

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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J.R. Powell is the new Deputy County Administrator for Henry County. Powell has had a long career in service, having served in the Marine Corps before working for 27 years at the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center, including 10 years as its director.

New Deputy County Administrator has long legacy of service

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

On July 1, J.R. Powell, the former Director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center became the Deputy County Administrator of Henry County. He stepped into the role vacated by former Deputy Dale Wagoner, who was named County Administrator following the retirement of Tim Hall.

Powell comes to his new role after 27-years of service to Henry County at the 911 Center. He also has a proven record of service not only to his community, but to his nation.

The Martinsville High School graduate joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating in 1989.

He recalled working a night-shift summer job at Pannill Knitting Co. between his junior and senior year of high school. Having just finished a shift, he was fast asleep at home when the doorbell rang.

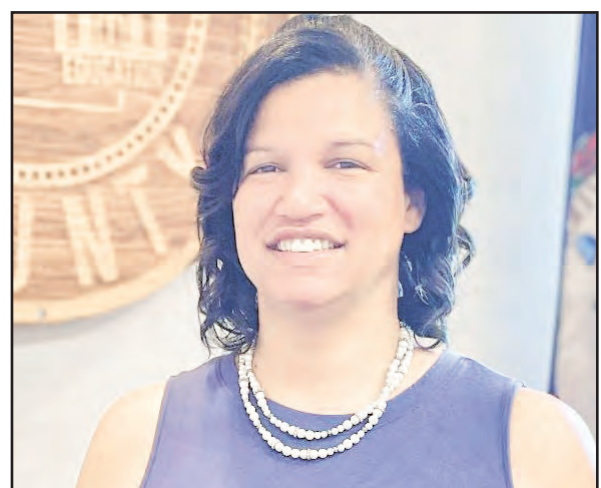
“There was this man standing there in United States Marine Corps dress blues. I thought, ‘what does he want?’” He ended up enlisting.

The decision was not entirely an unexpected one. Powell said his family had a long history of military service. He said his grandfather was so dedicated, he served in WWI and tried to re-enlist when WWII broke out. He was turned down due to his advanced age.

“Serving in the military is just something in our DNA that we’ve always done,” Powell said.

He graduated high school and, two weeks later, was on a train to Parris Island, SC. “I arrived there and thought my life was over,” he said. Each recruit was required to write a letter home, telling their loved ones they had arrived safely and would not be able to communicate for a few weeks. “I snuck a few lines in there to tell my mom, ‘do whatever you have to do, but get me out of here,’ he

See **New Deputy County Administrator**, page 3



Tierra Dillard became the new director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center on July 1. She joined the center as a telecommunicator in 2008.

Dillard assumes top post in E-911 Center

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Last month, Henry County announced that Tierra Dillard would become the new Director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center, filling a vacancy created by then-Director J.R. Powell’s selection as new Deputy County Administrator of Henry County. She moved into her new position July 1.

A graduate of Bassett High School, Dillard

joined the 911 Center in 2008 through an unexpected twist of fate.

“I feel like a traitor because I’m not like everyone else. I didn’t eat, sleep, and breathe public safety and didn’t really have that inner drive that I want to help people from a young age,” Dillard explained. “I applied for an administrative job here, and they had already hired someone for that job so they asked me if I would be interested in dispatch.

The job, Dillard said,

See **Dillard Assumes Top Post**, page 3

Ancient history uncovered at VMNH dino dig

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Shell, WYOMING - Nearly every day for the past few weeks, a team of instructors, students, and volunteers have made the slow journey out into the vast, seemingly endless Wyoming prairie just north of the little town of Shell, WY. Their convoy of 4-wheel drive vehicles climb steep, dusty hills and traverse deep gullies, following a long, dusty trail that does not appear on any map. Over the course of three weeks, the team has worked beneath the unforgiving Wyoming sun in search of dinosaur bones.

This year, the 13-person group, led by Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Research Associate Dr. Brooke Haiar (professor and chairman of the environmental sciences



The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) and the University of Lynchburg have partnered for the last several years on a summer dinosaur dig in Wyoming. Students and volunteers have the unique opportunity to help dig up ancient dinosaur bones, for which VMNH serves as the repository.

and sustainability at the University of Lynchburg), included VMNH intern Mason McCabe, a group of students from the University of Lynchburg

and the College of William & Mary, as well as other volunteers. The digs are a partnership between VMNH and the

university, allowing students the opportunity to participate in something that few people will ever do in their lifetimes:

See **Ancient History Uncovered**, page 10

Respecting the past, embracing the future: Uptown brewpub targets 2023 opening

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

New ideas are brewing for Uptown Martinsville. Herb Atwell and Peggy Donovan, the husband-and-wife duo who own Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton, have purchased the former Daystar building at 32 Franklin Street in Uptown Martinsville with the intent to open a new brewpub in the space in 2023.

“We looked at Martinsville for the past couple of years and saw it starting to change,” Atwell said. “To us, it’s like a blank slate. We had the opportunity to become a part of that. It looks like the chance to bring to Martinsville the environment we’ve created here (at Mountain Valley.) It won’t be exactly the same, but the people will be the same, and part of creating what we do here are the people. Hopefully we can do that in Martinsville so the people of Martinsville can have a place to call their own.”

Renewal Brewing is the name Donovan and Atwell have settled on for their new business venture.

“We looked for a name for a while,” Atwell said.

“We wanted something that would represent what we want to bring to Martinsville, a spark” said Donovan.

“And for Martinsville to have a renewed outlook,” Atwell added. “Hopefully, not only us but other businesses that come to the area will promote growth for other businesses to come and for other people to want to come



Herb Atwell (left) showcases the basement of the former Daystar building on Franklin Street in Martinsville. He and his wife, Peggy Donovan, who currently own Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton, plan to open up a new brewpub in the building in 2023 after extensive renovations are completed.



The future home of the new brewpub features a flat roof, which Atwell and Donovan said they intend to turn into a rooftop seating area to allow guests to look out over the Uptown area.

See **Uptown Brewpub**, page 5

Eight presumed cases of monkeypox in Virginia

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Since May, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reported eight presumed cases of monkeypox in the state, with one case reported in the southwestern region.

The VDH website states that monkeypox is a potentially serious viral illness that belongs to the same virus group as smallpox. Originally found in laboratory monkeys in 1958, the virus has also been found in different kinds of rodents and primates in Africa.

“The monkeypox virus can spread to people when they are bitten by an animal infected with monkeypox or when they touch the blood, body fluids, or lesions on an infected animal or person,” the website stated.

The virus also can be transmitted from one person to another “by large respiratory droplets from prolonged face-to-face contact.” In rare occasions, monkeypox is spread from person to person through close contact or the touching of body fluids of an infected individual.

The VDH noted that “objects, such as bedding or clothing, contaminated with the virus can also spread the monkeypox virus.”

In a recent release, it was reported that most, but not all, of the confirmed cases were those who identify as gay, bisexual, or men who engage in sexual intercourse with other men.

Monkeypox is characterized by a specific type of raised, blister-like rash that develops on the tongue and in the mouth and on the body. “The

See **Monkeypox**, page 2

VISIT

[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.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 news-reporter@theenterprise.net)

Friday, July 15

Henry County Parks and recreation hosts Movies in the Park at Jack Dalton Park (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville). Friday night's movie is Space Jam: A New Legacy. Music and games begin at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 8:55. Drinks, candy, and snacks are available for purchase!

Don't miss the 2022 TGIF Concert Series in Uptown Martinsville! Located in the Bridge Street parking lot at 65 West Main Street, the Rotary Clubs of Martinsville and Henry County present an evening of music with The Pizzaz Band. The show begins at 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 16

The Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In will take place in downtown Bassett from 3-7 p.m. All makes and models are welcome. Admission is free.

Patrick & Henry Community College will host a Basic Contractor Licensing class from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost of the course is \$189 and pre-registration is required. To register or to learn more information, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

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.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) hosts Painting with Kimberly from 6-8 p.m. with instructor Kimberly Boyd. Bring your friends, some snacks, and your favorite wine for a fun night out! This class is intended for students ages 18 and up. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more information, call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will host a continuing education for elec-

trician course from 6-9 p.m. Journeymen, master plumbers, electricians, HVAC mechanics, and gas fitters are required by the Virginia Board of Contractors to take a pre-determined number of continuing education hours specific to their trade. This course covers code changes, general requirements, impacts on the job, and special equipment included in the codes. The cost for the course is \$125. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more, call (276) 656-0260 or visit ph.augusoft.net.

