

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Herb Atwell, co-owner of Mountain Valley Brewing, examines some of the hops growing on the 10-acre property he shares with his wife, Peggy Donivan. Their hop-growing operation eventually transformed into Mountain Valley Brewing, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this Saturday.

Growing craft: Axton brewery celebrates fifth year

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton is celebrating its fifth anniversary on Saturday with a party that includes music, a food truck, a cigar tent and even Vikings wandering the grounds.

The celebration is quite the feat for Herb Atwell and Peggy Donivan, the husband and wife team who own the brewery, which is situated on a pic-

turesque 10-acre property on Mountain Valley Road. The pair never dreamed of opening their own brewery. In fact, Atwell said he wasn't much of a beer drinker until he met Donivan, who enjoyed home brewing.

"She got me into it," Atwell said, sitting on the deck of Mountain Valley's brew barn. Behind him, a hops field was visible across the yard, towering poles holding up strings to allow the plants to climb upward toward the sunlight. To his

See **Craft Brewery**, page 3



Natalie Hodge (center) with the cast of the first season of her show, "Hometown Hustle," which premiered on YouTube last Thanksgiving. Hodge is currently in search of new entrepreneurs to feature in season two.

Hometown Hustle searching for season 2 stars

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville native and filmmaker Natalie Hodge's web reality series, "Hometown Hustle" is gearing up for a second season, and is currently searching for its stars. The series, which highlights the entrepreneurial spirit of local small business owners, premiered last Thanksgiving on the Rudy's Girl YouTube channel.

Hodge, who is the series creator and host, discussed the success of the first season and plans for the second during a visit to Teresa's School of Baton and Dance in Collinsville. There, she and a film crew were catching up with owners Teresa Martin and Chelsea Krontz, who were featured in the first season.

The day's filming reveals a glimpse at part of the magic of the show, which is Hodge herself. She is a host who highlights the skills of her stars by becoming a willing participant in the business they have built. As the experts instruct her in her tasks, their knowledge of and passion for their industry shine through.

That day, for example, Hodge entered the room wearing a tutu. She gamely attempts a few ballet steps and a forward roll with instruction from Martin and Krontz. The camera crew films the interaction.

The first season of the show, she said, received "an overwhelmingly amazing response. It really exceeded our expectations, even though we had really high expectations. The global feedback that we received, looking at some of the

See **Hometown Hustle**, page 3

Rooster Walk returns with one of the strongest band lineups in its history

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

After several pandemic-induced years of silence, the fields and hills of Pop's Farm in Axton will once again come alive next weekend when the Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival makes its much-anticipated return with its 12th annual festival.

The festival was created by close friends of Edwin "the Rooster" Penn and Walker Shank, who both passed away in their 20s, in 2007 and 2008, respectively. According to the festival's website, Rooster Walk "celebrates life and the notion that you shouldn't waste a moment of it."

"It's coming back to the full-size, full-scale Rooster Walk that folks knew and loved before COVID," said Rooster Walk Executive Director Johnny Buck. "We've got our strongest lineup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Martinsville and Henry County is gearing up for the 12th annual Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, which is scheduled for May 26-29. The annual event attracts thousands of visitors from across the U.S. and around the world to the picturesque Pop's Farm in Axton for four days jam-packed with music.

ever," including headliner Grace Potter, described by "Spin Magazine" as "one of the greatest living voices in rock today," and the band Little Feat, who are set to perform their entire

"Waiting for Columbus" album.

Other artists in this year's lineup of more than 50 bands include Moon Taxi, Lettuce, Tab Benoit, The War and Treaty, Yarn,

Mountain Heart, Sol Driven Train, Crawford & Power, The Wooks, Dead Reckoning, the T.C. Carter Band, After Jack, and Striking Copper.

See **Rooster Walk**, page 5

'To secure the blessings of liberty:' McGarry sworn in as circuit court judge

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Hon. Judge James McGarry, formerly of the Henry County General District Court, was sworn in May 13 as the new Circuit Court judge of the 21st Judicial District, serving the City of Martinsville, Henry and Patrick counties.

"You are respected by every judge sitting here, by everyone in this courtroom," said retired Circuit Court Judge Martin Clark during the emotional ceremony. "You are admired. It sounds a little corny to say that you are beloved, but it's absolutely remarkable how happy people are that Jimmy is going to be on the Circuit Court bench."

Clark said he spent some time trying to decide just why everyone seemed so happy at McGarry's appointment. The most obvious reason, he said, was McGarry's résumé. "This is a guy who has done and won and prevailed on big civil cases, big criminal cases. He knows this system from alpha to omega. He's smart, he's fair, he's empathetic. He is everything that you would want in a jurist."

"But I think, more than that,



Shortly after taking the oath of office, Henry County Circuit Court Judge James McGarry (left) accepted a gavel from his father, Rod McGarry. The gavel belonged to McGarry's grandfather, who also was named James McGarry.

most of us recognize that Jimmy will be sort of generational. Jimmy will be sort of transformative for all of us, for this bar, and for the bench ... what a wonderful amalgam of skill, experience, and talents he will bring to the table," Clark said.

McGarry was appointed to his new role by the General Assembly following the retirement of Judge David Williams, who presided over the circuit for more than 30 years.

"No one could be more pleased than I that you're taking my gig," Williams told McGarry before administering the oath of office to the incoming judge.

"You're going to do well, and I'm so happy for you."

Placing his left hand on the family Bible, which was held by his brother Mike, McGarry raised his right hand and solemnly swore to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Constitution, McGarry said in his remarks, serves as a guide for practitioners of the law.

"The preamble to the Constitution includes the purposes of the

See **Circuit Court Judge**, page 5

Chamber awards more than \$37,000 to 13 small business startups

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG) recognized its 2022 Startup MHC awards ceremony, awarding over \$37,000 to 13 businesses in the

Martinsville-Henry County area.

"This year, I have to say, it was the most competitive group ever," said Chamber President Lisa Watkins at the ceremony. She said there were 62 applicants for the program, which ultimately was whittled down to 25.

Award recipients recently completed the Success Mindset, an inten-

sive eight-week entrepreneurial bootcamp program for startups. The training component is provided by Patrick & Henry Community College in partnership with C-PEG, Longwood Small Business Development Center, SCORE, Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development

See **Chamber Awards**, page 3



The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG) awarded over \$37,000 to 13 businesses last Friday during its Startup MHC awards ceremony. Chamber President Lisa Watkins said this year was the most competitive group in the program's history. (Courtesy of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce)

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FOR MORE UPDATES



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, May 21

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA will be at Petsense in Martinsville (240 West Commonwealth Blvd) from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. for an adoption event. Come meet some of the furry friends available for adoption from the shelter!

The Bassett Cruise-In returns. Join the fun at Bassett Furniture World Headquarters on Fairy Stone Park Highway from 3-7 p.m. All makes and models welcome. Be sure to grab a snack from the food court.

Join Young Life MHC for a day in the community with friends and family for a great cause at the Cornhole Classic beginning at 12 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex. Participants can compete in two brackets, a competitive bracket and a family fun bracket. Lunch is included in registration or can be purchased if you choose to spectate. For more information on the event and how to register, visit Young Life Martinsville-Henry County on Facebook.

Smith River Trout Unlimited invites the public to participate in the "Introduction to Fly Fishing for Adults and Youth" workshop. This is an entry-level event for people interested in learning about or getting started in the sport of fly fishing. The 2-hour event will be held from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the picnic shelter Fieldale Park, 11 Fieldale Ave., Fieldale. Participants are asked to dress according to the weather forecast. Ice cold bottled water will be provided. The workshop is limited to 12. Contact Jeff Deering (jdeer76@yahoo.com) or Eric Tichay (erictichay@yahoo.com) to sign-up. This event is free.

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) hosts a decorative grapevine wreath workshop

with Melanie Barrow. All instruction, supplies, adornments, and ribbon are included in the cost of this 3-hour class. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. To register, call (276) 957-5757. Payment is required at registration.

Sunday, May 22

Support the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society with Afternoon Tea at One Starling from 3-5 p.m. Attendees will enjoy tea, sherry, mimosas, music, and traditional English refreshments. Reservations are \$20 per person and must be made in advance by calling or visiting the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum or One Starling.

Tuesday, May 24

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its regular meeting at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Martinsville City Council will hold its regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in council chambers of the City Municipal Building.

Wednesday, May 25

New College Institute invites the public to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a free culture showcase featuring education, music, and dance from 4-6 p.m. This event is free to attend.

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing beginning at 1 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 2-7 p.m. at Northside Baptist Church (8911 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.) To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, May 26

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a family fun game night from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Martinsville Farmers' Market. Join in the fun with oversized games, a DJ, and Market vendors. The event is free to attend.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Horsepasture Christian Church (1146 Horsepasture Price Road, Ridgeway) from 12-6 p.m. To register for your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, May 28

Scuffle Hill Brewing, Gym 24, and Giving Back LLC are co-sponsoring a ruck march to honor fallen military and first responders. Participants should meet at Gym 24 at 9 a.m. for a formation ruck march around Uptown Martinsville. Wear your silkies, best motivational t-shirts, plate carriers, backpacks, flags, etc., though such items are not mandatory. After the march, participants may enjoy \$1 pints at Scuffle Hill Brewing.

The Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department (17815 A.L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway) will host a country buffet breakfast from 6-10 a.m. The cost for adults is \$8, children under 10 are \$4. All carry outs are \$8. The buffet includes eggs, bacon, sausage, country ham, grits, biscuits and gravy, and apples.

Sunday, May 29

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will premiere the documentary film, "A Conversation with American Heroes from Martinsville & Henry County" at 3 p.m. in the Walker Theatre of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Saturday, June 4

Uptown Partnership will host its fourth community engagement conversation from

1-2:30 p.m. to hear feedback and engage with the public on Uptown revitalization priorities.

A "Stop the Violence and Say No to Drugs" Walkathon will take place in Martinsville. Participants will meet in the Big Chair parking lot in Uptown Martinsville at 11 a.m. with the walk beginning at noon and ending at Baldwin Park, where speakers will discuss their experience with addiction. Piedmont Community Services will provide information on substance abuse and recovery services. There will be a live band and free food and beverages. Anyone interested in volunteering or donating to the walkathon may call Anthea Barbour at (276) 806-0932.

The Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad (1827 Daniels Creek Road) will host a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser from 7-11 a.m. Plates are \$5 (cash or check only) for both dine-in and to-go and include 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, 2 eggs, and a choice of juice, coffee, or water. Proceeds will be used to buy much-needed equipment.

ONGOING

The Magna Vista Horticulture Spring Plant Sale is open weekdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For complete information, sales, and additional hours, visit the Magna Vista Horticulture Facebook page.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20 and Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through September 29. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleuptown.com.

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you to explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise with Trail Trekkers. The group meets on Thursdays, weather permitting, at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 for more information.

