowney, Virginia Robinson and James Aliff. Her paternal grandparents are Terry Curtis Sr. and Penelope Hilligus. Godparents are Clyde and Tina Flannagan, of Patrick Springs, Virginia.

Selden is the son of Pastors Ray and Mary Selden. His maternal grandparents are John and Kay Ihnat. Paternal grandparents are Ken & Katie Selden

Curtis currently lives in Fieldale, Virginia, and is employed as a hostess in the food service industry

Selden currently lives in Mansfield, Ohio, and is employed in the auto repair industry.

A December wedding is planned.

Time Capsule from page 1

of sorts for employees of Piedmont Trust Bank, who made up well over half the crowd and were visibly happy to come together not only to participate in the occasion but, perhaps more importantly, to share memories of their time at the bank

Since the city announced it would open the time capsule, there had been much speculation in the weeks, days, and even hours leading up to the opening about what might lie inside, particularly as the marble block instructed the contents be unearthed on April Fool's Day. Would there be money? Photographs? A joke item or two?

"I'm not sure what kind of sense of humor the folks who worked at the bank in 1972 may have had," quipped Towarnicki, "so we have no idea what's behind there. It could be some old Christmas bonuses that never got handed out to employees."

City Council member Danny Turner, who said he was a sophomore at Martinsville High School when the capsule was placed, joked that, if it was an April Fool's prank, "I hope the person that thought of it is here to enjoy it."

As many did during the event, Towarnicki took a few moments to reflect on the past.

"This is the year 2022 and if you think, 50 years from now, what's the world going to look like? What's Martinsville going to look like? I can't imagine that. So, you can imagine in 1972 as the bank folks were assembling whatever's in this bag that we'll open up shortly, you have to imagine that they were thinking the same thing in 1972, with the idea that this was going to be opened today. What would Martinsville look like in 2022? What would the world look like in 2022?"

Looking ahead now, Towarnicki said, is just as difficult.

"If you consider how much things have changed in the last 5 years, the last 10 years," it is hard to imagine what 2072 might look like.

Jim Frith, of Frith Construction, shared his memories of the bank. He said his father, who was on the Piedmont Trust

board as the Ellsworth Street location was being built, convinced staff to build two more floors to the initial plan to allow for growth.

"They changed their mind, added two more floors, and the rest was history," he said. "At the time, it was the tallest building in Martinsville. It's still the tallest building downtown."

Two people who helped build the bank were part of the crowd last Friday. Riley Williams, now 82, and Wade Smith both helped put the steel in place for the building.

Williams recalled that then-Sen. Harry Byrd attended the groundbreaking ceremony, held, as Frith described, on the day the placing of the steel was completed.

Frith said his brother, Jay, who helped install the steel during construction, helped place nuts and bolts on the final beam to hold it in place.

That beam, Williams said, was signed by all the construction crew.

When it was time to open the capsule, Lynette Newman, who, Frith said, "kept up with this time" to make sure the capsule was opened on the right date, joined A.J. Hice and his 8-month-old son, Groves, to ceremonially oversee the opening of the capsule.

Hice's great-grandfather, Irving Groves, founded the bank, and his grandfather, Irving Groves, Jr. eventually took over as president. Hice's son is named in their honor.

Workers removed the marble slab from the side of the building to reveal a large, brown, zippered canvas bag covered in red brick dust.

As the bag was brought over to the table that was set up in the parking lot of the building, Frith broke the anticipatory quiet with an unexpected question.

"For years," he said, "word has been there's another compartment behind this compartment. I just checked it out and it looks like it's so. Shall we have a private meeting about that?" he asked Towarnicki.

"Are you serious?" Towarnicki responded.

"The lore I've heard through my family ... you ever hear the name Jimmy Hoffa?"

Frith asked with a smile, drawing laughs from the gathered crowd. It was, after all, April Fool's Day.

About 40 sets of eyes turned intently to the table where Towarnicki stood with the bag, and everyone pressed in to try to get a look.

The bag's zipper held fast, and Towarnicki pulled out a pocket knife to cut open the bag, from which he pulled a large, cylindrical container, made of metal the color of brass or new copper. It was covered in signatures, presumably those of bank employees.

Carefully, Towarnicki cut around the tape holding the cylinder's lid closed and opened it to reveal the contents that had rested inside for half a century.

The first item removed was a copy of the Friday, April 14, 1972 Martinsville Bulletin.

"There's some Vietnam news," Towarnicki said, quickly scanning the headlines. "Funds for the bypass tentatively okayed," he read.

Next came a copy of the bank's 1971 annual report, followed by a May 1971 phone book, then a poster for a June 23, 1972 lawn party at Chatmoss Country Club celebrating the 50th anniversary gala of the bank.

"They had to move it inside because of the weather," someone said from the crowd.

The poster opened further to reveal the notes and lyrics of a bank song, "We're Just Wild About Piedmont."

Though there were murmurs of recognition from those watching, no one accepted Towarnicki's invitation to perform the song.

Next out of the capsule was a 1972 map of Martinsville and Henry County, a list of bank employees in April 1972, a statement of the financial condition of the bank at close of business Sept. 15, 1922 (100 years before), and a list of city and county officials which listed John Hooker as the current Circuit Court judge, Roscoe Reynolds as Commonwealth's Attorney, Tom Nolan as city manager, and Fred Renick as Martinsville's mayor, among others.

"There's the money we were looking for," Towarnicki said, pulling a single 1972 penny from the capsule and holding it up for all to see.

The final item was a small yellow box of Piedmont Trust Bank chewing gum.

At the event's end, former bank employees milled about, catching up with former coworkers, sharing memories, and lining up for closer looks at the items revealed that day, as well as photographs and other memorabilia brought in for the occasion.

Mary Lee Jessie, who retired from Piedmont Trust Bank in 1992 after 38 years of service, said she was there the day the building first opened, when the capsule was placed.

"All of us employees gave tours to customers who would come in. We toured the entire building," she recalled.

Hice said the day's events had been surreal.

"I remember as a kid walking by, looking at the capsule and thinking, 'I'm going to be over 30 when that thing is unveiled. I don't even know what my life is going to be like then ... Looking at it in the 90s and then getting to bring my wife and my son to (the opening) is the greatest thing that I could ask for.'"

Particularly as the building's future is currently uncertain, he said, the event was "a good piece of closure before everything switches hands."

Mayor Kathy Lawson said the day was a "great opportunity to share some history with our community, to bring together individuals who worked here for many, many decades. The tenure of most -- 20, 30, 40 years -- in today's world, just doesn't happen. Their dedication to the bank and the bank's dedication to them is very apparent."

That dedication was evident throughout the event, in the fondness with which those gathered spoke of their time at Piedmont Trust, the words and recollections shared by Frith, and the presence of the descendants of the bank's founders at the ceremony.

"It's a testament that people who live here love this place," Lawson said.

NCI to present Smithsonian Poster Exhibit highlighting the history of women inventors

American history, women with diverse backgrounds and interests created inventions that changed lives every day. But women haven't always had equal opportunities to be inventors or received as much recognition. The Smithsonian and the United States Patent and Trademark Office present "Picturing Women Inventors," a poster exhibition that explores the inventions of 19 highly accomplished American women. Astronauts, computer pioneers, and businesswomen join athletes, engineers, and even teenagers in this remarkable group of inventors. The posters will be on view in the lobby at New College

Institute through April 30 during business hours.