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.

Saturday, July 23 & Sunday, July 24

TheatreWorks Community Players will hold auditions for the drama "12 Angry Jurors" Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Auditions will be held at the Black Box theatre at 44 Franklin Street, Martinsville. The play requires a mixed cast of 13 men and women, all adults (over 18-years old.) Show dates are Sept. 8-11 and 15-17. Those auditioning must be available for all show dates. All cast and crew members must be completely vaccinated for COVID-19. For more information, visit www.twcp.net.

Sunday, July 24

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) hosts a barn quilt class from 1-5 p.m. Price depends on the size of your barn quilt and all supplies are provided. Registration (with payment) is due July 15. For more information or to register, call (276) 957-5757.

Tuesday, July 26

Piedmont Arts hosts drawing studio lessons from 6-9 p.m. This is the first in a series of level-progression drawing classes and the focus will be

on learning to see and draw. Classes in August will focus on intermediate drawing, perspective drawing, and drawing from start to finish. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more information, call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) hosts Chix with Stix, self-guided knitting sessions, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This session is geared toward knitters ages 12 and up. Bring your own supplies. Chix with Stix is free to members, \$5 for non-members.

Thursday, July 28

Piedmont Arts hosts drawing studio lessons from 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. This is the first in a series of level-progression drawing classes and the focus will be on learning to see and draw. Classes in August will focus on intermediate drawing, perspective drawing, and drawing from start to finish. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more information, call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

Friday, July 29

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue) hosts a youth drawing class, See It...Draw It!, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. for students ages 8 to 15. This is a basic skills class for youth with some drawing experience with instructor Ginnie Conaway. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more information, call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

Thursday, August 4

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will host a continuing education for HVAC technician course from 6-9 p.m. Journeymen, master plumbers, electricians, HVAC mechanics, and gas fitters are required by the Virginia Board of Contractors to take a pre-determined number of continuing education hours specific to their trade. This course covers code changes, general requirements, impacts on the job, and special equipment included in the codes. The cost for the course is \$125. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more, call (276) 656-0260 or visit ph.augusoft.net.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) will host a Bob Ross Painting Class from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse. Learn Bob Ross' famous painting technique! The cost is \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. This class is intended for students ages 14 and up. Advanced registration is required. For more information call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

Friday, August 5

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Hosts Uptown First Friday at the historic Henry County Courthouse from 6-9 p.m. Bring an instrument to play at open mic hosted by Kat and Dennis Calfee or just come enjoy an evening of music in Uptown. Food will be available to purchase and there will be a cash bar. The event is free and open to all.

Thursday, August 18

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, August 19

Henry County Parks and recreation hosts Movies in the Park at Jack Dalton Park (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville). Friday night's movie is Boss Baby: Family Business. Music and games begin at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 8:55. Drinks, candy, and snacks are available for purchase!

Don't miss the 2022 TGIF Concert Series in Uptown Martinsville! Located in the Bridge Street parking lot at 65 West Main Street, the Rotary Clubs of Martinsville and Henry County present an evening of music with The Pizzaz Band. The show begins at 7 p.m.

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 by appointment only—no walk-ins are 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.

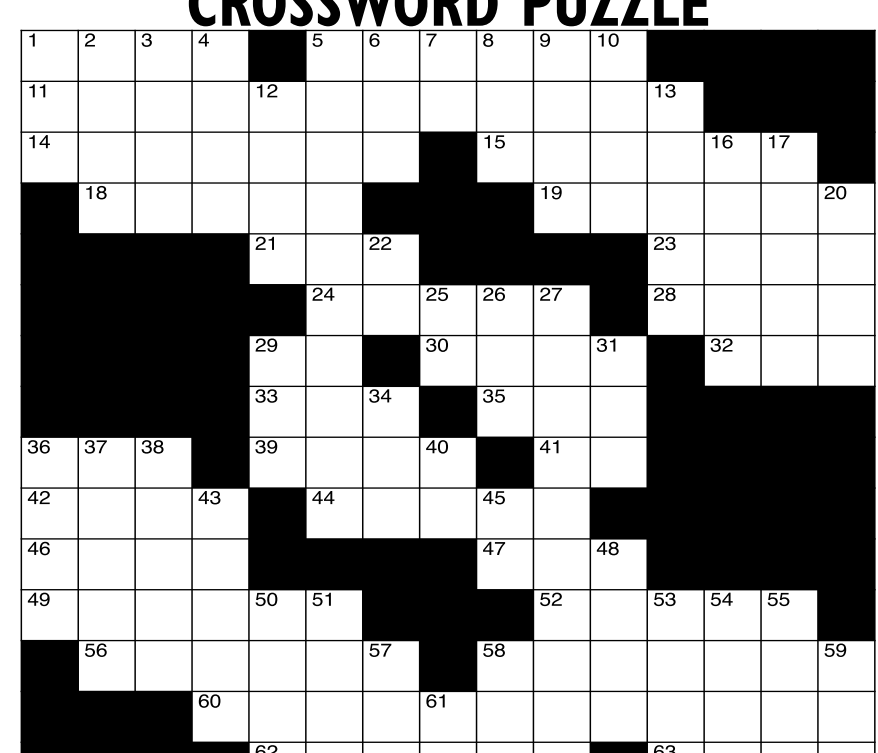
The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at their headquarters (1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville.) Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Absence of difficulty
 - 5. Preserve a dead body
 - 11. Gratitude
 - 14. The act of coming together again
 - 15. More cushy
 - 18. Visionaries
 - 19. Large, fish-eating bird
 - 21. Indicates near
 - 23. NY Mets legend Tommie
 - 24. Icelandic books
 - 28. Pop
 - 29. Hammer is one
 - 30. Sense of self-importance
 - 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
 - 33. Can't be found
 - 35. Electronic data
 - 36. Passports and licenses are two
 - 39. Snake-like fishes
 - 41. Air Force
 - 42. Popular computers
 - 44. Intermediate ecological stage
 - 46. Wings
 - 47. Used in combination
 - 49. Laid back
 - 52. Jewelled headdress
 - 56. Slow
 - 58. Famous Falls
 - 60. Reassertions
 - 62. Periods of time
 - 63. Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Body part
 - 2. Mimics
 - 3. Expel large quantities
 - 4. Sea eagle
 - 5. Genetically distinct varieties
 - 6. Dialect of Chinese
 - 7. Famous Mr. T character
 - 8. Consumed
 - 9. Chinese dynasty
 - 10. Menace to yards
 - 12. Ireland
 - 13. Palm trees
 - 16. Fungal disease
 - 17. Willis and Robert are two
 - 20. Affirmative! (slang)
 - 22. It shows who you are
 - 25. The First State (abbr.)
 - 26. Get older
 - 27. Associations
 - 29. Woman (French)
 - 31. Sunscreen rating
 - 34. Brew
 - 36. Leader
 - 37. Plants in the legume family
 - 38. Burn with a hot liquid
 - 40. Junior's father
 - 43. Scads
 - 45. Morning
 - 48. Length of a line (abbr.)
 - 50. Double curve
 - 51. Small, thin person
 - 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
 - 54. Mars crater
 - 55. Humanities
 - 57. Word element meaning ear
 - 58. To the ___ degree
 - 59. Residue of something burned
 - 61. It cools your home

Monkeypox

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blisters go through several stages before they get crusty, scab over, and fall off. People with monkeypox are contagious until all lesions have scabbed over and have fallen off the person's skin," the website stated.

Other symptoms listed by the VDH can include fever, headache, backache, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, and a cough. "Symptoms usually appear six to 14 days after exposure and, for the most part, clear up within two to four weeks," a release stated.

There is currently no approved treatment for monkeypox in the United States, but supportive care and relief of symptoms may be beneficial. Treatments can be accessed through the federal government with VDH coordination for those who have severe illness or are at a high risk of developing severe illness.

"Two vaccines are also available

through the federal government as post-exposure prophylaxis for people who had close contact with a person who had monkeypox and are at highest risk of exposure," the release stated.

