

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 25, 2022

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The drummer for the Iron Belt Christian Church praise team listens to Valeria Edwards perform Mahalia Jackson's "Trouble of the World" at the first annual Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) and the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. Many attendees at the celebration, including members of the praise team, wore shirts with a quote from Harriet Tubman on the back which read, "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."

Forever free: Juneteenth celebrated locally, nationwide

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

On Jan. 1, 1836, in the midst of the American Civil War, then-President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, ordering that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State ... in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

The proclamation did not officially put an end to all legal slavery in America (that would not happen until 1865 with the passage of the 13th

Amendment in 1864), but it did mean freedom for millions of enslaved people living in Confederate states, including the people of Texas.

Juneteenth celebrates the events of June 19, 1865, when Major Gen. Gordon Granger and his Union Army troops arrived in Galveston, TX to inform those enslaved there of their freedom more than two years after Lincoln issued his proclamation.

Last year, Pres. Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth National Independence Day the eleventh official

See **Juneteenth**, page 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Martinsville Fire & EMS Department is seeking applicants for immediate full and part-time openings. A \$6,000 hire-on bonus is being offered for new full-time Virginia-certified firefighter II/paramedics.

Fire department faces declining applicant pool for positions

"A very rewarding, very humbling career," says fire chief.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

When Ted Anderson, Martinsville's fire chief and fire marshal, applied for his position at Martinsville Fire & EMS more than 25 years ago, he was in a pool of over 100 applicants.

Now, Anderson said, the department is lucky to get 10 applications for full-time positions. Fewer remain once appli-

cants are vetted through a screening process.

This is the challenge that Anderson and the department currently face, as new full- and part-time staff are sought to fill upcoming vacancies in the department.

"It's a great career," Anderson said. "It's a very rewarding, very humbling career, but I guess if it was easy, everybody would be doing it."

He said the decline

See **Fire Department**, page 10

First VMNH Wildlife Festival a 'wild' success

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) hosted its first Wildlife Festival last Saturday. The event featured not only animal taxidermy and specimens from the museum's collections, but also a host of live animals, from birds of prey to spiders, scorpions, turtles, lizards, and snakes.

"Originally we were going to start with a reptile festival," said Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix. However, "I reached out to a lot of the vendors and a lot of people were busy."

So, he said, the museum decided to take a different tact and broaden the scope of the festival.

He contacted Darin Handy of All Are God's Creatures Wildlife Rescue, the Kernersville Zoo, falconer and raptor rehabilitation specialist Rob Hearst, as well as food



Attendees to the Virginia Museum of Natural History's (VMNH) first Wildlife Festival were greeted on the plaza by a reticulated python.

trucks, a face painter, and other presenters.

"It was definitely a task, but I love doing it," Hendrix said.

Handy brought nearly 20 animals for visitors to enjoy, including an African

spurred tortoise that roamed freely around a classroom on the museum's education level as visitors looked at a black widow spider, a timber rattlesnake,

a deathstalker scorpion, and had the opportunity to handle some non-venomous snakes under the watchful eye of Handy and his assistant.

See **Wildlife Festival**, page 5

Protect pets from summer heat

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Even before the first official day of summer, the southeastern U.S. has been wracked with an oppressive heatwave. While many people could go to a pool or stay inside and turn up their air conditioning, animals do not necessarily have the same options. Recent news reports of the deaths of thousands of cattle in southwestern Kansas illustrate the potentially deadly repercussions of exposure to sun, heat, and humidity.

Officer Jayme Clark of the Martinsville Police Department's Animal Control Division reminded pet-owners that animals need to be kept cool as well, and those who fail to properly care for their pets could face legal repercussions.

Clark's warning comes on the heels of reports of the death of thousands of cattle in southwestern Kansas which have been linked to heat stress brought on by high temperatures and high humidity.

In the city, Clark said, "my main focus is always going to be companion animals and most of the time, it's going to be dogs that are left outside because they're going to be the ones that are left tied. They're going to be left in a position where they may not be able to get decent shelter. Then we have our shopping district here in the city where people will take their dogs with them to shop and leave them in the car."

He said one of the most important factors he and other officers look at is temperature.

"If it's 85 degrees outside, it's going to be close to 90 to 100 degrees inside a car, even with the window cracked. That makes it hard for a person to breathe, let alone an animal," he said. "Dogs don't sweat, people do. That's how we cool ourselves off. The way

a dog cools itself off is by panting. If all they're breathing in is hot air, their internal body temperature is going to be getting hotter and hotter."

Clark said he has received only one call so far this year for a dog left inside a car. A man left his dog with some water in his vehicle while he went into

See **Protect Pets**, page 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Educating pet owners is a key in the effort to protect dogs during seasonal weather conditions. The dogs pictured are cooling off while playing in the water.

Building better tomorrows: new clinic aims to help autistic youth

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A new avenue of help is available in the Martinsville-Henry County community for children on the autism spectrum. The PHS Autism Center, located at 1101 Brookdale

Street, Suite B, in Martinsville provides individualized applied behavior analysis (ABA) treatment plans for children ages 2 to 18 who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"There is no one-size-fits-all for a child with autism," said Progressive Health Systems (PHS) CEO Billie

White. At the clinic, "they go through an extensive intake and assessment process and all of that information cumulatively is examined, and an individualized treatment plan is prepared for their

See **New Clinic**, page 4



The PHS Autism Center, located in the Food Lion shopping center on Brookdale Street in Martinsville, opened its doors in May. It serves children ages 2-18 with autism spectrum disorder.

VISIT 
[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTY ENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
 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 25

A quarter auction to benefit the Fieldale Fire Department will take place at the fire department, 500 Field Avenue, Fieldale. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the game begins at 2 p.m. \$5 gets you in the game and 2 paddles. Additional paddles are \$1 each. Vendors include B'Natural, Sentsy, Younique, Thirty-One, Origami Owl, and more! Door prize tickets as well as drinks and snacks will be available for purchase.

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

The Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A.L. Philpott Hwy., is hosting a hamburger steak dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. For \$10, enjoy a 10 oz hamburger steak, baked potato, salad, roll, and drink.

Monday, June 27

Martinsville City Council will hold a Northside neighborhood meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Clearview Wesleyan Church, 925 Barrows Mill Road, Martinsville. Council will tour the area before the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

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 (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville).

Martinsville City Council will hold its regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the City Municipal Building (55 West Church Street, Martinsville).

Friday, July 1

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society hosts Uptown First Friday on the plaza of the historic Henry County Courthouse (1 East Main Street, Martinsville) from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy open mic hosted by Kat and Dennis Calfee, food, and a cash bar. Admission is free.

Saturday, July 2

Calling all lovers of board games. Come by the Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library (310 East Church Street) between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for a monthly Board Game Day. Bring your friends and your favorite games or try one out of the games on hand at the library. Monthly Board Game Days will be held the first Saturday of every month and are free and open to the public.

The Dan River Basin Association will host its monthly First Saturday Outing (FSO) with a 4-mile paddle on Philpott Lake from Ryan's Branch Recreation Area to Calico Rock. To enjoy cool morning temperatures, participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Ryan's Branch launch on Fairy Stone Park Road (GPS 36.850780, -80.100160). Participants are asked to dress in layers of quick-drying fabric, to expect to get wet, to provide their own boat, paddles, life jacket for each boater, lunch and water, and are required to sign a waiver. For more information, contact Wayne Kirkpatrick at wynbytk@embarqmail.com or at (540) 570-3511.

Calling all lovers of board games. Come by the Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library (310 East Church Street) between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for a monthly Board Game Day. Bring your

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Saturday, July 9

Come learn all about canning at the Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer) with instructor Melanie Barrow. More people than ever are growing their own food at home. This hands-on preservation workshop will teach you how to safely preserve your fresh foods for year-round enjoyment using proper pressure canning and boiling water bath techniques. You'll learn the science behind these techniques and receive step by step guidance on how to do them at home. All supplies are provided. \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Centre to register by Friday July 1 at (276) 957-5757.

Sunday, July 10 - Friday, July 15

Fort Trial Baptist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School. School will be held from 6:15-8 p.m. for children ages 2-5, from 6:15-8:30 p.m. for grades K-12, and adult sessions will begin at 7 p.m. Each night will have a different emphasis. For more information or to register, visit www.forttrialbaptist.com/events.

Friday, July 15

Henry County Parks and Recreation invites you to enjoy the movie "Space Jam: A New Legacy" at Jack Dalton Park. Admission is free for all. Drinks, snacks, and candy will be available for purchase. The movie begins at 8:55 p.m.

Thursday, July 21

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 on-site 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.

Friday, July 22-Saturday, July 23

Dino Fest returns to The Virginia Museum of Natural History (21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville)! The event features life-size dinosaur cast skeletons & skulls, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils, dino-themed games & crafts, and all of the festivities you'd expect at a VMNH Science Festival! Dino Fest takes place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit www.vmnh.net.

ONGOING

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 of each month. 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 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 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 (276) 647-9585 for more information.

Cardarelli graduates from the University of Hartford's The Hartt School

Cassandra Cardarelli, of Bassett, graduated from the University of Hartford in May.

Cardarelli earned a Master of Music in French Horn Performance.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On its 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different

disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. The four-year private university is focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within its communities. Its unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, it focuses on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Balloons drop on the University of Hartford Class of 2022 during the commencement ceremony at the XL Center.

Protect Pets

from page 1

a restaurant to eat.

"He did everything he could to make it comfortable, but the dog was still panting when he got back. We had a conversation. He said he thought he was caring for the dog," Clark recalled.

Clark said he told the man while he understood the train of thought, "it's already a hot day. It was about 93 degrees outside."

Clark said he suggested the man leave his dog at home next time.

"The best practice is, if I'm going to be inside, if I'm going to turn my vehicle off with no airflow, just leave the dog at home," he said.

Similarly, if an animal is tethered outdoors, a city ordinance states that it is illegal to tether an animal "when the outside temperature is equal to or less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit or greater than 85 degrees Fahrenheit unless shelter is provided."

"So, if you take your dog outside and you tie it for 5 minutes to use the bathroom and it does not have shelter and it's 90 degrees, you're in violation of that tethering ordinance," Clark said, and added that violation of the ordinance was a Class 4 misdemeanor. "We've already had an instance in the city where I've had to seize two animals" who were left tethered outside without adequate shelter in the heat, Clark said.