"Picturing Women Inventors" showcases the breakthroughs, motivations, and challenges women encountered while pursuing their goals as inventors. The poster exhibition highlights stories of inventors like Marilyn Hamilton, who after a hang-gliding accident in 1978 left her paralyzed, invented a lightweight wheelchair that was easy to maneuver. Diversity of background and age are showcased including inventor Alexis Lewis, who at 12-years-old in 2011 was inspired to adapt a traditional Native American sled, called a travois,

by adding wheels to create a simpler way to transport families and their belongings in Somalia.

This poster exhibition was designed to educate and inspire young people to see themselves as future inventors.

"Picturing Women Inventors" is distributed at no cost to schools, libraries, museums and community organizations by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It's sponsored by Lyda Hill Philanthropies IF/THEN Initiative and

Ericsson.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit www.sites.si.edu.

The Lemelson Center has led the study of invention and innovation at the Smithsonian since 1995. The center's activities advance scholarship on the history of invention, share stories about inventors and their work and nurture creativity in young people. The center is supported by The Lemelson Foundation and located in the National Museum of American History. For more information, visit www.invention.si.edu.

Elementary students attend Broadway show

Campbell Court Elementary School fifth graders experienced true Hakuna Matata on March 5 thanks to the support of For Alison Foundation and Eastman. Fifty-seven students attended the Broadway show Lion King on tour in Greensboro, N.C.

"The Lion King was an amazing show! It was my first time ever seeing a Broadway show and it had me on the edge of my seat! The actors were amazing and the workers were really nice. The props and the costumes were really cool! They made me feel like I was in the actual movie! I could go and watch that same show over and over again," said Saharie Hairston.

Fifth grade teacher Tamara Crowe said, "Taking our 5th graders to see the Broadway production of The Lion King was incredible. I loved watching the amazement on the student's faces as they entered the beautiful Tanger Performing Arts Center. Even though many had seen The Lion King movie, seeing the characters and set in this live production was like seeing it for the first time. I am so thankful for the For Alison Foundation and Mrs. Gravely for making this opportunity possible."

The For Alison Foundation exists to create opportunities for children in Southern Virginia to experience the arts. In addition to supporting student musicians and dancers, For Alison Foundation provides financial support to bring Dance Espanol to Henry County fourth graders and strives to ensure that children who have never seen a live performance have the chance to see ballet or theatre on stage.


Eastman is an avid supporter of students in our com-

munity and assists in literacy initiatives, safe driving programs in area high schools, and providing food boxes for families in Henry County.

"I really liked the play, like the way it was set up and the actors. I could see that they put a lot of time and effort into the performance. In my opinion, we had the best seats in the theater. I appreciate everyone who made this experience possible for me. I gave it a 10/10 because it was amazing," said Jonah Haynes.



Reniyah Dawson and Ny'Kaila Sligh are excited to review the Lion King playbill they received while at the Tanger Center.



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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Kaliyah Gravely, Naarah Leghorn, Analeigh Garcia Nolasco, and Daniel Qurioga Medina share a moment of excitement before the show begins.

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OPINION

Regarding unions

Back in 2009, I was hired to work at a big box retail store. I won't name the store, but their target is targeting consumers by offering high-quality merchandise at a price target that other retailers cannot target. I mean match.

I was hired to work in the stockroom at this store, but before I could begin, I had to go through training. There were about 15 of us in the training room, and the instructor would play various videotapes, none of which had anything to do with how to perform our actual jobs.

Some of the videos were safety-related. I remember one about how you shouldn't use a bungee cord to hold a bunch of shopping carts together because it could fly back and knock your eye out. The video concluded with an interview with the guy who inspired the policy, rocking a pretty cool eyepatch and hopefully living a wonderful life off of his massive settlement.

All of the videos referred to the employees of the business as a "family." If any young people are reading this column, I'd like to give you a piece of valuable advice: if a business refers to its employees as "family," the family they're referring to is the Manson family, in that they're going to demand unwavering loyalty and probably ask you to do things that are illegal.

Of all the videos that we watched, however, my favorite one was about unions. The video featured various actors

— presumably union actors — pretending to be employees of the store and discussing the pros and cons of unionization.

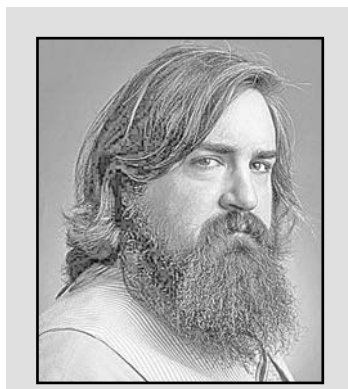
I'm kidding of course; they didn't mention any pros. To hear them tell it, unions are greedy businesses that exist only to siphon money from your paycheck in the form of "dues" and "fees." They take away the flexibility that allows businesses to best serve their customers. Sure, they were useful once, back when Dickensian street urchins were employed as chimney sweeps, but everything good that a union can do has already been made a law.

You're going to think I'm joking, but this video literally contained a scene of a blasted CGI wasteland with bent figures dressed in rags huddling around each other for warmth. Presumably this apocalyptic vision was the inevitable result of joining a union. When the video came to a close, I was half expecting to see a directing credit for Leni Riefenstahl.

Shortly after my training concluded I arrived for my first day on the job. It was so terrible that I quit after two hours. To put things in perspective, I once had a job working nights scraping paint and congealed goo off of tanks of dangerous chemicals, and I didn't quit that one. Of course, the money was better.

On my way out, I told the lady at the employee check-in desk that I was leaving.

"Ok," she said blandly.



By Ben R. Williams

"I'm not coming back."
"Ok," she said in the same tone of voice, and it occurred to me that she probably had this same exchange several times per week.

It's no surprise that this corporation (and so many others) are anti-union; unions tend to stand in the way of the abhorrent business practices that so many modern corporations have embraced.

Businesses complain that unions prevent them from being "flexible." That translates to "if someone quits, we can't make you do their job and your job for the same pay." They say that unions cause price increases. Translation: "We'll have to pay you what you're worth." They say that unions may cause scheduling difficulties. Translation: "Now we can't schedule you for exactly 39 hours per week to prevent you from getting benefits."

I'm not going to say that it's impossible for unions to become bloated and corrupt; there are plenty of examples in history. However, unions serve as a necessary form of checks

and balances when corporations begin taking advantage of and abusing their workers.

It is for this reason that I was very happy to learn about Chris Smalls.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Smalls organized a walkout to protest the conditions at the Staten Island Amazon warehouse where he worked. He was fired later that day.

Amazon has been fighting against unions since 2001, when they fired 850 Seattle employees following a unionization drive. Over the years, the stories that have come out of Amazon warehouses would shock Upton Sinclair.

There have been reports of warehouses reaching 114 F, requiring ambulances to be posted outside to treat the workers that pass out from the heat. There are reports of Amazon delivery drivers being forced to urinate in bottles because they can't meet their metrics if they stop to use the bathroom. One study found that from 2018-2020, injury rates at Amazon warehouses were double the rates of non-Amazon warehouses.

And then, of course, there was the horrible tragedy that occurred at an Amazon warehouse in Illinois. Employees were asked to continue working during tornado conditions, and company policy prevented them from having their cell phones on them, meaning they couldn't hear any emergency weather alerts. Six people were killed when a tornado hit the warehouse.

