

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 4, 2022

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Sheriff believes “key information” exists in decade-old murder mystery

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A task force revisiting the decade-old case of the Short family murders is continuing its work and Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry remains hopeful that, this time, the investigation will bring justice and result in an arrest.

“Over the last few months, they have gone over the case,” Perry said, adding that investigators have reviewed threads of evidence that they believed had previously been overlooked “and followed them to the end. So far, that work hasn’t generated anything,” though the team is “still working on some things they want to accomplish and going over interviews again. There is still active work taking place.”

Perry said he has “always

felt like there are a couple of key people that have key information they’re withholding.” He said that officers encounter the phrase “I don’t want to get involved” from potential witnesses on a regular basis when investigating cases.

“The one thing you’re hopeful about when you revisit something like this is that over the years, a mentality has changed, a sense of justice has changed, and people now may be more forthcoming. They (investigators) are going back and touching base with people that were involved in the case” and seem to have first-hand knowledge, Perry said.

Despite some of the current work yielding no new results or information, Perry remains hopeful that new information will come to light. “We regularly see

See **Short Murders**, page 3



Sarah Evans discusses her plans for a new nonprofit campground and mental health retreat in the Ridgeway District. The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously approved her request for a special use permit for the facility.

BZA approves permits for campground, events venue

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) last Wednesday unanimously approved two special use permits, one to allow for the creation of a campground and a wedding and events venue in the Iriswood District.

Sarah Evans and Danys Pirrung submitted a request for a special use permit to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 10 sites per acre. The property, located at 87 Frith Drive in the Ridgeway District, is approximately 5-acres and is zoned Agricultural District A-1.

According to a letter submitted by the applicants, the property was previously the site of Martinsville Thermal, LLC, but the industrial structure has been cleared and soil sample testing has been completed.

Lee Clark, director of Planning, Zoning, and Inspections, told the board that the property was located in the Ridgeway Growth Area as defined by the Henry County Comprehensive Plan, is

served by public water and public sewer, and fronts on a state-maintained road. He said staff considered the requested use to be consistent with the comprehensive plan.

“I’ve walked over the property,” Clark told the board. “In my opinion, it’s a good location for what it is that they want to do. The property is isolated. It sits well below the road. There are no residences near the property. (U.S.) 220 is on the other side, well above the property and is treed, so basically, you’ve got a bowl where this would be located. I don’t see where it would have any negative impact on any adjoining property owners. On three sides, it’s isolated and the fourth side is the (Smith) river itself.”

Evans told the board that she and Pirrung plan to have 17 or 18 sites in the campground, as only about 2.5-acres of the land is usable.

According to the applicants’ letter, the campground and RV park will be managed as a nonprofit entity, also serving as a “retreat for mental health and therapy promoting practices such as yoga for rejuvenation.”

The letter states that the

See **BZA Approves Permits**, page 3



Artists at Large Ron Holloway (foreground, on saxophone) and John Bryant (background, on drums) during Friday’s classic rock set. The Artists at Large sets bring together talented musicians to jam together without prior rehearsal. The music created during these sessions will only be experienced by those at the festival, a unique moment in time in a festival that encourages people to live in the moment.

Rooster Walk struts its stuff

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Rain, severe thunderstorm warnings, and even the possible threat of a tornado did nothing to dampen the high spirits of music lovers who attended the 12th annual Rooster Walk Music and Arts Festival held last weekend in Axton.

Throughout the weekend, musicians, staff, volunteers, vendors, and

See **Rooster Walk**, page 5



A young girl runs through bubbles during Saturday’s Artist at Large set. Rooster Walk is a family-friendly festival, offering Kids’ Coop activities including a kids’ open mic, a slip-n-slide, and music sets geared specifically toward younger audiences.

Memorial Day service honors fallen heroes

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

“It is said that Armed Forces Day is for those that are still in uniform, Veteran’s Day is for those who have hung up their uniform, and Memorial Day is for those who never made it out of their uniform,” David Gilleran said during Martinsville’s annual Memorial Day service.

An estimated 100 people gathered at Roselawn Cemetery on Monday for a solemn service honoring the military men and women who lost their lives serving their country. From beneath a flag flown at half mast, standing on a stage erected before stones dedicated to lost service members, several speakers rose to honor the fallen with remembrances, prayers, and ceremonies.

The service opened with the placing of the POW/MIA (prisoner

See **Memorial Day**, page 8



Left, Army veteran Curtis R. Millner, Sr. was the featured speaker at Monday’s Memorial Day service in Martinsville. He said that, since the Revolutionary War, more than 1 million Americans have died in service to their country. Right, Air Force veteran Sgt. William H. Gravely stands as his service song is played during Monday’s Memorial Day service at Roselawn Cemetery. Gravely said he served in the Air Force for 23 years.



M-HC businesses take top spots in Gauntlet business competition

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A number of startup and existing small businesses from Martinsville and Henry County emerged vic-

torious last week at the awards and graduation ceremony for the 8th annual Gauntlet Business Program & Competition. Of the 66 businesses competing for award pack-

ages including cash and in-kind prizes, local businesses took the top two spots. In total, 17 local entre-

See **Gauntlet**, page 3



The Martinsville and Henry County entrepreneurs who competed in the Gauntlet small business launch program after the awards ceremony in Vinton, VA. In total, 17 local small businesses or startups were recognized during the ceremony, with Natalie Hodge of Rudy’s Girl Media tying for first place. (Contributed photo)

VISIT

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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, 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.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a special, old Hollywood red carpet event, Movie and Mocktails with Marilyn. Step back in time into the opulence of old Hollywood for an evening of glamour, enchantment, and elegance at the Collinsville branch library. Festivities will include an old Hollywood costume contest, signature non-alcoholic mocktails, old Hollywood movie trivia, a special viewing of a classic Marilyn Monroe movie, door prizes, and more. Registration is required for this free event. To register, call (276) 647-1112.

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. The funds raised will be used to buy much-needed equipment for the squad.

Fido's Finds (119 East Main Street, Martinsville) will host a big basement sale from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. to benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. Thousands of items will be at bargain basement prices. The only thing hotter than the temperature are the low prices.

Wednesday, June 8

The Virginia Department of

Veteran Services will host an in-person Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Employer Certification Training and Veteran Resource event at the Patrick & Henry Community College MET Complex (67 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Registration, lunch, parking, and certification are all free. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/V3TrainJune2022>.

Thursday, June 9

The Henry County School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting beginning at 9 a.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.)

Friday, June 10

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

Saturday, June 11

The Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County hosts Take Me Out to the Ball Game/Mini Touch A Truck at Hooker Field in Martinsville. Bring the kids out for a fun evening at the ball field. Other children's activities will also be provided. Be sure to stay for the ball game. The event begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for adults; kids 12 and under are free.

Thursday, June 16

Uptown Partnership presents Third Thursdays in Uptown in collaboration with the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The events will be held in the Franklin Street/Depot Street parking lot in Martinsville. Food trucks will be present from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. with entertainment from DJ What and beer sales from Mountain Valley Brewing from 5-9 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Extension, Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To make your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, June 17

The American Red Cross will

host a blood drive at Blackberry Baptist Church (3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett) from 1-6 p.m. To register for your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, June 18

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) is hosting its first ever Wildlife Festival. Join the museum for a scientific celebration of creatures big and small, furry and scaly. The festival will include animal taxidermy mounts, specimens from the collection, live animals including an American alligator, animal-themed face painting, wildlife-themed activities and crafts, and special presentations by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and other wildlife experts. For more information including pricing, visit www.vmnh.net.

Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton is hosting Pour for Paws to benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. \$1 for every pint sold goes to the SPCA as well as proceeds from the brewery's giving tap.

The Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In will take place in downtown Bassett from 3-7 p.m. See hundreds of classic cars and trucks while enjoying great food and music along the beautiful Smith River. There will be a 50/50 drawing to benefit the Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department. Admission is free. Visit bassettcruisein.com for more information.

Sunday, June 19

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series will feature "History's Greatest Map Mistakes" with Historical Society board member and cartographer Zack Fleming beginning at 3 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum (1 East Main Street, Martinsville.) This talk is free and open to the public.

Monday, June 20

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

Tuesday, June 21

End the first day of summer, the longest day of the year, and International Yoga Day with

sunset yoga on the beautiful brick plaza of the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum (1 East Main Street, Martinsville.) Instructor Sheila Hubbard will guide yogis of all experience levels during this free event. First-timers are especially encouraged to attend. For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/3gy1BNFji>.