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

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

Call or text Ann Walker 276 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

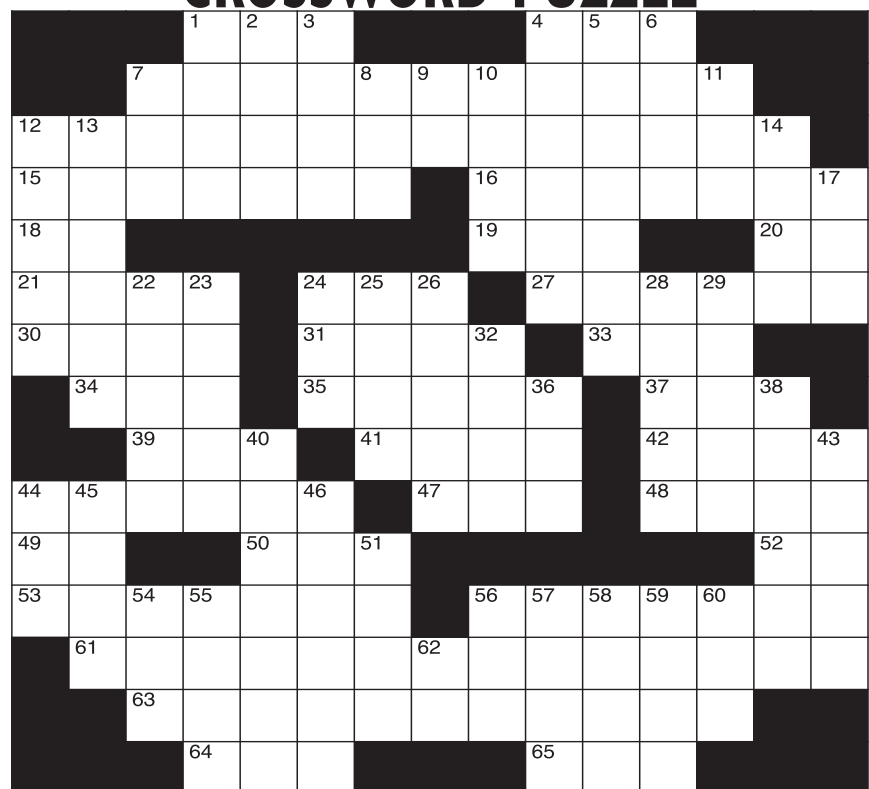
The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Call the center at (276) 647-9585.



Transition ceremony held in city

City of Martinsville School Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley (at podium) addressed 8th graders, the class of 2026, at their transition ceremony Tuesday at Martinsville High School.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Small lump
 - 4. Helps little firms
 - 7. A way of performing
 - 12. Lawyers
 - 15. Stirred up
 - 16. Believed in
 - 18. The Bay State (abbr.)
 - 19. Makes computers
 - 20. Sodium
 - 21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - 24. Institute legal proceedings against
 - 27. More compact
 - 30. Ethiopian river
 - 31. Quantitative fact
 - 33. No (Scottish)
 - 34. A concession of no great value
 - 35. Tony-winning actress Daisy
 - 37. More (Spanish)
 - 39. Russian space station
 - 41. Helicopter
 - 42. At the peak
 - 44. Makes ecstatically happy
 - 47. Excellent
 - 48. Material body
 - 49. The Golden State (abbr.)
 - 50. A unit of plane angle
 - 52. Argon
 - 53. Fancy
 - 56. Fried mixture of meat & spices
 - 61. How green plants use sunlight
 - 63. Without wills
 - 64. Unhappy
 - 65. Meat from a pig's leg
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Mentor
 - 2. Lyric poems
 - 3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
 - 4. Trapped
 - 5. Used for road surfacing
 - 6. Cuckoos
 - 7. Prefix "away from"
 - 8. Seth McFarlane comedy
 - 9. Not out
 - 10. "The Simpsons" bus driver
 - 11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
 - 12. Acclaimed Indian physicist
 - 13. Removes
 - 14. One-name NBA player
 - 17. Revolutionary women
 - 22. Smell
 - 23. Ground-dwelling songbird
 - 24. Midway between south and southeast
 - 25. American state
 - 26. Keen
 - 28. Khoikhoi peoples
 - 29. Int'l defense organization
 - 32. Samoan money
 - 36. A sign of assent
 - 38. One from Somalia
 - 40. Boat race
 - 43. Traits
 - 44. French coins
 - 45. Indigenous Scandinavian
 - 46. Flew alone
 - 51. Loch where a "monster" lives
 - 54. Japanese title
 - 55. Pros and ___
 - 56. Present in all living cells
 - 57. Something to scratch
 - 58. Branch of Islam
 - 59. Appear
 - 60. Former CIA
 - 62. Yukon Territory

Hylton, Duncan, Zou among students to excel

Kenlee Hylton, of Collinsville, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Hylton was initiated at Old Dominion University.

Hylton is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Amber Duncan, of Bassett, was named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2022 Dean's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits over two consecutive terms (EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6).

Dan Zou, of Bassett, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2022 President's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits over two consecutive terms (EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6).

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Craft Brewery from page 1

right, the rolling fields of a 400+-acre farm dip into the brewery's namesake valley, eventually giving way to the mountains in the distance.

The couple's journey to becoming brewery owners was indirect, but a series of fortuitous events pushed them farther and farther down the path until, finally, the dream that never was became a reality.

Atwell, an electrician by trade, and Donovan purchased the Axton property when they moved to the area from Richmond after accepting a job at Eastman. They soon began growing hops on their property but even that wasn't something they every thought they'd do.

"When we moved down here," Atwell explained, "Hardywood (a Richmond-based brewery) had been open about a year and was doing a promotion for home brewers, giving out hop rhizomes (a plant stem capable of producing new roots and, ultimately, an entire new plant.) All of our friends that we'd moved away from thought, 'oh, Herb and Peggy bought 10 acres. Let's take them hops!'"

"The first year, we just stuck them in the back of the barn" just to see if they would grow, Donovan recalled. They did.

"We had this great idea that we were going to raise hops and sell them to the breweries," Atwell said. They planted a quarter acre, bringing in telephone poles from North Carolina to help string up the growing plants. And thus, Mountain Valley Hops was born.

"Two Witches (a brewery in Danville) bought our hops for the first two years," Atwell recalled, "but it's a hard sell for dried hops. Most breweries want them processed and pelletized."

Mountain Valley Red IPA was the first beer Two Witches brewed with Mountain Valley's hops, Donovan said. Seeing their name on the beer gave them a feeling the two couldn't shake.

"When we started growing hops here," Donovan said, "people were interested in seeing the hop farm." On their tours, visitors often asked if the pair had any beers on draft or something they could buy. For several years, the answer was always, "no."

Finally, after two years of growing hops for other breweries, Atwell and Donovan decided, "we can do this," Donovan said.

"Let's just see if it works," Atwell added. "If it works, well, look where we are today. But if it hadn't worked, we would have just had a little room up there," he gestured toward the space now known as the tasting room, which served as the brewery's original bar and seating area. "We would have had birthday parties, we would have had friends over for darts and food."

To further convince them, Donovan said Ethan Brown, co-owner of Two Witches, showed the two a map to

illustrate the broad area that, at the time, had no craft brewery nearby. "The whole southern region was pretty empty," she said.

"We thought we would just give it a try," Atwell said. "We got a kegerator and three taps. That's how we started."

"But that's not how we opened," Donovan said.

On Mountain Valley Brewing's first day, more than 60 people visited the 15x15-foot tasting room space, sipping beer from five different taps, getting their first samples of beers that have become menu staples, with names that reflect the idyllic property on which the brewery is situated including Vulture Roost and Fireflies in the Valley.

Just as a well-tended hop plant grows steadily, organically, so too did Mountain Valley Brewing grow.

"The first year, we were packed in that first little building, so we added a porch," Atwell said.

Eventually, they tore down the old white barn that helped house those initial hops and put up a pole barn in its place to help protect patrons from rain and sun. Eventually, the pole barn was enclosed to create the brew barn, which is now the main hub of activity for the brewery.

A deck was added later and, not long after, a tin roof covered the deck. Then came new picnic tables and landscaping, followed by an improved deck railing complete with a bar upon which patrons could sit their mugs (for members of the Mug Club) or pint glasses. The latest improvement is a custom-built plastic wall, which encloses the deck without obscuring the iconic viewshed that is central to the brewery's identity.

Most of the work was done by Atwell and Mountain Valley's brew master, Karl Herzberg, with some regular patrons, friends, and volunteers pitching in along the way.

Just as the community supported them, Donovan and Atwell want to support the community as well. That desire led to one of the brewery's most recent additions, the Giving Tap. Each month, a different nonprofit will be selected to receive a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the brew poured from the giving tap for the month.

This month, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is the nonprofit of choice, and Donovan said there are enough requests to fill the slate through October.

"We feel like we're part of this community, and without the people around here, we wouldn't be where we are," Donovan said. "It's just being a good local business."

Atwell added that the tap also helps increase awareness of the nonprofit being supported for the month.

"Any time you share with the community and the community shares back, it's a win/win for everybody," he said.

Cheers to five years!

To celebrate their brewery's five-year anniversary,

Hometown Hustle from page 1

comments and looking at people who have subscribed to the channel, this has touched people who aren't even in our country."

According to YouTube's count, each video has been viewed thousands of times, with the episode on Abraham Gonzalez, owner of Ape's Frozen Yogurt, garnering the most views with more than 8,000.

Local residents also have been excited by the project, Hodge said. Those featured in the first season enjoyed seeing themselves in the episodes and business owners have enjoyed increased sales and more followers on their social media accounts.

Building on the success of season one, Hodge said the new season of "Hometown Hustle" will be "bigger, better, and bolder" in nearly every way. First and foremost, Hodge is looking for stories from a wider range of localities.

In addition to Martinsville and Henry County, "this season, we're able to cover Patrick County and beyond," Hodge said.

After witnessing the success of the first season, which was comprised of six 10-minute episodes, Hodge said businesses in other communities began reaching out to find out how to become involved.

"The first group of folks (to reach out) were actually in Patrick County," Hodge said. Even during filming for the first season, there was interest from Patrick County businesses, but that year the funding for the project (from MHC Pay It Forward and the C-PEG) was tied specifically to Martinsville and Henry County.

This year, Hodge said, there are no such restrictions.

Besides Patrick County, she said business owners in Danville and Pittsylvania County have reached out to inquire about being featured, as well as a number of people in Martinsville and Henry County, though the cast search extends beyond that into the counties of Prince Edward, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, and Brunswick, according to a release.

Another aspect of the "bigger, better, bolder" second season is with the format of the show itself. Whereas the first season was six 10-minute episodes, Hodge plans ten 22-minute episodes for season two.

"We are now in the 22-minute format, which is the standard format for half-hour shows on television," Hodge said, adding that she is currently having discussions regarding distribution of the series. "I won't reveal what spaces, but it was important for us to make sure that we had a format that matches with the standards for those platforms, so we've moved out of web series and moved more into TV series."