Monkeypox vaccination access and testing are being expanded by the federal government for patients and those who are at risk of being infected.

Those with concerns about monkeypox are encouraged to contact their local healthcare provider or local health department.

As of June 28, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported 4,769 cases of monkeypox in 49 countries, with 306 in the United States. Few hospitalizations and one death have been reported globally in this outbreak.

For more information, go to www.vdh.virginia.gov, www.cdc.gov, or www.who.int.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the majority of monkeypox cases have been reported in Western European countries like Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France.

New Deputy County Administrator

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laughed.

Looking back now, though, Powell said his time in the Marine Corps “was the best thing that could have happened to me at that point in my life.” His time in service was “challenging, it was tough mentally, physically, and emotionally,” however, “I really, truly enjoyed my six years there.”

Powell served as a communications specialist which, he said, “was a fancy word meaning I was a grunt with a radio on my back.”

As much as he enjoyed his service, when his 6-year contract was up, he opted to leave. While still serving, Powell had married his high school sweetheart, Christa, and they had two children. He decided it was time to go home to his family.

He left the military as a Sergeant, having received three Navy Achievement Medals, and upon returning home to the Martinsville-Henry County area, Powell’s mother shared an advertisement in the local newspaper for a 911 dispatcher. He applied.

He began working for the center in 1995 as a Telecommunicator. In 1998, he was promoted to Assistant Shift Supervisor, then became Operations Supervisor in 1999 before being named Director in 2012.

“We’re very blessed to have an awesome team of 911 dispatchers in there,” Powell said. “Not a lot of people understand truly what they do in there.”

Wagoner credited Powell for his innovative thinking during his time as Director, one of the qualities that made him stand out as an applicant for the deputy role.

“Over the years, our 911 center has become known for being on the cutting edge of technology and we’ve developed a lot of that early on,” Powell said, primarily through people “thinking outside the box and wanting to try something new.”

For example, “we built a geo-diverse and redundant 911 center,” essentially a second center that could carry out all the same functions as the one housed in the Henry County Administration Building.

“What if something happens to this building,” he asked. “All of our 911 resources are in this building. A lot of technology, a lot of work was put in, what would we do” in the event of a tornado, fire, or other emergency?

For most localities, he said, the answer would be to transfer calls to a neighboring jurisdiction.

“That never made sense to me,” Powell said. What could a 911 dispatcher from, for example, Franklin County, do with a Martinsville or Henry County 911 call?

“Today, we have a fully-operational backup 911 center (located on Dupont Road) that has everything that you see in the 911 center here,” Powell said.

The space proved it was worth the time, effort, and red tape to build once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he said. Some dispatchers were able to work in the second space, allowing the center to remain operational and still provide space for social distancing. He said he received calls from other centers around the country, with people eager to learn more about the processes involved in constructing the backup center.

“Now in Virginia, there are centers all over the place developing geo-diverse and redundant 911 centers,” he said.

Now, having spent 27 years at the 911 center, Powell is stepping into his new role, a role he was not ever confident he would get, even after what he felt was a successful

interview.

“I prayed about it,” he said, “and I said, if it’s meant for me to be there, it will happen. If not, then I’m completely happy at the 911 center. That’s my family there.”

Apparently, it was, in fact, meant to be.

“I’m an all-in type of person,” Powell said. “Whatever my role is, throughout my whole life, in the Marine Corps to the 911 Center and now as Deputy County Administrator, I’m all in. Whatever I have to do to get the job done. It’s in my family’s DNA, serving others, serving our country, serving our community, and serving our citizens. It’s what I’ve always done. I look forward to serving in this role.”

Powell admitted that the new job has come with a steep learning curve.

“I was locked into my 911 world for 27 years. I could tell you every nut and bolt. If they called me at 2 a.m. and something was not working, I could tell you over the phone how to fix it.” It will take some time to achieve that level of familiarity with the nuts and bolts of the whole county, but Powell is diligently working to learn all he can.

He said that he recognized the 911 center could be intimidating for a new dispatcher, so when someone new started, he always told them, “don’t get overwhelmed. Just take it one day at a time. Learn a little bit each day, you’re going to be fine.” Now, he said, he has to remind himself of his own advice.

“I learn a little bit each day. I’ve worked with Dale in different roles since he’s been with the county, so we have a very good professional relationship. He’s bringing me up to speed with a lot of things already.”

As Powell and Wagoner meet with each department heads, Powell said he has learned that one of the strengths of the county are managers “who are willing to think outside the box and willing to bring ideas to (Wagoner) and myself, and have the willingness to face those challenges. Rather than saying they cannot do something, they are willing to explore what’s possible. I love being part of that kind of team.”

Ever the innovator, Powell said as those conversations continue, “I’m always watching out for, ‘is there something outside the box that we can consider doing to help some of these departments?’”

Though, during his sixth day on the job, no such ideas had come up yet, “that is something I’m keeping a close eye out for.”

Overall, Powell said, “the county is in a very good spot right now as far as our employees, our management team, our economic development, our industries, and it’s going to be our responsibility to keep that momentum going.”

Looking back over the various pathways his life took him over the years, from Henry County around the world and back to the place he continues to call home, “I wouldn’t have done anything differently. I wouldn’t have changed a thing. All the way back to when I signed that contract to join the Marine Corps, there were times along the way when I wondered, ‘what did I do?’ but there was a reason for it all. I truly believe that all of us are put here for a certain reason, and it’s up to us to find what that reason is.”

Though there may still be things to learn, and the road will certainly have some bumps along the way, “I’m up for the challenge,” Powell said. “I’m excited to see where this journey goes.”

Dillard Assumes Top Post

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consisted of 12-hour rotating shifts “and it kind of scared me in the beginning because I had young children and it was just me at the time, but I gave it a shot. They say that when you come here, you either love it or you find out it’s just not for you. I happened to be one of those people that absolutely loved it. I could not imagine doing anything else.”

Dillard said that, in addition to the rush of having helped a person, “it’s the adrenaline of things happening. When things get really busy, just trying to hang on and all the things coming at you and being able to handle all that. It’s the adrenaline and the satisfaction of knowing that I handled all of that, that we got everybody the help they needed, and it all ended well. I’m an adrenaline junkie,” she said with a laugh.

Besides those rushes of adrenaline, Dillard’s work at the center also connected her with Eddie Dillard, then a Martinsville City Police Officer, now a State Trooper, who she married in 2014. Their daughters are 21-years-old, Dillard said. One works for the Henry County Sheriff’s Office and just completed jail school and the other was just hired by the Department of Social Services.

“We are very intertwined in the community,” she said.

The couple also have a six-year-old son “who is giving us all what-for,” she laughed. “He’s a spoiled little fella.”

In 2010, Dillard was promoted to Administrative Communications Technician and became Deputy Director in 2017.

When the county announced she had been tapped for the director role, the release stated that she was the first African American and first woman to hold the position.

“I think it’s great for the county that there’s diversity,” Dillard, who is bi-racial, said. “I’m pretty sure that’s why they wanted to highlight my background, but to me, I just feel like I’ve tried to work really hard to ascend to this position. I felt like I was trying to put myself in a good place to take over if they would allow me, so I feel like my work speaks for itself. Obviously, diversity in today’s

world is a factor, so I’m glad that I checked some boxes for somebody somewhere, but I definitely worked very hard to get here.”

She continues to work to better herself as well. In addition to amassing a number of certifications, Dillard earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Old Dominion University in 2017 and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration from Liberty University.

Dillard credits her predecessor, Powell, for his years of leadership with the center.

“J.R. was a really great director,” she said. “I learned a lot of things from him. He was never quick to act. I tend to be more emotional, and he was more reserved. He would ponder things and make a very level-headed decision at the end. That’s something that I’ve taken away from his leadership to hopefully incorporate in mine because I can be a little spirited at times.”

Additionally, she credits Powell for his work in shaping the center into what it is today. “I’m inheriting a great center,” she said. Powell “was wonderful. I feel like I’m stepping into a well-oiled machine.”

However, Dillard said she is concerned with morale in the center, which currently has three vacant positions.

“We have a lot of vacancies because people do this job for a period of time, and it can be overwhelming. Vacancies have been coming up because people have decided that they’ve had enough of 911, so morale is a big focus of mine.”