"Even after they had been put in the dog box, which has air conditioning, and sat in the vet's office waiting for their temperature to be taken, their body temperatures were 104 - even after they had been cooling off in an air conditioned truck and an air conditioned office," he said, adding that the normal body temperature for a dog was around

100 degrees.

Clark said pet owners also need to ensure their companion animals have adequate water. By state code, he said, "adequate means potable. That means if you or I would drink the water, it's safe for the dog to drink it. But if you're not going to drink the water that you have out for your dog, then you need to clean the bowl and give them fresh water. I deal with so many people that I write this citation for because their dog's bucket looks like a dirty fish tank."

He cautioned pet owners against walking their dogs on sidewalks, streets, or other paved areas during the high heat of midday as the hot surfaces could damage their paws. Rather, walking the animals on grass or other unpaved surfaces, or walking during cooler temperatures, will help protect them from injury.

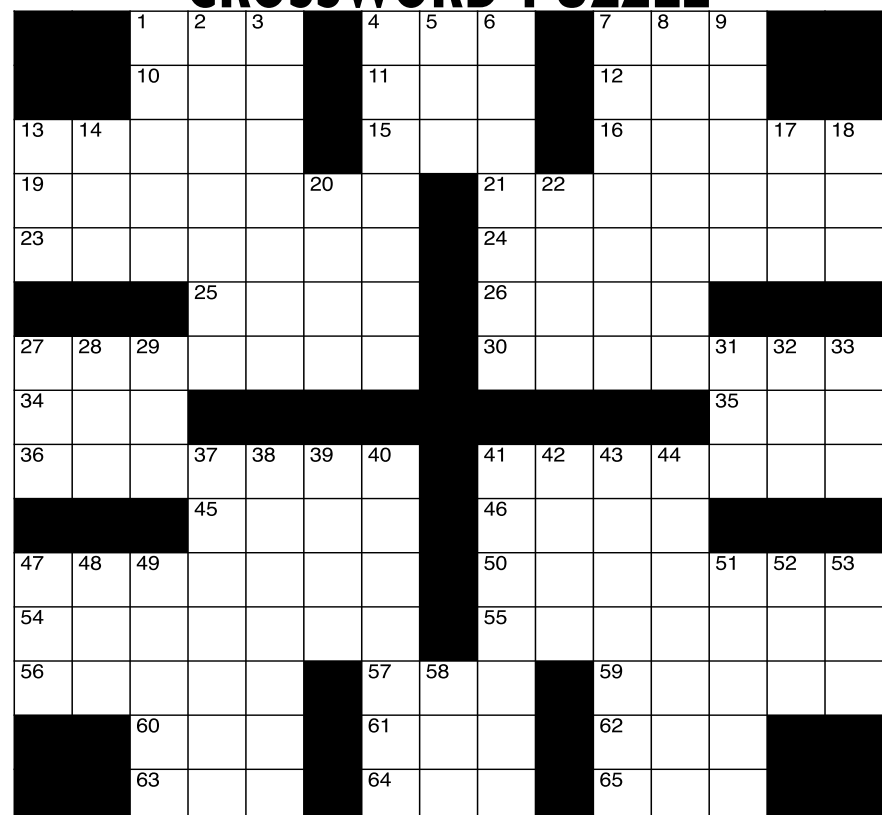
Clark said that ordinance violations related to pets are primarily complaint driven. In hot weather, he said calls about tethered animals are received daily from locations all around the city.

Once a call is received, an officer investigates and assesses the situation.

"Our first goal is always to try to make contact with the owner to resolve the issue without having to take the dog or bust a (vehicle) window or something like that," he said. Ultimately, educating pet owners about their responsibilities to their companion animals is key.

Anyone with any questions about law regarding the care of animals or anyone who would need to report the mistreatment of an animal can call (276) 403-5309. In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. __ fi (slang)
- 4. Anecdotes about a person
- 7. Central Standard Time
- 10. Beverage receptacle
- 11. Football's Newton
- 12. Be in debt
- 13. Tattles
- 15. Musician __ Lo
- 16. Arrange again
- 19. A binary compound of carbon with a metal
- 21. Brazilian futbol great
- 23. Feared
- 24. Annoy
- 25. Unit of heredity
- 26. Small freshwater fish
- 27. Muscular weaknesses
- 30. Fined
- 34. One-time EU currency

CLUES DOWN

- 35. Egyptian unit of weight
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. Increments
- 45. Abnormal rattling sound
- 46. Middle Eastern country
- 47. A type of greeter
- 50. __ inning stretch
- 54. Reaches
- 55. More gray
- 56. Football term
- 57. Swiss river
- 59. Ninth day before the ides
- 60. Grow old
- 61. Don't know when yet
- 62. College hoops tournament
- 63. Japanese monetary unit
- 64. Medical device
- 65. Antidiuretic hormone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Put fear into
- 2. Partner to corned beef
- 3. Interiors
- 4. Agrees to a demand
- 5. No (Scottish)
- 6. __ Hess Corp.
- 7. Ornamental molding
- 8. Garment
- 9. Electric car company
- 13. Decimal digits in binary (abbr.)
- 14. Gibbon
- 17. Sun up in New York
- 18. __ the line
- 20. A vale
- 22. Old Irish alphabet
- 27. A type of band
- 28. A team's best pitcher
- 29. Floor covering

CLUES DOWN

- 31. A __ in the machine
- 32. Supplement with difficulty
- 33. Prosecutors
- 37. Place in order
- 38. Japanese lute
- 39. Mongolian city __ Bator
- 40. Perceived
- 41. A cloth for washing dishes
- 42. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
- 43. Grassy plain
- 44. Barometer
- 47. Father
- 48. Of the ear
- 49. Thomas __, British dramatist 1652-85
- 51. After eighth
- 52. Where golfers begin
- 53. Time units (abbr.)
- 58. Basics

Joint resolution, performance agreement among items to be considered by supervisors on June 28

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will consider approving a performance agreement with VF Outdoor, LLC, and a joint resolution commending outgoing County Administrator Tim Hall on his retirement at its June 28 meeting.

Hall is set to retire July 1. This marks his final meeting at the helm of the county.

The board is scheduled to meet at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin

Meeting Room, located in the Henry County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road.

In October, officials announced that VF Corporation would invest \$10.2 million at its facility located in the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek Industrial Park and create 82 new jobs.

The agreement states, in part, that the county was awarded a grant of \$225,000 from the Commonwealth's Development

Opportunity Fund through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership as an incentive for the company to equip, improve, and operate an existing distribution facility.

In return, the company will spend an estimated \$10,200,000 for furniture, fixtures and business personal property to equip, improve, and operate the facility. Operation of the facility will require the creation and maintenance of 82 new jobs.

The county's Industrial Development Authority (IDA) has approved the performance agreement. It now requires the approval by the Board of Supervisors.

In other matters, the board will:

- * Hear an update from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

- * Consider several requests for appropriations.

- * Consider a contract for the deployment of

broadband funds.

- * Discuss American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and the creation of a Capital Replacement Fund.

- * Consider awarding a contract for replacement vehicles needed by the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

- * Consider awarding a contract for inmates' food.

- * Appropriate the FY 2022-23 county budget. The new budget year begins July 1.

- * Meet in closed ses-

session to discuss appointees to Parks and Recreation Board and Roanoke River Basin Association; discussion pending legal matters, the acquisition/disposal of real estate and as-yet unannounced industries.

At its 6 p.m. meeting, the board will:

- * Hear a report on general highway matters.

- * Conduct three public hearings on rezoning applications.

- * Hear matters presented by the public.

Nixon among attendees of Melungeon Heritage Association Union

The 26th Annual Melungeon Heritage Association's Union will be held June 24-25 in Martinsville.

The \$12 registration for the event also includes price of admission into the Virginia Museum of Natural History on Saturday, June 25, during the lecture series.

A number of authors are participating in a book-signing event at the Parrish House. This will be a unique opportunity for residents of Martinsville and surrounding areas to meet with authors who have researched and brought to life our ancestral history as Melungeons (a little known race of people who developed in the early days of America from the mixing of European, African and indigenous tribes). They were promptly shunned and hidden away in our beloved Appalachian Mountains.

Nixon's book, "Our Side of the Mountain," tells the story of the Watts family, recorded in the lives and traditions of months and seasons that served as an annu-

al clock in pastoral and secluded Leatherwood holler, their ancestral family home in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

The Watts and their mountain neighbors were Melungeon, a people of mixed European, Turkish, African, and Native American roots. Their story goes back to America's colonial times. Because of the evidence of their mixed roots, often showing dark coarse hair, tawny, sometimes too-easily tanned skin, and striking blue eyes, they stood out, and sometimes apart, from the white population of the colonies turned states in the new republic. Whether it was the pressure of white prejudice or simply a preference for the craggy mountainsides of the western frontier, many Melungeon families mostly hid from the rest of the world in the hills and hollows of Appalachia, developing their own customs, dialect, and religious practices such as "singing down the preacher."

Author Darlene Nixon is of

Melungeon descent and a direct descendant of American history's "Indian princess," Pocahontas Matoaka, daughter of the Powhatan Chief. Other characters of Melungeon descent in American history and culture include Abraham Lincoln, Elvis Presley, and actor George Clooney.

In *Our Side of the Mountain*, Nixon shares, through the eyes of a young girl, Allafair (Darlene's mother), the history of her Melungeon roots and the story of her family leaving their secluded traditional ways and time-honored homeplace to join modern 20th Century American society.

Nixon, a former newspaper reporter, is the executive director for Hart County Habitat for Humanity. *Our Side of the Mountain* is Darlene's third novel. Read more at <https://www.truepotentialmedia.com/darlene-nixon>.

For more information about the union, visit MHA on the web or email mhainc2000@yahoo.com.



Juneteenth from page 1

federal holiday.

Locally, two Juneteenth events were held in Martinsville on Saturday, ahead of the official observance on Monday, when American flags were set out along the streets in uptown Martinsville in acknowledgement of the day.

The Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) partnered with the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce for a celebration at the Farmers' Market in Uptown. SOVAH Health-Martinsville also sponsored the event.

FAHI board member Joyce Staples welcomed everyone to the event, which drew an estimated crowd of 50 people, and said that, though this was the first Juneteenth event the organization held, she hoped it would become an annual occurrence.