But back to Chris Smalls. Amazon officially fired Smalls for violating quarantine and

safety measures, but if you believe that's the real reason, I have a bridge to sell you.

Just a few days after Smalls' walkout that resulted in his firing, he became aware of a leaked memo from one of Amazon's top attorneys. The memo downplayed the threat of Smalls successfully unionizing an Amazon warehouse, describing him as "not smart, or articulate."

As you might imagine, that statement stuck in Smalls' craw. It also galvanized him into action, and despite the fact that he had no union experience, he began a grassroots movement using GoFundMe and, just a week or so ago, formed the Amazon Labor Union, successfully unionizing the very first Amazon warehouse. He's responsible for one of the single most successful union drives in modern history.

While celebrating the historic victory outside of the National Labor Relations Board offices in Brooklyn, Smalls uttered the greatest quote of the year thus far:

"We want to thank Jeff Bezos for going to space," he said. "Because when he was up there, we was signing people up."

It's hard to imagine a greater David and Goliath story than a Staten Island warehouse worker triumphing over one of the wealthiest men in the world. The story should also serve as a warning to other billionaires who value corporate profits over human lives: there are only so many billionaires out there, but there are a whole lot of Chris Smalls.

Honesty at a Funeral

More times than not the one thing absent from a funeral is honesty. Friends and family always embellish the attributes and accomplishments of the deceased. Especially if they die young; everything is what they could have been. However, when people have lived a full life it's as if the living feel compelled to clear the name of the deceased: "He was a good man." Somehow everyone gets preached into Heaven.

Imagine you're sitting in the pew and the eulogist says, "The deceased was happily married to two women simultaneously." Eyes begin to dart around the funeral home wondering if they heard that correctly. The eulogist continues with, "He was 45 when he entered his second marriage, and his new wife was only 16." I think men would roll their eyes and ladies would begin to clutch their pearls. "Wait!" Someone cries out, "What if I told you he was a Pentecostal preacher? Would that make it better?"

James 3:1 says that makes it worse, much worse.

When we hear about polygamy we often think of two groups: third world chiefs who display their dominance by having multiple wives, and followers of Joseph Smith, who authored Doctrine & Covenants which promotes polygamy in chapter 132. However, we don't think of Christians when we hear polygamy.

Today we're governed by the New Testament and the New Testament calls for heterosexual monogamy or celibacy: "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (1Cor. 7:2). Those are singular pronouns: "his own" and "her own." One for each.

The New Testament teaches that marriage should be a lifelong union: "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband" (Rom. 7:2). Again, singular pronouns. Aside from death or fornication (Matt. 19:9) there is no allowance for having two spouses.

While the definitions and rulings are given above, below Galatians 5:20 gives the consequence of living in fornication and adultery: "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Now you cannot say that the person who lives and dies in these "works of the flesh" is going to Heaven when Paul says that they "shall not inherit the Kingdom of God."

This is where many will call me unloving. To that I ask, "Do you think that God would have sent an unloving man to prepare the people to meet Jesus?" That was John's job according to Luke 1:17: "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." I'm teaching exactly what John said in Mark 6:16-18. John rebuked King Herod for marrying a woman while she was married to another man, his own brother, Philip. Anyone who does the same today is worthy of the same rebuke.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning... It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise... (Ecc. 7:4-5).

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

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Give us your view:

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

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

Farm market program for seniors gears up for season

Beginning on Wednesday, April 6, the Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA), will take applications over the phone The Farm Market Program for Seniors, (also known as the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program).

The SAAA will also continue to take applications throughout the following week(s), while the supply of coupons lasts.

Eligible seniors may receive \$45 worth of coupons that can be used to purchase locally-grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at participating Farmer's Markets. The number of people who can participate is limited.

You may qualify to participate if: you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before June 1, 2022, and you are a resident of Danville City, Martinsville City, Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County or Pittsylvania County. (Note, residents of Henry and

Pittsylvania counties must have access to and be willing to shop at participating Farmer's Market's outside of their county) and you do not live with and are not an immediate family member of the farmer who grows the produce, and you have a gross monthly household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program. Note the income limit for this program changes from year to year. Individuals who have qualified for the program in the past may not qualify for this year's program.

Individuals and couples who wish to apply for coupons must contact Southern Area Agency on Aging at 276-632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571. Applicants must be prepared to provide total gross household income information when applying over the phone or in person.

Southern Area Agency on Aging is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Earth Day celebration planned

Celebrate Earth Day with Piedmont Arts at Earth Day Family Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

Enjoy performances by Barefoot Puppet Theatre and story time with Blue Ridge Regional Library. Guests can also make their own recycled puppet and enjoy face painting, games and crafts with the Teen Arts Council. Additional booths and crafts from Virginia Museum of Natural History, Dan River Basin Association and Martinsville Bee City Committee.

Complimentary snacks will be available and a food truck will be on site for guests to purchase lunch.

Event Schedule
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Crafts, face painting, games, booths, snacks
10:30 + 11:30 a.m. Barefoot Puppet Theatre performances

12:15 p.m. Story time with Blue Ridge Regional Library

Piedmont Arts' Earth Day Family Day is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust. This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Gravely-Lester Art Garden is located

at 207 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, Virginia.

Piedmont Arts is located at 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

PIEDMONT ARTS

EARTH DAY FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY
APRIL 23

10 AM - 2 PM
GRAVELY-LESTER
ART GARDEN

Carter Bank & Trust

This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Kindergarten Registration

from page 1

services at CELC, said over the last year, her instructors have worked diligently to ensure “we are going to have some strong, well-prepared kindergarten students.

“We are passionate about our students, we love our students, and we are there to grow that love for learning and develop that firm foundation and have these kids ready for kindergarten and success beyond kindergarten,” she added.

Ronnell Penn, pre-school teacher, introduced two Clearview students, Brooklyn Mack and Gavyn Young, who demonstrated some of what they had learned this year.

“We differentiate our groups,” Penn said, “and some students are actually ready to read. We’ve been going over sight words. They’re going to read their book that they picked out for you.”

Mack read “Places We Go,” while Young selected “What Is It?”

When the new readers finished their stories, the room filled with applause.

As young children contemplate entering the school system, high school seniors are preparing to leave it.

Martinsville High School principal Aji Dixon urged parents to keep scholarship application deadlines in mind. He said a list of some of the available scholarships can be found by clicking the student tab on the division’s website, Martinsville.k12.va.us.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved a motion to allow board member Tony Jones to attend the meeting via phone. Board member Jay Dickens was absent.

*Heard a presentation by Janet Boucher, children’s librarian at the Blue Ridge Regional Library, about the various offerings of the library, particularly for students. Boucher said the library offers recreation for the whole family, including 1-day passes to the local YMCA and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. She said a library card also grants hold-

ers access to a number of streaming and online services, encompassing everything from books and magazines to movies and television.

Boucher said this year’s summer reading program, tentatively scheduled to begin June 6, helps children avoid the summer slide in reading skills.

*Recognized three instructors from Patrick Henry Elementary who received awards from the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium - 1st grade teacher Rebecca Vernon received the Technology Teacher award, STEM teacher Elizabeth Lynch received Instructional Support, and instructional technology resource teacher Monica Mitchell received Technology Support.