Dillard knows first-hand the mental toll working as a dispatcher can take. She recalled a shift early on in her career when a call came in and a distraught woman was on the line. Dillard said the woman’s husband had taken his own life in their home.

“I distinctly remember that because my focus was on trying to get her to calm down in the worst possible moment of her life, and I think the call went well. At that moment, I felt like I had done a really good job because,

by the time we got off the phone, she was not screaming, she was trying to find her dog, she had gone outside to wait for law enforcement. I just felt like I had done a good job that day.”

In situations like that, “you don’t even think about what’s happening,” Dillard said. “You just think, ‘I need to get you help right now.’ After I got off the phone, I thought, ‘wow, that was really sad,’ but on the phone that wasn’t even my thought. I just needed to send her help. That (call) probably warranted a walk away from my console.”

Dillard said she is trying to keep spirits up in ways large and small, and on the day of this interview, she was taking a shift alongside the dispatchers, working shoulder to shoulder with them. Her shift was scheduled to end at midnight.

“I think that’s helped because they know that I’m here. I want to dig in just like them. If I can work to keep somebody else from getting called in and they can spend time with their family, that’s important to me. I think that has helped.”

Beyond that, and showing appreciation with gestures like bringing in donuts or coffee, Dillard said she is “just trying to listen, trying to understand what they’re going through, and trying to make it better. I think listening to employees is going to be the biggest thing.”

The center, she said, “is state of the art. Everything is up-to-date, and our equipment is top-notch, so I really don’t want to change anything, I just want to retain the people we have and try to recruit people who want to work here and will be happy here for a long period of time.”

While Dillard knows that there are still many things she has to learn in her new role, she is excited to be leading the 911 Center.

“I whole-heartedly feel like I will end my career with Henry County at the 911 Center,” she said. “I love it here.”

County enhances election security through state internship program

Henry County will be taking a prominent role in enhancing the Commonwealth’s election security this year by participating in the newly-formed Virginia Cyber Navigator Internship Program (VA-CNIP). The program is headed by a coalition of universities, the Virginia Department of Elections and industries that will work together to assess, improve and maintain the cybersecurity of local registrar offices while simultaneously educating students.

“I think this is an awesome opportunity for both the interns and Henry County to engage in a partnership that will ensure our county is providing the necessary security for elections,” said Henry County Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn.

Each participating univer-

sity holds a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education designation. Both interns who will be working with Henry County attend Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

“I am a rising [senior] at VCU and I applied to VA-CNIP in hopes of learning more about election security and to gain more general experience with cybersecurity,” said Nixy Camacho, an intern assigned to the county. “I believe election security is a big issue that should be improved on, and it is a system which is critical to have trust in.”

Steven Cherian, the second of the county’s interns, hopes the program will be beneficial as he looks to enter an accelerated master’s degree program next year at VCU for computer

science.

“I think knowing about the events that have occurred in recent elections made me understand that cybersecurity, specifically in elections, is very critical,” Cherian said. “I think getting hands-on knowledge and experience working with the team, along with building solid relationships with them, really excites me the most.”

The interns will participate in a number of activities throughout the summer, including risk assessment of registrar information systems; analysis of system and network documentation for accuracy; guidance and assistance regarding software patches; systems updates; help configuring and deploying appropriate security software; ensuring compliance with best practices in securing systems; and helping share relevant information with other registrars.

“We are hopeful that our interns will experience a wide-array of systems connecting elections and the county while developing an understanding of the connectivity required to support such a diverse enterprise,” said Dr. Christian Youngblood, Director of Information Services for Henry County. “Additionally, they will see the benefit that comes from disjointed departments like (information services) and elections working together to achieve a common goal.”

While the program is still in its infancy, the interns have expressed their excitement for working with the county.

“Henry County has been super wonderful to work with so far,”

Camacho said. “They have been extremely welcoming and accommodating from the very start. I appreciate how communicative and willing to work with us they have been.”

“From day one, I felt like I belonged here,”

Cherian said. “Everyone here is so kind and they were as excited as I was to get working.”

For more information on VA-CNIP, visit <https://cyberinnovation.virginia.edu/va-cyber-navigator-internship-program>.



(From left to right) David Bowyer, AutoCAD technician for the Henry County Engineering and Mapping Department, gives a tutorial on how to use the county’s voting machines to Virginia Cyber Navigator Interns Nixy Camacho and Steven Cherian.

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OPINION

Electric Avenue

I'm a car guy. A lot of car guys lust after exotic cars; Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and the like. Others love slightly more attainable sports cars, like Corvettes or Porsches. Still others love classic muscle cars, like Mustangs and Chargers.

Those are all fine machines, but give me the land yachts of the 1970s. Give me the Eldorados and Continentals and Imperials and Polaras. I want a car that handles like an ocean-going vessel, has seats like grandma's couch, and gives you a workout if you walk from one end of it to the other.

The downside of these vehicles, of course, is that they're wildly, even obscenely inefficient. As someone who has deep concerns about global climate change and the state of our environment, it seems hypocritical for me to also love cars that get 7-10 miles per gallon. But to paraphrase Walt Whitman: yeah, I contradict myself, lay off me.

I'm a member of several automotive enthusiast groups on Facebook, and so I get sponsored ads for all kinds

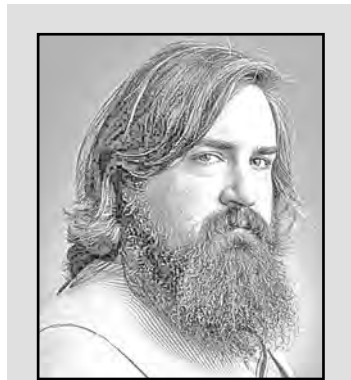
of car-related websites. With increasing frequency, I see ads for articles about the best electric cars on the market, or lists of every electric car coming out this year.

Sometimes I'll read the comments on these articles, and let me tell you, there are a lot of old car guys that absolutely HATE electric vehicles.

There isn't enough infrastructure, they say; you can't just stop at any gas station and find charging stations, especially in rural areas. Plus, electric cars are too expensive. This whole thing is just going to be a flash in the pan, and then everyone will come crawling back to internal combustion engines.

While there's a small part of me that's pained to say it, there's no doubt in my mind that the future is electric.

That doesn't mean internal combustion engines are going to disappear overnight; I believe gasoline will be available to consumers well into the future, and there's always going to be an enthusiast market of weirdos like me who want to



By Ben R. Williams

drive their old boats around town. But in a decade or two, I firmly believe most of us will have an electric vehicle as our daily driver.

Are they too expensive right now? Absolutely. There are some options that start at the lower end of the new car pricing scale — for example, a Chevy Bolt starts at around \$26,000 — but Teslas run from \$50,000 to well over \$100,000. However, I predict that the cost of entry for electric vehicles is going to drop over the next few years as the industry moves away from internal combustion.

Additionally, consumer interest in electric vehicles is increasing rapidly. According

to a recent report from Bloomberg, fully electric cars now make up 5% of U.S. vehicle sales, a number that's considered the threshold that must be crossed for mass adoption.

Early adopters always tend to pay more than the folks that follow. When the Ford Model T hit the streets in 1908, it had a sticker price of \$950; that's the equivalent of about \$30,000 in today's money. By 1924, however, stellar sales and mass production had dropped the price to \$300, the equivalent of just a little under \$6,000 today.

I believe we're on the crest of a similar shift, and the name of that shift is "Lightning." The Ford F-150 is the best-selling vehicle in America, and the F-150 Lightning is Ford's new all-electric version. This is an important vehicle; it's potentially the thing that will convince truck fans, contractors, farmers, and others that electric vehicles are the future, and those are the folks that will make EVs mainstream.

Consumers are rapidly warming to electric. Auto manufacturers see the writing on the wall and are going all-in on electric vehicles. Is there anyone fighting against this sea

change?

Well, some politicians are.

North Carolina Republican Representatives Keith Kidwell, Mark Brody, Ben Moss Jr., and George Cleveland recently sponsored House Bill 1049, which would prohibit the construction of free electric charging stations on public property unless they also offer free gas and diesel. The bill even includes \$50,000 for the North Carolina DOT for the purpose of removing public charging stations that don't comply with the bill.