Staples paid tribute to Opal Lee who, she said, "walked over 1,500 miles to make sure that the people understood that they were free. Lee, a retired teacher, is often called the "grandmother of Juneteenth." She led annual walks to advocate for the creation of a federal Juneteenth holiday. Each walk was 2.5-miles to symbolize the 2.5 years it took for the news of the Emancipation Proclamation to reach the people of Galveston.

Staples introduced Valeria Edwards who led the crowd in the singing of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Standing, and led by Edwards' soaring vocals, the lyrics of the song rang through the market area:

"Lift every voice and sing 'til Earth and Heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on 'til victory is won ... We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out from the gloomy past, 'til now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast."

Following an invocation by the Rev. Kenneth Davis, a performance by the praise team of Iron Belt Christian Church, and another song from Edwards, who sang Mahalia Jackson's "Trouble of the World," Naomi Muse, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, drew links between the past and current, local events, and stressed the importance

of voting.

"From 1619 to 1863, 244 years of enslavement, and after that we were still not freed until the end of the Civil War," she said. "We lived through oppression, Jim Crow, and now we're living through a resurgence. It's just despicable what's going on in our country."

She told the gathered crowd that "every vote matters. Every election matters. We cannot go out and vote for president and let the City Council and the Board of Supervisors and the school boards continue as they are. This is how we got into this mess. Your vote matters. One vote matters. Not only does your vote matter, your voice matters," and she noted the importance of attending local government meetings and being vocal.

She recounted a recent experience in a courtroom – and a ruling with which she disagreed - in connection with an incident in Henry County.

No charges were filed in connection with the incident.

The hearing on Friday was to extend a restraining order.

"The man walked out (of the courtroom) vindicated. He had done nothing wrong," Muse said. "This little lady was sitting there (in the courtroom) crying. Do you think her tears moved the judge? Do you think her tears moved anybody? How many times have we cried in enslavement? How many times were our children ripped out of our arms and sold? How many times? Our tears don't change nothing. Our votes change. Get up and vote."

She also encouraged those gathered to video encounters with law enforcement.

Turning to the issue of reversion, Muse said, "they want me to say we want the City of Martinsville to be in Henry County. I'm in Henry County and I want you to know, Henry County Black folks, you better watch your back because you don't have anybody outside of Jesus and Garrett Dillard to help you out."

She said that she did not want to put a damper on the day's celebrations but, rather wanted "to put a light in your heart that you will understand that we came through many hard toils. We came through hell, and we survived. Do not let two pennies in your pocket and a loaf of bread make you stay home on Election Day," she urged. "We're celebrating our freedom, but there are people right now who want us back in enslavement, second class citizenship."

Elsewhere in Martinsville, Books and Crannies, a book shop owned by DeShanta Hairston in the uptown area, hosted two read aloud

events for children, one for toddlers and one for early grade children.

Yuelhaldi Rose read the same book to both groups, "The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States," written by Alliah L. Agostini with illustrations by Sawyer Cloud. The book chronicles the evolution of the holiday for young readers, from America's Independence Day (which, it notes, did not mean independence for everyone) all the way through the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 and the creation of the federal holiday in 2021.

After the reading, children had a number of activities they could work on, including a Juneteenth word search with terms like "Coretta Scott King," "Galveston," and "Thirteenth," and a page which allowed them to design their own Juneteenth flag or book cover.

Hairston said this was the first year the shop hosted a public event for the holiday. "Now that it's a (federal) holiday, it makes it easier to plan for because people are actually observing it," she said.

She said she decided on an event focused on younger children in an effort to "educate the kids with stories" and encourage them to start reading early.

This year, he issued a proclamation for the holiday calling Juneteenth "a chance to celebrate human freedom, reflect on the grievous and ongoing legacy of slavery, and rededicate ourselves to rooting out the systemic racism that continues to plague our society as we strive to deliver the full promise of America to every American."

The holiday itself, the proclamation said, is "in equal measure a remembrance of both the long, hard night of slavery and subjugation, as well as a celebration of the promise of a brighter morning to come. On Juneteenth, we remember our extraordinary capacity to heal, to hope, and to emerge from our worst moments as a stronger, freer, and more just Nation. It is also a day to celebrate the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America."

In Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin also issued a proclamation recognizing the day in which he noted that Juneteenth is the "oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery" and encouraged Virginians "to honor the great strides African Americans have made and to learn, unite, and celebrate as we continue to work to create a more perfect union."



Valeria Edwards leads the crowd in a rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during the Juneteenth festivities at the Martinsville Farmers' Market.



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OPINION

Hamburger Hill

There are some who argue that conscription — being forced to join the military once you've reached a certain age — should be a requirement of being a citizen.

I don't agree with that. I actually know someone who was conscripted during peacetime: my dear Bulgarian friend Kal, who had to join the Bulgarian Army as a young man. Based on our conversations, the main lesson his service instilled in him is that he never wants anything to do with the military. On the other hand, I do enjoy occasionally thanking him for his service and hearing him call me creative expletives, so it wasn't a complete waste.

While I don't believe in compulsory military service, I do believe in a different form of service. If I were President, upon turning 18, every person in America would be required to serve three months in the most grueling, tortuous occupation known to man.

I'm referring, of course, to

the restaurant industry.

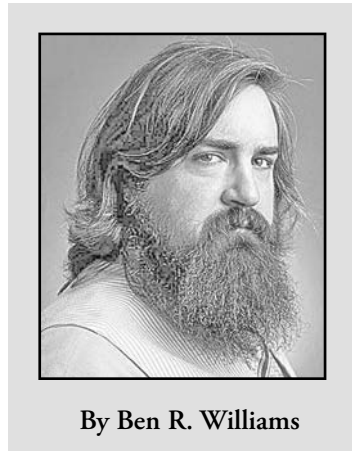
Allow me to provide a case in point.

A very dear friend of mine recently started working a summer job as a server at an upscale restaurant. It's definitely not her first server job; she's a seasoned veteran. The stories she tells me never cease to amaze.

Just the other day, a table tipped her five bucks on a \$62 bill. That's an eight percent tip. She wouldn't have said anything, of course — she's a professional — but then one of the folks at the table explained to her that they just don't believe in supplementing wages that should be paid by the restaurant.

"Well, thank you for holding me accountable for a system I didn't create that you still chose to participate in," she said, which is the kind of brilliant comeback that I wouldn't have at the ready until the drive home that night.

Later that same day, she was taking an order at another table when a gentleman ordered a



By Ben R. Williams

salad. She asked him if he would like to add chicken or shrimp to the salad, prompting him to condescendingly ask her if wasn't OBVIOUS ENOUGH that he was vegetarian.

(By the way, good job helping shut down that stereotype about the sanctimonious vegetarian. Kudos.)

Later on, the same gentlemen asked my friend for a refill on his gin and tonic by holding the glass in her face and rattling the ice cubes around, which actually requires more effort than just being a decent human being and asking for another drink. I guess he was really committed to the bit.

Of course, I've had my own experiences with the hateful public. I spent about a year working in a coffee shop and endured all manner of abuse. While it's far from the worst experience I had, the main one I remember is the time a very wealthy lady came in and asked for a sesame seed bagel. I apologized to her and told her that we had sold out of sesame seed bagels, but we had all of the other varieties. She looked me dead in the eyes while holding a purse worth more than my car and said, with complete sincerity, "I hope you're happy. You've ruined my day."

I wanted to reply, "Lady, I had worse than this happen to me before I was completely out of bed this morning." But instead I said nothing. That's what you have to do in the restaurant industry; grin and bear it. You have to take the abuse with a smile. If you don't, the person will assuredly complain to management, and then you might lose your job. Every day is a choice between maintaining your dignity and collecting a paycheck, and dignity doesn't pay the rent.

The vast majority of my

friends have worked in the restaurant industry, and when we go out to a restaurant, it's easy to tell. We're polite. When a server messes up, we tell them it's no problem. If our order comes out wrong, we eat it anyway. And then, when we're done, we leave at least a 20 percent tip.

If, during the course of my meal, my server set me on fire, I would still leave a 20 percent tip as long as I was pretty sure it was accidental. If it was intentional, 15 percent.

This country would be a much better place if everyone had to do their time in a restaurant. It might just help some folks feel empathy toward their fellow man, provide them with some compassion for the quiet struggles that we're all going through.

So the next time you're at a restaurant and your friend is being a jerk to a server, I have a small favor to ask. Take your friend aside. Tell them that isn't an appropriate way to treat someone who's just trying to make ends meet. Ask them how they would feel if they were in that server's shoes.

And then, while they're distracted, slap them.

Local students named to Dean's, President's lists

James Madison University announced the following students made the Dean's List for the spring 2022 semester.

Rya Hall, of Fieldale, whose major is elementary education.

Beatrice Bradner, of Martinsville, whose major is elementary education.

Alyssa Sechrist, of Martinsville, whose major is elementary education.

Brianna Kirks, of Axton, whose major is individualized study.

The following students made the president's list for the spring 2022 semester.

Guadalupe Rivera, of Martinsville, whose major is elementary education.

Olivia Cooper, of Martinsville, whose major is health services administration.

Liza Fox, of Martinsville, whose major is hospitality management.

Haley Warren, of Ridgeway, whose major is nursing.

New Clinic

from page 1

specific needs and stage of development."

White, who said she was a "long-time provider of behavioral services in the Commonwealth," started Progressive Health Systems in 2015, and in 2017 became licensed to provide behavioral health services. As time went on and she explored services to add to the organization and areas where she could make more of an impact with her work, "everywhere I looked, ABA just jumped out at me," she said.

"The more research we did, it just became evident that it was very sorely need in the area. We know Martinsville is not a big metropolitan area and has an underservice population," so she decided to pivot her business to ABA.

Her team began occupying the Brookdale location in January, and the center started accepting clients in May.

ABA, White explained, "is a therapy that's based on the science of learning and behavior. ABA looks at how behaviors occur, how the environment affects those behaviors, and how those behaviors affect a child's ability to learn. The program focuses on things like communication, focus, attention, academic skills, social skills, and learning in general.

"We take that knowledge that we gain from the therapy, and we apply it to reduce behaviors that may affect a child's ability to learn and interact and be able to regulate their emotions," simultaneously working to "increase helpful behaviors that would support the child's ability to learn and interact," she said.

Autistic children "can fall all over that spectrum," and include those who are fully-nonverbal and cannot appropriately communicate even at a basic level, "all the way up to children that are higher on the spectrum who may have verbal abilities," White said.