Wednesday, June 22

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

Thursday, June 23

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Hillcrest Baptist Church (18075 AL Philpott Highway, Ridgeway) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brrl.lib.va.us.

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

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

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Orator's podium
 - 5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
 - 8. Partner to "oohs"
 - 12. African antelope
 - 14. Indigenous Thai person
 - 15. Monetary unit of Angola
 - 16. Becomes less intense
 - 18. Insurance mascot
 - 19. Tech hub ___Alto
 - 20. Actress Tomei
 - 21. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 22. Type of smart watch
 - 23. Natives
 - 26. Incompetent person
 - 30. Rare Hawaiian geese
 - 31. Unspoken relationships are two
 - 33. Claw
 - 34. Status quo
 - 39. Mimic
 - 42. Fur-lined cloak
 - 44. Ancient foreigner
 - 46. In an angry way
 - 47. Ill-intentioned
 - 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
 - 50. S. American plant
 - 51. One or the other
 - 56. An alias for Thor
 - 57. Gratuity
 - 58. In a painful way
 - 59. French commune
 - 60. Promotional materials
 - 61. Greek city
 - 62. Assistant
 - 63. Confederate general
 - 64. Former NJ governor
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used by gymnasts
 - 2. "Luther" actor Idris
 - 3. Broad volcanic crater
 - 4. Not for
 - 5. Blur
 - 6. Tots
 - 7. Acted leisurely
 - 8. About the Alps
 - 9. Gets out of bed
 - 10. Town in "The Iliad"
 - 11. Welsh given name
 - 13. Remove salt
 - 17. Calvary sword
 - 24. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
 - 25. Keeps a house cozy
 - 26. Ballplayer's accessory
 - 27. Southwestern Russian city
 - 28. Pro sports league
 - 29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
 - 35. Stop standing
 - 36. Utilize
 - 37. Sign language
 - 38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
 - 40. Being of central importance
 - 41. Ruin environment
 - 42. Dessert dish
 - 43. Sea eagles
 - 44. Fertilized
 - 45. Jerry's friend Benes
 - 47. Indian river
 - 48. Pass into a specified state or condition
 - 49. Nocturnal rodent
 - 52. A way to travel
 - 53. Iron-containing compound
 - 54. Ancient Greek City
 - 55. NFL signal caller Matt

RU releases Dean's List for Spring 2022

Radford University has released its Dean's List for Spring 2022. Appearing on the Dean's List is the most prestigious academic recognition RU students can receive for their performance during a semester.

Students will be placed on the Dean's List if they meet four specific criteria. They must have 12 semester hours of coursework graded A-F; earn GPAs of at least 3.4 for all courses not graded on a pass-fail basis; obtain no grade lower than "C"; and no incomplete grades.

- The following students were included on the Spring 2022 Dean's List:
- Meagan Collins, NURS - Nursing major from Collinsville.
 - Liliana Dailey, BIOL - Biology major from Ridgeway.
 - Kendra Foster, SOWK - Social Work major from Martinsville.
 - Gabriel Hamm, NURS - Nursing major from Meadows Of Dan.
 - Whitley Manns, PNUR - Pre-Nursing major from Spencer.
 - Emily McVey, NURS - Nursing major from Collinsville.
 - Heidi Pinnix, ART - Art major from Martinsville.
 - Noelya Santiago, NURS - Nursing major from Collinsville.

Lane closure set for water line repair in Collinsville

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) will be replacing a 16-inch transmission line at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Seminole Drive in Collinsville from June 6-10.

In February, the PSA was called to repair a water main break at the same intersection. While inspecting the system, PSA staff noted the potential for future pipe failures due to a deteriorating pipe under Seminole Drive. The project to replace the transmission line is intended to alleviate those concerns. Following the replacement of the line, Gary Smith Construction will begin repairing any curb and gutter damage made during the process. This is expected to last another 3-4 days.

A lane closure request was granted by the Virginia Department of Transportation to ensure the safety of construction employees throughout the project. The lane closure will likely be in effect for eight working days. In addition, the entrance to Seminole Drive from Virginia Avenue will be closed for the duration of the project. PSA staff is working to identify alternative solutions to minimize disruption of water service to the affected communities throughout the process.

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

Short Murders

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old cases that, when they're gone back through, something suddenly comes forward from it. While you're disappointed you do have to go this far back, that people didn't bring information forward, it's also hopeful that this time there may be a different outcome."

On Aug. 15, 2002, the bodies of Michael Short and his wife Mary were found inside their home in Bassett, each with an apparent gunshot wound to the head. Their 9-year-old daughter, Jennifer, was missing and initially presumed kidnapped.

On Sept. 25, 2002, remains found along a stream bed off Grogan Road in Rockingham County, N.C. were determined to belong to Jennifer who, it was later determined, also suffered a single gunshot wound to the head.

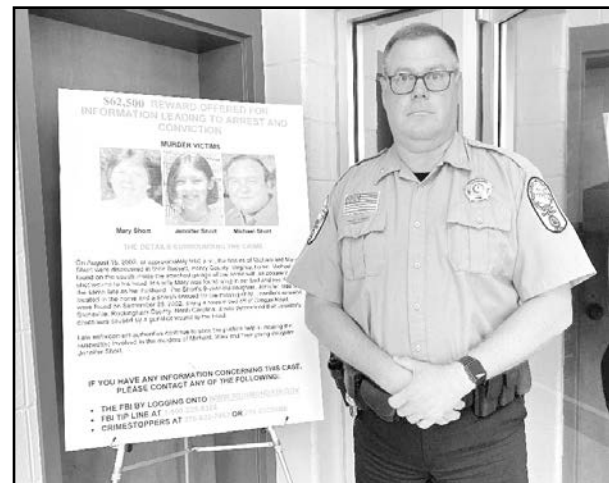
To date, no arrests have been made in the case. Perry recalled that he had been with the sheriff's office for about 10 years and was working in the patrol division when the murders first occurred. He worked with many of the "massive searches" that went on around that time frame.

"Any police officer, we don't want to see anyone harmed or injustice happen, especially when it involves a child. The officers wanted to see justice brought forth for Michael and Mary, but even more so for Jennifer, because she never got a chance to start her life. She never made it to 10-years-old."

He reiterated that it is disheartening for officers to encounter people who say they do not want to get involved, and indicated that mentality has been somewhat of a hindrance in the Short case.

"We do think the information is out there somewhere that could bring the truth to light," Perry said.

Currently, a \$62,500 reward is available for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the deaths. Anyone with information is asked to call Crimestoppers at (276) 632-7463 or 276-63CRIME. Information also may be reported to the FBI by logging onto www.richmond.fbi.gov or calling the FBI Tip Line at 1-800-225-5324.



Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry stands beside a poster about the Short family murders. A task force is revisiting the 2002 case.

Gauntlet

from page 1

preneurs received recognition for their business plans at a ceremony held May 15 in Vinton, VA.

In a historic first, the business program had two first-place winners, including Martinsville's Natalie Hodge and her company, Rudy's Girl Media. The company is a multi-media content developer based in Uptown Martinsville. Hodge, who earned her master's degree from Cornell University and has worked in the entertainment industry in New York and Los Angeles, has produced a number of short films and is currently at work on the second season of the reality series "Hometown Hustle," spotlighting other local entrepreneurs.

Hodge will receive a total prize package of \$29,840, including \$20,000 in cash and \$9,849 in in-kind prizes.

"I was overwhelmed, and still am," Hodge said of her win. "Experts in economic development saw my studio concept as a game changer. That was a high compliment especially because I heard elevator pitches from other businesses. I know that I was amongst the best and brightest. Our community in particular had strong businesses as part of the competition. To be chosen as the top business is a huge honor."

She said the program was beneficial "in that it allowed local entrepreneurs, like myself, the opportunity to network with other small business owners and economic development professionals across the Commonwealth."

Of the items in her prize package, she said "the billboard was a big deal for me." (The first place winners were featured on a Roanoke billboard, courtesy of Lamar.) "To see my logo featured was an absolute dream come true."

Hodge said "every dollar of the prize will go to transforming the first floor of 30 West Main Street (a property she recently purchased in Martinsville) into Rudy's Girl Media Studios. It will not only be a space for my own content development, but also for community members to explore the art of multimedia production. We'll host screenings, workshops, castings, and creative collaboration meetings."