The ostensible purpose of this bill, if you were to ask its sponsors, is to provide equity. The actual purpose of the bill is a regressive political stance against electric vehicles. Thankfully, the bill doesn't seem to be gaining much traction; I would say that's because the bill is profoundly stupid, but profound stupidity no longer seems to preclude legislation from being passed.

I realize change is scary, and I realize that some are going to fight the shift to electric tooth and nail. But the die has been cast; electric vehicles are here to stay.

I'm still gonna get my Eldorado one of these days, though.

Sometimes, stories are all that remain

Jarred Marlowe
Contributing writer

Whether I am volunteering at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum or talking with people about local history as president of the local Sons of the American Revolution chapter, the same comment always arises when people learn more about the history of this area. It usually is some variation of: "Wow, I have lived here for years and didn't know that!" A part of me is happy when I hear that because it means I have done my job as a historian to educate, but another part of me is sad that someone could live in a place for decades and not know the history that happened in their own backyard.

Martinsville and Henry County are together one of the most history-rich areas that you will find anywhere, though it is often overshadowed by the attention that NASCAR has brought to the area. Long before the area's early days as an agricultural powerhouse to its more recent days as an industrial center, the area has played a vital role in the successes and history of our region, state, and nation. Residents of this county were called to fight when Lord Cornwallis' presence threatened southern Virginia's safety and security during the American War for Independence. A Civil War skirmish was fought here the day before Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Pioneers of the textile and furniture industry made Martinsville and Henry County their home base of operations. And those are just some of the most well-known historical things about our community. Now imagine all the history and stories that

have been forgotten about or looked over.

So, what can you do to become more involved and active in learning about local history? The first step is fairly simple: find something that interests you. It doesn't have to be anything big or glamorous like a Civil War battle. It could be the story of your family, or a family you find fascinating. It could be something you remember hearing the older people saying when you were a kid or looking into the history of that old building or house you drive by every day.

The next step is to go to the people and places that have clues you are looking for. Sure, the internet is great for a lot of research topics, but it does not come with the knowledge, expertise, and hands-on experience that you will get by exploring the community. There are treasure troves of information scattered throughout the county.

The Bassett Historical Center has numerous collections, exhibits, and research documents on local history and genealogy and would be a great place to spend hours looking up information.

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum contains lots of artifacts and exhibits dedicated to the history of this area and its people. They also bring in monthly speakers who are knowledgeable on a vast array of topics.

The Blue Ridge Public Library has microfilm of the old local newspapers dating back many years, along with many books that are hard to find elsewhere. Also, there are several local Facebook groups, like "Bassett-Looking back. Moving forward" and "Martinsville and Henry County-Our Town" (to name a couple of the more popular ones), that are run by local citizens dedicated to

preserving local history.

But let's say researching isn't your thing and you want to get more involved in the preservation of history by other means. There are many local historical groups that you can join that are actively dedicated to historical preservation and education. The Bassett Historical Center and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society (who run the M-HC Heritage Center & Museum) are always looking for new volunteers and members/donors to join and support their mission of education and preservation. The Sons of the American Revolution & Daughters of the American Revolution have local chapters and are always open to new members who have ancestors with ties to the Revolution, which they will be glad to explore with interested applicants. This is by no means all of the groups, but merely just to let you know there are fellow history-lovers out there.

Lastly, going to research or joining a society may seem like too much of a time commitment for busy schedules. To that I say that I can understand. I have a full-time job, a 2-year-old daughter, and a new puppy, but preserving the stories and history of my ancestors so my kids and grandkids can learn about them is if the utmost important for me. This area has not done a great job of preserving its physical history. Sometimes stories are all that remain. Let us not forget the life and times of those who came before us, and preserve it for future generations to have and learn from.

(Marlowe is the president of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and serves on the Board of Directors for the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society.)

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Callie Hietala, Reporter
newsreporter@theenterprise.net

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

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Talley honored by national board

Martinsville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, Jr. was presented with a plaque by the Avid National Board of Superintendents. Talley has served on the board for the past three years.

Talley joined the Martinsville City Public Schools in 1978. He was hired by the late Martinsville Vice-Mayor Clyde Williams. He is a 1974 graduate of George Washington High School in Danville, Virginia. Talley holds a Bachelor's Degree in History and Social Science from Elon University with significant course work in Religion. He is a charter member and Past President of Alpha Chi and a member of Pi Gamma Mu. Talley was a Summa Cum Laude Graduate and co-founder of the Elon College Gospel Choir. He received his Master of Education Degree in Educational Leadership from Radford University in 1994 and was named Student of the Year. In 2009, he graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership.

Talley served as a history teacher, gifted teacher, and U.S. Government teacher at

Martinsville High School for 15 years. In addition, he coached track, cross country, basketball, and founded the Martinsville High School Gospel Choir. Talley later served as Vice-Principal at Martinsville High School and Martinsville Middle School. He also served as Co-Principal at Martinsville Middle School. Later, he served as principal of Patrick Henry Elementary School. Talley was the recipient of The Teacher of the Year Award at Martinsville High School in 1990, the NAACP Clyde Williams Award, and several Piedmont District Coach of the Year Awards. He was the recipient of the Samuel S. Trott Educational Award presented by the NAACP in 2017. He was named Omega Citizen of the year in 2017. Dr. Talley serves as a member of the United Way Executive Board, University of Virginia Superintendents' Advisory Committee and Planning Committee, AASA National Superintendents Association, Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Piedmont Arts Advisory Board, Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation Board, and AVID National Superintendents Executive



Dr. Zebedee Talley, Jr.

Board. In addition, Talley served as Chairman of Region 06 Superintendents and President of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS).

In addition, he pastors the United Holiness Worship Center Church in Pelham, North Carolina, as he has for the past 38 years, and has served in the ministry for more than 46 years. All of his 45 years teaching experience has been with Martinsville City Public Schools. He is married to Patricia, and they have three children, Zeb III, Chris, Ashley, and nine grandchildren.

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news and photos to
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Company voluntarily recalls 1.4 million electrical panels due to thermal burn, fire hazards

Schneider Electric™ has issued a recall involving indoor, outdoor and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) Square D QO Plug-On Neutral Load Centers that were installed in homes, recreational vehicles, or commercial establishments, including restaurants, manufacturing facilities and warehouses, commercial lighting and others. The circuit breaker boxes were sold in gray and come in various sizes (square and rectangular). The recalled circuit breaker boxes were manufactured between February 2020 and January 2022, with date codes between 200561 and 220233.

For installed outdoor load centers, the manufacturing date codes are printed on the inside of the cover or door of the unit or on the box itself when the cover or door is open.

For installed indoor load centers, a qualified electrician can locate the interior date codes that are not visible to the home owner.

Circuit breaker boxes with covers that were manufactured between December 2019 and March 2022 are also included in this recall. The affected catalog/part numbers can be found inside the electrical panel doors for both the U.S. and Canada.

Recalled Electrical Panel	U.S. and Canada	Catalog /Part Numbers
QCO116L100PGRB	QO130M200PRB	QOC30UFWG
QCO116M100PRB	QO140L200PGRB	QOC30UFWGW
QCO116M60PRB	QO140M200PRB	QOC30US
QCO124L125PGRB	QO142L225PGRB	QOC32UF
QCO124M100PRB	QO142M200PRB	QOC32UFW
QCO140L200PGRB	QO142M225PRB	QOC40UF
QCO140M200PRB	QO1816M200PFTRB	QOC40UFW
NQC20FWG	QO816L100PRB	QOC40US
NQC20FWGW	QOC12UF	QOC42UF
NQC30FWG	QOC12US	QOC42UFW
NQC30FWGW	QOC16UF	QOC42US
QO112L125PGRB	QOC16UFW	QOC54UF
QO112L200PGRB	QOC16US	QOC54UFW
QO112M100PRB	QOC20U100F	QOC60UF
QO116L125PGRB	QOC20U100FW	QOCMF30UC
QO116M100PRB	QOC20U100S	QOCMF30UCW
QO120M100PRB	QOC20UFWG	QOCMF42UC
QO120M150PRB	QOC20UFWGW	QOCMF42UCW
QO120M200PRB	QOC24UF	QOCMF54UC
QO124L125PGRB	QOC24UFW	QOCMF54UCW
QO124M100PRB	QOC24US	QOCMF60UC
QO124M125PRB	QOC30U125C	QOCMF60UCW
QO130L200PGRB	QOC30UF	
QO130M150PRB	QOC30UFW	

Schneider Electric is directly contacting all known retailers, distributors, homeowners, and any other individuals that purchased or installed the recalled product. All purchasers and installers should immediately contact Schneider Electric to arrange to have the recalled load centers inspected by trained electricians to determine if replacement or repair is required. This inspection and any resulting replacement or repair are free of charge.