"We work with them through therapies, through play (including simple games like stacking blocks) and ABA uses reinforcers" to reward and incentivize desired behaviors. If a child is able to successfully stack blocks, for instance, "you may offer a child a reward or an incentive, known as a reinforcer, to encourage that behavior."

Reinforcers, White said, could be anything—a gold star on their paper, a graham cracker, "their reinforcer can be anything that they desire."

Communication, as is many things, is key. Many undesirable, or maladaptive, behaviors, such as verbal outbursts, kicking, hitting, tantrums, even biting, stem from a child's inability to communicate their needs and emotions, White said. Through ABA, they have the opportunity to learn the skills to do so.

"It's all about that fundamental communication to the best of the child's ability," she said.

Social interactions also can be addressed. Children with ASD are oftentimes emotionally detached, so the goal may be for the child to act appropriately when they're spoken to, she said.

"In other words, when you say 'hello, Johnny,' you're teaching the child through reinforcers to be able to make eye contact and respond back or to say their name, to say their colors, letters, numbers, in preparation for the classroom envi-

ronment."

The behaviors reinforced by ABA "start at a very fundamental level," with communication, focus, and attention, "and move all the way up through varied skills. You may be starting with just their ability to communicate appropriately all the way up to being able to brush their teeth" or dress themselves, either independently or with minimal assistance. "It works on a wide range of skills," White said.

Available services, she said, can be offered in-clinic, in the home, and even in the community. Usually, it is a mix of all three.

Younger children generally rotate between home and clinic, she said, and as they get older, "you can also take them into the community, because the care can be provided in any setting in which the desired behaviors may be expected, or the maladaptive behaviors may occur."

An older child, for example, may go on a trip to the grocery store "to help them work on handling external stimuli, things that may trigger them. Services can be provided on a multi-facet setting," determined through the child's individualized treatment plan, she explained.

White cautioned that while parents may see "small wins" with their child in a matter of weeks, "ABA is designed to be a long-term program as far as early identification and intervention, so we work with these children on a long-term basis," years, she said, "and build goals on top of one another starting with those foundational things."

Starting a child on ABA at an early age is most impactful, she said. "Just based on human learning and development, those early years are critical. A child who enters the program, depending on what their treatment needs are or where they fall on the spectrum, you could easily work with a child who is 2 or 3, up through adolescence."

By the service definition, White said a child can receive ABA therapy until the age of 21, though "what we traditionally see is that a child that gets into the program early may receive services at least through that 8, 10, 12-year range," by which point, hopefully, they have "gained a lot of those foundational skills" including communication, emotional regulation, and the ability to express their needs in addition to skills in peer interaction and an academic component, allowing the children to function either in a mainstream or inclusion classroom.

Early interventions are possible, she said, because diagnosis rates in autism have made huge advances over the last decade, allowing for even earlier intervention. "Now we're seeing diagnosis ages falling in the 2- to 3-year-old range, so you're working with very young children on these basic skills."

While the center can help children work on behaviors and skills associated with ASD, White said the clinic does not diagnose ADS. The services are offered after a diagnosis is received.

If parents do not yet have an established diagnosis and they have concerns, White said the best place to start is with a primary care physician or pediatrician, who can do a basic screening to determine if there is a valid concern. From there, the child would be referred to a developmental pediatrician who would pro-

vide the diagnosis, if appropriate.

White said signs of ADS vary. A child as young as 6 to 9-months old may or may not meet certain developmental milestone such as sitting up, cooing, making eye contact, or engaging with family members, particularly when their names are called, or a stimulus like a rattle or toy is introduced.

"But it's very important to know that a child may appear to develop very normally," White cautioned, "walking on time, developing those first words up until that 18 to 24-month mark, and then they seem to regress and lose words rapidly."

She said parents may notice the child walking on tip-toes, twirling, or engaging in self-stimulating behaviors like continuously walking, hitting their head on the wall, tapping, twitching, "those repetitive motion behaviors," she said.

"Also, just a general disconnect. The emotional disconnect is one of the biggest indicators, so those children are not easily engaged. Normally, a neurotypical toddler will see mommy and run to mommy and want hugs and will make eye contact and kiss you on the face. These kids don't. They're kind of in their own little world. They're very emotionally detached, and that can be really hard for parents."

While there is a great deal of speculation, White said there is no proven cause of autism.

Staffing needs

Since the clinic began accepting clients, White said there has been an influx of referrals. With so many seeking help, she said she does not see an end to the center's hiring process.

"It's been overwhelming in the best possible way. Although I knew that there was a need in the area, I was very surprised at just how many referrals we've gotten."

White said the center is in a "continuous hiring process." All staff members are required to go through rigorous training and an orientation process, depending on their position.

Currently, the clinic is seeking licensed behavior analysts (LBAs) which, outside of Virginia, are more commonly known as board certified behavior analysts (BCBAs) White said.

She also is seeking registered behavior technicians (RBTs), though she said she will hire behavior technicians who are not registered, but will require and sponsor RBT training, which consists of a 40-hour online course, competency evaluations, and a national examination.

Anyone interested in a position with the PHS Autism Center can upload their resume on the center's website, www.progressivehealthsystems.com, or email info@progressivehealthsystems.com.

White said the website's referral tab also is the preferred method for referrals or if someone is interested in getting their child into the program. The tab leads users to a HIPAA-compliant, secure form which can be filled out by a parent, pediatrician, case manager, social worker, or foster parent, and will be submitted security back to the office, which is what initiates the eligibility and screening process for possible admission to the program.

For more information about ASD, visit www.autismspeaks.org.

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

DAR chapter restores Patrick Henry monument

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Patrick Henry Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) restored the monument that was

erected by the Patrick Henry DAR in 1922. The monument is located on the site of Patrick Henry's Leatherwood home where he lived

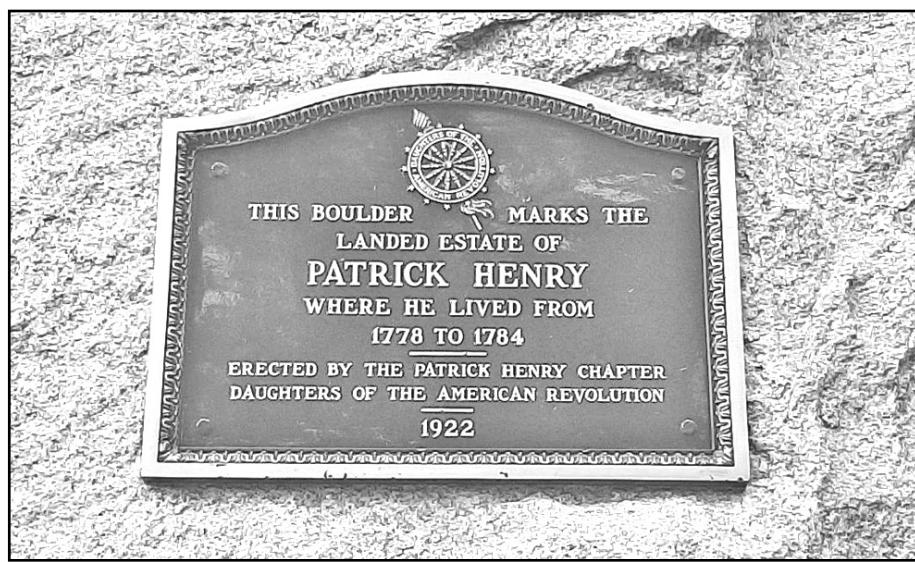
with his family from 1779 to 1784. Two of Henry's children were born at the Leatherwood site. Trent Memorials restored the monument.



Members from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapters Colonel Abram Penn, Joseph Martin, Old Carolina Road, Colonel William Preston, Peaks of Otter, Fort Lewis, and Red Rock joined the Patrick Henry chapter for the commemoration of the monument.



The monument, located on the site of Patrick Henry's Leatherwood home, after its restoration.



The plaque on the monument explains that the stone marks the site of Henry's estate.



Members of the DAR pose alongside the monument in 1922, when it was originally placed.

Wildlife Festival

from page 1



Wildlife rehab specialist Darin Handy of All Are God's Creatures Wildlife Rescue looks on as one youngster at Wildlife Fest befriends a snake.

By mid-afternoon, VMNH Marketing and Public Relations Manager Zach Ryder said the festival had already welcomed more than 600 attendees, with three hours left to go before its conclusion.

Typically, he said, the museum's festivals draw audiences from a 50- to 90-mile radius.

"For most of our festivals, we have a healthy amount of not just local people, but (people) from the Greensboro area, Danville, Raleigh, Roanoke, and Lynchburg as well."

Attendees enjoyed BBQ sandwiches and snocones from food trucks stationed outside. On the plaza, Animal Control officer Jayme Clark, of the Martinsville Police Department, helped showcase a nearly 20-foot long reticulated python.

Ryder said organizing the event was a team effort that included not only Hendrix but a number of other staffers including those in education, who were offering several art activities for children in the museum's special exhibit hall.

In the Hall of Ancient Life, museum staff and volunteers showcased collections of insects, ancient bones from some of the earliest mammals, and study skins of birds. Taxidermy ducks surrounded the room. In one

corner, children and adults lined up to have their faces painted, often leaving with whiskers and tiger stripes, or with a snake painted down the side of their face. Elsewhere, a balloon artist created balloon animals for visitors to take home.

"It's important to offer these kinds of events, not just for our local community but for our region as a whole," Ryder said as behind him, the python slithered around on the plaza to the delight (and sometimes terror) of adults and children alike. "They're really fun events that introduce lots of different people from lots of different areas to the museum."

Though there was an admission fee for most visitors, those with economic hardship were also able to attend thanks to a partnership with Hooker Furnishings, Hendrix said. The company has worked with VMNH to provide free museum and festival admission to those who present an EBT card and valid identification. Museum Director Joe Keiper later confirmed that around 17 percent of festival attendees were able to come free of charge through that partnership.

Wildlife Festival included a number of educational elements. Not only did the museum's curators and staff share their knowledge with curious visitors, but Clark and Handy, along

with Katie Martin of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, presented various talks throughout the day.

Handy's talk, "Wild Wonders in Your Backyard" was the final presentation of the day. He told his audience that the Appalachian Mountains, which run through Virginia, boasts one of the most unique ecosystems in the entire world, and Virginia as a whole is home to an incredibly diverse range of species.

Handy discussed a number of topics, including cautioning people not to remove turtles from roadways by picking them up by the tail.