She tied for first place with Roanoke-based Natalie Ashton, owner of Electric Iris 3D, a producer of innovative poultry incubator accessories.

Herb Atwell and Peggy Donovan, who own Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton, also earned a top spot in the competition. Their pitch for a new uptown brewpub, Renewal Brewing, earned them second place and a total prize package of \$14,525, including \$12,000 in cash, a one-year free membership in the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, an advertising consultation, legal consultation, business counselling, a logo package, and other in-kind awards.

Donivan said the couple was "absolutely thrilled" with their second place finish. "There were so many deserving entrepreneurs in the competition, and to know that we had placed well made all the stress and hard work of the last few months worthwhile."

Though they have operated Mountain Valley Brewing for five years and have had other small business ventures previously, Donivan said the program "was good to put all the pieces together in one place. The business plan for our new venture was much more detailed than I had

imagined and took several attempts, plus a lot of starting and re-starting, but in the long run it forces you to think about the details and make sure your plan makes sense." She said the couple also learned pitching their business successfully.

"Networking with others was by far the most valuable part of the program," she said. "There are so many people out there that can help you, and vice versa, but you will never know until you start going out and meeting folks."

The pair are most excited for the cash award they received as part of their prize package. "This new venture is going to take a lot of capital, and the prize money will definitely make it easier to make some initial equipment purchases," including a new brewing system which, Donivan said, can be costly but "the Gauntlet award will definitely ease that burden a little."

Donivan said it was amazing to see communities participating in the program come together to give awardees so many in-kind prizes, including legal and marketing consultations, "many of which are desperately needed by every new business."

Ultimately, Donivan said she would "highly recommend this program to anyone just starting out in business, thinking about a business, or expanding an existing one. There's always something to learn."

Coming in third place was yet another local entrepreneur, Dr. Mary Beth Noonan of Children First Pediatrics of Virginia PC, whose total prize package totals \$13,940 and includes \$12,000 cash.

In fact, of 17 ranked platinum award winners at last week's awards, nearly half were Martinsville-Henry County businesses. Josh Blancas, who currently owns The Ground Floor in uptown, placed 10th for his new endeavor, Backspace Coffee. Forrest Forschmiedt won 12th place for Made in Martinsville, Duncan Monroe placed 13th for his Customiz3design, and DeShanta Hairston placed 14th for Books and Crannies.

The Gauntlet class of 2022 attracted a record 153 entrepreneurs from communities across the Roanoke Valley, Shenandoah Valley, and Southside. After 10 weeks of classes, a total of 66 businesses moved on to compete for their piece of over \$400,000 in cash, grants, and in-kind prizes and services.

In total, 17 Martinsville and Henry County entrepreneurs were recognized with monetary and in-kind prize packages during the ceremony, receiving gold, silver, and bronze awards:

Shane and Paula Wood of Wood Worx Wellness (gold award, total prize package of \$5,790)

Tanya Jones-Harrison of Dependable Home Healthcare, LLC (gold award, total prize package of \$3,690)

Christi Hodges and Jason Grodensky of The Boutique Uptown & The Men's Room Uptown (silver award, total prize package of \$3,690)

Venena Preston of Faithfully Yours (silver award, total prize package of \$3,090)

Sierra Barrow of The Barrow Center (bronze award, total prize package of \$2,230)

Mercedes Moreno of Meche's Beauty Salon and Esthetic (bronze award, total prize package of \$1,990)

Shatera Robertson of Unique Styles and Designs

BZA Approves Permits

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camp "may be used by the general public only as a means to raise funds for its primary function as a nonprofit organization."

Evans said that she and Pirrung currently operate several campers they rent via Air BnB and also have a mobile event center. They plan to move both the campers and the event center to the property. She added that the grounds will be monitored 24/7 by on-site ground-keepers

The request was unanimously approved with the addition of two conditions suggested by Clark. The first was that the campground must meet the state code and Virginia Department of Health guidelines for operating a campground. Secondly, the operators must construct a fence or barricade to prevent public access to the utility infrastructure bridge located on the property boundary. The fence must contain a lockable gate to allow PSA to access the site and no trespassing signs must be placed

at the area.

Kirk Cotter, doing business as Slainte Ranch, requested a special use permit to allow for the operation of a wedding venue and event center at 1215 Collins Road in the Iriswood District. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1.

Cotter's request was approved with the condition that he not allow cars to park along the state road, thereby interfering with local traffic.

Rock Castle Gorge program to be held in Bassett

In the mid 1930's, the Blue Ridge Parkway was born. Rock Castle Gorge became part of the National Park Service's plan to entice tourists which still holds true today. Many families had established their homes in the gorge creating a thriving community. Families moved from the Rock Castle area to work in nearby mills.

Join Beverly Woody on Tuesday, July 19 at 10 a.m. in the Bassett Historical Center as she highlights these thirty families and their unique way of life.

This program will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room and is free and open to the public.

Carter Bank & Trust wins Best of Virginia award for Best Bank in Southwest Virginia

Carter Bank & Trust (NASDAQ: CARE) was recently voted Best Bank in Southwest Virginia by readers of Virginia Living Magazine.

The bank, which is headquartered in Martinsville and has branches located throughout Virginia and North Carolina, serves the Roanoke and New River Valley areas, along with Galax, Lexington and Hillsville.

"First, we must say 'Thank You' to the readers of Virginia Living," Chief Executive Officer Litz Van Dyke stated. "Anytime you receive an award it's an honor, but when the award comes from the people

who live and work in your communities, it makes it extra special."

"This type of award is not just a reflection of the Bank, but also of our associates who interact with the public each and every day."

Carter Bank & Trust was also recently voted Best Bank in Martinsville by the readers of the Martinsville Bulletin, and took home fourth place in the Best Place to Work category in the same poll.

Additional information about Carter Bank & Trust is available at www.CBTCares.com.

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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OPINION

Something must be done

I was just about to graduate from the eighth grade when the Columbine High School massacre occurred. I remember it well.

In the immediate aftermath, there was a sense of foreboding. It was a bit like the morning of 9/11 when it almost seemed like planes were just going to keep crashing into buildings all day with no end in sight. It felt like the next school shooting could happen the very next day, and there was no reason it couldn't happen at my school.

As time wore on, the suspicions began. You would hear mutterings about certain students, the odd kid who was always drawing swastikas in his textbook. Someone would wonder aloud if maybe he had a kill list, and someone would overhear that and tell someone else that he DEFINITELY had a kill list, and then you would wonder if your name was on it. Didn't you tell him that one time that you didn't have a spare pencil to loan him? Was that enough to make him decide to end your life in a hail of gunfire?

Columbine certainly gave me a healthy dose of paranoia as a young man, but my experiences look quaint compared to what kids must endure today. I never had to experience an active shooter drill. I was never taught how to barricade a door so a madman couldn't shoot me. I can't imagine what those drills are doing to the psyches of our young people.

Back in '99 when Columbine occurred, I never could have guessed the horrors we would all witness in the following two decades. I never imagined that I would eventually know multiple

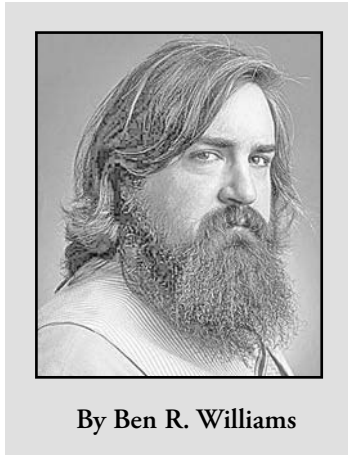
people whose lives had been impacted by gun violence. I certainly never imagined that I would co-author a book with the father of a victim of gun violence. I never imagined the horror of Sandy Hook. And I never imagined that ten years after Sandy Hook, history would repeat itself in Uvalde, Texas.

In the aftermath of the Uvalde massacre, I'm hearing the same idiotic suggestions that we arm our teachers. The officers of the Uvalde Police Department refused to enter the school for an hour ("They could've been shot," said Lieutenant Chris Olivarez of the Texas Department of Public Safety in what may be the single worst defense I have ever heard) despite being equipped with military hardware, instead focusing their attention on preventing parents from entering the school to save the lives of their children. If these fine representatives of the thin blue line were too gutless and cowardly to go in the school and stop a lone gunman, then I don't think we should ask underpaid, underfunded, under-respected educators to lay their lives on the line and engage in active firefights.