*Recognized students who competed in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) state conference. This year, 16 Martinsville students attended the competition. Andre Harrison placed fifth in prepared speaking; Harrison, Onyi Ugbomah-Otunuya, and Alfonso Lara Alvarado placed third in creative problem solving; and Paris Fulp, Anessia Reynolds, and Tyasia Wright placed second in creative problem solving. Several of the students are moving on to HOSA’s international conference in Nashville.

On May 1, a Vera Bradley bingo event will be held at Lancer Hall in Laurel Park to help raise funds for the trip.

*Recognized the students who placed in the U.S. Cellular Black History Art contest. Judith Tuttle placed first, Layce Everhart second, and Zy’Jerriah Martin placed third.

*Recognized student athlete Sierra Valentine, who made all-region and all-district in girls’ basketball.

*Recognized the division’s assistant principals in honor of Assistant Principal Appreciation Week.

*Heard an update from Martinsville Middle School staff, who discussed the 2022-23 program of studies, including elective courses, languages, and the new-



School board members and staff of Albert Harris Elementary recognized student Aria Lewis (center), who placed in the Dan River Basin Association’s (DRBA) Inspire Clean Water Art Contest, sponsored by the Martinsville Uptown Rotary Club.

ly-implemented GO TECH program, which is offered in grades 6-8 and helps students with career readiness. Units covered in the program are mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, welding, precision machining, health sciences, IT coding and networking, metrology, and manufacturing engineering.

*Recognized Albert Harris Elementary student Aria Lewis, who was the first-place overall winner in the Dan River Basin Association’s (DRBA) Inspire Clean Water Art Contest, sponsored by the Martinsville Uptown Rotary Club. The contest focused on the theme of protecting our rivers and streams and the wildlife that lives in them. Lewis’ submission was selected from over 100 submissions. She will paint her work on a storm drain in Martinsville near the farmers’ market. Lewis said this was the first art contest she had placed in, and credited her mother for helping with the project.

*Heard from Dixon, who provided an update on events at the high school and reminded parents that due dates are upcoming for many scholarship applications.

*Approved the minutes of the March 14 regular meeting, and the financial report ending March 31.

*Approved the memorandum of

understanding regarding the division’s continued participation in Governor’s School. According to Coordinator of Humanities and Advanced Programs Cary Wright, the city is allocated 25 spots for students to attend Governor’s School, all of which are filled. “It’s very competitive,” he said, adding the division often has to turn some applicants away.

*Unanimously approved updated policies from the Virginia School Board Association, many of which were minor language changes to existing policies.

*Heard a report from Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley.

Important dates:

*April 11-18: spring break

*April 19: joint meeting with city council at the central office

*April 21: spring band concert at Martinsville High School

*April 22: Boys & Girls Club Banquet at the TAD Space

*April 23: prom

*April 26: signing day at Patrick & Henry Community College

*April 27: City Council budget work session

*April 25-29: SOL testing

*May 6: special education field day

*May 7: SATs at Martinsville High School

*May 9: next regular board meeting

NASCAR

from page 1

Earles, Martinsville Speedway is a short track known for its distinctive paperclip shape, scenic Norfolk Southern Railway behind the backstretch, iconic Martinsville grandfather clock trophy, famous Martinsville hot dogs and its truly authentic, traditional race experience.

On Sept. 7, 1947, Martinsville Speedway held its first race, three months before the creation of NASCAR, with 9,013 fans and 750 seats ready on its original dirt track. On Sept. 25, 1949, future NASCAR Hall of Famer Red Byron won the first NASCAR race held at the Martinsville Speedway dirt track. Bill France Sr., founder of NASCAR and inaugural inductee to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, joined Earles as a 50 percent partner on the track in the early 1950’s.

Martinsville Speedway is the only NASCAR track to host NASCAR Cup Series races every year since its inception in 1949. The track was paved in 1955 and remains the shortest track on the Cup Series schedule at .526 miles. Its width is 55 feet with 800-foot asphalt straights and tight 588-foot concrete turns, banked at 12 degrees.

In 1964, Earles decided

it was time for a “different” type of trophy for race winners, so the track introduced the Martinsville grandfather clock in Victory Lane. The grandfather clocks are manufactured by a local company, Ridgeway Clocks, as part of a historic tradition that continues to this day. Fred Lorenzen won the first Martinsville grandfather clock.

“I’ve been coming to Martinsville since 1949, when NASCAR held its first Cup race,” said Richard Petty, seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion and all-time wins leader (15) at Martinsville Speedway. “I don’t remember the hot dogs starting that early but racing definitely did. I consider Martinsville to be our home track since it’s right up the road from the house. I always enjoy coming here and seeing who will take home the next clock.”

Earles remained chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Martinsville Speedway until his death on Nov. 16, 1999. In 2017, he was recognized with the NASCAR Hall of Fame Landmark Award. From Martinsville Speedway’s founding, Earles believed in offering fans an excep-

tional experience for a reasonable price.

“You’ll sell the fan a memory as much as you’ll sell them a ticket, and if the memory is good, they’ll come back,” shared Earles in 1998.

Clay Campbell carried on his grandfather’s legacy by joining Martinsville Speedway in 1978 and becoming track president in 1988. Campbell, the longest serving track president in NASCAR, has led Martinsville Speedway’s continued success at the track and the organization’s active role giving back to the local community.

“Martinsville Speedway holds significance in the history of NASCAR as the only track to host a NASCAR Cup Series race since its inception in 1949,” said Mike Helton, Senior Advisor

to NASCAR. “H. Clay Earles and Clay Campbell have built one of the most competitive tracks in NASCAR, along with fan experience that allows fans to step back in time to a different era when engines fire. From their traditional Martinsville grandfather clock to their famous hot dog and scenic railway views, Martinsville continues to be a foundational piece in the history and future of NASCAR.”

“When you think about the rich history of NASCAR, Martinsville Speedway has played a huge role in delivering some of the most memorable moments every single year since the sport’s inception,” said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR Senior Vice President of Racing Development & Strategy. “As the sport evolves

and grows, the competition on the track and the authentic fan experience at Martinsville Speedway will continue to make lasting impressions on every fan and competitor for years to come.”

After 70 years of racing, Martinsville Speedway became the first major motorsports facility in the nation to install LED lights in 2017. In the fall of that year, Martinsville’s Cup Series race was the first to finish under the lights at the track. On June 20, 2020, the first full Cup Series night race at Martinsville Speedway was won by Martin Truex Jr.

As Martinsville Speedway celebrates its 75th anniversary, the track will recognize and honor its history with throughout the year. For more information on Martinsville

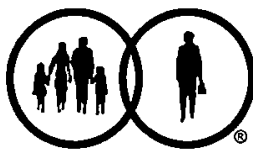
Speedway’s 75th anniversary season, visit www.martinsvillespeedway.com/75th.

To plan your visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame and view the Martinsville Speedway 75th anniversary exhibit, visit www.nascarhall.com/explore/exhibits/martinsville-75. To purchase tickets to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, visit www.nascarhall.com/tickets.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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April 4, 2022

Dear Patients,

It has been my pleasure to serve our community for the past 24 years, first as an obstetrician/gynecologist with a small amount of family medicine that slowly developed into family medicine full time. I have had the privilege of meeting a great many people and developing lifelong friendships with many patients. But now is the time for me to retire and pass along my patients to the other competent providers here at Patrick County Family Practice.