A broader scope and longer episodes also mean a bigger budget, Hodge said. She is currently in search of sponsors for the show, which this year has a six-figure budget.

"Last season was really a micro-budget," she explained. "This season, for us to accomplish everything that we want to accomplish, it has to be a TV budget." The additional funds will be used for a larger production team, enhanced marketing, and travel expenses to the various locations across southern Virginia that will be featured in the show. Hodge said she hopes to provide support for the

Donovan and Atwell have planned a day full of music, food, and—you guessed it—beer on Saturday, May 21.

Clay Page kicks off the musical lineup at 1 p.m., traveling from Georgia specifically for the event, while local favorites Anna LaPrad and Jake Earles take the stage at 4 p.m. The Jesse Ray Carter Band will close out the night, going on at 7 p.m.

Donovan said there will be door prize drawings throughout the day and night, as well as a 50/50 raffle for DRBA.

Sticky Rice, a food truck, will be on hand serving up sushi and Thai food, and Rocko's Cigars will also be on hand beginning at 6 p.m. The Vikings of the Valley will also be on the grounds, adding their particular brand of entertainment to the day's festivities.

A number of special beers and hard seltzers will be released specially for the event, including Cherry Smash (a cherry wheat beer), a raspberry gose, Hammock Daze (a double IPA with fresh mango and pineapple) and Fireflies in the Valley will be making its return to the taps. Donovan said there will also be wine, hard ciders, and champagne while supplies last.

There is an \$8 cover for the celebration, but those who are willing to pay \$12 receive a special anniversary glass.

Mountain Valley comes to Martinsville

With the Axton operation going strong, Donovan and Atwell have set their sights on other endeavors - namely, opening up an entirely new operation in Uptown Martinsville.

The couple purchased a building on Franklin Street, just across from the former Henry County Courthouse, where they plan to open up a brew pub in early 2023.

Donovan cautioned that the new operation will not be Mountain Valley 2, though "we will share resources" between the two, including the talents of the brew master.

"It's time for Martinsville to have a brewery," Donovan said. "And not just a brewery, but a brew pub," complete with a kitchen.

"It will be a social place to gather," Atwell added. "A place that people want to come."

The plan is to grow the new brew pub just as with Mountain Valley Brewing—incrementally, but steadily.

"We're going to try to follow the same model we started here," he said, "starting small, growing on your reputation and your product and your customers. As the base grows and your needs grow, we'll try to fulfill those needs."

Just because a new uptown operation is in the works doesn't mean the couple are done building Mountain Valley. Though they never dreamed of owning the brewery, now that it's here, it seems they can't stop dreaming about what comes next. They are already contemplating ideas for the next brewery expansion.

"Who knows where it'll go," Atwell said with a smile.

Chamber Awards from page 1

Corporation, staff from Martinsville and Henry County and local entrepreneurs, several of whom are graduates of the program themselves.

Startup began as a Community Business Launch Grant through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. This program has since expanded from a small footprint in Uptown Martinsville to the entire City of Martinsville and Henry County thanks to generous support from the Campbell Family Group, LLC.

Partners that support this important C-PEG economic development initiative include the City of Martinsville, Henry County, Campbell Family Group, the George W. Lester II Fund, and The Anonymous Fund through the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, and beginning this year through a three-year grant, the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for specific industry sectors. Additionally, Appalachian Power is a sponsor of Startup and Grow MHC, and American National Bank is the small business sponsor for Chamber and C-PEG events. Startup and Grow MHC graduate Christopher Lawless, owner of Lawless Welding and Fabrication, Inc. also supports this initiative.

"Today we're giving away the most awards I believe we've ever given away," said Watkins, acknowledging that statistic would not have been possible without the support of those funders.

Including last week's graduates and awards, the initiative has celebrated 253 graduates and awarded 48 businesses with over \$334,622 in cash and in-kind funding. This most recent group will build on the accomplishments of Startup and Grow MHC businesses that have created over \$3,556,000 in new capital investment and created 190 new jobs while maintaining an 86 percent success rate in comparison to the nationwide 50 percent average for small businesses.

"We will be cheering for you and helping you every step of the way to make sure that we keep that rate and maybe even go a little higher," Watkins said. "Our program's track record is really unique, and we want you to be able to add to that."

All participants received training at no cost, and any participant who opens a business will receive a year-long free membership in the Martinsville-Henry County

Chamber of Commerce.

This year's award recipients were:

*GAPS Healthcare, PLLC (\$2,025)

*OakStone Health and Nutrition, owned by Samantha Turner, LLC (\$867.50)

*Leatherwood Products (\$4,000.77)

*Four Rivers Counseling (\$1,550)

*Stick's Welding (\$4,145.40)

*Naturally Enchanted (\$1,372.50)

*And Love (\$2,604.89)

*Bear Claw Leatherworks (\$2,854.25)

*Creative Contouring by Melinda (\$4,000)

*The Cheesecake Lady (\$5,552.25)

*Something Sweet & the Word for Your Soul (\$5,000)

*Cobler Consulting, LLC (\$1,200)

*Faithful Service Lawn Care (\$2,100).

The cash awards for 2022 total \$37,272.56 for startup businesses.

Additionally, Patrick & Henry Community College has provided in-kind Fab Lab memberships for one year at the Dalton IDEA Center to Leatherwood Products, And Love, and Bear Claw Leatherworks with a total value of \$7,500.

Through an opportunity provided by the Sova Task Force through GO Virginia Region 3, OakStone Health and Nutrition, And Love, Bear Claw Leatherworks, Creative Contouring by Melinda, Cobler Consulting LLC, and Faithful Service Lawn Care are eligible to leverage their Startup MHC awards with a total of \$17,640 in support to create and/or enhance their online presence and marketing.

Watkins thanked Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki for "tirelessly reading business plans with us," as well as C-PEG Board Chairman Amanda Cox of Appalachian Power, Rhonda Hodges and Matthew Ratliff of Patrick and Henry Community College, and Michael Scales who, she said, worked with the entrepreneurs on honing their business plans.

"I can assure you that team is going to be there with you, along with me, helping you every step of the way. You just need to reach out to us to let us know what it is that you need. We'll be checking in with you, not to be nosy, but just to make sure you're okay," Watkins told the entrepreneurs.

featured businesses as well.

Thus far, she said, sponsors for the show include the TAD Space (owner Wayne Draper was featured in season one), Michael McPheeters (who also sponsored season one), Hamlet Vineyards, Hairston Funeral Home, and Hogwest Auto.

Showcasing businesses and business owners from the region is at the core of "Hometown Hustle." Hodge said she wanted to tell these stories because, "I think we are a forgotten region in some ways."

She recounted a recent trip to Atlanta to attend a wedding. When she told people she was from Martinsville, people did not know where it was and could only name cities and towns in northern Virginia or on the coast—all in the easternmost part of the state.

"Our community has amazing people, amazing business owners," she said. "So many gifts and talents are present in the community and deserve the same level of attention and exposure as someone who might be in one of those major urban areas. I love to be able to shine a spotlight on our community and our region."

Hodge said she and her crew want to film season two of "Hometown Hustle" this summer, with episodes potentially premiering this fall.


Business owners and individuals interested in participating in the upcoming season, either as a featured business or as a sponsor, can find more information at HometownHustle.tv.

The first season of "Hometown Hustle" can be found on the Rudy's Girl Media YouTube channel.

"Today's a fantastic day in Martinsville and Henry County," Watkins said, congratulating those who completed the small business training program. She noted that several of the day's awardees planned to locate in Uptown Martinsville, adding to the 27 new businesses and expansions that have occurred in the area since Feb. 2020.

"As your community's Main Street affiliate, C-PEG will continue to positively impact our business community," Watkins said.

Call Watkins at (276) 632-6401 with questions about participation in C-PEG's next Startup and Grow MHC programs.



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OPINION

In tribute to Poppy Tom

I was heartbroken to learn that one of my favorite human beings passed away last week: Thomas "Poppy Tom" Saunders.

Tom was my great-uncle by marriage, and he was the Platonic ideal of the lovable dirty uncle. He always had a good joke, and when you shared one he hadn't heard, he responded with a chuckle that sounded almost like a growl. He sported a well-maintained white beard with a few nicotine highlights, and his wardrobe could best be described as "1980s mature bachelor semi-casual," which I can't exactly describe but it's probably close to what you're imagining.

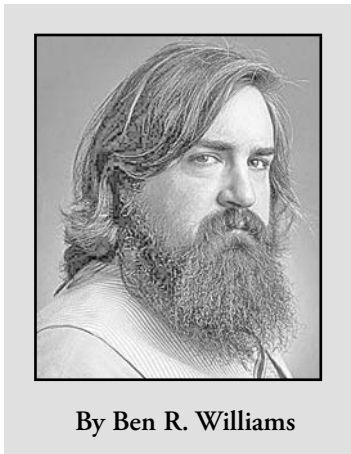
I always enjoyed talking to Tom, and whenever we visited my aunt and uncle in Norfolk and he came over to hang out, I would usually talk to him at great length.

Now, while I don't know a single person who thought poorly of Tom, not everyone enjoyed having a lengthy conversation with him. The topics covered were usually niche, to say the least.

However, if there's one thing I

have a boundless appetite for, it's an old man telling a long story about something obscure, particularly if the topic hasn't been relevant in decades. Did I want to talk to Tom about cars he had known in the past? Of course. Did I want to talk to Tom about arc lamps and their use in movie theater projectors decades ago? Absolutely I did. Did I want to talk to him about "The Bilge Rat," a back-page column he wrote in the '80s for a now-defunct fan magazine about Navy shipbuilding? Oh, you'd better BELIEVE I wanted to talk to him about that.

I didn't spend as much time with Tom as I would have liked over the years, but I spent enough to pick up some good stories. There was the time that he decided to get into the Halloween spirit by fabricating a little steam whistle, hooking it to his air compressor, hiding it under his car, and then connecting the line whenever a trick-or-treater was coming up his sidewalk for candy. Unfortunately, his steam whistle was apparently just a couple of



By Ben R. Williams

decibels quieter than a real one and it scared the children so badly that they dropped their candy bags and sprinted for cover.

Tom also got into the Christmas spirit each year. At some point, he bought a beat-up church van with faded lettering on the side; it looked like something a serial killer on True Detective would drive. As Christmas approached, he would throw on a Santa hat to match his white beard and tool around Norfolk, waving to any children he happened to see on the street. It is deeply fortunate that he did not get arrested.

My favorite experience with Tom, however, was the time we

went to the dive bar along with his son, my uncle Drew.

I won't name this particular dive bar, but it's right on Willoughby Bay in Norfolk. It was Tom's favorite watering hole and I'd been hearing about it for years.

On our drive to the bar, we saw multiple pedestrians walking along the streets, all of them appearing to either be on drugs or offering goods and services in exchange for drugs. We pulled up to the bar, a weather-beaten little joint that barely advertised its name; this was clearly a place for the locals.