Consumers can find the catalog number and date code on indoor load centers inside the door of the panel. Consumers should immediately contact Schneider Electric to arrange to have the recalled load center inspected by a trained electrician to determine if repair is required. This inspection and any resulting repair are free of charge. Consumers who continue to use the load centers while awaiting the free repair should have working smoke alarms in their homes.

For uninstalled products, consumers should contact Schneider Electric for a free repair or replacement.

Incidents/Injuries:

The firm has received one report of an incident of a loose wire. No injuries have been reported.

Sold At:

Authorized Schneider Electric distributors and home improvement and hardware stores nationwide and online including Home Depot, Lowe's, and Menard's from February 2020 through January 2022 for between \$90 and \$1,660.

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Schneider Electric USA Inc., of Lexington, Kentucky

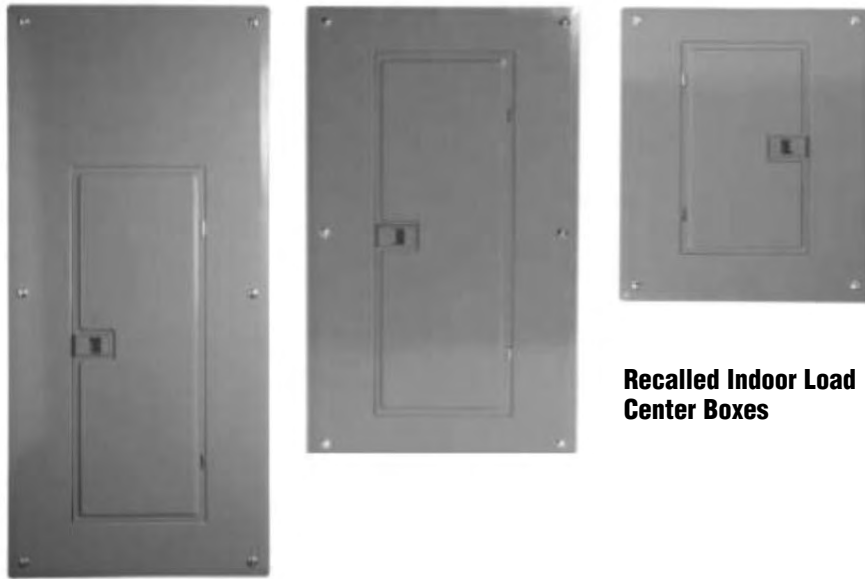
Manufactured In:

United States

Recall number:

22-159

This recall was conducted, voluntarily by the company, under CPSC's Fast Track Recall process. Fast Track recalls are initiated by firms, who commit to work with CPSC to quickly announce the recall and remedy to protect consumers.



Recalled Indoor Load Center Boxes

Shanta tapped as NCI's new coordinator of K12 Programs & Institutional Data

The New College Institute has hired Dr. Susheela Shanta as the new Coordinator of K12 Programs & Institutional Data, beginning June 27. This position at NCI will work with the current team and network of partners in offering unmatched student support services, industry partnerships, community outreach, and pipeline development services. NCI is committed to supporting and serving the youth and student population in the southwest region of Virginia.

Dr. Shanta comes to NCI with more than 33 years of experience in community service, including numerous awards for community development projects and as a STEM educator. Shanta was previously engaged for 20 years in community

planning and development in cities in Pennsylvania, and later in Virginia towns engaging in community development through designing, financing and managing construction of adaptive re-use of historic and/or underutilized properties to create affordable housing for families and seniors.

For the last 13 years Dr. Shanta has directed and taught in the engineering program at the Governor's STEM Academy of Roanoke County. Also appointed by Governor Northam in 2021 to the VA Governor's STEM Education Advisory Board, Shanta is committed to helping provide access to high-quality STEM educational resources to students from diverse geographic, socio-

economic, and cultural backgrounds in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dr. Shanta says she is "looking forward to learning and contributing my expertise to efforts through NCI that provide more STEM focused education, training, and career opportunities to youth in the region."

Shanta earned her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from India (1984), a master's degree in Urban Planning (1989) from the SUNY Buffalo, NY, and more recently, a doctoral degree (2017) in Integrative STEM Education from Virginia Tech. In her free time, Dr. Shanta enjoys her time with her family, traveling, cooking, and riding her motorcycle.



Dr. Susheela Shanta

OBITUARIES

Phillip Thomas Collins

Phillip Thomas Collins, age 78 of Martinsville, VA, passed away on July 3, 2022.

Mr. Collins was born on June 1, 1944 to the late Clarence Collins and the late Margaret Brown Collins. He was a member of Starling Avenue Baptist Church where he was a deacon and a member of the choir. He retired from Dupont after 38 years of employment. He loved hunting, fishing and reloading ammunition cartridges at home. He had served in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Collins is survived by his wife, Donna Thornton Collins, one daughter, Ann Marie Landblad, one son, Brian T. Collins, two granddaughters; Emerson Landblad and Delaney Landblad.

The family received friends on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at McKee-Stone



Funeral Home, 109 Broad Street, Martinsville, VA with a funeral service following with Reverend Susan Spangenberg officiating. Interment followed in the Adkins-Lawrence Family Cemetery, Callands, VA.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations to be made to Starling Avenue Baptist Church, 932 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112 or to Edwards Adult Day Center, 431 Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville, VA 24112.

A special thanks to Mountain Valley Hospice and Senior Care for the special care that he received. Online condolences at www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com

McKee-Stone Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Collins family.

Martha Dyches Draper

Martha Dyches Draper, 83, of Axton, Va. passed away on Friday, July 8, 2022. She was born February 25, 1939 in Stuart, Va. to the late Hampton Dyches and Nancy Hopkins Dyches.

She is survived by her husband John S. Draper; daughters, Bettie D. Bowles (Gene) and Nancy D. Oakes (Joey); brother, John Dyches (Joan); grandchildren, Sherri Shively (Brandon), Stevan Bowles (Shenika), Sylvia Oakes, and Marshall Bowles; great grandchildren, Colton Bowles, Reagan Shively and Grayson Shively.

Mrs. Draper retired from Tultex where she worked in the payroll division.



She was a member of McCabe Memorial Church and was a very avid reader.

A visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2022 at McKee-Stone Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. and will be officiated by Reverend Dr. G. H. Vaughn. Interment will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to McCabe Memorial Baptist Church, 107 Clearview Drive, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

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

Timothy Monroe Tinsley

Timothy Monroe Tinsley, 57, of 1410 Cardinal Lane, Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, July 9, 2022, at SOVAH Health of Martinsville. He was born June 24, 1965, in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Albert Rankin, Jr. and Anna Jean Tinsley. He worked for American Furniture and Hanes Brand for many

years and was a member of Truth and Faithful Gospel Church. He loved traveling, hiking, horror movies, and was a Lakers, Cowboys and Yankee fan. He loved spending time with his family and friends and was very humble and respectful.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandmother, Gladys Tinsley; grandfather, Otis Tinsley and uncle, Allen Fred Tinsley.

He is survived by his sister, Charmin Belcher (Apostle Dennis); brother, Michael Tinsley; cousin that was like



a sister, Wytina Grant (Thomas); step brothers and sisters, Donna Ellison (Jamie), Delbert Rankin (Karen), Derwin Rankin, Nathan Rankin, Lisa Rankin (Ricky), Corey Booker (Katina) and Kaylie Wilson (Joey); special aunts, Pastor Brenda Jefferson (Walter), Sharon Neal and Erma Dillard; uncles, Otis Tinsley, Jimmy Tinsley, Tommy Tinsley and Joe Tinsley (Gail); nephew, Shaquan Tinsley; great nephew, Kairo Tinsley; and a host of aunts, uncles and other family and friends.