Please know that your medical records are safely on file here at Patrick County Family Practice and remain confidential as per federal law. If you decide to take on a new physician outside of our practice, then you can follow the traditional routes to have your records transferred.

Over the past 24 years I have watched many families in the area grow and have shared heartache and joy with hundreds of patients. I appreciate your loyalty throughout the years and will take the memories of all that I have experienced with me into my retirement.

If you have any questions, you can contact Patrick County Family Practice at 276-694-4466 or at www.patrickcountyfamilypractice.com.

My retirement is effective April 28, 2022.

If I do not have an appointment to see you before April 28th, I wish you health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph L. Kramer, M.D.

Ralph L. Kramer, M.D.

18877 Jeb Stuart Hwy • P.O. Box 1019 • Stuart, Virginia 24171-1019
 Telephone (276) 694-4466 • Fax (276) 694-2909 • www.patrickcountyfamilypractice.com

UP

from page 1

city council meetings.

Project director Chuck D’Aprix of Downtown Economics and his team recommended branding the city as a hub of entrepreneurship as the pathway to revitalization. That means, he said, that “every decision made by Uptown Partnership should be tethered to the concept of entrepreneurship” and allows for the attraction of new entrepreneurs as well as offering support for existing businesses.

The recommendations included a number of redesigned streetscapes and additional green space, including a large civic park. Team members proposed a number of changes and improvements to the Fayette Street area, including façade improvements and the placement of a multi-story mixed-use commercial building at the corner of Market and Fayette Streets.

The team’s recommendations also included prioritization of historic preservation.

UP Director Kathy Deacon said that a copy of the full report, including data collected and complete explanations of the team’s recommendations, is available at the UP office for anyone interested in diving into it more thoroughly. It will eventually be made available on UP’s website.

Dates for the community engagement sessions are: Monday, April 11 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the TAD Space (20 East Church Street, Martinsville)

Thursday, April 28 from 12-1:30 p.m., location TBD
 Wednesday, May 11 from 6-7:30 p.m., location TBD
 Saturday, June 4 from 1-2:30 p.m., location TBD

Though participants are asked to register for the free sessions on Eventbrite, registration is not required to attend. For more information, including the locations

OBITUARIES

Stephen B. Biggs

Stephen B. Biggs, 59, of Martinsville, passed away on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the Martinsville Health & Rehab center. He was born in Washington D.C. on July 29, 1962 to the late Benjamin Biggs and the late Jane Mayes Biggs. He was also preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Louella Biggs and step-mother,



Laura Biggs

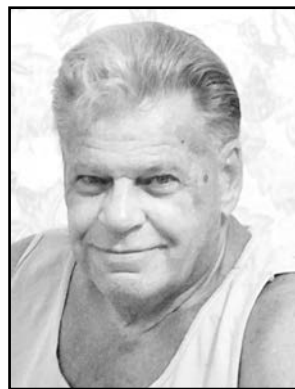
Stephen is survived by his daughter, Taylor Biggs (Thomas Lane) and sister, Vickie Pewitte (Tim) both of Tennessee.

All services will be private.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Biggs family.

Rev. Elwood H. Gallimore

Rev. Elwood H. Gallimore, 73, of Martinsville, passed away Thursday, March 31, 2022 at Atrium Health-Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. He was born on December 20, 1948 to the late Daniel Harmon Gallimore and the late Dorothy Mae Viars Gallimore. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Janice Cabbie; daughter, Sharon Rose.



Elliot, Levi Owen, Billy Paul (Tracy) and Penny Ann Dodson (David); son-in-law, Richard Gilley, 18 grandchildren; 13 Great-grandchildren; brothers, Wayman Otis (Janie) and Douglas Buford (Armintia); several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in the Bassett Funeral Service Chapel with Deacon Dale Fields officiating. Burial was in Henry Memorial Park in Bassett.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service in Bassett is serving the Gallimore family.

He was the pastor of the Evangelistic Tabernacle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Elwood is survived by his wives, Sabrina Hope and Sarah Ruth; children, Ryan Isaac (Cynthia), Rachel Elaine Barker (Justin), Mark Samuel, Matthew

James Beal, Jr.

James Beal, Jr., 76, of Martinsville, passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart. He was born in Oxford, NC on May 28, 1945 to the late James Beal, Sr. and the late Gladys Claiborne Beal.



James is survived by his son, Tony Beal (Amy); daughter, Shannon Newman (Eddie); grandchildren, Austin Davis, Stacey Hunt, Brittany Fulcher, Ashley Pryor, Michael Short, Lyndsey Newman and Mason Newman; 10 great-grandchildren; Sisters, Jo Mangum, Patsy Hicks

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Beal family.

(David), Pat Leith (Steve) and Gail Lane.

All services will be private.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Brain Injury Awareness at biausa.org, the SPCA of Martinsville or Peace's Chapel Baptist Church Memorial Fund, c/o Frank Frazier, 4149 Sawmill Road, Oxford, NC 27565.

Mildred Martin Massey

Mildred Martin Massey, 84, of Bassett, died Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at her home. She was born in Henry County on April 14, 1937 to the late Harry Martin and the late Hattie Martin. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Edward Wayne Massey and brother, Leon Massey.



She had worked for eight years at the Bassett main office and then became a housewife taking care of her sons. Mildred would always put other people's needs before hers. She loved being outdoors looking at flowers and watching all the different animals that

would come out.

She is survived by two sons, Gary Wayne Massey and Larry Edward Massey; two sisters, Betty Moore (Billy) and Lou Dean Dehart (Tom).

The funeral was held on Tuesday, April 5, in the Bassett Funeral Service Chapel. The Rev. Dale Wilson officiated. Burial was in the Martin Family cemetery.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service in Bassett is serving the Massey family.

Linda Susan Carmichael Crawford

Linda Susan Carmichael Crawford, 71, of Fieldale, Virginia passed away Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial. She was born January 10, 1951, in Henry County, Virginia to the late Wilburn McKinley Carmichael and Virgie Christine Clark Carmichael. She was a member of Valley Drive Baptist Church.



She is survived by her husband of 55 years, James Ralph Crawford, Sr.; daughters, Evelyn Christine Corns, Elizabeth Susan "Susie" Ray (Ross); Samantha Crawford Sigmon (Chris); son, James Ralph Crawford, Jr. (Michelle); sister, Virgie Carolyn McHone; brother,

Jerry Wayne Carmichael (Rosemary); grandchildren, Andrew James Corns (Jessika), Zachary David Corns (Wendy), Sara Elizabeth Munn (Jonathan), Mattox Crawford Sigmon, Aria Nicole Crawford, Benton Clark Sigmon; and great-grandchild, Lillianna Jan Corns.

A funeral was held Thursday, April 7, 2022, at Valley Drive Baptist Church with Pastor Bobby Rakes officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Bonita Elaine "Bonnie" Zimmerman

Bonita Elaine "Bonnie" Zimmerman passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at Mulberry Creek Assisted Living. She was born October 29, 1931 in Lynchburg, Va. to the late Mabel Louise Smith and George M. Zimmerman, Sr. She was also predeceased by her brother, George Morris Zimmerman, Jr.