When we stepped inside with Tom, it was like stepping into Cheers with Norm; everyone knew him. Unlike Cheers, however, the clientele did not consist of hilarious Bostonians but old fishermen and guys who looked like they'd been drinking since 10 a.m. the previous day.

I ordered a beer, while Tom ordered a gin and tonic. Over the course of the next few hours I watched him drink seven gin and tonics with no ill effect whatsoever, which is either a testament to Tom's abilities or a terrible indictment of the place's gin and tonics.

Tom, Drew, and I sat and told

stories for hours; I had a blast, even if I can't remember many specifics. At one point, one of the cooks came up to Tom and said that he caught some fish in the bay right before his shift started, and he wanted to know if we would like some fresh fried fish that had been swimming around thirty minutes earlier. It was phenomenal.

My most vivid memory of the night was when a fellow walked in who looked like the stereotypical rough biker from a sitcom. He was wearing leather and chains, and he had an eyepatch covering one eye.

"You see that guy?" Tom whispered to me.

"Yeah."
"You've gotta keep an eye out for him."

I remember this joke well; I've used it at least 100 times in the intervening decade, and I think of Tom every time.

Here's to you, Poppy Tom. I don't know what the afterlife holds, but if there's a great dive bar in the sky, I hope you're up there with an endless carton of cigarettes and a bottomless gin and tonic that's never watered down.

Cheers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My opinion on reversion

As a resident of HC and a businessman, I feel it's time for me to voice my concerns about reversion.

Most residents remember 12 years, ago we tried to have dialogue with Martinsville City about combining school systems.

Now we come to reversion and again, in my opinion, the city wants us to assume their debt without consulting either school system.

One thing seems to have been forgotten. The state school board

calls both "appropriating bodies." This means the state gives the BOS and City Council the money the schools are entitled to for appropriation.

Based on my research, the HC school system is the largest employer in HC. School Board members approve the budget, the City Schools could be contracted out if the HCSB had to terminate the City School Administration.

I believe this entire process has been decided without any input from the citizens of

Martinsville and HC.

The most important people, the taxpayers, have been left completely out.

From my understanding, the State Code calls for both school systems to vote on the future of their schools.

With a bill passed and signed by the Governor of Va., the city council is supporting the filing of paperwork that would disallow city voters to vote, which I believe is unconstitutional.

We have been told the meetings between the

City and HC had to be done in private so that the city could not know the county's strategy, which I question.

We were told by the HC BOS and the county attorney we COULD not fight reversion, but turns out H-C taxpayers would assume city costs and debt without any regard for the county taxpayers.

The BOS keep telling us they are doing what is BEST for US, yet our schools are 132 out of 132 per expenditure per student (LAST IN THE STATE).

We keep hearing about the millions being pumped into the new industrial

park, Commonwealth Crossing, to bring new business into the county with the city getting a third of the revenue. But, we all know that any large corporation looking to locate in this area will also be looking at the quality of education available in the school system.

With the new Casino and other industry coming to neighboring, Danville VA, an estimated 1300-1800 jobs will be added. It is obvious that HC will reap the benefits of additional residents due to our lower tax base.

The city has spent nearly \$800,000.00 trying to stop city residents from voting

on reversion. If the city reverts, they can Annex up to 10 miles.

H-C has utilities and infrastructure to start rebuilding which in no way will reversion help in doing this. It's time we hold all H-C officials elected or hired accountable when they claim reversion is inevitable and accept it. As a taxpayer whose taxes could double with reversion, I want the best representation possible when it comes to stopping reversion and keeping my taxes low. It's time our elected officials be reminded.

Ray Reynolds,
Collinsville

Gen. Joseph Martin honored at ceremony

The Col. George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) hosted an event last Saturday to commemorate Gen.

Joseph Martin Jr., name-sake for the city of Martinsville. The event, held at the historic Henry County courthouse (now the Martinsville-Henry

County Heritage Center and Museum) in Uptown Martinsville, was well attended both by community members and SAR leaders from around

the state. Remarks were given by Tom Coker, President of the Martin's Station Chapter SAR; W.C. Fowlkes, direct descendant of General

Martin; and Josh Hess, representing the office of Congressman Morgan Griffith. The Henry County Honor Guard presented the colors

with assistance from the Virginia SAR Color Guard. A wreath presentation on the courthouse plaza concluded the day's events.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The ceremony included a wreath presentation on the plaza of the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum.

NCI celebrates Asian American & Pacific Islander and Jewish American Heritage Month

The New College Institute (NCI) will present Cultural Showcases on May 25 & 26 celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage and Jewish American Heritage respectively. May 25, NCI staff member Chris Niblett will speak in honor of AAPI. May 26 NCI will host an exhibit honoring Jewish American Heritage Month. Both events will run from 4-6 p.m. at the Baldwin Building Lecture Hall, and will feature educational presentations, music and dance.

In addition, NCI is providing a poster version of the popular exhibition I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story, compliments of The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and teacher resources by Teaching

Tolerance.

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 exhibition will be on view at NCI May 1-31, 2022.

For more information, visit newcollegeinstitute.org



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

Rooster Walk from page 1

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Buck said the music begins at 10:30 or 11 a.m., and will continue until midnight or later. The last acts on Friday and Saturday are scheduled to wrap up around 2 a.m.

In addition to the more traditional line up bands, Buck said the festival features a number of Artists at Large who will bring an element of spontaneity to the weekend. Artists at Large are “artists we’ve hired to come solo, but who often are members of nationally touring bands,” he said.

Each artist plays a different instrument, Buck said, adding that each is already familiar with a number of other bands in the lineup. As a result, they are invited up to play a song or two with different bands at throughout the weekend.

“If you’re a fan of one particular band, you’ve seen them plenty of times, but maybe you’ve never seen them with a guest saxophone player or with an extra guitar or extra drummer,” Buck said.

In addition to surprise guest appearances, there also are scheduled Artist at Large sets on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons.

“They get together as a band and they perform once each day, even though they have never rehearsed together,” Buck said.

This year, each set has a different theme to help provide the performers with some direction. Friday’s set will be classic rock, Saturday’s is jamgrass (bluegrass, but with drums and electric instruments), and Sunday will feature blues music.

The Artist at Large sets, Buck said, are part of what makes the Rooster Walk experience unique. While other music festivals have Artists at Large, he said he is unaware of another festival that brings all the artists together as a band to jam.

“It’s become a Rooster Walk tradition over the last four or five festivals,” he said. Initially, the set was offered only at the VIP stage, but many of the event’s general admission ticket holders expressed interest in enjoying the performances as well. Ultimately, the sets were moved to general festival area, “and it got some of the strongest response of any set we had all weekend,” Buck said.

One of the things fans love most about that aspect is “they know when they’re watching that set that it’s just totally off-the-cuff, with musicians relying on their skill and improvisational abilities to make it happen on the fly ... It really has become one of the things the fans love the most.”

This year’s Artists at Large are saxophonist Ron Holloway, who has performed with the Allman Brothers and the Susan Tedeschi Band; Bassett native Josh Shilling who is the lead singer of Mountain Heart; Roosevelt Collier of the Lee Boys; guitarist Wallace Mullinax who has won Charleston Guitar Player of the Year for 6 of the last 8 years; and drummer John Bryant, a Martinsville native who has seen huge success since graduating from Martinsville High School in the ‘70s, including working

as a full-time touring member of Ray Charles’ band and playing frequently with Stewart Copeland of the Police.

“This is one of his (Bryant’s) first public performances in Martinsville since graduating high school,” Buck said. “We’re really excited to have him back in Martinsville for the first time in a long time.”

Buck added that each day may feature another Artist at Large or two who will only be performing that day. On Saturday, for example, Sammy Shelor of The Lonesome River Band, who Buck described as one of the best banjo players in the world, will sit in on the day’s jamgrass set.

Another unique feature of Rooster Walk is the festival location itself.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have Pop’s Farm as our home,” said Buck, who recalled the festival initially was held at the Blue Mountain Festival Grounds in Figsboro for the first six years.

“As the festival grew, we were getting very close to outgrowing the geographic confines of Blue Mountain. We were having issues with running out of room to park cars, and it wasn’t going to be long before we were running out of room in front of the stages for some of the headlining acts,” Buck said.

So, the festival team put the word out to the community that Rooster Walk was in search of a new home, and “we were very fortunate to be approached by a supporter who said he knew of a beautiful farm in Axton that could make a truly incredible music venue if we were able to raise the money,” Buck said. A capital campaign was launched, and the funds it earned were used to build roads, run underground power and water, and create the infrastructure needed for a large-scale music festival.

“It’s turned out better than we ever imagined,” Buck said. “It’s a beautiful piece of property. There’s a large pond that’s the centerpiece of the venue, and one of the stages is set directly on the shore of the pond. When you’re on the hill looking down at the band, you get to see the pond in the background.”

That stage, Buck said, even has its own separate lighting rig, designed to make the pond even more picturesque at night as the colored lights bounce off the water and onto the surrounding trees.

The trees are another asset of the festival location. Buck said that nearly 100 percent of the tent camping areas are under mature hardwood forest canopy. “You’re not camping in the middle of the field, baking in the sun,” he said.

Additionally, a copse of 50-year old pines encompass the Pine Grove Stage. “You have full shade all day long underneath these towering pine trees,” Buck said.

In addition to its adult ticket holders, Rooster Walk also ensures plenty of activities for younger festival goers. Buck said the team has made it a priority over the years to develop a specific youth area, which now has a permanent playground a large picnic shelter built with a grant from the local Kiwanis Club, and “scores of kids’ activities going on,” ranging from drum circles to arts and crafts projects, magicians, jugglers, stilt walkers, and even a

giant slip-n-slide.

Buck said there are even bands performing in the youth area, with songs geared specifically toward a younger audience, and each day of the festival features a kids’ open mic, allowing young performers to showcase their talents.

Ticket sales for the first post-pandemic Rooster Walk have been strong, Buck said. Typically, the event attracts 4,000 to 5,000 attendees. “We’re there, or maybe a little above it this year,” he said. “It is one of our strongest band lineups ever, and we’ve seen that reflected in ticket sales.”

Based on advance ticket sales, “we’ve sold more tickets now, at a week and a half out than we’ve ever sold for a previous festival a week and a half out,” he said.

The festival, he said, welcomes locals as well as national and international visitors, he said, adding that Rooster Walk 11 attracted attendees from 32 different states. This year, he has corresponded with some visitors from Norway, who are flying in specifically to attend the festival.

Kelly Rowland, tourism and client relations manager for the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation’s Tourism Division, said the festival brings thousands of people to the community each year “and those visitors spend tourism dollars at our restaurants, shops and stores, hotels, gas stations, and other businesses” in addition to providing “future and growing opportunities for other festivals and events” in the area.

“Rooster Walk is truly a gem for our community,” she said. “With our 12th festival about to kick off next weekend, Rooster Walk attendees continue to be blown away by the natural beauty of our venue, the quality of musical acts, and the extreme professionalism and attention to detail by the festival team.”