Before I continue, I want to make one thing clear to whatever audience I still have after that line about gutless cowards:

I'm a gun person.

Now, I don't mean that I've fashioned gun ownership into a remarkable facsimile of a personality. I simply mean that I own some guns. I enjoy shooting them, and I'm a pretty decent shot. I know a lot about guns. I've had a concealed carry permit for a decade.



By Ben R. Williams

There is a thing that gun people like to do when talking to non-gun people, which is leverage non-gun people's lack of knowledge about gun minutiae in order to make it seem as though all of their arguments are invalid. For example, when a non-gun person is talking about how dangerous AR-15s are, gun people like to ask them, "What does the AR stand for?" "Assault rifle!" the non-gun person replies.

"Haha!" the gun person retorts. "It stands for ArmaLite Rifle! If you don't know that, then why should I listen to anything else you have to say about your desire that children not get massacred?"

Well, as a gun person, I'll tell you what I think needs to happen, and then I'll tell you why I think it needs to happen very, very quickly.

There are three things we could do in this country that would cause a massive reduction in shootings. The first thing is barring gun ownership for people under 21. Some media sources are quick to report that the Uvalde shooter had no prior criminal record. They're less quick to report that a number of close acquaintances were concerned about his mental health and he bought a \$1,900 DDM4 semi-automatic rifle the minute he

turned 18.

The second thing we need to do is more effectively punish those who make straw purchases of firearms that are used in homicides or other criminal activities. If you buy a gun for someone and they use it to commit a homicide, I believe you should be held just as liable as the shooter.

The third thing — and this is going to be WILDLY unpopular with the gun people, but it needs to be said — is that no civilian should be able to purchase a semi-automatic rifle. Semi-auto rifles like the AR-15 can fire a bullet just as fast as you can pull the trigger. I've fired an AR-15 before. It's a lot of fun. But it has no legitimate civilian use, and I'm not in favor of sacrificing children just because something is fun.

"But I'm a hunter!" the gun people say. "I need a semi-automatic rifle for hunting!"

Yeah, well, no offense, but you suck at hunting. Any animal on Earth can be felled with a bolt-action or lever-action rifle. If you can't bring down a deer with a bolt-action, then you need practice, not an AR-15.

Realistically, I don't think any of my three suggestions are ever going to happen. Too many of our politicians are bought and paid for by the NRA. But I wish we could implement these changes because I'm deeply concerned about a new development in firearm technology.

In 2019, SIG Sauer announced a new rifle cartridge, now designated as the .277 SIG FURY. This cartridge was designed for the U.S. Army's Next Generation Squad Weapon Program, essentially a program to replace the firearms the Army currently uses with upgraded hardware. The .277 SIG FURY ended up being selected as the

Army's round of the future.

This is a super-high pressure rifle round that can punch clean through body armor. That's a useful thing if you're in the military, but it's not a round that you necessarily want to see in civilian hands.

Guess where I'm going with this.

Very soon, semi-automatic rifles are going to hit the civilian market chambered in .277 SIG FURY. The first of these rifles will be a variation on the SIG MCX rifle, which you might remember as the weapon of choice from the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting that claimed 49 lives.

The first semi-automatic rifle chambered in .277 SIG FURY is not going to be cheap — probably about \$8,000 plus whatever profit gun shops want to make on top. But those prices will go down in time, and gun collectors will want to own a civilian version of the military's newest firearm.

I'm worried about what's going to happen when civilians can have access to a semi-automatic rifle that can fire rounds capable of piercing modern body armor. I'm also worried about what's going to happen when gun owners sell off their AR-15s to buy this expensive new rifle, thereby flooding the used market with cheap semi-automatic rifles that almost anyone can afford.

I'm fully expecting to get hate mail from this column, just for floating the idea that civilians shouldn't have certain kinds of rifles and we shouldn't sell guns to people whose brains have not yet fully formed. I'm sure I'll receive some full-throated defenses of semi-automatic rifles. I'm far beyond caring.

If the price of a fun, impractical rifle must be paid with the lives of innocent children, then the price is too damn high.

STEM Hub coming to Patrick & Henry Community College

Patrick & Henry Community College, along with industry partner Festo Didactic, are taking another giant leap forward in their combined efforts to prepare students for the future of work. A signing ceremony was held recently to solidify a formal agreement between Festo Didactic and P&HCC

that will deepen and expand their existing strategic partnership. The signing signifies an exciting new chapter for the partners in their ability to strengthen the local talent pipeline by exploring the possibility of extending into secondary schools, and by agreeing to increase overall resources for training equip-

ment and professional development at P&HCC.

"P&HCC's partnerships with Festo Didactic and NC3 have played an important role in the economic renaissance occurring within our service region. This work has been central in our community's ability to land recent major economic development projects," said Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College.

"This expanded partnership between Patrick & Henry Community College and Festo demonstrates the continued commitment our institution has to meeting our region's workforce needs. Career and technical education programs have never been in higher demand, and thanks to Festo and NC3, P&HCC has become a national leader in industry certifications helping to fill these essential pipelines. We're excited to take this work to an even greater level," Hodges added.

Local employer, Warren Rodgers from Ten Oaks, also was in attendance at the signing. Rodgers said, "The NC3 Festo Certified Industry 4.0 associate training provides the foundational knowledge our team needs for troubleshooting, servicing, and maintaining the high-tech manufacturing equipment currently in use, and the additional capital investments planned for the future. We will certainly take advantage of the additional opportunities this partnership offers to grow the skills of our workforce."

In 2020, Patrick & Henry Community College was recognized as an NC3 and Festo Center of Excellence in the Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 sector, making it the first institution in the nation to offer the top tier of Industry 4.0 training available through Festo and NC3.

"The Patrick & Henry Mechatronics, Industry 4.0 Advanced Manufacturing Program, and future STEM Hub is a national benchmark that exemplifies a Center of Excellence culture for world-class instructors, leadership, and facilities," said Roger Tadjewski, Executive Director for the National Coalition of Certifications Centers (NC3).

Aspirations for the STEM hub are well-aligned with Festo Didactic's industry expertise and K-12 learning solutions. Festo's eLearning curriculum, bionics, and hands-on trainers emphasize inno-



Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College and Tony Oran, Vice President of Sales for Festo Didactic North America, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Plans are underway to expand P&HCC's innovative workforce development programs to secondary schools in Virginia. High school students will have the opportunity to gain in-demand career skills in mechatronics and advanced manufacturing.



Dr. Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College, spoke at a recent signing ceremony was held recently to solidify a formal agreement between Festo Didactic and P&HCC.

vation, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity, and focus on three core areas: environmental discovery, mechatronics, and advanced manufacturing. The Integrative STEM program consists of learning experiences in which students apply knowledge to solve real-world problems and provide strong connections in the classroom to actual workplace scenarios, demonstrating what innovative jobs of the

future will look like.

"P&HCC is an exemplary school that shares our passion for lifelong learning and supporting career paths that will close the skills gap," said Tony Oran, Vice President of Sales for Festo Didactic North America. "We could not be more proud or more excited to officially move our collaboration forward with Patrick & Henry Community College."

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Michael Showell, Publisher

Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Callie Hietala, Reporter
newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

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Letters to the Editor Guidelines

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Rooster Walk from page 1



A man juggles devil sticks during a performance by the band Yarn at the Lester Lake Stage during the 12th annual Rooster Walk Music and Arts Festival. Paid and amateur performers, including jugglers, stilt-walkers, dancers, and fire dancers contributed to the festive atmosphere that permeated the 4-day music event in Axton.



Disco Risqué delivered a high-energy Sunday night performance at the Pine Grove. The Rooster Walk stages each have a unique character, from the intimate Eye Level Stage to the medium-sized Pine Grove Stage to the much larger Lake and Lawn stages which can each hold several thousand people.

festival-goers alike came together on the sprawling 151-acre Pop's Farm. The venue is a place where cell phone signal is poor at best, meaning devices were largely put away, allowing the thousands in attendance to give themselves over entirely to four days of music, food, drink, and fellowship that exemplified the simple Rooster Walk ethos, appropriate for a festival named for two men who died too young: live in the moment.

Rooster Walk organizers excel in creating an environment where there are plenty of unique moments to experience, including the creation of Artist at Large sets. Each festival has a number of Artists at Large, individual musicians brought in for the weekend to sit in on some performances and, once each full day of the festival, jam together.