Bonnie attended Central Grammar School, Junior High School and graduated from Martinsville High School in 1950. She graduated from Lynchburg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 and received her RN degree. She returned to Martinsville after graduation and was an operating room nurse at Martinsville General Hospital for three years. She then moved to Philadelphia, PA to study at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Then she became an Operating Room Supervisor at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Richmond, Va. for five years before returning to Martinsville General Hospital to take over as their nursing supervisor.

Later she became a C-shift nurse at DuPont for three years. When an opening became available, she took the position as a teacher at the Practical Nursing School at Martinsville General Hospital, later

known as the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County and lately known as SOVAH Health. After twenty years of teaching, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Region VI Health Occupation Educators at the H.E.O. conference in Charlottesville, Va.

Miss Zimmerman taught Practical Nursing for twenty-two years before she retired in 1993.

She is survived by her sister, Jo Ann Zimmerman Frost and her nieces, Jody F. Walker (Carter), Laurie F. Williams (Matthew) and Nancy Z. Cross (Nick); her nephews, Brian Zimmerman (Eva), Kelly Zimmerman (Rhonda) and Steven Zimmerman (April); and twelve grandnieces and grandnephews.

Due to the Coronavirus, the funeral service will be private and for the family only.

Memorial contributions may be made to Broad Street Christian Church where she was a member or to a charity of your choice.

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

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Delois Ann Jackson Digesare

Delois Ann Jackson Digesare, 65, of Henry, Virginia passed away Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, North Carolina. She was born December 12, 1956, in Roanoke, Virginia to the late Frank Jackson and Ruby Doss Jackson. She was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed crafts and spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Brenda Collins and brother, Clifford Jackson.

She is survived by a daughter, Lucia

Talton (JeRome); sons, James Digesare (Michelle) and Ricky Collins (Jessica); sisters, Sharon McClain and Sheila Jennings (Cecil); and grandchildren, Octavia Mann, Sincere Mann, Dakota Collins, D'Shon Talton, Riley Collins, Drake Collins, Logan Huff, Josh Hall and Chelsea Hall.

A memorial service will be held Friday, April 8, 2022, at 4 p.m. at Wright Funeral Service Chapel.

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

Francis Scott Keller

Francis Scott Keller, 54, of Fieldale, Virginia passed away Sunday, April 3, 2022, at his residence. He was born September 19, 1967, in Virginia to the late Claude Keller and Allene Keller. He enjoyed music and working on lawnmowers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Tammy

Lynn Underwood Keller.

He is survived by his son, Chris Keller; half-brother, Brian Mullis; and one granddaughter.

All services will be private.

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

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Physical Therapist Assistant Faculty/Program Director, Assistant Athletic Director for Operations, Janitor, Building and Grounds Technician, Workforce Grants Specialist, Workforce Grants Advisor, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in Communication Studies (Speech)- Patrick County and Main Campus Sites, English, Mechatronics, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing, and Welding. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick & Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Ferrum College - Farm Museum Interpreter (Seasonal)

Ferrum College is seeking outgoing Museum Interpreter's 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.

Ferrum College - Financial Aid Counselor

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the entry level position of Financial Aid Counselor. The College seeks an energetic individual to become part of a successful team.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree required
Strong Oral and written communications

Ability to work effectively with other members of the team and with students and their families

Ability to take initiative, work independently, and be flexible

Proficient with good office practices such as record keeping and telephone etiquette

Knowledge and experience in database functions

Knowledge of financial aid practices is preferred, but not required

Exceptional organizational skills and ability to multitask
This position reports to the Director of Financial Aid. Review of applications will begin immediately. Position open until filled. Background check is required.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter of interest and a resume with names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: resumes@ferrum.edu, or Human Resources Office, Ferrum College, PO Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring - Multiple Seasonal Positions!

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.

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **April 27, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following case:

Case S-22-07 Joseph Alvin French

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of an arcade for gaming machines "skill games" inside an existing building. The property is located at 10053-10079 Virginia Ave. (aka 10053-10055 Virginia Ave), in the Ridgeway District, and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 71.6(8)/6.7.

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

Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Properties:

17 High Street - condemned 11/7/2019

Owners: Tiny W. Wooding, Sole Heir at Law of Charlie Burl Fulton, deceased

127 N. Beaver Street - condemned 7/22/2014

1/3 int. Ernestine Edwards, Sole Heir at Law of Kenneth B. Edwards, Sr., 1/3 int. William W. Edwards, III and 1/3 int. Cheryl S. Edwards

210 Holt Street - condemned 10/7/2009

1/2 int. to Benjamin F. Smith, Heir at Law of Jessica Smith, deceased; 1/2 int. to Dennis F. Grant & Woodrow B. Grant, Jr., Sole Heirs at Law of Mary Smith Grant Matthews, deceased

210 Park Street - condemned 12/12/2018

Ferris M. Hodges & Allie M. Hodges, h/w

403 Clearview Drive - condemned 5/29/2018

Flora Jean Bender Smith

538 Dillard Street - condemned 3/21/2000

Tracy Blaine Dunford, Sole Heir at Law of Robert Eugene Dunford, deceased

550 Dillard Street - condemned 5/12/2009

William Lee Fisher

326 Clift Street - condemned 4/10/2015

Glynda C. Wishnevsky, Roland B. Carter, Gerald L. Carter and Ritchie L. Carter, Sole Heirs at Law of John Thomas Carter, deceased

All unknown/unidentified Heirs, Lien Holders and trustees for the above properties.

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:

17 High Street

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect

PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.

PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.

PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

127 N. Beaver Street

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect

PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.

PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.

PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

210 Holt Street

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect

PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.

PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.

PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

210 Park Street

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect

PM-302.7 - Accessory structure not maintained structurally sound.

PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.10 - Porch not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

PM-601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

403 Clearview Drive

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect.

PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not clean and sanitary.

PM-504.1 - Water not maintained safe and in functioning condition.

PM-505.1 - Every plumbing fixture not properly connected to public water.

PM-505.3 - Water system not maintained to supply water.

PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance with requirements for occupied building.

PM-604.3 - Electrical system constitutes hazard.

538 Dillard Street

PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.

PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.13 - Doors not maintained weather tight.

PM-304.15 - Exterior doors and locks not maintained.

PM-304.18 - Devices designed to provide security not maintained.

PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.

550 Dillard Street

PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.

PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.

PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.

PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.

PM-304.10 - Deck and stairway not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

PM-304.11 - Chimney not maintained in good repair.

PM-501.1 - Plumbing and water systems not maintained as approved.

PM-601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

PM-702.1 - Safe and continuous path not maintained to the building.

326 Clift Street

PM-105.0 - Unsafe structure, unfit for habitation.

PM-301.3 - Vacant structures not maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition.

PM-304.1 - Exterior of structure not maintained in good repair.

PM-305.1 - Interior of structure not maintained in good repair

PM-504.1 - Plumbing system not maintained in good working order.

PM-603.1 - Mechanical equipment not maintained in a safe working condition.

PM-605.1 - Electrical system not maintained in a safe manner.

PM-704.1 - Fire protection systems not maintained in operable condition.

ORDER

The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

Right of Appeal

You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Newly created motorsportstrail launched

The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) launched the Virginia Motorsports Heritage Trail, a major tourism development project connecting travelers to the rich and vibrant racing history throughout Virginia.