"That's a very harmful thing to do," he said, noting that turtles had heavy bodies and picking it up by the tail could contort the spine and possibly paralyze the animal.

"The number one thing you can do with things you're uncomfortable with in the wild is to stay calm, cool, and collected," he said.

He encouraged listeners to take the time to engage with and educate themselves about the natural world, and to do their part to help conserve it.

"If each single one of us would do this just a little bit every day, we would make a difference so these younger kids, when they grow up, they have something to see in nature that



VMNH Myriapodologist Dr. Jackson Means discusses a display of insects with a family at Wildlife Festival.



Darin Handy teaches a young girl about one of the snakes he brought to VMNH Wildlife Festival.

is the most wondrous thing in the world," Handy said.

"If we would all get out and look a little more, put down our electronic devices, slow down, and get outside, you don't have to know what every insect or snake or bird is—just get out and listen to them, look at them, just start looking

more at what's around you because that will make you appreciate it more. And if you appreciate it more, you'll tend to try to be sure it's here tomorrow."

The 2022 Wildlife Festival was sponsored by the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust.

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OBITUARIES

Myra Lee Johnson Guilliams

Myra Lee Johnson Guilliams, 80, of Henry, VA passed away Thursday, June 16, 2022, at her home. She was born April 20, 1942, in Mount Airy, NC to the late Grady James Johnson and Inez Badgett Johnson.

She is survived by her husband, James Hampton Guilliams; children, Judy Carol Guilliams Callahan, Randolph Wayne Guilliams, Richard Lee Guilliams, Robin Louise Guilliams Swearingen, and James Hampton Guilliams, Jr.; sister, Jametta Louise Lineberry (James); brothers, Earnie Ray Johnson (Vickie



and James Monroe Johnson (Sandra). Also surviving are eighteen grandchildren, thirty-eight great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Myra loved birds and crafting, and dearly loved all children.

The memorial service was held on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel.

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

Lorie Ann Robinette

Lorie Ann Robinette, 49, of Ridgeway, Virginia, passed away Monday, June 20, 2022, at her home, after a brief battle with cancer. She was born April 28, 1973, in Martinsville, Virginia to Harold and Barbara Ann Muscatello Robinette. She had worked at Carter Bank and Trust and attended New Life Community Christian Church. She enjoyed cross stitch, beading, embroidering and quilting.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Michael Ray Robinette.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a sister, Wanda Krystyn



(Michael); and nephews, Jacob and Sam Baum; and other family and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Wright Funeral Service Chapel, with Pastor Terry Knighten officiating. Visitation will be thirty minutes before the service. Burial will be private. The family is requesting everyone attending wear something blue in honor of Lorie's favorite color.

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

Ronald Lee Fisher

Ronald Lee Fisher, age 79 of Fayetteville, GA passed away on Friday, June 10, 2022, after a decline in health for several months. Ronald was born on October 4, 1942, to the late Reverend Earl P. Fisher and the late Bernice Hall Fisher. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his only son Steve E. Fisher, a grandson Tyler P. Fisher, and a brother Charles W. Fisher.

Ronald was faithful as a church attender and held memberships throughout his life at places including Clearview Wesleyan Church and Trinity Friends Church in Martinsville, VA and at McDonough Road Baptist Church in Fayetteville, GA. He served as an usher, greeter, and driver for the bus ministry during his tenure at several locations.

Ronald was employed by the Martinsville Coca-Cola Bottling CO, American Furniture, Tultex Corporation, and later retired from Stanley Furniture, all located in the Martinsville, VA area.

Ronald enjoyed church life, gospel music, preaching on television, fishing, woodworking, gardening, traveling, attending NASCAR races and sharing the fellow-



ship of family and friends.

Ronald is survived by two daughter Carolyn "Jan" Wiggins (Daniel) of Fayetteville, GA and Teresa L. Fisher of Knoxville, TN; grandchildren Matthew S. Fisher, Katherine E. Wiggins, and Jonathan N. Wiggins; one great-grandchild Noah W. Fisher; two brothers Reverend Kenneth P. Fisher (Julie) of Frostburg, MD and Larry E. Fisher

(Inez) of Sanford, FL.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday June 25, 2022, at 352 McDonough Road Baptist Church, Fayetteville, GA 30214, with Dr. David Chaney and Reverend Kenneth Fisher officiating. Ronald chose to leave a legacy of life and medical research by being a full body donor to The Genesis Foundation in Memphis, TN. The family suggests donations can be made in his honor to The American Kidney Fund or Fayette Senior Services Transportation, 4 Center Dr, Fayetteville, GA 30214.

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

Mattie Crews Belt

Mattie Crews Belt, 99, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Thursday, June 16, 2022. She was born in Henry County, November 12, 1922, to Benjamin Terry Robertson and Lula Barker Robertson.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Elmer Crews, Sr.; second husband, Thomas Henry Belt; daughters Alma Crews Showalter and Texas Crews Young; son Roy Elmer Crews, Jr.; grandson Mark Young and great grandson David Sperling.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Kim Y. Sperling (Mitch), Jeff Crews (Jerri), Lee Crews and B.W. Showalter (Bailey); great grandchildren, Zach Crews (Katherine), Kaitlyn S. Chandler (Daniel), Ryan Sperling (Patty), Casey C. Koger (David), Brett Showalter (Blake), Sarabeth Crews and Madison Powell; four



great great-grandchildren.

Mattie was a member of Chatham Heights Baptist Church. She worked 42 1/2 years as a machine operator for Pannill Knitting Company. She loved spending time with her family, sewing and quilting. She also loved to travel and was proud that she had visited 48 states twice.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at McKee-Stone Funeral Home. It was officiated by Reverend Dr. Michael Hatfield. Interment was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to Chatham Heights Baptist Church, 1235 Chatham Road, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

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

Douglas Eugene Kasey

Douglas Eugene Kasey, 91, of Martinsville, Va., passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2022. He was born January 18, 1931, in Henry County, Va. to George Dewey Kasey and Myrtle Hodges Kasey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Georgia Jarrett Kasey and his sister Mary Elizabeth Kasey.

He is survived by his children, Susan K. Jones and husband Bob, George D. Kasey and wife Cheryl, Michelle K. Hairfield and husband Brian; grandchildren, Elizabeth Jones Dodson, Forrest Jones, Brittany Bellamy,



Katherine Bellamy, Mary Bellamy, Sara Kasey, and Jena Kasey; great grandchildren, Calvin Bleu Stocks and Oliver Hall Stocks.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, 730 E. Church Street, #13, Martinsville, VA. 24112.

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

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

Curtis Wendell Young

Curtis Wendell Young, 80, of Bassett, VA passed away Sunday, June 19, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Hospital. He was born July 10, 1941, in Franklin County, VA to the late James William Young and Irene Hundley Young. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Ann Young Long and granddaughter, Kasey Lee Brown.

Wendell was a member of McCabe Memorial Baptist Church. He retired from DuPont and served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Martin Young; daughters, Wendy Young Gauldin (T.A), Susan Young Adams, Mary Young Owens (Steve), Joni Young Bryant, and Kathy Hundley Amos



(Michael); grandchildren, Ryan Owens, Elijah Adams, Camden Bryant, Shania Adams, Logan Holthausen, and Taylor Holthausen; brother, Wayne Young (Ruth); and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at McCabe Memorial Baptist Church, with Dr. G.H. Vaughan officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorial donations may be made to McCabe Memorial Baptist Church, 107 Clearview Dr., Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Safety tips to follow when extreme heat occurs

Millions of people will experience triple-digit temperatures this summer. Because extreme heat and humidity can be deadly, the American Red Cross offers steps you can take to help stay safe when the temperatures soar.

Every year, high tempera-

tures and humidity claim the lives of more than 600 people in this country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The American Red Cross has steps you can take to help stay safe as the weekend's temperatures soar.

Who's at risk?

Some people are more at risk of developing a heat-related illness, including adults over 65, those with chronic medical conditions, people who work outside, infants and children, and athletes. Some may take medications that make the

effects of extreme heat worse. People with heart disease, poor blood circulation, obesity and mental illness are also at risk for getting sick if the temperatures climb.

Heat safety tips

*Hot cars can be deadly. Never leave children or pets in your vehicle. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees.

*Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

*Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.

*If you don't have air conditioning, seek relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day in places like schools, libraries, theaters, malls, etc.

*Avoid extreme temperature changes.

*Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.

*Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.

*Postpone outdoor games and activities.

*Take frequent breaks and use a buddy system

when working outdoors.

*Check on animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Make sure they have plenty of cool water and shade.

Excessive heat can lead to sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If someone is experiencing heat cramps in the legs or abdomen, get them to a cooler place, have them rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle, and replenish their fluids with a half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

If someone is exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion (cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness and exhaustion), move them to a cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet cloths or towels to the skin. Fan the person. If they are conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 911.

Heat stroke life-threatening

Heat stroke usually occurs by ignoring the signals of

heat exhaustion. Heat stroke develops when the body systems are overwhelmed by heat and begin to stop functioning. Signs include hot, red skin which may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting and high body temperature. Call 911 immediately if someone shows signs of heat stroke. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person's body by immersing them up to their neck in cold water if possible. Otherwise, douse or spray the person with cold water, or cover the person with cold, wet towels or bags of ice.

Download Red Cross apps

The Red Cross app "Emergency" can help keep you and your loved ones safe by putting vital information in your hand with more than 35 customizable severe weather and emergency alerts. The Red Cross First Aid app puts instant access to information on handling the most common first aid scenarios, including heat emergencies, at your fingertips. Download these apps for free by searching for 'American Red Cross' in your app store or at redcross.org/apps. Learn First Aid and CPR/AED skills (redcross.org/takeaclass) so you can help save a life.

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COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **July 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **July 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia.

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

Case R-22-11 Mark S. and Deborah L. Minter

The property is located at 78 Robertson Ridge Rd. in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 45.9/93. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of an approximately 5-acre lot from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct accessory buildings that exceed the square footage limitations. The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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



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Board holds first meeting of new year

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Board of Directors held its first meeting of its new year at Beaver Creek Plantation on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Officers serving another term include President John Phillips, Vice President Bob Tuggle, Secretary Joyce Staples, and Treasurer W. C. Fowlkes. Phillips and Ann Martin began their second three-year terms. Brandon Martin began his first term. Others serving on the Board include Mike Bass, Andy Doss, Joshua Duncan, Zack Fleming, Virginia King, Jarred Marlowe, and Mary Beth Noonan.