A graveside service will be held Friday, July 15, 2022, at 11:00 A. M. at Carver Memorial Gardens. A floating visitation will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Wright Funeral Service Chapel.

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

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PCS application REQUIRED & may be obtained online at <http://www.piedmontcsb.org/>

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

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on July 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:

1) **APPLICATION for CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS.** Application of The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, Applicant(s) and Owner(s), requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for a three (3) story addition to business property located within the Martinsville Historic District. The property is located at 1 East Main Street, is currently zoned C-UB, Uptown Business District, and will be operated under a business use as a museum and historic site. The existing building is approximately 9,345 square feet and was built in 1929. New construction or additions to buildings within the Historic District require review by the Architectural Review Board and the granting of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us. Notice Submitted By: Hannah L. Powell, CZA Community Development Specialist



The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

Search begins for new director as NCI reflects on Jackson's accomplishments

The New College Institute (NCI) expressed a heartfelt goodbye to Interim Executive Director Karen R. Jackson during a board meeting on June 24, and has begun the search for its fifth executive director.

State Sen. William M. Stanley, Jr. and others praised Jackson for her multiple accomplishments, leadership, and vision for the past three years, during which time she created numerous programs and initiatives; forged new partnerships that will carry NCI into the next decade; and captained NCI through the unprecedented COVID global pandemic, revising standard operating procedures along the way.

"When I asked Secretary Jackson to join NCI as our Interim Director in 2019, I knew that we were getting an experienced hand in effectively navigating a state agency like ours. Karen exceeded every expectation I had for her leadership over the course of her tenure at NCI, and she has taken this Institute to the next level in providing unique education experiences and opportunities for our students, as well as being a leader in certification training for emerging technology industries," said Stanley, R-Moneta. He also is chairman of the NCI Board.

"Karen Jackson has also been an amazing partner in working with our state government agencies and the General Assembly in solidifying NCI's permanent position as an integral part of Virginia's delivery system of higher education to its citizens. Her hard work and dedication have left a lasting and permanent impression on the future of the New College Institute, and her tireless efforts will never be forgotten. Southside Virginia is eternally grateful for her service," he added.

Before her time at NCI, Jackson served in the McAuliffe, Kaine and McDonnell administrations; had been the leader in the Virginia advancement of Internet Technology, Cyber, broadband access in rural and underserved areas; and was an integral part of Virginia's effort to land Amazon's HQ2. Jackson, a native of Poquoson, VA, is the President of Apogee Strategic Partners, LLC, a company focused on providing technology consulting and advisory services to companies, universities, governmental entities, and non-profits, specializing in technology and business

strategy, government relations, public policy, business development, and program management. Jackson was elected board chairman of Unmanned Systems Association of Virginia in 2020.

Under Jackson's leadership, NCI underwent a marketing rebrand of its logo and related collateral, as well as the creation and implementation of a more attractive, informative, and user-friendly website. She made staff additions that have produced long term employees dedicated to NCI's mission to serve the southwestern region. Additionally, Jackson developed public relations strategies, as well as created and renewed relationships with technology and community organizations to further promote NCI's vision and mission.

The partnerships with Siemens Gamesa, Dominion Energy, and the Global Wind Organisation (GWO) brought GWO-certified trainings to NCI's ultramodern innovation center in Martinsville, making NCI the first in Virginia to invest in and earn certification from GWO. NCI is also one of the few training facilities across North America to offer both GWO Basic Safety and Basic Technical Training. Through Jackson's vision and determination, Virginia is a leader in wind industry training, and NCI is one of Virginia's leading wind energy training facilities. Other training opportunities include OSHA, Certified Production Technician, Metrology, and CNC Operator Training.

Jackson was instrumental in coordinating a way for the community to take advantage of NCI's first-class training equipment through the creation of an OpenLAB experience, making much of the innovation center training equipment now available to the public.

Jackson created and reinforced valuable partnerships with Virginia colleges and universities, such as Old Dominion University's Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship; The University of Virginia's School of Continuing and Professional Studies; Bluefield College's Counselor Education Degree program; and Radford University Master of Science in Strategic Communication - bringing more programs to NCI, which provide more higher education opportunities for Southwest VA.

Additionally, during Jackson's leadership, Amazon Web Services Training

(AWS) launched in the fall of 2020, offering cloud computing skills development and job training. AWS Re/start at NCI received 950 applications from across the country and graduated 98 students from the intense program. Domain-U was launched to deliver online trainings in math and basic measuring tools. NCI also became an FAA-approved Test Administrator for The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST), which provides an online course and completion certificate for owners of recreational drones.

Jackson secured nearly \$3 million in grants and additional funds to fuel multiple training and educational initiatives. One of which was from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation to research the development of healthcare programs that will educate and train individuals to fill in-demand positions while simultaneously strengthening the healthcare workforce in southern Virginia and across the Commonwealth.

With Jackson at the helm, NCI's Southside Telehealth Training Academy and Resource Center (STAR) registrations increased more than 100% and trained 9,322 participants from more than 40 states and countries.

Much of NCI's current K12 programming began with Karen Jackson, including CyberPatriot CyberCamp, Health Camps, Summer STEM handouts through Pop-Up Summer Camps. She also enthusiastically supported NCI's winning FIRST Robotics team, the "STAGS."

Jackson's dedication to COVID recovery allowed for quick and successful re-opening of The Baldwin Building for community events hosted by NCI, NCI partners and private facility rentals. Since reopening, NCI has welcomed more than 10,000 visitors to the building.

During the pandemic Jackson shared COVID resources by relaying pertinent information to the community via the NCI website; and partnered with Piedmont Community services and Canon Virginia, Inc. to create and donate face shields to essential workers in the community. In the absence of live motorsports, Karen initiated an eSports program that brought Martinsville native and iRacing driver Josh Williams as an eSports program coordinator, engaging students of all ages in eSports competition and related careers in the STEM



Karen Jackson

disciplines.

Rotating Smithsonian SITES exhibits are now on display at The Baldwin Building. Vytal Studios will be creating several virtual and augmented reality experiences to NCI. Patrick & Henry Community College and NCI will partner to develop computer science training made possible by a Google Investment.

While the search for a new Executive Director is underway, the board has appointed NCI Assistant Director of Finance & Operations, Christina Reed, to serve as acting Interim Executive Director.

"I am honored that the Board would appoint me during this transition. I thank Karen Jackson for all of the 'out of the box' programming through COVID and the mentor and leadership that she provided me during her tenure at NCI. As a first-generation college graduate myself, I believe in higher education and the need for accessibility and affordability for the citizens in our region. I am excited to assist the Board in their search for a permanent Executive Director and the continued future progression of NCI," Reed said.

Reed joined NCI in 2011 after working for The Harvest Foundation for seven years. Reed's role with NCI started with a focus on needs surrounding accounting and finances, but she also brings experience in various areas of operations and strong relationships with NCI partners. Reed earned her Associates degree from Patrick Henry Community College and a BS in Accounting from Averett University. In addition, she has completed several continuing education courses and various other trainings and leadership programs. Her long-term relationship with the New College Foundation, more than a decade of state service, and existing relationships with NCI partners are among the list of the traits that make Reed a strong leader who is committed to continuing NCI's mission and service to our community.

Elected officials in Va. call on U.S. Senate to pass climate actions

By Jonah Chester

One question that everyone wants to know when it comes to scams and fraud is where is the greatest risk? When people are bombarded by criminals on email, over the phone, text and online it's hard to know where to focus. And while it's important to take every scam attempt seriously, consumers should realize that they are particularly susceptible on social media.

According to the Federal Trade Commission 25% of successful scams last year originated on a social

media platform. In 2017 consumers lost \$42 million to social media scams. Last year that total was \$770 million – an 18-fold increase. Here are three warning signs of social media scams.

Friend requests from people you don't know. Think of your parents when surfing the web and "don't talk to strangers."

Celebrities who want to connect with you. Scammers clone celebrity profiles and send personal messages offering investment opportunities or a chance to meet in person. This is a very successful criminal tactic so just remember, celebrities don't

really want to be your online friend.