That festival team, Buck said, is comprised of around 400 staff and volunteers, all working diligently to make sure all the moving pieces of the festival come together into one cohesive, unforgettable weekend.

“Without exaggeration, it’s grown into something far bigger than we could have ever imagined,” Buck said, reflecting on the festival’s history.

The first Rooster Walk was a one-day event with 13 bands playing on two stages for an audience of 3-400 people. Now a 4-day event with 6 stages, 50 bands, and 4-5,000 people, the festival has “turned literally into a year-round endeavor. It’s hard to believe sometimes that what started in 2008 and 2009 has turned into what it is now,” Buck said.

“We put about 11 months of work into each festival,” he said. When the last lingering notes fade at Pop’s Farm next Sunday, the team will spend a month to clean up, pack up, and recover. Then it’s time to get to work. Rooster Walk 13 is just a year away.

The 12th annual Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival will take place Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, at Pop’s Farm in Axton. More information and tickets are available at www.RoosterWalk.com.

Circuit Court Judge from page 1

Constitution,” McGarry said to the packed courtroom. “One of them is ‘to secure the blessings of liberty.’ All of the laws in the country flow down from that Constitution that begins with that statement, that we’re here to secure the blessings of liberty ... courts are where people come to ensure their blessings of liberty are being upheld. The courts allow citizens to resolve their disputes here in a civil and proper and fair manner.”

The courts, he said, are important to the community because, in a courtroom, “everybody is equal. You walk into court on equal footing with everybody else and you have the chance to have your day in court. The commonwealth’s attorney is no better than the defendant when they walk into court. The rich people have no more power than the poor people. The corporations are no greater than the individuals. The color of your skin doesn’t matter ... it’s the person who sits up here on the bench that is charged with the responsibility of making sure that happens ... if the person on the bench is not making sure that everybody is getting fair treatment, then your community is not governed by the rule of law.

“I am honored to be trusted with that duty. To me, it’s essential that the judge is one who is fair, impartial, knowledgeable of the law ... and that that judge executes those duties to the benefit of the community. I’m honored

to be entrusted with this obligation,” McGarry said. “My promise is that every time I put on the robe, I will strive to do everything I can to live up to that expectation.”

A native of Louisiana, McGarry and his wife, Donna, moved to Virginia to attend law school. He credited Donna with caring for their three young children while he studied during his time at Washington and Lee University. After graduation, McGarry joined the firm of Young, Haskins, Gregory, Mann & Wall in Martinsville.

McGarry’s daughter, Lauren, now Martinsville’s assistant public defender, served as the master of ceremonies for the proceedings. Though his sons were not at the ceremony, McGarry thanked all three of his children. Raising them, he said, helped him perfect his judicial voice. “I am proud of all of them,” he said.

McGarry also thanked Dels. Wren Williams (who attended the ceremony), Danny Marshall and Les Adams, as well as State Sen. Bill Stanley for their support of his appointment.

“While the legislature was wise in appointing me, they were even wiser in realizing that, right before you’re going to appoint McGarry to the circuit court bench, we need to expand the court of appeals and give everybody the right to appeal everything,” McGarry joked. “I know there’s a connection there.”

The judge also acknowledged his clerks and his fellow judges as well as his predecessor, Judge Williams. “I’ve got big shoes to fill. I really do,” he said.

While McGarry’s mother, who is in poor health, was unable to attend the ceremony, his father, Rod McGarry, presented a gavel to his son. “Many of you refer to him as ‘your honor,’ my honor is having him as my son,” he said.

Rod McGarry explained the gavel belong to his father, also named James McGarry, who served as a county attorney in Kentucky in addition to having a private practice. Rod McGarry said he often went to his father’s office where he would see the gavel, though what he used it for was uncertain “because he was not a judge,” he said, eliciting laughter from the audience.

“I want to pass it on to you, Jimmy,” he said, his voice choked with emotion and tears filling his eyes. “I think your grandfather would be happy to know that you have it.”

“Thank you, Dad,” McGarry said. “I’m honored to use this gavel on the bench.”

McGarry’s new appointment left a vacancy on the Henry County General District Court bench, which was filled by Patrick County Commonwealth’s Attorney Stephanie Brinegar-Vipperman.

Congressional staff to visit May 25

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith’s Ninth District staff will be available I Henry and Patrick counties on May 25.

Staff will be in Henry County from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

Staff will be in Patrick County 12:30 – 2 p.m., Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

Summer Art Camps now enrolling at Piedmont Arts

Camps available for students in grades K-5

Are your kids ready for some summer fun? Sign them up for Summer Art Camp at Piedmont Arts.

These fun camps offer campers the opportunity to get crafty while learning about famous artists and works of art. Campers in grades K-2 and 3-5 will explore a variety of artistic techniques, styles, and materials with hands-on projects. An art show will take place at the end of camp, showcasing campers’ work for their families to enjoy.

Summer Art Camp: Grades K-2
June 6 – 10, 2022
9 am – 12 pm each day
\$80 Member • \$90 Non-member

Summer Art Camp: Grades 3-5
June 13 – 17, 2022

9 am – 12 pm each day
\$80 Member • \$90 Non-member
Register by calling (276) 632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org. Advanced registration is required. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.



‘Expressions’ highlights regional artists at Piedmont Arts

“Expressions” returns to Piedmont Arts with a fresh showcase of artwork by local and regional artists. The exhibit will be open to the public May 28 – July 29.

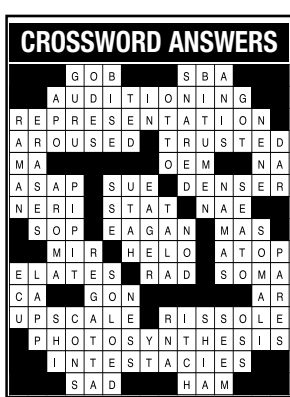
“This is always an exciting exhibit,” said Director of Exhibitions and Marketing Bernadette Moore. “Artists from across the region plan their entries all year. We get a wide variety of work in different media and styles, so there is really something for everyone.”

Presented by Piedmont Arts and Lynwood Artists, “Expressions” is a judged exhibition by that awards artists with prizes in seven entry categories, as well as

purchase awards, the Lynwood Artists Award and Best in Show (sponsored by Virginia Mirror Company). This year’s exhibition is judged by Gerry Bannan, professor of art at Patrick & Henry Community College.

King’s Grant, Lynwood Artists and Piedmont Arts will host an Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony in honor of “Expressions” on Friday, June 3 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the museum. The awards ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP attendance by May 31 by calling (276) 632-3221 or visiting PiedmontArts.org.

Artists interested in entering work in “Expressions” can find the entry rules at PiedmontArts.org. Entries will be accepted at the museum on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. No early or late entries will be accepted.



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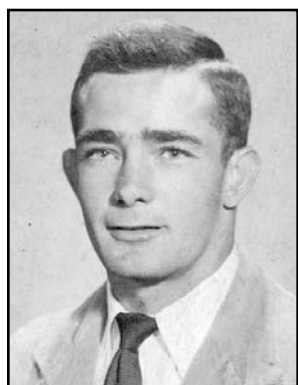
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OBITUARIES

Moss McDowell "Mac" Clingenpeel

Moss McDowell "Mac" Clingenpeel, Jr., 91, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at Martinsville Health and Rehab. He was born September 1, 1930, in Crewe, VA to the late Mabel Bowyer Clingenpeel and Moss Clingenpeel, Sr. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Audrey and Robert.



Mac was a graduate of Crewe High School and Emory and Henry College. He worked for 15 years with the Virginia Department of Health and later with air pollution control. After retiring, he opened his own business in asbestos

abatement.

He is survived by his wife, Tommie Sheffield Clingenpeel; children, Karen and Steve, Jeffrey and Leslie, and Kelley and Patsy; granddaughter, Kelsey Saucedo and husband, Candido; great-granddaughters, Kamelia and Isabela; and special nephew, Brian Urbano.

Memorial donations may be made to the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Robert F. McMillan

Robert F. McMillan (Bob), fondly known as Mr. Mac, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, in Mills River, NC. Mr. Mac was born on November 5, 1943, and raised in Galax VA. He was the son of the late R.B. and Lucille McMillan.



He was a graduate of Galax High School and later attended Concord College in West Virginia for his undergraduate degree and then received his master's degree in Music from Appalachian State University in Boone NC. In 1965, he began his teaching career and taught band in Martinsville his entire career of 35 years before he retired in 1999.

Mr. Mac was well known around town, everyone knew that he was warm, inviting, loyal, and humble. That meant you did not just have a quick conversation, he wanted to know how you were REALLY doing. He had a calm and gentle presence that brought a deep level of comfort to an atmosphere. He had the ability to see beyond the exterior of people and bring forth purpose and potential. He had a love for all things music, cars, sweet treats and peanut butter! He enjoyed spending time in the mountains, moments with his grandkids, and getting lost in music. He was a hero and mentor to many.

Bob was a member, Elder, and Trustee of Calvary Christian Church in Martinsville, VA. He volunteered for Piedmont Arts Association and Grace Network.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Jacqueline (Jackie) Pinkard McMillan, his daughter, Ashley McMillan Parks, her children, Kaegan, Will, and Anna Parks of Asheville, NC. His son and wife, Sean and Christie McMillan and grandsons Conor and Sean Greyson of Simpsonville, SC. His Brother and wife, Larry and Fern McMillan of Galax, VA. His sister Delores Clark of Cana, VA. Many nieces and nephews of two beautiful families.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home, 109 Broad Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. Visitation will be an hour before the service.

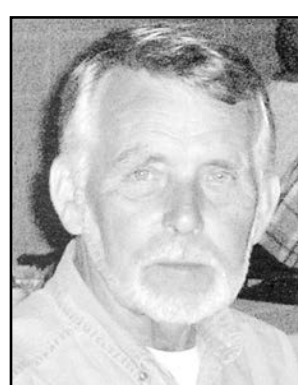
The family would like to invite friends, family and former students to come and share stories to help us celebrate the amazing life of Bob McMillan and the gift of music that he shared to thousands of people.

Memorials may be made to The Robert F. McMillan Memorial Fund which has been established to support musicians and music education. Donations can be sent to Community Foundation, Robert F. McMillan Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1124, Martinsville, VA 24114 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Lewis Donald "Pete" Mills

Lewis Donald "Pete" Mills, 87, of Bassett, Virginia passed away May 8, 2022 at his residence. He was born November 23, 1934, in Bassett, Virginia to the late Lewis Reggie and Betty Hodges Mills. Pete was the owner/operator of Mills Construction for over 40 years and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was an outdoorsman and loved fishing, hunting, gardening, mowing. He loved restoring cars and was the best at taking nothing and turning it into something.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Sidney Allen Mills.