The Artist at Large Band's first jam session came Friday afternoon on the Bassett Lawn Stage, one of the largest venues at Pop's Farm. This year's Artists at Large were Wallace Mullinax, Ron Holloway, Roosevelt Collier, and Martinsville's own Josh Shilling of the band Mountain Heart, and John Bryant, who

left Martinsville and made his career drumming alongside the likes of Ray Charles, Joe Walsh, and Delbert McClinton.

Their Friday set, based in classic rock, and those that followed over the next two days of the festival ("jamgrass" and blues) drew large crowds, ready to experience a group of accomplished artists jamming together for the first time, having never rehearsed and, in some cases, having never even met each other prior to the festival. The music created over the course of those three sets will never be experienced anywhere else.

The other performers also helped to create some of those special moments unique to Rooster Walk. As the sun set over the festival grounds Friday night, several thousand people made their way to the Bassett Lawn Stage for one of the festival's headlining acts, Little Feat. The energy was high as the group launched into their set—the band was scheduled to perform the entirety of its "Waiting for Columbus" album.

A slight drizzle of rain turned quickly into a downpour as the band played, but the crowd on

the lawn barely diminished. Some umbrellas and ponchos were visible, but many decided to forgo rain gear entirely. If rain was a part of the moment, then they were willing to stand in the rain. Even sopping wet, audience members, old and young alike, who secured places at the front of the stage continued to dance or bob their heads to the music, the ground beneath their feet growing muddier and muddier, but no one seemed to care.

"You all look beautiful standing out there," said guitarist and lead vocalist Scott Sharrard, looking out at the drenched crowd with a smile.

Eventually, the band decided to cut the set short as the water encroached onto the stage and stagehands rushed to protect instruments and equipment from the elements. Rain continued throughout the night, but other acts were not deterred—music and the cheers of appreciative audiences echoed through the campgrounds and across Pop's Farm well into the night and the early hours of the next morning.

Perhaps the most emotionally-charged performance of the festival came from The War and Treaty, with the kinetic energy of the band and the soulful voices of the husband and wife duo drawing more and more listeners to the Lawn Stage as their set went on.

After the first few numbers, Michael Trotter, who fronts the band with his wife, Tanya, paused and took a moment to speak to the audience. He said looking out across the lawn at the children in the crowd was making him emotional, evidenced by the tears he wiped from his cheeks.

"If you could just do me a favor on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Texas and our beautiful brothers and sisters in Buffalo," Trotter said of the sites of two of the most recent acts of gun violence in the nation. "Gents remove your hats, and let's bow our heads and have a moment of silence for our country."

Acting as one, hundreds of people grew silent, heads bowed.

As the moment ended and Trotter thanked the crowd, shouts of "Amen" rang out across the grounds, and the band launched into a heart wrenching rendition of "God Bless America."

Later in the set, Trotter said that he served two tours in Iraq, an experience which fundamentally changed him. "I went through some real traumatic stuff and in 2017, that version of me thought he was worthless," he said. "But it took one person to tell me that I was loved. It took one person to tell me that I belonged to them and that I was necessary and I'm here to be that one person for you," he said, to raucous cheers from the crowd.

"You belong to all of us. You're never alone ... We belong to each other, and we've got to take care of one another. Laws can change access, but a law can't change a heart. Love changes hearts, and if we stand together, if we bond together, if we are hand in hand together, nothing can separate us.

"Let's go," he said—his voice rising as the organ played and cymbals clashed behind him, creating the effect of a powerful church sermon. "And let's change laws. And let's fight for what's right. Equality, no racism, no hatred,"—here, both Trotter and the audience were reaching a fever pitch—"no special laws on women's bodies. We belong to each other." The audience erupted in applause even as a few people walked away.

"With all that being said, don't give up. You are necessary. You are the breakthrough the world is waiting for, and we love you. This song is dedicated to you, to the unseen, to the unheard, to the person that feels like they don't matter."

And with that, the band closed out with its hit song, "Five More Minutes." As the last chorus was sang, "I need five more minutes to love," Tanya wiped tears from her eyes—likely due to the raw emotion of the performance. Then, the band took its bows and departed the stage.

Later that night, Andy Frasco & The U.N. brought a different kind of musical power to the Lake Stage during a set that began at midnight and didn't slow down until 2 a.m. Frasco invited a number of performers to join his band, including teenage guitarist Brandon "Taz" Niederauer and Artist at Large Roosevelt Collier.

Frasco acted as a conductor of barely-controlled musical chaos, setting up energetic instrumental battles between bandmates, and once instructing his entire band to switch instruments, resulting in his drummer standing behind his guitarist, fingering the chords as the guitarist continued to strum. The raw, frenetic energy of the entire performance electrified the late night crowd.

Martinsville native T.C. Carter performed two sets on Sunday, the second of which took place at the festival's smallest venue, the Eye Level Stage, an intimate space surrounded by trees which provide near-constant shade for the audience. Carter said his first set of the day had drained his energy, and he proposed a more laid-back experience that seemed better-suited for a hot Sunday afternoon among the trees. However, just a few songs in, the crowd's energy seemed to electrify Carter. "Something's about to happen," he said. "I feel it."

Soon after, he launched into back-to-back songs that got audience members to their feet, some

dancing by their seats, others in front of the stage.

Pop's Farm was as much a presence at Rooster Walk as the performers themselves. Walking from stage to stage across the hilly property, visitors were offered glimpses of elaborate campsite setups (one even had a kitchen sink), heard snippets of music being played by festival guests in their tents or beside the roadways, and could wander from old-growth forest to an open lakeside field in a matter of minutes.

The festival grounds took on a surreal feeling at night. Fire dancers performed during some of each night's biggest sets, people donned neon-lit capes, headresses, and even shoes. A juggler switched from his regular instruments to glowing balls which soared into the air, guided by his deft hands. Multi-colored lights shone on the trees by the Lawn Stage and the Pine Grove Stage while at the Lake Stage, lights directed behind the stage illuminated the trees, sometimes bouncing off and illuminating the placid lake beyond.

Overall, the feelings that permeated the grounds of Pop's Farm during this 12th annual music festival were warmth, kindness, and joy—everywhere, people, volunteers, and artists were smiling. In the crowded parking areas, strangers struck up friendly conversations. Hour-long waits for pizza from a food truck did not draw complaints. Muddy conditions did not detract from the mood—adults and children alike kicked off their shoes to wander barefoot through mud and grass. Through the cold rain, the thick mud, and, later, the unseasonable heat, spirits remained high.

Festival headliner Grace Potter summed up the Rooster Walk experience. While opening her Saturday night set, she told the audience there is a lot of trouble in the world. Though music festivals were not necessarily the place to discuss those troubles, she said rather than being escapist, "I thought we could be universe joiners. I thought maybe instead of escaping, we could take all the love that we have and put it out into the universe together, because that's what music does. It's not about ego. It's not about belonging or not belonging. It's about a feeling that we share that only ever happens right here together."

She sang the opening verses of the classic, "Put a Little Love in Your Heart."

"Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand, put a little love in your heart," she sang. "And the world will be a better place for you and me."

"I know we can do it," Potter said. "I know with the love we have here on this little hillside, we can bring a lot of love into the world."

Artists create eye-catching benches for area bus stops, other locations

A team of artists and community members worked together to create four eye-catching benches for bus stops and other locations in Martinsville-Henry County. The Benches for MHC project was born out of an AIR Institute workshop hosted by Piedmont Arts in January 2020.

Piedmont Arts Executive Director Heidi Pinkston said the museum was excited to host and facilitate the AIR Shift Workshop. "AIR Shift created an atmosphere where community members discovered new ways to think about the power of creativity and how it can help grow creative communities and economies."

Workshop participants with a variety of creative and business skills worked together to design and plan two implementable projects for the Martinsville-Henry County community. The projects focused on raising the value of arts and creativity locally. The teams competed for a share of a \$10,000 grant funded by the Harvest Foundation.

A panel of local leaders joined the group on the final workday to give feedback on presentations describing the projects created by each team. The Benches for MHC project was awarded \$6,500 of a total \$10,000 grant by the Harvest Foundation. The proposal was to create two public art benches – one in Henry County and one in the City of Martinsville along the free Piedmont Area Regional Transit system. The project

included soliciting designs from artists or others in the community and a budget that would both compensate the designers and pay for the bench construction.