Brandon Martin is Henry County's Public Relations and Community Liaison. He graduated

from Martinsville High School in 2010 and East Tennessee State University in 2013. He served in the U. S. Navy for five years, completing tours as a communications specialist at the recruiting headquarters and aboard the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in the Indo-Pacific region.

The mission of the Historical Society is to promote an interest in the broad spectrum of history with emphasis on that of Martinsville and Henry County; to collect, preserve, interpret, and make available material relating to that history; to sponsor research and publications in the field of regional history; and to provide educational services to people and institutions throughout the area. Organized

in 1996, the group fulfills its mission by presenting to others the rich history of the area; collecting and transcribing oral histories; collecting and publishing stories about our past; managing a collection of artifacts; promoting local heritage tourism; and being the caretaker of and repurposing the restored Historic Henry County Courthouse.

The Historical Society operates the Heritage Center & Museum at 1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Tuesdays-Fridays, 1-4 p.m. Its corporate sponsors are Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. Please follow the Historical Society on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MHCHeritageMuseum> and YouTube.



The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Board of Directors (L-R:) Andy Doss, Brandon Martin, Zack Fleming, Vice President Bob Tuggle, Jarred Marlowe, Joshua Duncan, Virginia King, Ann Martin, Mike Bass, Secretary Joyce Staples, President John Phillips, Mary Beth Noonan, and Treasurer W. C. Fowlkes.

Harvest partners with Smart Beginnings to build capacity for local childcare centers



Staff at First Baptist Early Learning Center in Martinsville celebrate achieving Virginia Quality's Level 5 status. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Ruth Ann Collins, Barb Wlodarczyk, Serena Frazier, Samantha Turner, Beth Kotchish, Ivy Beavers, Jordyn Mason, Faye Agee, Danielle Penn, Talitha Kirby (front row) Hailey Eames, and Maranda Pelchat.

For nearly 45 years, Beth Kotchish taught and looked after children at First Baptist Early Learning Center in Martinsville.

"I started as an aide at First Baptist when I was a senior in high school and worked my way up to being the director," she said. "Children have always been my passion. Even at six years old, my favorite thing to do at church was to go to the nursery. Watching these children from 6 weeks old, seeing them grow up, get married, and bring their children back to you is a blessing. It may sound corny, but this is my calling. It's always been about the children."

Kotchish is the director of the only religious-based Level 5 early childhood center in Martinsville-Henry County as rated by Virginia Quality's Voluntary Rating and Improvement System. Kotchish said she received significant support and technical assistance from Smart Beginnings Martinsville Henry that propelled her staff to a higher standard.

First Baptist Early Learning Center also received funding through the quality improvement program that allowed Kotchish to outfit the center's classrooms with a new curriculum Kaplan Learn Every Day, improving the center's services for children.

"Ruth Anne (Collins) and Talitha (Kirby) have been a godsend," Kotchish said. "We couldn't have improved our center to this extent without their support and guidance."

The Harvest Foundation and Smart Beginnings partnership to build Martinsville-Henry County's early childhood education system continues with a three-year grant of \$1,176,443. This funding focuses on several objectives including increasing local childcare capacity, building a high-quality workforce in early childhood education, and implementing a literacy initiative to increase reading proficiency for students.

"Harvest is a long-time supporter of early childhood education as we believe the evidence that lifelong learning begins at

birth and the earliest years of a child directly impacts how they will thrive the rest of their lives," said Sheryl Agee, senior operating officer at The Harvest Foundation. "Building effective systems takes time but that commitment is rewarding when you can look back and see change occurring."

A decade ago, no early learning programs in Martinsville-Henry County were part of the state rating system that supports early childhood providers, Agee said.

"Today, 89 percent of our dedicated local programs are actively participating, allowing them to get the support needed to deliver quality services, which further empowers parents with information to choose the program that best fits their child's needs," Agee added. "The childcare system still has many challenges around access, affordability, and even providing a living wage to those who care for our children. Harvest remains committed to being a partner at the table as we continue the work to build a strong early learning

system that develops thriving youth, supports our workforce and ultimately our entire community."

Smart Beginnings Martinsville Henry has a proven record of success in addressing needs within the early childhood system. This grant is an opportunity to improve the early learning landscape and put a renewed focus on holistically improving the entire childcare system, according to Philip Wenkstern, executive director of United Way of Henry County & Martinsville.

"Improved access to childcare will ensure more children are enrolled in excellent early learning programs," Wenkstern said. "Strengthening the quality of existing childcare centers will better prepare our children for school and their future careers, and increasing the enrollment capacity of new and existing centers will ensure that our childcare system can meet the needs of our growing workforce. The United Way is incredibly grateful for the Harvest Foundation's investment in this critical piece of infrastructure

that will impact our community for decades to come."

Melanie McLarty, director of Smart Beginnings, said one of the most exciting aspects of this grant is the ability to hire a full-time Early Literacy Coordinator.

"We appreciate receiving this grant from the Harvest Foundation to continue our ongoing commitment to increase access to high-quality care and early education for all children in Martinsville and Henry County," McLarty said. "The main focus of the Early Literacy Coordinator will be on implementing strategies in our early learning community that provides literacy resources and opportunities children need to achieve grade-level reading and school success!"

Smart Beginnings Martinsville Henry is one of 18 regional initiatives in Virginia working to ensure that all children entering kindergarten are healthy, well-cared for, and ready to learn. Find out more by visiting unitedwayofhcm.org/smart-beginnings.



First Baptist Early Learning Center in Martinsville is the first religious-based Level 5 early childhood center in Martinsville-Henry County. The center's staff celebrated in late May.

Historical highway marker for 'Group Camp 7' unveiled

State representatives dedicated a historical highway marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources that recognizes a camping area created for African Americans during the late 1930s.

"This weekend we celebrated Juneteenth and today (Tuesday) we unveil the newest historical highway marker honoring 'Group Camp 7' here at Pocahontas State Park," said Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears. "I am grateful for the ongoing work that is being done in every corner of the commonwealth so that we can learn from the past and celebrate how far we've come together."

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the camp, erecting cabins and a dining hall, and a small lake with a beach, at what was then called Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, a project of the National Park Service. While the buildings no longer stand, Group Camp 7 was built on land that later became Pocahontas State Park, and the marker is located across the road from the park's main entrance.

"Our state parks are here for all Virginians to enjoy," said Dr. Melissa Baker, director of

Virginia State Parks. "Virginia State Parks continue to work to recognize the historical contributions of African Americans and welcome visitors of all backgrounds to enjoy activities and programs at its 41 state parks.

Group Camp 7 was one of the few recreational areas in the nation open to African Americans for group camping. Organizations took advantage of the site. Both the Girl Scouts of Richmond and the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA offered summer camp sessions for African American girls. Camp Carey, a partnership between the Women's Missionary Union of Virginia, a white organization, and the General Baptist Convention of Virginia, a Black organization, operated at Group Camp 7 for more than a quarter century.

"Camp Carey meant, for me, friendship from as far north as Alexandria, from as far southwest as Pulaski and Bristol," said Ernestine Wilson. "I still have friends who were a part of Camp Carey's experience. And we owe it all to groups of women from the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the Women's Missionary Union — one white, one black



Text of marker: Group Camp 7

Group Camp 7, built for the use of African Americans, opened 1.25 miles south of here in 1939. The site was part of Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, a project of the National Park Service that later became Pocahontas State Park. The campground, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and situated at a distance from the whites-only camping areas, featured cabins, a dining hall, and a lake with a beach. The Girl Scouts, Young Women's Christian Association, Women's Missionary Union of Virginia, and other groups operated residential camps here, providing educational and recreational opportunities to young black people from across the state. The buildings are no longer extant.

— who said to themselves, we've got to find something for our girls to do. And they did."

"We welcome this opportunity to educate and inform Virginians and visitors about this important part of the commonwealth's history," said Julie Langan, Director

of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "We acknowledge the truth of segregation while recognizing that Black Virginians could access our natural resources thanks to a federal program that laid the groundwork for our state park system."

Virginia's historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Route 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,600 official state markers.

Winners of the Miss Henry County Fair Pageant announced

The 2nd annual Miss Henry County Fair Pageant was held on Saturday, June 11 at the Henry County Recreation Center, presented by Jones & DeShon Orthodontics.

A total of 35 girls participated in nine different categories this year.

Emily Vaught was this year's winner of the "Miss Category," for ages 17 – 22. She will serve as the official representative of the fair, represent the fair throughout the year and compete in The Miss Virginia Association of Fairs Pageant in January 2023 in Williamsburg, VA.

The Henry County Fair, which is being presented by VisitMartinsville, will be held September 21 – 24 on the grounds at Martinsville Speedway, and will lead into the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 race at Martinsville Speedway on September 24. Contact the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office at (276) 634-4640 for more information.



Winners of the other pageant categories are Beautiful Baby (0 – 12 months)/Lilly Coleman; Ms./Joanie Petty; Beautiful Baby (13 – 23 months)/Avery Clifton; Miss Spirit/Peyton Booth; Wee Baby/Lennox Dalton; Miss Community Service/Avery Clifton; Little/Ember Stroud; Miss Personality/Nylla Hunnicutt-Dehart; Young/Khallie Hairston; Pre-teen/Natalie Moorefield; Junior/Keyasia Akridge. Emily Vaught, winner of the Miss category, also is pictured.

Virginia's May unemployment rate mirrors April's rate, with largest gains in government, hospitality sectors

Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in May at 3.0 percent, which is 1.1 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in May, the labor force increased by 17,175 to 4,347,177, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 959 to 128,841.

The number of employed residents rose by 18,134 to 4,218,336. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.6 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate rose by 0.3 of a percentage point to 63.8 percent in May. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 7,000 jobs in May to 4,044,400. April's preliminary estimate was revised down by 400, taking

away from that month's job gain. In May, private sector employment increased by 1,600 jobs to 3,324,200 while public sector employment increased 5,400 to end at 720,200. Increases within that sector occurred in local government (+1,500 jobs), state government (+3,100 jobs), and federal government employment (+800 jobs).

Employment rose in six of eleven major industry sectors, was unchanged in Miscellaneous Services at 189,100, and declined in three. The largest job gain during May occurred in Government employment, with an increase of 5,400 jobs to 720,200. The second largest increase occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,800 jobs) to 405,300. Education and Health Services was third, with a gain of 2,500 jobs, rising to 556,300. Other increases included Manufacturing (+1,300 jobs) to 237,100, Information (+100 jobs) to 68,400, and Mining and Logging (+100 jobs) to 7,200.