He is survived by his wife, Letha Dunkley Mills; sons, Donald Mills (Tabatha), David Mills (LeAnne), and

Del Mills (Sharon); brother, Jimmie Rogers Mills; sisters, Marguerite Ann Mills and Martha Elaine Burnette; grandchildren, Justin Mills, James Mills, Ashley Mills, Myah Mills, Ashley Franklin, Samuel Martin, and Samantha Moore; great-grandchildren, Troy Mills, Evan Estrada, Ayla Mills, Landon Mills, Ryan Pruitt, Avery Franklin, and Alyvia Franklin.

A celebration of life service was held on Friday, May 13, 2022, at the Bassett Church of the Brethren. Pastor Clyde Hylton officiated. Burial was private.

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

James Cooper Riddle

James Cooper Riddle, 76, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born on October 11, 1945, in North Carolina to the late Samuel Riddle, Sr. and Mae Smith Riddle.



Mr. Riddle is survived by his wife, Karen Gwaltney Riddle of the residence; his daughters, Johanna Riddle Silber (Frank) of Raleigh, NC, and Robin McClung of Martinsville; his son, William Dennis Lunsford (Jamie) of Eden, NC; his sisters, Barbara Taylor of Clinton, NC, Jeannette Oldham (Wayne) of Bear Creek, NC, Joan Paris (Leroy) of Greensboro, NC, and Sandra Gibson (Kerry) of Reidsville, NC; nine grandchildren, Kaylan Cowher, Marla McClung, Matthew McClung, Hannah Silber, Joseph Cooper Silber,

Wesley Lunsford, Oylvia Lunsford, Taylor Medley, and Hunter Medley. He was known to his numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews as Uncle Jimmy.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Sam Riddle, Jr. and his nephew Brian Gibson.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, May 22, 2022, 2 p.m. at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, 1500 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. & Crematory, Martinsville Chapel, 1500 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA, is respectfully serving the Riddle family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Hollis Edward Crowe II

Hollis Edward Crowe II, known to family and friends as Ed, died at his home in Phoenix, Arizona, on Friday, May 6, 2022. Ed was born on September 3, 1957, in Saco, Maine. He is survived by his wife Karen Pitts Crowe; by his children, Kelly Crowe Maser and her husband Alex Maser, Hollis Crowe III and his fiancé Olivia, David Crowe and his fiancé Ivanna, and Katlynn Crowe; by his stepmother, Grace Ordewald Crowe; by his sisters, Pamela Herold and her husband John Herold, Lynn Pritchett and her husband Ashby Pritchett, DeeDee Hamby and her husband Ron Hamby, and Angela Bourland; and by their children, his nieces and nephews.



Ed graduated from Martinsville High School in 1975. He attended Danville Community College and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1980. He worked as an electrical engineer for Radford Arsenal and DuPont. With the advent of desktop computers, he added software implementation and development to his skills and was employed by Price Waterhouse Coopers to train embassy personnel in the use of desktop computers and financial accounting software. In this capacity, he visited every continent, with the exception of Antarctica.

After moving to Phoenix, Arizona, Ed worked for IBM and MicroAge before

starting his own consulting firm, which managed solutions for the Y2K bug for America West Airlines. After developing the first faculty scheduling software for the University of Phoenix as a consultant, he was offered a permanent position in their IT department, where he remained as a software engineer and data scientist until his retirement in November

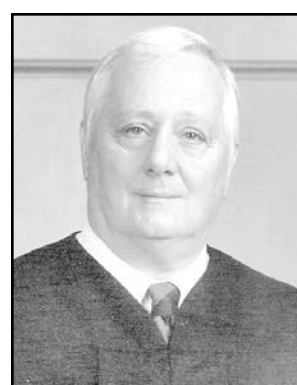
2021. One of Ed's most impressive accomplishments was the completion of an office and workshop that he designed and constructed from two forty-foot shipping containers on his lakefront property in Show Low, Arizona. The product of a lifetime of learning diverse skills, this project was completed in time for him to utilize and enjoy throughout the spring and summer of 2021.

However, by far the greatest accomplishment that Ed made was to bring laughter, love, and curiosity to everyone in his life. He was a Husband, Father, Family, Friend, Coworker (which usually was synonymous with friend) - and his love and memories will flow through us every day. His wife and children ask that whenever you see a beautiful flower, or smell the ocean breeze, or build something yourself - please remember that he is right there with you in your heart saying, "Love you!"

The family requests that memorial donations may be made to the Ivy Brain Tumor Center at Barrow Neurological Foundation, or to Hospice of the Valley, located in Phoenix, Arizona. An online memorial service will be held at a date to be announced.

Jess Frank Greenwalt

Jess Frank Greenwalt, Jr., 79, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. He was born July 5, 1942, in Front Royal, Virginia to the late Jess Frank Greenwalt, Sr. and Mary Gray Greenwalt.



Mr. Greenwalt is survived by his wife, Bonnie Lee Cheshire Greenwalt; son, Daniel Greenwalt; and sister, Mary G. Poole.

Mr. Greenwalt served in the U.S. Army and was a graduate of the University of Richmond and its T.C. Williams School of Law and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. Following his graduation from law school he practiced law in Patrick County with Lawrence Burton until his appointment as a General District Court Judge in the 21st Judicial District. He served as a Judge for 35 years and then worked as a substitute Judge during his retirement. He was a member of the Virginia State Bar for 50 years.

Mr. Greenwalt was very active in his community and a strong supporter of youth. He had served as a Cub Scout master, hosted foreign exchange

students and was active on many boards including the Anchor House. He had served as President of the Stuart Rotary, was a member of Patrick County Jaycees and chairman of the Patrick County Bicentennial Committee. He was also a member of the Stuart United Methodist Church.

He remained a very devoted supporter of the Richmond Spiders football and basketball teams. He also enjoyed playing golf with his many friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the University of Richmond Spider Athletic Fund. Direct donations may be sent to Spider Athletic Fund, 365 College Road, Richmond, VA 23173. Online donations may be made at <https://uronline.net/spiderathleticfund>.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

William "Linwood" Northern

William "Linwood" Northern, 67, originally of Fredericksburg, VA, passed away unexpectedly on May 12, 2022, in Snow Creek, VA.



Linwood is predeceased by his parents, Herbert Daniel Northern, Sr and Hildegard Coates Northern. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 36 years, Nancy Mitchell Northern, his children Duke Dodson and wife Jessica, and their sons Tripp and Tucker, Ann Northern Jones and husband Adam and their son Liam, brothers Herbert Daniel Northern Jr and wife Debbie, and Bobby Northern and wife Donna, his brothers-in-law Jimmy Mitchell and wife Dale, and Roy Mitchell and wife Catina, along with many special nieces, nephews, coworkers, and dear friends.

Linwood was born October 28, 1954, in Fredericksburg, VA. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1977. He then settled in Roanoke, VA for many years. He later moved to Lexington, KY, where he retired from Davis H. Elliot Company in 2021 after almost 30 years of service.

Linwood was a hero to his family. He had a selfless devotion to others, and his witty humor will be missed tremendously. He was an aficionado of cigars and Virginia Tech Football. His happy places were smoking ribs, eating seafood and playing golf with his brothers at the beach.

His family will hold an intimate celebration of life by the ocean in California, near the home of his daughter, Ann.

Frank Anthony Poth

Frank Anthony Poth, 82, of 1201 Spruce St., Martinsville died Thursday, May 12, 2022 in Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, VA.



Born August 1, 1939 in Hawthorne, NJ, he was a son of the late Frank Poth and Carrie DeYoung Poth.

He was the founder and owner of Paterson Roofing in New Jersey for over 50 years and retired and moved to Stuart, VA and more recently had moved to Martinsville.

Frank is survived by his daughter Lenore, son Frank, Jr. daughter Irene and stepson Jason. He also is survived by his grandchildren Nathaniel, Natalie, Frankie, Peter, Billy and Ian.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the Martinsville Chapel of Norris Funeral Services and Crematory with Rev. David Deisher officiating.

Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

OBITUARIES

Troy Robert "Bert" Roberson

Troy Robert "Bert" Roberson, 68, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at his residence. He was born on August 23, 1953, in Danville, VA to the late John Robert Roberson and Francis Ann Hill Roberson. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Teresa Garrett Roberson and his daughter, Lisa Roberson.

Surviving is his daughters, Wendy Bemis of Fairfield, CA and Melissa Flaz of Rio Vista, CA; sons, Bryan



Tillman of Chester, SC and Christopher Garrett of Fieldale, VA; sister, Janet L. Roberson of Danville, VA; brothers, John L. Roberson of Cascade, VA, David W. Roberson of Cascade, VA and Maurice "Dell" Roberson of Danville, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Madyson Tillman, Alyssa Tillman, Wyatt Tillman, Grace, Elianna and David Albertson, Joseph, Leo, Joshua, and Evan Flaz.

All services will be held privately. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Roberson family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Teresa "Terrie" Eastridge Garrett Roberson

Teresa "Terrie" Eastridge Garrett Roberson, 62, of Martinsville, VA passed away Thursday, May 5, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born May 15, 1959, in Martinsville, VA to the late Jim Eastridge and Ann Stone Eastridge.

She is survived by her husband, Troy "Bert" Roberson; children, Wendy Bemis, Melissa Flaz (Juan Flaz), and Christopher Garrett (Lindy Garrett); step-son, Bryan Tillman; grandchildren, Grace, Elianna, and



Daniel Albertson, Joseph, Leo, Joshua, and Evan Flaz, and Madyson, Alyssa, and Wyatt Tillman. Also surviving are her adopted sisters, Susanne Blanton and Tonya Cressel; and brothers, Mike and Greg Eastridge.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Roberson family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Janice Martin Sawyers

Janice Martin Sawyers, 74 of Collinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2022, at her home surrounded by her family. She was born on October 13, 1947, in Virginia to the late Akers G. Martin and Senora Mae Harris Martin. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Johnny Martin.

Mrs. Sawyers was a member of Fairhaven Assembly of God and was a loving mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, David Sawyers; daughters, Jennifer



Gilbert, and Kerri Clark; son, Matt Sawyers; brothers, Jimmy Martin, and Jerry Martin and sister, JoAnn Martin. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Fairhaven Assembly of God, 75 Rabbit Ridge Rd, Rocky Mount, VA 24151.

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

Mary Satterfield Taylor

Mary Satterfield Taylor, age 98, died May 10, 2022, at King's Grant Retirement Community, Martinsville, VA. She was born in Danville, VA, to Elise Council Satterfield and John Roberts Satterfield.

She attended primary and secondary schools in Danville, graduating from George Washington High School in 1941. She entered the Women's College of the University of North Carolina, now the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She took considerable pride in being a "War Class" member whose college years spanned all of World War II. After completing her chemistry degree, she came to Martinsville to work as an analytical chemist for DuPont. For two different periods following her DuPont career, she taught chemistry, biology and general science at Fieldale High School. She was a member of Fieldale Baptist Church, taught Sunday School, was active in the WMU and served on the board of deacons including a term as Board chair. In 1974, she entered Patrick-Henry Community College to study nursing, her life-long



dream. She volunteered at the Red Cross and at King's Grant.