In person work on the project was suspended with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the team continued collaboration through emails and telephone, resuming in-person meetings when safe conditions were available. The second workshop team project was not feasible with health and safety guidelines, so the decision was made to allocate the total grant to the bench project that was then expanded to create a total of four benches.

In the spring of 2022, the completed benches were installed at their permanent locations around Martinsville-Henry County.

- Bench locations include:
- Book Bench by Ed Dolinger, located at Blue Ridge Regional Library.
- Bee Bench by Meritha Alderman, located at Piedmont Arts.
- Birdhouse Bench by Ed Dolinger and Jacob Smith, located at Henry County Administration Building.
- Fossil Bench by Page Turner, located at Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Information on the Benches for MHC project and all Piedmont Arts' public art projects can be found at PiedmontArts.org.



Book Bench by Ed Dolinger, located at Blue Ridge Regional Library.

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

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OBITUARIES

Nancy Carpenter Bondurant

Nancy Carpenter Bondurant, age 85, of 645 Plantation Road, Martinsville, VA died peacefully at home on May 25, 2022, surrounded by her daughters. Nancy was born to the late Mary Brown and Albert B. Carpenter on October 2, 1936, in Asheville, N.C. A native of Wytheville, VA, Nancy was a graduate of George Wythe High School. She attended Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College in VA. In 1958, she moved to Martinsville to pursue a career in teaching. Later in life, she returned to Patrick & Henry Community College and earned an associate degree in Architectural Drafting.



She was a long-time member of Christ Episcopal Church, a sustaining member of the Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County and a former member of the Garden Study Club and Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild. She was a member of Chatmoss Country Club and a member and past president of the Ladies Golf Association.

Nancy was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Clarence Randolph (Buddy) Bondurant, and her parents Mary Brown Carpenter and Albert Bernard Carpenter. She is survived by her three daughters, Katherine Cuppia of Chapin, SC, Carolyn McCoy of Wellesley, MA and Patricia Russell of Martinsville, VA; six grandchildren: Kristen Cuppia of Piedmont, SC, James Cuppia of Chapin, SC, Charlotte McCoy of New York, NY, Elisabeth McCoy of Boston, MA, Patrick McCoy of Wellesley, MA, and James Davis of Fort Stewart United States Army. Also surviving are a sister and brother-in-law Linda and Dick Phillippi of Wytheville, VA, along with three nieces and a nephew.

The family would like to express heartfelt appreciation to Dorothy Glenn for the love, care, and dear friendship shared with our mother for more than a decade.

A memorial service was held at Christ Episcopal Church 311 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA on Thursday, June 23, 2022. The Rev. John Adams officiated. Arrangements are being made by Norris Funeral Services. Online condolences can be made at www.norrisfuneral.com. The family requests memorials be made to Christ Episcopal Church 311 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, Boys Home of Virginia 414 Boys Home Road Covington, VA 24426 or a charity of one's choosing.

Nancy had many gifts, but her greatest gift of all was her gracious and welcoming personality. She loved meeting new people or gathering with friends so she could brag on the accomplishments of her grandchildren or tell a funny joke. The month of March each year was the exception, however, because Nancy was an avid college basketball fan and loved March Madness! Anyone that knew Nancy well, knew how incredibly talented she was when it came to creating pieces of art through quilting, sewing, needlepoint, and smocking. She loved making quilts for close friends to celebrate marriages, births, and other special milestones in their lives. Nancy also enjoyed traveling, golfing, spending time with her grandchildren, playing Hand and Foot, working crossword & Sudoku puzzles, and watching the Wheel! As much as Nancy loved being on the go, she was happiest at home with her dogs, watching sports and working on her next beautiful and creative sewing project.

Barbara Ann Lewellyn White

Barbara Ann Lewellyn White, 82, loving mother, doting grandmother, faithful friend, and influential educator passed away peacefully to her eternal home on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, while surrounded by family. Barbara was born April 2, 1940, in Pulaski, Virginia, the only child of the late Annie Van Hoy and Arthur Harold Lewellyn.



and loved. She touched the lives of many children and adults, showing them all unconditional love and building confidence one student at a time. She lived her life with grace and class and left a lasting impact on all those she met. She will be remembered for her kind, gentle manner, her ability to always see the best in people and situations, her loving demeanor, and her dedication to her faith, family, friends, and students.

Barbara graduated from Pulaski High School in 1959, proud to receive perfect attendance for all twelve years. The ever-present leader, Barbara served as President of the Student Body. She attended Radford College, served as Vice-President of her senior class, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1963. Barbara was also certified in Adult Education. She taught in Pulaski County, Roanoke City, Franklin County, Chesterfield County, and Wythe County. She is best known for her 40+ years of service in Henry County at Bassett Middle School and in the Adult Education Program. She had a great respect for her students, her colleagues, and for the field in which she served for 58 years.

She was a devoted member of Bassett Memorial United Methodist Church where she served 24 years as Chair of Children's Ministry, lay speaker, and held various other offices. She also participated in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Chancel Choir. Recently, she was a member of Stanleytown United Methodist Church. She was a former member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a member of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and a lifetime member of the Pocahontas Garden Club Auxiliary, of which she served as President for several terms.

In the community, she was well known

Surviving are her beloved daughter and husband, Ann René White and Wayne Wilkinson of Vienna, Virginia, and her grandson, Caden White Wilkinson, who she adored. She was a loving, caring mother, grandmother, and friend. She leaves behind many honorary sisters, faithful friends, and loving cousins. Her legacy of friendship and family will be carried on through her daughter, grandson, and many dear friends.

Share a celebration of her homecoming with her family at Stanleytown United Methodist Church: Visitation, Sunday, June 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. Services, Monday, June 20 at 10 a.m., with the Rev. David Westmoreland officiating. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 21 in Pulaski County at Thornspring United Methodist Church. In honor of Barbara, the family respectfully asks that you wear clothes to reflect her uplifting personality and her love of flowers.

Memorials may be made to Green Hedges School, Attn: Blake Kohn, 415 Windover Ave. N.W, Vienna, VA 22180.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, Virginia and Stevens Funeral Home, Pulaski, Virginia are serving the family. Online condolences may be made at <http://www.norrisfuneral.com/>.

Robert Henry Hensley

Robert Henry Hensley, 87, of Bassett, passed away on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, surrounded by his devoted family. He was born February 28, 1935, in Patrick County, Virginia to the late James Auscho and Ivory Bowman Hensley. Henry had been an automobile mechanic for most of his life, but his passion in life was his children, his farm and his cows.



ter, Cheryl Ann Gammons and husband Jeff; four grandchildren, Brad Steven Hensley and Jill Leann Hensley, April Gammons (Derick) and Jeff Gammons, Jr (Brianna); three great-grandchildren, Brianna Lewis, Logan Lewis and Theodore John Gammons; two brothers, James Clinton and Thomas Floyd Hensley; three sisters, Betty Wright,

Mary Stump and Rachel Ross; numerous nephews and nieces and a host of friends.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, May 29, 2022, at the family cemetery on Blue Ridge View Street, in Bassett.

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

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Chitwood Hensley, a great-granddaughter, Bria Shan Hensley, three brothers, Isaac Ray, William Clyde, and Leonard Douglas Hensley, and a sister, Lula "Tootsie" Thompson.

He is survived by a son, Robert Steven "Bobby" Hensley and wife Robin, a daughter,

Roger "Rand" Leonard

Roger "Rand" Leonard, 67 of Martinsville, passed away May 25, 2022, at SOVAH Martinsville hospital. He was born on April 8, 1955, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina to the late Roger and Lou Ella Burnette Leonard. He had retired as an exterminator with Steritech. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marines. He was declared the Mayor of Figsboro, loved to cook, bird watching, his dog Brutus, was a real jokester and loved his family, friends, and music.



Hanna Lowery (Brad) and Jodi Granger (Doug Lemons); son, Toby Leonard (Michelle); brother, William "Greg" Leonard (Connie); grandchildren, Layton, Tyler, and Caleb Blankenship, Olivia, Andrea and Taylor Granger, Emma Blankenship, Cameron, Carter and Nicholas Lowery, Elena Lee and Justin Leonard (Sheena); great-grandchildren, Leo

Morales and Kalila and Annalise Leonard. The funeral was on Saturday, May 28, 2022, in the chapel of Wright Funeral Service. Pastor Neil Pressley officiated the service. Interment was in Roselawn Burial Park.

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

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Lucinda Highsmith and Rosolene Lewis.