The largest job loss during May occurred in Professional

and Business Services (-2,700 jobs) to 788,000. The second largest decrease occurred in Finance, with a decrease of 1,800 jobs to 205,700. The third largest decrease occurred in Construction, with a decrease of 1,100 jobs to 205,100. The remaining loss was in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, with a decrease of 600 jobs to 662,000.

From May 2021 to May 2022, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 125,000 jobs, an increase of 3.2%. In May, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 110,300 jobs, while employment in the public sector gained 14,700 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, nine of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment increases while two saw employment decreases. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality, up 64,000 jobs (+18.8%). The second-largest over-the-year job gain occurred in Education and Health Services, up 20,500

jobs (+3.8%). The third largest over-the-year job gain occurred in Government, up 14,700 jobs (+2.1%). Other job gains occurred in Professional and Business Services (+12,500 jobs), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,700 jobs), Miscellaneous Services (+6,300 jobs), Information (+2,700 jobs), Manufacturing (+600 jobs), and Mining and Logging (+200 jobs). Within Government, Local (+10,400 jobs), State (+4,300 jobs), and Federal employment held steady.

The job losses occurred in Finance (-4,200 jobs) to 205,700 and Construction, with a decrease of 1,000 jobs to 205,100.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In May, nine metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains while Lynchburg held steady. The largest absolute job increase occurred in Northern Virginia (+1,800 jobs). The next largest absolute job gain occurred

in Roanoke (+1,100 jobs). The third largest increase occurred in Harrisonburg (+800 jobs). Other over-the-month job gains occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+700 jobs), Richmond (+700), Winchester (+700 jobs), Charlottesville (+300 jobs), Staunton-Waynesboro (+200), and Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+100 jobs).

Over-the-year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased in all 10 metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 43,500 jobs (+2.9%). Richmond was next, with a gain of 14,400 jobs. Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was third, with a gain of 12,000 jobs. Other over-the-year job gains occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+4,800 jobs), Charlottesville (+3,900 jobs), Roanoke (+3,100 jobs), Lynchburg (+2,600 jobs), Harrisonburg (+2,500 jobs), Winchester (+2,200 jobs), and Staunton-Waynesboro (+2,100 jobs).

Patrick clerk charged in Sunday incident

Sherri Hazlewood, of Stuart, was charged in connection with a Sunday incident, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

A call was received in the Patrick County E-911 Center around 4:31 a.m. on Sunday,

Smith said. The caller reported a white sedan, with the lights on and engine running, was stationary on Collinstown Road.

Patrick County Deputy Faith Hubbard responded, and arrived at the scene at 4:40 a.m., Smith said.

Hazlewood, 53, was the sole occupant of the vehicle.

After a field investigation, Hazlewood was charged with driving under the influence, the sheriff said.

She was released on a personal recognizance bond later Sunday

morning, Smith said. Hazlewood serves as the Circuit Court Clerk.

Other arrests reported by local authorities are:

*Jaquantis Daeshon Yellock, 22, of Martinsville, was charged June 13 with assault and battery. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe was the

arresting officer.

*Tyler Benjamin Dehart, 24, of Meadows of Dan, was charged June 15 with fail to appear. Deputy R.S. Martin was the arresting officer.

*Robert Blake Pruitt, 35, no address available, was charged June

15 with fail to comply with bond conditions. Deputy D.A. Gray was the arresting officer.

*Jason Ray Ziglar, 39, of Timberville, Virginia, was charged June 15 with fail to appear. Rockingham County made the arrest for Patrick County.

Salon owner pleads guilty to defrauding federal government

A Richlands, Virginia woman, who owned and operated a local hair and nail salon, pleaded guilty this week to defrauding the federal government out of pandemic unemployment assistance benefits and committing mail fraud.

Mandi Dawn Hammond, 36, waived her right to be indicted and pled guilty to one count of fraud in connection with a major disaster or emergency benefits program and one count of mail fraud.

"As the world faced a once-in-a-generation global pandemic, Congress and the President passed sweeping legislation to assist businesses and individuals in surviving economic upheaval," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "These programs were designed as a safety net for those in need, not as a get-rich-quick scheme for those looking to commit

fraud. I am continually grateful for the work of our local, state, and federal law enforcement for pursuing these important prosecutions."

IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge, Darrell Waldon, of the Washington, D.C. Field Office, said, "This is yet another example of IRS-CI's commitment to work with our partners and pursue those who commit COVID-19 related fraud and bring them to justice."

According to court documents, Hammond owned and operated Jama Nail Beauty Bar & Gift Shop in Richlands, Virginia. After an executive order signed in March 2020 by the Governor of Virginia closed all close-contact salons, Hammond closed her business for approximately six weeks.

On April 19, 2020, Hammond filed an application

for pandemic unemployment assistance via the Virginia Employment Commission website where it was reviewed, processed, and approved. For approximately six weeks, she legitimately received pandemic unemployment assistance as intended by the government.

In May 2020, the executive order closing all close-contact salons was lifted and Hammond reopened her business. However, she continued filing weekly certifications to receive pandemic unemployment benefits from May 2020 through August 2021, each week reaffirming fraudulent representations that she was still unemployed because of COVID-19. Court records indicate Hammond received at least \$29,154 in funds to which she was not entitled.

Hammond is scheduled to be sentenced on September 15. The charges with which

she has been convicted carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The IRS-Criminal Investigations Division and the Russell County Sheriff's Office investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Murphy is prosecuting the case.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors

and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the department's response to the pandemic, visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCFD) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCFD Web Complaint Form at <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncfd-disaster-complaint-form>.

Warner among those urging action to prevent misleading search results

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, and Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-MI, led colleagues in a letter to the CEO of Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiary Google, Sundar Pichai, urging him to take action to prevent misleading Google search results and ads that lead to anti-abortion clinics.

In the letter, the lawmakers note that 37 percent of Google Maps results and 11 percent of Google search results for "abortion clinic near me" and "abortion pill" in states with so-called "trigger laws" – laws that would effectively ban abortion if Roe v. Wade is overturned –

were for anti-abortion clinics.

Additionally, 28 percent of Google ads displayed at the top of search results were for anti-abortion clinics. Amid a draft opinion of a Supreme Court decision that would overturn Roe and the passage of several state laws that would curtail access to reproductive health care, the lawmakers are pushing for quick action to display accurate information.

"Directing women towards fake clinics that traffic in misinformation and don't provide comprehensive health services is dangerous to women's health and undermines the

integrity of Google's search results," they wrote. "Google should not be displaying anti-abortion fake clinics or crisis pregnancy centers in search results for users that are searching for an 'abortion clinic' or 'abortion pill.' If Google must continue showing these misleading results in search results and Google Maps, the results should, at the very least, be appropriately labeled."

The lawmakers requested Sundar Pichai respond to the letter and provide:

1. A plan to limit anti-abortion clinics in Google search results, ads, and Maps.

2. A plan to add disclaimers that clearly indicate whether a search result does or does not provide abortions.

3. Information on Google's attempts to provide accurate search results pertaining to health care.

In addition to Warner and Slotkin, the letter also was signed by Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Ed Markey (D-MA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Michael

Bennet (D-CO) and Tina Smith (D-MN). It was also signed by Reps. Don Beyer (D-VA), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Jason Crow (D-CO), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Katie Porter (D-CA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Jackie Speier (D-CA).

Warner has been a longtime supporter of both abortion rights and increasing transparency online. He is a cosponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act, which would codify Roe v. Wade, and several pieces of tech legislation that would promote transparency and curb manipulative patterns.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides funds for clean school buses

To replace the nation's fleet of school buses with clean, American-made, zero-emission buses, the U.S. EPA is currently accepting applications from school districts as part of a \$500 million funding effort under the Biden Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

"This new funding can make a big difference in communities in our region, especially in school districts facing

environmental justice challenges," said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. "We encourage every school district to apply for these funds. These new zero emission busses will help improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, require less maintenance and will impact our communities' overall health, safety and quality of life."

This is only the first round of funding from

the BIL, where an unprecedented \$5 billion is being invested over the next five years.

The Philadelphia School District has already replaced two diesel school buses to cleaner electric school buses through the 2020 Diesel Emission Reduction Act Clean School Bus Rebate funding.

Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other health problems that hurt our communi-

ties and cause students to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities. New, zero-emission and low-emission buses will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but produce cleaner air for students, bus drivers, school staff working near the bus loading areas, and the communities that the buses drive through each day.

These zero-emission buses cost less to oper-

ate, and the electricity stored in zero-emission school buses can transmit energy back to the power grid to meet extra energy demand or provide energy to communities during power outages.

EPA will prioritize applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies, Tribal Schools, and rural areas, and it supports President Biden's Justice40 initiative to direct at least 40%

of the benefits of certain government investments to underserved communities.

Applications are being accepted until August 19. Questions about applying may be directed to CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov.

To learn more about the rebate programs, applicant eligibility, selection process, and informational webinar dates, visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

Farm women and youth more likely to be injured in ATV, UTV accidents

Utility vehicles essential for many farm chores should always be sized correctly and used with caution, especially among women agriculturalists, whose on-farm roles are continually expanding.

Farmers may believe all-terrain and utility vehicles are the greatest tools since the skid steer, said Dan Neenan, director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety. But studies indicate that injured ATV/UTV passengers are commonly female or youth.

Agricultural safety experts urge proper sizing when shop-

ping for an ATV or UTV, and when choosing personal protective equipment.

"Stand on the footrests, and grasp the handles," Neenan advised in a webinar geared toward female agriculturalists and hosted by AgriSafe Network. "While holding this position, check that there is at least 3 inches of clearance between the seat and the back of your pants."

The same attention to sizing should be applied to PPE.

"A woman's body is built differently," he continued. "And, unfortunately, most PPE on the market is made to fit a man. But

there are PPE outlets that are sized to women."

The rider's physical size, strength, experience level, coordination, visual perception, maturity and reasoning also should be taken into consideration. This is as important as the vehicle manufacturer's minimum age recommendation, Neenan added.

"ATVs and UTVs are enormously useful for farm chores," noted Dana Fisher, chairman of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Safety Advisory Committee. "But they also pose serious hazards to operators and

passengers. These vehicles, based on the size, can be a lot more powerful than people anticipate. Their weight and speed make it easy for a smaller individual to lose control."