She married Robert Lawrence Taylor in 1948. They were married for 49 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her only brother, John R. Satterfield, Jr. She is survived by her son, Dr. Robert L. Taylor, Jr. and his wife, Jane of Morgantown, WV., She is also survived by granddaughters Rachel Mary Taylor, her husband, David of New York City; Rebecca Jane Taylor, her fiancée, Joseph Helmick of Orlando, FL as well as three nephews and one niece.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. June 11, 2022, at Collins-McKee-Stone in Martinsville. The family will receive friends and relatives beginning at noon. Interment will be at Roselawn Burial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Fieldale Baptist Church, P. O. Box 98, Fieldale, VA 24089.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Patricia Philpott Petty

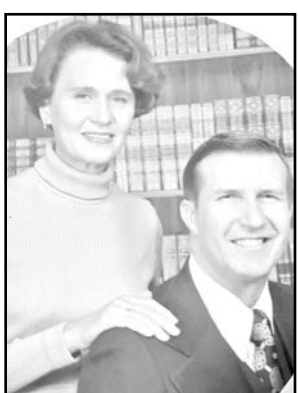
Petty, Patricia Philpott ("Pat"), 92, went home to be with the Lord, May 11th, after a courageous battle with a rare form of lung cancer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John E. and Gertrude Philpott; her husband of 58 years, Brigadier General Robert O. ("Bob") Petty; her brothers, A.L. Philpott and Harry Woodrow ("Bobby") Philpott, and sisters, Maxine Dorness and Helen Palmour.

She is survived by her brother John D. Philpott; her four children, Lynn Payne (John), Suzanne Fuhrmeister, Mark Petty, and Sam Petty (Joanie), as well as nine grandchildren, Sarah Tulin (Sean), Johnny Payne (Tumie), Daniel Payne (Katie), Kimberly Fuhrmeister, Cory Fuhrmeister (Jordan Temple); Sierra Petty (Devin Allison), Logan and Shane Davis; and Toby Rollins; and nine great-grandchildren, Sedric Tulin; Theo, Zinzile, and Mia Payne; Slaton, Mary Madison, Anne Temple, and Hill Chandler Payne; and Erin Allison.

Born and raised in Bassett, Virginia, Pat dreamed of one day seeing the world. As a military spouse, she moved 20 times in the course of Bob's long career in the Air Force, from Alabama, DC, Ohio, Illinois, California, New York, Scotland, England, and Germany. She loved every minute of it; her love of travel allowed her to see much larger parts of the world. And, oh the stories she could tell of their many adventures and misadventures!

Her talents and hobbies were varied: playing bridge, tole painting, oooing and ahhing over glorious sunsets, horseback



riding, snow and water skiing in her younger days, and hiking up Jamison's Mill in her later years.

Most of all, Pat had a big heart, a warm smile, a sunny outlook on life, welcoming all who crossed her path. To many, she was a second mom. The door was always open to her home with an extra place at the table. She left her mark of love and caring on the communities where she lived, including as a crisis counselor and hospice volunteer.

She wanted everyone she met to know that she was a real Christian. In the spring of 1980, she had an encounter with Jesus that changed her life. She was a faithful member of Stanleytown United Methodist Church. Thank you to Pastor David Westmoreland and all her church family for their love and support.

The family would like to thank Mountain Valley Hospice. They enabled a family beach trip with her to celebrate her 92nd birthday, and we could not have made it through her illness without them. Pat donated her body to the Virginia State Anatomical Program to support educational and scientific efforts. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 21st at Stanleytown United Methodist Church with visitation at 11:30, and the service to follow at 1. The family suggests that donations be made to Tackfully Teamed, the Salvation Army, and Doctors Without Borders.

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

Dennis Rene Willard

Dennis Rene Willard, 60, of Bassett, VA passed away Saturday, May 14, 2022, at his home. He was born July 8, 1961, in Martinsville, VA to the late Capp Willard and Vinia Ratcliff Willard. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda Lynn Willard.

He is survived by his daughters, Wendy Hurd (Tony) of Collinsville, VA and Tiffany Willard



of Bassett, VA; grandchildren, Blake Hence, Damian Hurd, Kaileigh Turner, and Caydence Turner; sister, Jasonia Boardwine (Danny) of Bassett, VA; and brothers, Tim Willard and Wesley Willard of Tennessee.

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

Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 27th
5:30 pm

Primitive Quartet
Chuch Wagon Gang
The Sound



Saturday, May 28th
5:30 pm

Brian Free & Assurance
The Churchmen
The Harvesters Quartet

Sunday Morning Worship

Music by The Churchmen • Message by Brother Curt Ashley

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dominionvalleypark@gmail.com
276.694.4245

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2-Day Pass \$40 each
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AUCTION

Estate Auction
Saturday, May 21, 2022, 10 a.m., 1415 Old Well Road, Spencer, VA 24165. 2.48 Acres, with 3 Bedroom House, and 1-1/2 Story Log Cabin. Some Personal Property. Selling for Estate of David W. McMillan.
Evans Auction Co., Inc (VAAR 028) 276-340-5151. Call for maps and details.

FOR SALE

For Sale
Husqvarna riding mower, model YTH18K46 with hydrostatic drive, 18HP Kawasaki motor, 46-inch cut, Super Capacity three bag grass catcher, new battery. Garaged when not in use. \$1150.00.
EGO model LM2130-SP battery powered, self-propelled, walk behind mower, 21 inch Select Cut deck, 56-volt battery with charger, new extra blades, grass catcher. Under warranty. \$450.00.
Call 276-790-3801.

HELP WANTED

PHCC
Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Welding Faculty, Industrial Electronics Technology Faculty, Nursing & Health Sciences Assistant, 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, Head Tennis Coach, 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,

HELP WANTED

age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

FAIRY STONE

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring Multiple Seasonal Positions!
Beach Maintenance Ranger, Beach Ranger (Life-guard), 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, or call (276) 930-2424. DCR is EOE.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL21000783-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Rd., 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112

CARLTON MCCLARENCE v. CRISTINE MCCLARENCE
P.O. Box 16103, Richmond, VA 23222

The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII
It is ORDERED that CRISTINE MCCLARENCE appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before June 26, 2022.

April 27, 2022

Joseph D. Roberts
JUDGE DE CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING/FILING OF PETITION SEEKING DETERMINATION OF DEATH IN RE: KEITH ALLAN FETTER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Petitioners, Jennifer Lynn Fetter and Joseph Fetter, by counsel, have filed Petition in the Henry County Circuit Court to declare Keith Allan Fetter of Henry County, Virginia, deceased.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Petitioners, by counsel, will appear before the Honorable James McGarry, Judge of the Circuit Court for Henry County, 3160 Kings Mountain Rd. B, Martinsville, VA 24112, on July 19, 2022, commencing at 9:00 a.m., and there present evidence and argument in support of their Petition, which pleading having been previously filed.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, Esquire
Daniel, Medley & Kirby, P.C.
110 North Union Street
Danville, VA 24541
Telephone (434) 792-3911
Facsimile: (434) 793-5724
Counsel for Petitioners

Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, Esq.



ADVERTISE!

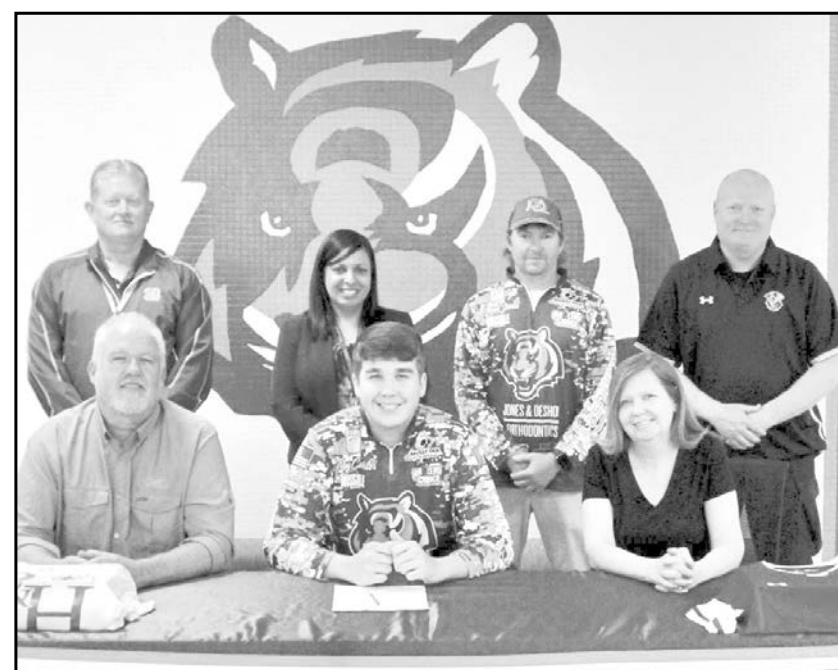
Signing Day/Letter of Intent for local athletes

Two BHS seniors to fish at P&HCC in fall

Two Bassett High School seniors, Troy Carter and Hunter Whitlock, have signed on to fish at Patrick & Henry Community College in the fall.



Seated: John Whitlock (father, far left), Bassett High School senior Hunter Whitlock, Cristy Whitlock (mother). Standing: Bassett High School Activities Coordinator Jay Gilbert (far left), principal Tiffany Gravely, coach Mark Jones, P&HCC coach John Robinson.



Seated: Randy Carter (father, far left), Bassett High School senior Troy Carter, and Mary Carter (mother). Standing: Bassett High School Activities Coordinator Jay Gilbert (far left), principal Tiffany Gravely, coach Mark Jones, P&HCC coach John Robinson.

Brim to Run for P&HCC

By Ashlee Mullis
Patrick County High School senior Riley Brim recently signed letter of intent to run Track and Cross Country at Patrick

& Henry Community College (P&HCC).
"I'm excited about this new opportunity to meet new people and experience college Track and Field," Brim said.