The newly created trail offers visitors a way to enjoy Virginia's numerous racing destinations and see where some of the greatest NASCAR drivers compete, see where influential people in racing such as Wendell Scott and Denny Hamlin got their start, and virtually visit historic and current tracks across Virginia.

"With about 20 tracks across the Commonwealth, fans can attend events almost any weekend of the year," said Rita McClenny, President and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "The Virginia Motorsports Heritage Trail will allow travelers to experience the state in a new way by exploring the history behind the heart-pounding action fans experience."

A bill introduced by State Sen. William M. Stanley Jr., R-Moneta, and approved by the Virginia General Assembly directed VTC to convene a group of stakeholders to initiate the creation, design, and implementation of a NASCAR and motor vehicle racing heritage trail for the promotion of tourism and economic development in Virginia.

"Virginia's racing history is full of excitement and interesting information that many people simply do not know about," said Stanley. "We have great race tours like the very popular SMART Modified Tour that holds races at

tracks like South Boston Speedway, Dominion Raceway, Franklin County Speedway, and Motor Mile Speedway every year. The Virginia Motorsports Heritage Trail will showcase these incredible stories and draw more spectators and motorsports history lovers to the area for our network of tracks and attractions."

During April, Virginia will host two NASCAR Cup Series race weekends with Richmond Raceway April 1-3 and Martinsville Speedway April 7-9. Watch the fastest cars in the history of South Boston Speedway April 29-30 for the first-ever 410-winged Sprint car event and join the excitement of super late models and a \$20,000 win on May 21 at the Virginia is for Racing Lovers King of the Commonwealth Cup at Virginia Motor Speedway. And on May 13-15, explore an "Automotive Amusement Park" at VIRginia International Raceway's HyperFest, the largest motorsports festival on the East Coast.

Racing continues every weekend in the Summer and Fall. NASCAR returns to Richmond Raceway August 13-14, and on August 20, fans will celebrate the official 65th Anniversary at South Boston Speedway. Catch the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour 150 at Langley Speedway on August 27. This season, Martinsville Speedway is celebrating its 75th anniversary season, ending with the NASCAR Cup Series in Martinsville October 27-30.

To learn more about the Virginia Motorsports Heritage Trail, visit virginia.org/events/motorsports.

Carter Bank & Trust announces promotion

Richard Owen recently was promoted to Executive Vice President – Mortgage Banking & Corporate Sales Director, according to a release from Carter Bank & Trust. Owen will continue to lead the Bank's Mortgage and Corporate Sales Divisions.

Owen, who has more than 25 years of experience within the financial services industry, joined the bank in 2017 and was instrumental in starting the Bank's Mortgage Division, previously served as Senior Vice President.

"Richard has been a key member of the leadership team at Carter for the past several years and has been instrumental in building and growing our residential mortgage portfolio to over \$400 million." Carter Bank & Trust President Brad Langs said. "He also heads our Corporate Sales initiative, and works tirelessly with all lines of business to help ensure our customers' needs are met, while ensuring we have the most modern tools and resources available for both customers and associates. This promotion is well-deserved and a testament to his loyalty, enthusiasm and leadership at Carter Bank & Trust."

In addition to growing the mortgage portfolio, Owen has expanded the Bank's mortgage services throughout Virginia and North Carolina,

as well as introduced tools like Mortgage2Go, an interactive digital tool that helps customers stay engaged throughout the mortgage process. He has also helped launch new programs ranging from traditional mortgages to new construction solutions.

"I'm honored to be a part of the Carter Bank & Trust team and very thankful to be surrounded by associates who have helped put Carter Bank & Trust in a position to succeed," Owen said. "Without the people I am privileged to work with every day, we would not be able to serve the needs of our customers and be seen as a leader in the banking space."

In addition to overseeing the Bank's Mortgage Division, Owen serves on several committees throughout the bank and has been instrumental in implementing Club Care, Carter Bank & Trust's employee wellness program.

Headquartered in Martinsville, Va., Carter Bank & Trust is a \$4.1 billion, state-chartered community bank with branches in Virginia and North Carolina. Since 1974, Carter Bank & Trust has built a reputation upon a tradition of care for the communities it serves through convenience, local service, and custom solutions for all customers.

Lab Monitoring from page 1

Working directly with U.S. federal agencies and international non-governmental organizations, the CHML team is playing a pivotal role in identifying cultural heritage sites that have already experienced war-related destruction and, more importantly, helping identify vulnerable sites in an effort to mitigate future destruction.

CHML staff use a number of technologies to achieve this goal, including high-resolution satellite imagery that allows them to rapidly identify destructive events and active threats to monuments, museums, archives, historic buildings, archaeological sites, and landscapes. Through its partnership with the SCRI, CHML works with the U.S. Army Reserve's famed and recently reactivated Monuments Officers and other stakeholders at research and response-oriented organizations.

CHML's involvement with Ukraine has garnered national attention, with articles appearing in news outlets, including the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The CHML team's work in Ukraine predated even the first rumblings of the current conflict. In fact, Bassett said Ukraine was being monitored by CHML during a Sept. 2021 interview with The Enterprise about the creation of the lab and the reactivation of the Monuments Men unit.

The country's cultural sites were being documented and monitored as early as April 2020, thanks to CHML Senior Analyst Damian Koropecykj. He wanted to study the area to gain a better understanding of the effects of Russia's annexation of Crimea and the potential impacts of that action on cultural sites.

"I think people forget that Ukraine has been in conflict now for almost 8 years," Koropecykj said. "It's seen thousands of lives lost," as well as a number of impacts to cultural heritage. "We came into that not knowing exactly what we'd see, but very quickly we saw that, beyond impacts due to artillery fire and whatnot, you also saw direct involvement with destructively appropriating monuments in Crimea."

He said the Russian government even admitted to archaeological excavations in Crimea. "They've put out numbers saying millions of artifacts have been repatriated back to Russia."

Since the CHML team began working on Ukraine, it has created a comprehensive cultural inventory of the country and now monitors around 26,000 sites countrywide. Bassett said the term 'cultural heritage' is broadly defined in the work of CHML, ranging from monuments, archaeological and architectural sites, religious sites such as churches, museums, cemeteries, archives, even zoos and aquariums.

As Bassett noted, many places in the world, including the U.S., does not have a comprehensive list of its cultural heritage, and so it fell to the CHML team to create one. That work, in part, was taken up by a select group of students, interns, and volunteers, who continue actively looking for sites to add to the database using social media and internet research.

Dr. Kate Harrell, CHML research associate and director of education, said that in addition to the team of five staffers who were on hand at the museum that day, volunteers and students bring the CHML workforce to about 30 people. Part of her job is training that group on the processes involved in the lab's work, particularly open-sourced research.

Students learn to navigate and understand the information they find combing through Twitter, TikTok, and other sites. The posts, Harrell said, aren't necessarily in English, making the task even more difficult. Students must have the skillset to understand what is true, what is not, and know how to validate information.

"I manage that workforce and make sure that they're learning how to do this," she said. "My intention is that we build a cadre of trained professionals coming through the university."

Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, VMNH archaeologist and CHML senior analyst, said the student team generates leads which she and other senior team members then track down to confirm or refute reports of impacts.