He is survived by his loving soulmate and wife of forty years, Deborah Parrish Leonard; daughters, Dana Lee (David),

Mildred Christine Seay Ramsey

Mildred Christine Seay Ramsey, 97 of Bassett, Virginia passed away May 26, 2022, at Mulberry Creek Assisted Living, Martinsville. She was born on February 26, 1925, in Orange County, North Carolina to the late James Irvin and Cora Holt Seay. She had been a homemaker and a member of Oak Level Baptist Church for over 70 years.



Seay, Jr., Ira Jackson Seay and Marvin Seay; grandchildren, Brad Ramsey (Chris), Jeremy Ramsey (Shannon), Drew Ramsey and Leslie Bailey (Andrew); great-grandchildren, Alex Ramsey, Brady Ramsey, Carter Ramsey, Jackson Ramsey, Silas Bailey, Sawyer Bailey, Ezra Bailey, Olivia Ramsey and Everett Ramsey; and many other family members.

Her service was on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in the chapel of Wright Funeral Service. Pastor Joe Glass officiated. Interment was in the Henry Memorial Park.

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

She was also preceded in addition to her parents by her husband, Charlie R. Ramsey; daughter, Janice Ramsey; sister, Blanche Dudley; brothers, Herman Seay, Talmadge Seay and Elmer Sanny.

She is survived by daughter, Nancy Ramsey (Becky) and Tony Ramsey (Faye); sister, Alice Brown; brothers, James Irvin

Sue Ellen Truelove Lawrence

Sue Ellen Truelove Lawrence, 77, of Ridgeway, VA, passed away on Friday, May 27, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on April 3, 1945, in Lee County, N.C., to the late Malcolm Truelove and Janie Wicker Truelove.



her grandchildren, Peyton Wimbush, Bailey Watkins, and Kaitlin Lawrence.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Don and Eddie Truelove.

A funeral was held on Monday, May 30, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, 1500 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville. Dr. Joey McNeill officiated. Interment was at Mountain

Mrs. Lawrence worked as Deputy Commissioner for the County of Henry.

She is survived by her husband, Martin Edward Lawrence of the residence; her daughter Pam Lawrence Watkins (Kevin) of Collinsville, VA; her son Anthony Lawrence (Lisa) of Horse Pasture, VA, her sister Patricia Pemberton of Sanford, NC, and

View Cemetery, Ridgeway.

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

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service plans, supervising residential staff, providing training for adults with intellectual disabilities in independent living skills, personal hygiene, leisure/recreational skills & community inclusion. Experience working with group home, program management, & staff supervision. Evening & some weekend hours required. Bachelor's degree in human services with at least one year experience working with adults with intellectual disabilities. Must meet QDDP qualifications. Salary commensurate with education & experience as it relates to the position, residence in close proximity to Patrick Springs VA preferred.

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Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Educational Talent Search Advisor, Nursing & Health Sci-

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **June 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **June 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-22-09 Logan R. Bowman

The property is located at 210 The Great Road, in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map numbers are 39.6(23)/15,16 and 39.6(24)/4. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.8-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. This zoning will allow the flexibility the applicant needs (in both setbacks and size) to keep a recently constructed accessory building.

Case R-22-10 Douglas Blake and Brooke Spencer

The property is located at 575 Mary Hunter Drive, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 14.9/284F. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 103-acres from Industrial District A-1 to Agricultural District A-1. The applicants wish to construct a home on the property and potentially keep farm animals. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

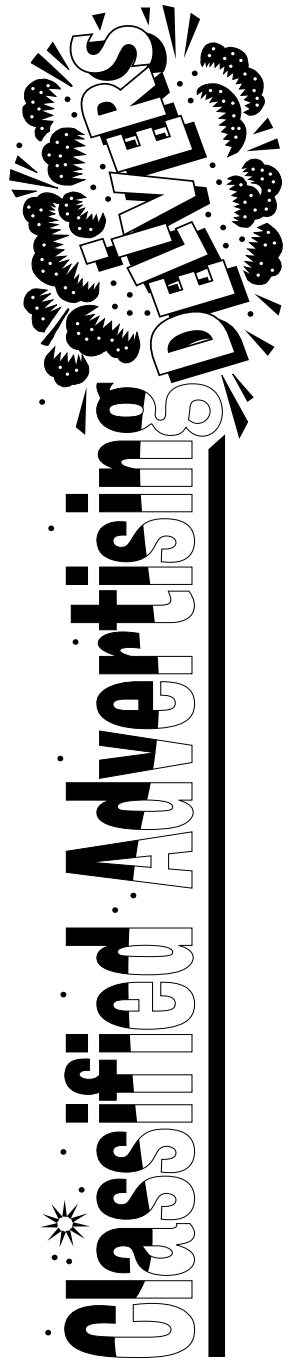
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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

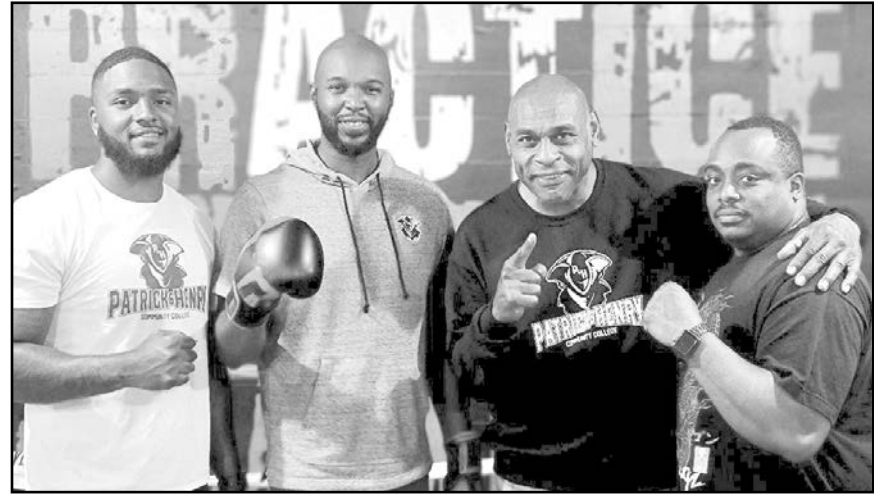
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Petitioners, Jennifer Lynn Fetter and Joseph Fetter, by counsel, have filed Petition in the Henry County Circuit Court to declare Keith Allan Fetter of Henry County, Virginia, deceased.

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



Patrick & Henry Community College to add boxing club



Jorge Concepcion (left to right), Brian Henderson, Oliver McCall, Jomo Lucas.



Brian Henderson, (left to right), Jonathan Lopez Garcia (P&H Student, First P&H Boxing Club Member), Oliver McCall.

The Patrick & Henry Community College athletics department has announced a partnership with Rockbottom Athletics to create the P&H Athletics Boxing Club, beginning in Fall 2022.

Rockbottom Athletics is a local community-based athletics center specializing in physical fitness through boxing and mixed martial arts. Its founder, Jomo Lucas, is a former P&H student and has partnered with the P&H athletics department to allow his center to be the home of the boxing club for practice and training.

"Boxing teaches young men and women more than just footwork and hand-eye coordination," said Lucas. "Boxing also teaches life skills and discipline, aiming to show how individuals can, in fact, walk away from a fight."

The P&H boxing club will be an officially registered National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) program that is insured and sanctioned by USA Boxing, Inc. and is able to compete in all USA Boxing and NCBA events. Members of the boxing club can expect to learn how to box, train, spar, and compete, but must also be a registered student at Patrick & Henry Community College.

"Our P&H Boxing Club will give many students opportunities to do something they love while pursuing a college degree," said Brian Henderson, P&H Athletic Director and Associate Vice-President for Student Engagement and Inclusion. "These are opportunities that are normally reserved for student-athletes in sports like baseball, basketball, and soccer. However, young boxers will now have those same options at P&H."

Jorge Concepcion III is a local business owner, P&H Athletics supporter, and has trained under the tutelage of Jomo Lucas. Through his business, Package Up Transportation and Concepcion Sports, Concepcion has committed a scholarship for students that may be interested in joining the P&H Boxing Club and are pursuing an associate degree. "Jomo is one of the best boxing trainers around and he pours his heart into his students," he said.

While Lucas will be the head trainer, student-athletes will also gain valuable tutelage from a great source. Oliver McCall, former WBC Heavyweight Champion, will also be a trainer for the boxing club. His role is to not only teach them the key in-ring strategies that made him a world champion, but also the life skills needed to deal with fame and fortune.