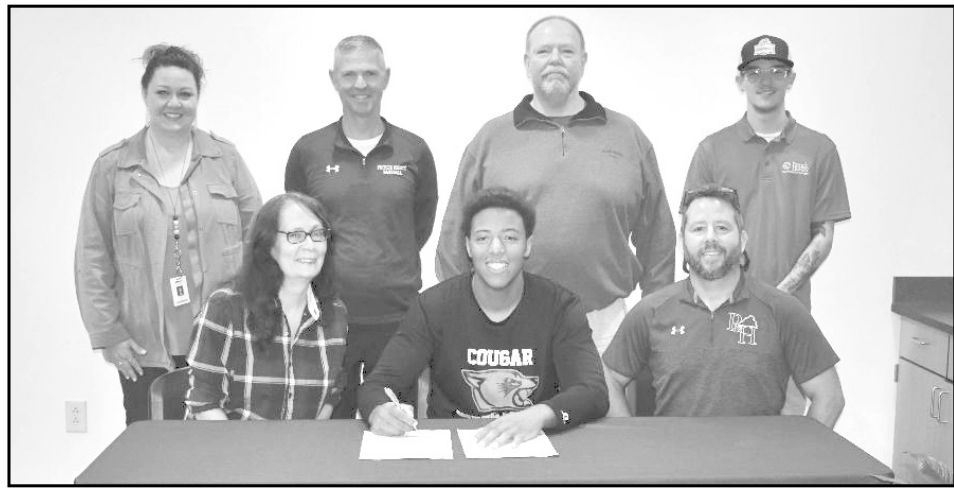


In attendance at the signing for Brim were (front row, from left) father Quinn Brim, Riley Brim, mother Raina Brim; (back row, from left) PCHS Track Coach Tony Mosley, PCHS Principal Hope Perry, P&HCC and PCHS Track Coach Andre Kidd, PCHS Track Coach Willie Greene, PCHS Indoor Track Coach Kiran Penn, PCHS Athletic Director Terry Harris.

Johnson to wrestle for Patrick & Henry Community College

By Ashlee Mullis
Patrick County High School senior Jaheim Johnson recently signed his letter of intent to wrestle for the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Patriots.
"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to wrestle with a familiar coach

and a great program that's close to home," Johnson said.
P&HCC Head Coach Chad Lange, Johnson's former PCHS coach, had these words of wisdom for his new Patriot Wrestler- "Dreams don't work unless YOU do!"



In attendance at the signing for Brim were (front row, from left) father Quinn Brim, Riley Brim, mother Raina Brim; (back row, from left) PCHS Track Coach Tony Mosley, PCHS Principal Hope Perry, P&HCC and PCHS Track Coach Andre Kidd, PCHS Track Coach Willie Greene, PCHS Indoor Track Coach Kiran Penn, PCHS Athletic Director Terry Harris.

Submit your community news and photos to
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Track “starting to hurt the kids” says Bassett coach

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The condition of Bassett High School's track is “starting to hurt athletes,” cross country and track coach told the Henry County School Board on May 5.

Kevin Underwood, who teaches 4th grade math and science at Stanleytown Elementary and is finishing his 10th year as Bassett's track coach, said the track, which is at least 20-years old, has gone through so many cycles of hot and cold “that it is hard as can be.”

There are three or four “huge cracks all the way across” the track, he said, adding “that track is really starting to hurt the kids.”

He said he was running on it just a few days before and now has a bruised shin as a result. “And I didn't even hit anything,” he said.

He said his student athletes run on the track three days per week. One of his runners is recovering from a stress fracture.

“I can't say it's all because of the pavement track, but it's definitely adding to it,” he said.

“Magna Vista's track is in about the same shape, so I'm advocating for both schools, because we're at the point now that we both have competitive track and field programs,” Underwood said.

While he requested a rubberized track, “at this point, I would take dirt over a concrete track,” he said.

Near the end of the meeting, Elizabeth Durden, of the Collinsville District, said, “that's obviously a major issue. Is that on the radar to be addressed?”

“Every 10 years, they do a facilities study,” said Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer, “and of course there's tons of stuff that Mr. Scott (Keith Scott, director of facilities maintenance) would love to do given the money. If you give him the check, he can do it. I know we have limited funds, but I know he is very aware of what goes on with everything in our school system.”

Scott said principals submit capital requests annually, “and we talk about them on a pretty regular basis. If we know about those, then we can talk about our capital improvement plan.”

He said the division was in the first quarter of its facilities assessment, which will be completed around October of this year. “I feel pretty certain if that's an issue like that, that will be included which will in turn help us build our capital improvement plan moving forward.”

Scott recalled that in 2017, maintenance officials priced replacing the track at Laurel Park.

“That was \$160,000 to redo that rubber surface in 2017, so you can imagine how things have changed. But with this assessment, we should have some budgetary numbers that we can work off of and build our capital plan.”

“I don't ever want it to be a concern for parents who have talented students to go elsewhere because our facilities aren't up to standard,” Durden said.

In other matters, the board:

*Recognized a number of students who achieved various awards and placements during the school year.

*Heard a budget update from Dr. David Scott, assistant superintendent of operations and administrative services, who discussed scale adjustments and step increases for teacher salaries. He said a combination of the adjustments and increases would provide an average increase of more than 8 percent for employees on the teacher scale. Employees at the top of the scale would receive a percentage increase rather than a step advancement. In the proposed scale for the 2022-23 school year, the starting salary for first year, fully licensed teachers will be \$45,537, compared to \$43,369 from the 2021-22 scale. Employees moved to the final step through advancement will be paid \$63,306, and employees who have reached the final step before the beginning of the school year will receive an additional increase, he said.

*Adopted guidelines governing the use of personal electronic devices in school. The policy states that use of such devices, including cell phones, smart watches and other smart devices, electronic games, and other forms of electronic communication, is prohibited from the start to the end of the instructional day. High school students, the guidelines state, may use devices during breakfast and lunch, if deemed appropriate by school administration.



Kevin Underwood, a math and science teacher at Stanleytown Elementary and track and cross country coach at Bassett High School said the condition of the Bassett track, which is at least 20-years-old, is causing injuries to athletes.

*Adopted student dress standards for the upcoming school year.

*Authorized Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Lisa Millner to sign all Virginia Department of Education correspondence, reports, documents, requisitions, and other financial correspondence in Strayer's absence for a period beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

*Approved the 2022-23 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application.

*Approved revisions of School Board policies and regulations.

*Awarded a \$270,000 contract for fresh fruits, vegetables, and eggs for school cafeterias to Wood's Produce of Meadows of Dan, which was the sole vendor to respond to a request for proposals.

*Approved the purchase of a new 20-ton integrated wrecker on a new single-axle chassis from Matheny Motor Truck Company, up to \$392,718.08, subject to availability of year-end funding. Dr. Scott said that the school division's transportation department currently owns a 1992 5-ton wrecker used for the timely recovery of vehicles due to mechanical failures and accidents. It has been used to assist other county agencies in the transportation of vehicles, he said. The current wrecker is no longer adequate to the division's needs as the weight of buses and other school vehicles has increased and the lack of ability to tow from the rear of a bus. Matheny was the only company that responded to the bid solicitation.

*Awarded a \$282,518 contract in ESSER II funding to Piedmont Mechanical of Collinsville to add air conditioning to the gym at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. The board further awarded a \$113,355 contract in ESSER II funding to Trane of Roanoke for rooftop air conditioning units.

*Awarded a \$342,996 contract in ESSER II funds to Piedmont Mechanical of Collinsville for the addition of air conditioning to the kitchens at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School and the Center for Community Learning.

*Awarded a \$338,890 contract for grounds maintenance services to Gammons Lawn Care of Ridgeway.

*Awarded a \$448,000 contract to Valley Boiler & Mechanical, Inc. of Roanoke to replace the domestic water heating system at Magna Vista High School. The existing system is served by a fuel oil heating boiler which has exceeded its life expectancy.

Important dates:

May 27: Magna Vista High School graduation, 7 p.m.

May 28: Bassett High School Graduation, 9 a.m.

May 30: School Board holiday

June 9: School Board monthly meeting, 9 a.m.

June 20: School Board holiday

June 23: School Board special meeting, 9 a.m.

July 14: School Board monthly meeting, 9 a.m.

July 14: School Board retreat, 11 a.m.

“A field of dreams:” community celebrates grand opening of Five Points Neighborhood



Officials from the City, Harvest Foundation, Nationwide Homes, Silverpoint Homes, the Economic Development Corporation, and others gathered on the front porch of one of the five homes currently in place in the new Five Points neighborhood in Martinsville to celebrate the grand opening of the new affordable housing development with a ribbon cutting.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Five Points Neighborhood, a new community development just minutes away from Uptown Martinsville, celebrated its grand opening the morning of May 10 with a ribbon cutting and tours of two of the five homes that are currently in place and ready, or nearly ready, to welcome homeowners.

Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson recalled that the kickoff for the development project several years ago was held on a cold, blustery day—a stark contrast to the spring breeze and sunshine of Monday's ceremony.

“This event is the culmination of many months of work by multiple groups to bring new, affordable housing to Martinsville, and we hope that this is just the first,” Lawson said. “The unique partnership between” partners that included the city, the Harvest Foundation, Virginia Housing Authority, USDA-Rural Development, Silverpoint Homes, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, and Nationwide Homes “is an innovative approach, and we're optimistic the momentum generated by this project will carry forward to other similar projects and developments. This is a great day in Martinsville and for all of the project partners. We look forward to seeing all of these houses become homes for our citizens.”

Don Aheron, general manager of Nationwide Homes, noted that Nationwide has been in business in Martinsville for 63 years. “We're very proud of that.”

He hopes the Five Points project “will help us continue forward and do more, not only here in Martinsville but also in other areas,” he said, adding that the process could be used as a template to illustrate how a similar project could be done successfully in other communities.

Jim Miller, of Silverpoint Homes, said the organization was “very proud” to be part of the development. “Other cities have tried this, and they have gotten to second base and it went downhill from there, so I want to congratulate the city, the Harvest Foundation, and everybody that's been on

the team to make this possible. There were a lot of things that could have killed this. It was a challenge. For the group to hold it together, and everyone stay committed, I think was an outstanding accomplishment.”

Miller said the once-underdeveloped lot had been turned into “a field of dreams for people who need to fulfill their dreams of home ownership. I look at this as a field of dreams that's been fulfilled for some people, that's going to make their lives so much better.”

He recognized the efforts of Jeff Sadler, the Martinsville-Henry County housing and revitalization coordinator. “Without his determination and leadership and staying on it, making us meet every two weeks come hell or high water to get it back on track, I know this wouldn't have been achieved.”

“On behalf of Silverpoint,” Miller said, “let's do this again. We're ready when you are.”

Kate Keller, president of the Harvest Foundation, said the project was a “labor of love,” and joined the other speakers in thanking all the entities involved.

“This will be a model that will be replicated across the United States,” she said. “People are already looking at how we pulled together private/public partnerships to create affordable housing and workforce housing for our communities.”

Five Points is located at the five-way intersection of Fayette Street, Memorial Boulevard South, and West Church Street. The cottage-style homes (town-homes are planned for a later phase of the project) were designed with new construction technologies that cut down on materials and overall costs to pass those savings along to the homeowner. Five completed homes are currently on-site, with three still available for sale. Additional homes will be built as completed homes are sold.

It is intended to address “a critical housing need in our community,” City Manager Leon Towarnicki said in a release. “The unique partnership behind

this project creates an innovative approach to new housing construction, the concepts of which can be replicated in other communities. On behalf of the city, we're excited to see the project take shape and look forward to welcoming new hom-

owners to the neighborhood.”

Earlier this year, Cavco, Nationwide Homes' parent company, won the Manufactured Housing Institute's inaugural Community Impact Project of the Year award for the Five Points project.

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