The vehicles handle differently on various road surfaces, Fisher noted. Steering and braking capacity can change with fluctuating loads since some farm tasks must be completed in unfavorable weather conditions.

Neenan added that the right helmet is crucial. "When you have an incident with a motor vehicle, there is more than one collision," he explained. "There

is initial collision with the object; when the victim is airborne, there's another collision; and then a third collision of the brain hitting the inside of the skull."

Farms and work sites can be spread out for several acres, leaving workers alone for long periods of time, he added. Employers should know the operator's destination, estimated time of return, contact information and alternate routes, and have check-in procedures in place.

To view the webinar and see other farm safety resources, visit Learning.agrisafe.org to create a free profile.

Gear Up for the 2022 Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is officially underway, and it lasts until November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the 2022 hurricane season will be above normal in the Atlantic and produce 14 to 21 named storms with six to 10 hurricanes and three to six major hurricanes. Additionally, NOAA predicts that the eastern Pacific hurricane season will produce 10 to 17 named storms, with four to eight hurricanes and zero to three major hurricanes.

Take precautions to prepare and protect your family and agricultural operation.

Develop an Emergency Plan - Ensure your household and employees know

your hurricane plan, including meeting points, emergency contact lists, and alternate evacuation routes in case infrastructure is damaged.

Remove Debris and Secure Large Objects - Clean out culverts, ditches, and other drainage areas, especially before and during peak hurricane season to reduce water damage. Most injuries to animals, people, or structures during a hurricane are caused by flying objects. To lessen the risk, minimize the presence of equipment, supplies, and debris that may become airborne during high winds or encountered in floodwaters.

Secure Important Records and Documents - Pre- and post-hurricane documentation is extremely important

for insurance compensation and recovery assistance. You'll want to have thorough records of damages and losses sustained on your farm as well as documentation of your clean-up and recovery efforts. It is critical to document inventory of farm buildings, vehicles, equipment, and livestock before a disaster occurs. Take photos, videos, or make written lists with descriptions. Keep copies of this inventory in multiple places: computer, off-site in a safe location, and on a cloud-based server where information is transmitted and saved weekly.

Know Your Insurance Options- Regularly review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including

flood insurance, for your facilities, vehicles, farm buildings, crops and livestock. Note, there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect. Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the policy was not in place before a disaster.

Gather Supplies - Have drinking water, canned food, a generator, batteries, a flashlight, and fuel available in case you lose power. For widespread outages, credit and debit cards may not work, so have cash handy.

Access Real-time Emergency Information- Download the FEMA app for free on the App Store and Google Play for safety tips on what to do before, during, and after disasters. Subscribe

to our text message and email service to receive real-time, local operational and recovery information from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

On farmers.gov, the Hurricane Webpage, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their local USDA Service Center.

Summer music events are back at Virginia State Parks

After a brief hiatus for the past two years, concerts and music series at Virginia State Parks are back this summer and will include bluegrass, jazz, gospel, country, rock and roll, symphony and contemporary. Each location has a variety of music throughout the year so there is something that everyone can enjoy.

Treat yourself to the music series available at the following five Virginia State Park locations this year:

- Belle Isle State Park features Music by the River
- Hungry Mother State Park features Music in the Park
- Pocahontas State Park features Pocahontas Premieres
- Smith Mountain Lake State Park features Ray Judd's Music in the Park
- Westmoreland State Park features Music on the Cliffs

"We are excited to share the music with the community again," said Belle Isle State Park Manager Katie Shepard. "Music is a great way to unwind, relax, dance and showcase local musicians. Our Music by the River series provides a laid back style that will make you feel right at home and one of our local musicians just might introduce you to your next favorite tune. So grab your lawn chair,

pack a picnic dinner, and come enjoy the diversity of shows."

In addition to the music series, there are concerts, festivals and music camps taking place at several Virginia State Park locations this year. The concerts begin in June and are a great way to get outdoors and connect with nature, friends and family while enjoying original rhythmic music.

Most series begin at 6 p.m. or later and the concerts are free, but parking fees are required at all park locations upon entry. You don't have to camp to enjoy the series, but camping is a great way to enjoy the music at night and explore the park during the day.

"James River State Park offers campers live music, s'mores and lemonade this summer for a welcoming campfire gathering and this gives first time and returning guests a chance to connect with their neighbors," said James River State Park Manager Adam Bresenhan. "Music is good for the soul and helps bring people together."

Each park location offers a unique view for the free concerts so be sure to check out at least one of the many music series available this summer. For more information, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/events?park>.



A pre-COVID Music Festival at Natural Tunnel State Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fire Department

from page 1

in applicants for fire and EMS positions began even before the COVID-19 pandemic led to nationwide staffing shortages, and noted the issue is wide-ranging. "Our partners, our neighbors throughout the Commonwealth, throughout the nation, are facing the same difficulties," he said.

Though he acknowledged that Martinsville does not have the same level of staffing shortages facing other departments—"We're very blessed to have the quantity and quality of people that we have," he said—it still struggles to find people to fill open positions.

Part of the difficulty stems from the requirements of the job itself—the work is not something just anyone can do. Anderson said the department must

be particular about who it hires because of the unique nature and responsibilities of the position. "We have to make sure that the people we're sending into our citizens' homes have good backgrounds, they're morally and ethically good people—the cream of the crop."

It isn't enough, Anderson explained, for a crew member to have the ability to respond to calls. An applicant's character and personality matter just as much as physical ability. "When they're in someone's house, we want to know they're trustworthy people," he said.

"You can be trained for just about anything if you're willing to do it," he said, but personality and character cannot be taught. "We want people that are dedicated, with

good morals and ethics. You've got to have that trust. When you're in that house fighting a fire, you've got to know that the person beside you has your back."

Additionally, he said, potential applicants are often put off by hearing stories about the "blood, guts, and gore" that can sometimes accompany the job. Anderson said that, while there are traumatic times, those get talked about the most but actually happen the least. "The part of that that trumps that (the traumatic moments) is the property you save, the lives you save, the appreciation and respect that you get," he said.

Currently, Anderson said, the department seeks applicants to fill immediate full-time and part-time

vacancies.

According to the hiring notice posted to the Martinsville Fire & EMS Facebook page, the starting pay range for part-time employees is \$15.79 to \$18.53 per hour, based on Virginia firefighter/EMS certification.

The minimum starting pay for full-time staff is \$37,736 for a firefighter/EMT to \$48,267 for a firefighter/paramedic, again based on Virginia firefighter/EMS certifications.

Anderson noted the base salary does not include overtime pay.

He cited early retirement as one of the many benefits of the job. Employees are enrolled in Virginia's Retirement System and also receive hazardous duty pay, he explained. Once an employee reaches the age of 50, they may retire with full benefits after only 25 years of service. That means that, if someone entered the department at the age of 25, they could retire at the age of 50, fully vested.

"On top of that," Anderson added, "as long as you've been with an agency like ours for 20 years, you get the hazardous duty pay, which right now, by itself, is just over \$1,200 per month on top of what you draw from the state's retirement."

Many retirees have as much income in retirement as they did while they were working, or close to it. Plus, he said, the early retirement age means many are still young enough when they

finish their service to embark on another career path or simply choose to spend time pursuing their favorite hobbies.

Anderson noted that applicants who already have certifications as a Virginia firefighter and paramedic may be eligible for a \$6,000 sign-on bonus.

Because the Martinsville agency is relatively small, Anderson said it does not participate in a training academy. Only applicants who have already received, or who are in the process of working toward the necessary certifications, are considered.

Applicants must be a Virginia-certified firefighter/EMT and/or intermediate/paramedic and preference would be given to applicants with firefighter/advanced life support (ALS) certifications, he said.

For those who may not yet have all the necessary certifications but have already begun the process, Anderson said that Martinsville offers educational incentives, particularly funds that can be used toward those certifications. He said the department works with employees still attending classes to make it easier for them to go to school and get the training they need.

However, Anderson said he does not want to discourage anyone interested in joining the ranks who may not yet have received any of the required education. For those, Anderson said he highly recommended joining local volunteer fire departments.

Volunteers would have first and easy access to the necessary classes as they become available. Most departments, he said, have funds to help pay for those classes.

The initial firefighter/EMT certification, he said, can be earned in a year and cost the student less than \$1,000. Additionally, working with a volunteer department offers the unique opportunity to learn first-hand if the career path is the right one for you.

"How many other careers do you know of that let you go out and get the certifications for that little money and get to see whether you like it or not," he asked.

Anderson said part-time employees are asked to work a few days each month, helping to fill shifts when people are out sick or on vacation, or when the department needs to increase staffing.

He noted the department often looks to its part-time staff first when looking to fill its full-time positions.

Overall, Anderson said that while the work may be difficult at times and the requirements may be stringent, new members of the city's fire and EMS department would be joining a "tight-knit group" where "everybody encourages each other, whatever the struggles may be."

Testing for accepted applicants begins July 30 and applications are due by Friday, July 15. To apply, click the jobs tab on the city's website, www.martinsville-va.gov.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
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 Get the classes, times & instructors you want!



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Martinsville
 A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS
 FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

FIREFIGHTER/EMS FULL AND PART-TIME

The City of Martinsville Fire & EMS Department, is testing for current part-time and full-time positions. Minimum requirements: possess a high school diploma or equivalent, be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Virginia driver's license, have current Virginia firefighter/EMT and/or Paramedic certification(s), and pass a satisfactory employment and background investigation. Preference given to applicants holding ALS certifications.

Starting part-time pay range - \$15.79 to \$18.53/hour, based on Virginia firefighter/EMS certification.
 Minimum starting pay - \$37,736 (FF/EMT) to \$48,267(FF/PM) annual, based on Virginia firefighter/EMS certification.

\$6,000 Hire-on Bonus Offered for New Fulltime Virginia Certified Firefighter II/Paramedics

Full-time benefits include Virginia Retirement System options, paid sick, holiday, and vacation time options, health insurance options, hazardous duty pay options, higher education incentives, and more.

Minimum qualifications to test: Virginia Paramedic and/or firefighter/EMT.

Pre-employment physical, background investigation, and drug test required for selected applicants. Test date is July 30, 2022. Testing information will be provided to selected applicants.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Friday, July 15, 2022 at 5pm. A required city application must be completed online by visiting the City's website at www.martinsville-va.gov.

EOE. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.