"Mr. McCall has been to the top of the mountain but has also unfortunately experienced the pitfalls quite often associated with professional athletes," said Henderson. "However, just as he was as a fighter after a loss, he overcame those obstacles, got back up on his feet, and is here to share a wealth of knowledge with students enrolled in the P&H boxing club."

For more information on enrolling at Patrick & Henry Community College and joining the P&H Boxing Club, email Brian Henderson at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

Charity golf tournament raises \$50,000 to support Children's Miracle Network

The ValleyStar RISE Foundation announced that this year's Big Tee Off golf tournament raised \$50,000 for Children's Miracle Network after a two-year hiatus. More than 30 businesses sponsored the tournament, and 148 golfers were in attendance, playing either the morning or afternoon flight at Chatmoss Country Club in Martinsville.

During the afternoon flight of the tournament, Scott Shytle with the Berry Elliott Realtors' team made a hole-in-one on hole six which was designated for the \$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest, sponsored by CUNA Mutual Group. Shytle teed-off with his 3 hybrid club in order to achieve the hole-in-one.

"After a two-year hiatus, it was awesome to have so much participation and support. Having a player win the Hole-in-One Contest was the icing on the cake," said Greta Kidd, Executive Director of the ValleyStar RISE Foundation. "I'm elated that Scott is the recipient of our cash prize. His achievement is just another reason I would say this golf tournament was such a success!"

Kidd attributes the success of the tournament to the support of the sponsors, especially the golf tournament Premier Partner, AutosbyNelson.com, and Luncheon Sponsor, Member Wealth Management.



The golf tournament directly benefits Carilion Children's Hospital located in Roanoke, Virginia. The funds will be used to bring lifesaving equipment to children and babies in Southwest Virginia.

Memorial Day from page 1



Members of the 29th Infantry Division Band played the service songs of each branch of the military. Veterans were asked to stand when their service song was played.



Flags were placed at the gravesites of American Veterans across Roselawn Cemetery in recognition of their service to their country.

of war/missing in action) flag. A table had been set for the purpose. Senior Chief Petty Officer Mike Stewart walked slowly, solemnly to the table, the flag folded in his white-gloved hands. After draping the flag over a chair placed at the table, he saluted the flag and marched away.

Tom Flora of American Veterans (AMVETS) explained the symbolism of the table.

“They are commonly called POWs or MIAs,” he said. “We call them brothers. They are unable to be with us, so we remember them.

“The table set for one is small,” he said. “It symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner against his oppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms. The single red rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the undying love and the faith of the families and loved ones our comrades left behind.”

A red ribbon tied to the vase represents “the ribbon worn on the lapels and breasts of thousands who bear witness to the unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting for our missing,” while a slice of lemon on the bread plate “is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.”

Salt on the bread plate, he said, is symbolic of the tears of the families of those missing while an inverted glass symbolized the inability of the lost to share in a toast. The small American flag represented the patriotism of the POW/MIAs “and all Americans who wait for their safe return,” while the chair was empty because, as Flora said simply, they are missing.

“Remember, all of you who served with them, called them comrades. You who depended on their might and aid and relied upon them, do not forsake them. Pray for them. And remember.”

Two members of local veterans’ service organizations who passed away within the last year were recognized.

The first was Cal Burnett, who served in the Martinsville and Henry County Veteran Honor Guard. Fellow Honor Guardsman Leonard Boyce paid tribute to Burnett and presented a plaque to his family, which was accepted by Burnett’s son. He said his father was “truly proud of his service to his country.”

The second honored was Robert King who, after he returned from service in the Korean conflict, worked with the Boy Scouts, the American Legion, and the VFW where he served as post and later as district commander, according to Gilleran, who presented a plaque to King’s family.

“I would like to thank everyone for recognizing my daddy,” said his daughter upon accepting the plaque. With tears in her eyes, she said King passed away just a few months ago. “He loved his country, and he loved the VFW,” she said.

The Rev. Mark Hinchclift delivered the invocation.

“Since the beginning of time, Lord, your creation, there has been conflict ... wars broke out and history has pointed to those who were willing to fight and sometimes even willing to die to bring peace to the world. We honor you, Lord, by honoring the men and women who paid that ultimate price of life for the freedoms of this country.”

Boyce then introduced the Honor Guard and issued a plea for new members. “Most of us, we’re up in age,” he said, and recalled that, just a few years ago, there were enough honor guardsmen to be able to perform rites at three funerals in a single day. “Just this year, there have been times we couldn’t get enough guys together to do one funeral,” he said, and added that was not due to a lack of willingness to participate from current members.

Referencing the iconic “I want you” poster featuring Uncle Sam. “The Martinsville and Henry County Honor Guard wants you. We are asking you. As

a matter of fact, I’m going to beg you,” Boyce said, and added that the members of the honor guard “are the most dedicated group of men I have dealt with in my life.”

The guard meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Wright’s Funeral Home, he said, and invited anyone interested to join them. “We would love to have you,” he said.

The day’s guest speaker was retired Chief Warrant Officer Curtis R. Millner, Sr.

Millner was born in Axton and attended Henry County schools, S.T. Fulcher said in his introduction. Millner enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 and served in Vietnam, where he was Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Operation Keystone. He retired in 1983, after 23 years of service and returned home where he taught Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) for Henry County and established JROTC programs at other schools.

Millner opened his remarks by remembering 13 soldiers who died nearly a year ago during the withdrawal from Afghanistan which, he said, was “the last incident that we had involving the death of a number of our soldiers.

“Their mission was noble. It was to evacuate desperate civilians yearning to escape a brutal regime,” Millner said. “The 13 U.S. service members who died during a terrorist bombing in Afghanistan last August will not be the last American heroes to make such a sacrifice, but they represent the best of a generation.

“Not only are these diverse men and women forever in our hearts, but for those who knew them, they are forever young. They came from every background, yet they shared a common goal: to serve America and make life better for others. It was the same ethos that drove our Korean War veterans 70 years ago,” he said.

“From the American Revolution to the global War on Terrorism, more than 1 million American veterans have made the supreme sacrifice. They died so we could continue to cherish the things they love—God, country, and family. That is why we’re gathered here on Memorial Day, to honor the memory of our fallen warriors who have given everything for our country,” Millner said.

“We are also reminded on this day that brave men and women have always stepped forward to take the oath of allegiance in America’s armed forces, willing to die for the sake of freedom,” he said, adding that there are tangible things communities can do to honor the service of fallen heroes.

“First and foremost is to take care of their loved ones,” including helping to ensure their children can afford an education. To that end, he said, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund exists to help with such expenses, he said.

Memorial Day, Millner told the crowd, is not about picnics and parades.

“Memorial Day is about gratitude and remembrance ... The reason there is a Memorial Day is to remember those who made our life possible. They truly are the guardians of our freedom.”

Powell named next Deputy County Administrator

Virgil Powell Jr., the Director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center, was selected as the next Deputy County Administrator for Henry County. Powell, who is more commonly known as J.R., has served as the director of the joint 911 center for 10 years with 27 years of total service to the community.

“I’m humbled to be chosen as the next Deputy County Administrator and I look forward to using my leadership experience in this new position,” Powell said. “This is a tremendous opportunity to further the goals and objectives of the County and to create a wonderful environment to live and work for our citizens.”

Powell began a life of public service when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1989. He served during an active war for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Powell finished his time in the military as a Sergeant with a specialization in communications, receiving three Navy Achievement Medals during that time. Following his military career, Powell began working at the 911 Center in 1995 as a Telecommunicator. He was promoted to Assistant Shift Supervisor in 1998 and Operations Supervisor in 1999 before being named Director in 2012.

Powell has numerous certifications and accolades, including the 2019 Governor’s EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Medical Services Telecommunication. He is also an active member of the community, serving on several boards such as the Virginia E911 Services Board, the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice



Training Academy Board, the Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Board and Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

“I am pleased to have Mr. Powell join the County’s leadership team,” Dale Wagoner, who will become the next county administrator, said. “I welcome his servant leadership style and experience in public administration.”

Powell and his wife Christa have been married for 33 years and have two adult children. He lives in Henry County and attends CrossPoint Church. During his spare time, Powell enjoys playing guitar in the worship band at his church and playing golf. Powell officially begins his new post on July 1.

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