Gunter-Bassett said her work at CHML was focused on the horn of Africa until "all hands shifted to Ukraine." Now, she has been doing imagery confirmation of destruction of different sites the team has reason to believe have been impacted, and building a database documenting the destruction, which can be passed along to stakeholders.

"We funnel everything up through our chain of partners," Gunter-Bassett said. "Things go from us to the Smithsonian to the State Department and then out to different partners they have in Ukraine —museums, folks on the ground who can make use of that information, to go out and investigate how or if something is indeed impacted."

For example, not long after Russia's invasion began, the team received several pieces of evidence that a museum in the town of Ivankiv had been damaged. The first was an indication from a satellite sensor showing a higher heat signature than normal in the area. The second was a slew of social media posts. The team tasked a satellite to more closely examine the site.



The staff of the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML), based at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), has spent the last few weeks documenting the damage or destruction of cultural heritage sites in Ukraine as well as threats to others a result of the Russian invasion. From left, Dr. Hayden Bassett, CHML director and assistant curator of archaeology at VMNH; Damian Koropecykj, CHML senior analyst; Dr. Kate Harrell, CHML research associate and director of education; Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, CHML senior analyst and VMNH archaeologist; and William Welsh, CHML director of operations and VMNH archaeologist.

Bassett displayed two satellite images that, together, told a chilling story. In one image dated Feb. 14, an L-shaped building sits among homes and other structures in a green landscape. In a second image, dated Feb. 27, the roof of the building was gone. Only the shell remained.

"The contents of the building are completely burned out," Bassett said.

"This was a major regional museum," he continued, "focused on folk life and local history but which also housed 25 very important, nationally significant works of art. We now know 10 of those were saved, but the rest of them were destroyed."

No other structures around the museum appeared to have been impacted, which would seem to indicate the building was specifically targeted.

Another satellite image appeared to show a large swath of green-brown field just outside the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, unremarkable except that the landscape was pockmarked with dozens of craters.

"What you're looking at is an example of the type of images that we look at on a daily basis," Bassett said. "What you're looking at are artillery craters on the ground. We can map those day by day, watch the conflict unfold as it gets near some of the areas where we have a concern with cultural heritage that might be vulnerable or impacted."

One of the craters, Bassett estimated, was 10-12 feet across.

"These are very significant impacts," he said. "Now imagine one of those impacts as it hits an urban area, which we're seeing throughout this conflict. Whether or not the intended target was cultural heritage, cultural heritage is going to be impacted."

"It's different in Ukraine," Koropecykj said of the destruction he and the rest of the CHML team were witnessing. "A lot of other big conflicts in the past where we've seen cultural heritage being blown up for example, generally the message to the victims of that is 'you don't belong here and this doesn't belong to you.' But in Ukraine it's very different. What you're seeing is these entities (the Russians) who are saying, 'we belong here and this belongs to us.'"

Why the invading Russian forces want to target cultural sites, he said, "it's so easy to tie your identity to something like that. Even when you drive through Martinsville, you drive past a church or you drive past a statue, everybody has that landmark. When that's impacted, it's a visceral feeling for people. If you can do that on a larger scale, you're impacting a national identity."

"We always have eyes on the conflict," Bassett said. "Whether those are actual optics or (satellite) sensors, we'll get the information and know here to look and when."

Bassett said that he and his team are only reporting potential impacts thus far. There are several lines of evidence they and others must work through to confirm what they are seeing on the satellite images. However, just a few weeks after the conflict began, the team has identified several hundred impacts to cultural heritage sites around the country.

"It is significant," Bassett said.

Bassett announces fiscal first quarter results

Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq: BSET) announced Thursday its results of operations for its first quarter ended February 26, 2022.

Robert H. Spilman, Jr., Chairman and CEO, wrote that although incoming wholesale orders remained relatively strong for our first quarter of 2022, we began to make progress in reducing the enormous backlog that has ballooned during the eighteen months of the pandemic that preceded the start of our fiscal year. Consolidated revenue grew by 16% and wholesale shipments increased by 19% in the quarter. Operating income of \$6.5 million was 16% ahead of last year primarily thanks to a strong showing in our corporate retail division. Diluted earnings per share of \$0.44 compared to \$0.37 for last year represented a 19% increase.

The big story for Bassett's first quarter, of course, was the sale of the assets of our Zenith Freight Lines subsidiary to J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. for approximately \$87 million. Subsequently, we announced the declaration of a \$1.50 per share special dividend that will be paid to shareholders on April 6, 2022. In our income statement, we will classify Zenith results as "Income from Discontinued Operations," meaning that Bassett is back to being a pure play furniture manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer. Zenith went out with a bang in its final full quarter under

Bassett ownership, recording a net profit of \$1.3 million. For the most part, the past four weeks have been "business as usual," as J.B. Hunt, coupled with the previous Zenith staff, continues to run our former distribution centers and transport our products to our Bassett Home Furnishings stores and to certain independent Bassett accounts. Once again, we are excited about our new partnership with J.B. Hunt as we prepare to manufacture a new product lineup that will be stocked in a new Regional Fulfillment Center opening in Florida later this spring. All eyes will be on our ability to offer rapid service to our Florida stores and open market customers, which we believe can significantly drive new sales in the future. We are pleased that Zenith's founder, Jack Hawn, will stay on and work with J.B. Hunt and Bassett in a consultative role to help us realize our vision of operating through a national network of Regional Fulfillment Centers. Jack and his wife, Debbie, founded Zenith in 1973 and grew it into the premier less than truckload ("LTL") furniture transportation company in the country. Their work ethic and good nature has endeared them to the team at Bassett and their expertise led to a successful closing chapter of Bassett's ownership of Zenith.

Incoming wholesale orders were down 6.8% compared to 2021 but remained robust in comparison to the past few years.

90% of the order shortfall to last year came in our Club Level motion segment, where we still have a large backlog and where we have been most affected by rising container prices. Orders for our domestic upholstery and our outdoor products grew compared to 2021 and remain strong. Wood orders declined slightly, particularly with our imported wood products that have been susceptible to COVID-related factory shutdowns in Vietnam. Our inability to keep pace with the incessant inflationary pressures that we are experiencing cost us between 150 to 200 basis points in our consolidated operating margins for the quarter. The material cost in our upholstery operations was the biggest culprit as practically every raw material involved with manufacturing a sofa, chair or sectional has continued to escalate in price over the past eighteen months. Recognizing this, we are reluctantly implementing our sixth wholesale price increase in the new inflationary world of the last 15 months.

Corporate retail profits, on the other hand, tripled to \$3.4 million in the period as higher gross margins and leverage from

delivering our order backlog combined to produce better results. We also enjoyed a strong Presidents Day promotion to end the quarter, thus providing for the likelihood of continued strong retail deliveries for the foreseeable future. We are also busy evaluating our real estate portfolio of owned and leased locations. Current plans call for the remodeling of three stores in 2022 while opening one new store and closing another. We also plan to sell the real estate and building in one of our locations this year while purchasing another in a new market.

On the whole, we were pleased with the quarter although the aforementioned vulnerability that we have experienced regarding cost pressure remains frustrating. As we wind down our backlog over the upcoming months, the relationship between our invoice price and our production costs will more closely align. Concurrently, we plan to capitalize on the market share that we have gained in the open market and the improved operating model in our retail stores to make 2022 another strong year for Bassett.

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