Anyone offering investment opportunities. Cryptocurrency scams are exploding, and they typically start when an online "friend" offers up an investment opportunity. Anytime someone you met online says "investment" or "crypto" it's time to walk away.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

AARP Virginia issues fraud alert for social media scammers

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Administrative, other industries drive unemployment claims

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of continued claims decreased and remained at pre-pandemic levels during the most recent filing week.

For the filing week ending July 2, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 827. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 727 claimants from the previous week. More than half of the initial claims that had a self-reported industry were in administrative and support and waste management, health care and social assistance, retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services, and accommodation and food services.

Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly

basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 9,834, which was a decrease of 182 claims from the previous week but was 74% lower than the 37,790 continued claims from the comparable week last year.

In the week ending July 2, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 235,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 231,000. There were 382,622 initial claims in the comparable week in 2021. The advance number of

actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 219,507 in the week ending July 2, an increase of 11,919 (or 5.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 382,622 initial claims in the comparable week in 2021.

Looking at preliminary data, the majority of U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (-1,533) was the largest decrease. Kentucky's weekly change (-1,199) was the second largest decrease. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (-1,142) was the third largest decrease. Missouri's weekly change (-1,069) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+2) was the 22nd largest increase.

Rising temperatures pose increased heat stress risk to women, young children

With historically high temperatures, staying safe while working outdoors is increasingly vital, particularly among vulnerable groups like pregnant women, older employees and young children.

Women make up 35% of farmers in the U.S. As their roles on farms increase, it's important to address the unique safety hazards women may face, Knesha Rose-Davison, AgriSafe Network's public health program director, said in a recent webinar about women and heat stress.

During the webinar, Rose-Davison discussed the signs of heat stress, from less-severe symptoms like heat rash and heat cramps, to more severe ones, including heat syncope—fainting and dizziness, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. An individual's body and metabolic rate can impact how well they process heat, she said.

"We (women) are at increased risk of heat stress because of a higher percentage of body fat, as well as lower aerobic power," she explained.

In addition, "if you are pregnant, you are more likely to get heat exhaustion or heat stroke sooner than a nonpregnant worker," she said. "This is because your body must work harder to cool down both you and your baby."

Pregnant women are at greater risk for dehydration, and effects from heat stress can lead to higher risk for birth defects or preterm birth.

Children are another group at increased risk for heat stress and are often present in rural, agricultural settings.

"Infants and young children really rely on others to keep them cool and hydrated when it's hot outside," Rose-Davison said. "They also sweat less and quickly produce more heat than adults ... children do not adjust to environmental heat levels as quickly."

She recommended keeping children under 6 months old out of the sun—particularly between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when ultraviolet rays are most intense. Additionally, ensure babies stay hydrated with breast milk or formula.

When working outside in hot weather, farmers and farmworkers should wear a hat and light-colored clothing, stay hydrated by drinking about four cups of water every hour, and take breaks in shade or air conditioning every 15 to 30 minutes. For those new to working outdoors, start slow, and allow your body to acclimate to the heat.

"Implement a buddy system in which workers observe each other for signs and symptoms of physiological heat strain," Rose-Davison advised.

Some symptoms of heat stress include red, blotchy skin; muscle pain and spasms; dizziness or lightheadedness; pale and cool skin; nausea; fever; and rapid breathing. If someone is experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stress, their life is in danger, and they should be taken to the hospital, she said.

For more information on the webinar, visit bit.ly/3yaQWOY.

For more information on farm safety topics, visit Virginia Farm Bureau's Farm Safety website at vafb.com/Safety.

Reports of foreign access to U.S. data prompt bipartisan call for investigation of social media platform

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Mark R. Warner and Vice Chairman Marco Rubio urged the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to formally investigate TikTok and its parent company, ByteDance.

The call is in response to recent reports that the social media platform has permitted TikTok engineers and executives in the People's Republic of China (PRC) to repeatedly access private data of US users despite repeated claims to lawmakers and users that this data was protected. This includes instances where staff based in the United States had to consult with their China-based colleagues for information about U.S. user data as they did not have access

to the data on their own. These revelations undermine longstanding claims by TikTok's management that the company's operations were firewalled from demands of the Chinese Communist Party.

"We write in response to public reports that individuals in the People's Republic of China (PRC) have been accessing data on U.S. users, in contravention of several public representations, including sworn testimony in October 2021," the senators wrote in a letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan. "In light of this new report, we ask that your agency immediately initiate a Section 5 investigation on the basis of apparent deception by TikTok, and

coordinate this work with any national security or counter-intelligence investigation that may be initiated by the U.S. Department of Justice."

The report also highlights TikTok's misrepresentation of the company's relationship to ByteDance and its subsidiaries, including Beijing-based ByteDance Technology, which is partially owned by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

The senators noted, "TikTok's Trust and Safety department was aware of these improper access practices and governance irregularities, which – according to internal recordings of TikTok deliberations – offered PRC-based employees unfettered access to user information, including birthdates,

phone numbers, and device identification information. Recent updates to TikTok's privacy policy, which indicate that TikTok may be collecting biometric data such as faceprints and voiceprints (i.e. individually-identifiable image and audio data, respectively), heighten the concern that data of U.S. users may be vulnerable to extrajudicial access by security services controlled by the CCP."

Warner, D-Alexandria, and Rubio, R-Fla., have been vocal about the cyber and national security threats posed by the CCP. In 2019, the senators introduced legislation to combat tech-specific threats to national security posed by foreign actors like China.

Enrollment now open for DMV's Mileage Choice Program

Drivers looking to save money have a new option – enroll in the new Mileage Choice Program the next time you renew your vehicle registration.

The program is a voluntary option for drivers of electric, hybrid or fuel-efficient vehicles who pay the Commonwealth's highway use fee.

Instead of paying the fee up front at registration renewal, customers who participate in the Mileage Choice Program will only pay for the actual number of miles they drive throughout the year. Customers who drive less than 11,600 miles per year (the number of miles the average Virginian drives each year) will save money. For those who drive more, they'll never pay more than their highway use fee.

Customers can enroll in the Mileage Choice Program when it is time to renew their vehicle registration and must sign up prior to renewing. The sign-up process is easy:

1. Enroll - Before renewing your vehicle registration, create an account with Emovis. You will need your vehicle information and a valid credit or debit card to set up an account. Emovis will send you a device to place in your vehicle to report mileage.
2. Install the device - When you receive the mileage reporting device, follow the

directions provided by Emovis to install the device in your vehicle and fully activate your account. You will also need to download a smartphone app to record an initial odometer reading.

3. Drive - The miles you drive will be recorded by the device, up to the amount of the highway use fee.

"We continue to not only provide options for Virginians at DMV, but look for innovative and efficient solutions to save our customers time and money," said Acting DMV Commissioner Linda Ford. "By choosing to participate in the Mileage Choice Program, customers may pay less, but will also spread out their highway use fee instead of paying one lump sum annually."

The Virginia General Assembly instituted the highway use fee in 2020 to ensure drivers of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles contribute their fair share toward covering wear and tear on the Commonwealth's highway system. The legislation also created the Mileage Choice Program as a mileage-based alternative that will never cost customers more than the annual highway use fee.

To sign up or learn more about the program, visit dmvNOW.com/VAMileageChoice.

Salad gets a summery makeover

Steakhouse fans eagerly anticipate digging into the savory cuts of sizzling beef waiters serve up. The precursor to that portion of the meal is often a wedge salad, which offers a crisp complement to the richness of the steak.

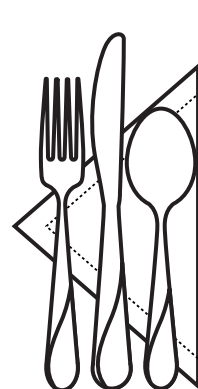
Wedge salads are traditionally made with iceberg lettuce and drizzled with a flavorful dressing – often blue cheese. However, there's no set rules when it comes to wedge salads. With this recipe for "Watermelon Wedge Steakhouse Salad," courtesy of the National Watermelon Promotion Board and 2018 Watermelon Recipe Contest Winner Chauna Havey, diners can skip the lettuce altogether.



Watermelon Wedge Steakhouse Salad

Serves 4

For the dressing:
 1/3 cup finely diced watermelon
 1 cup sour cream
 1/3 cup peeled and finely diced watermelon rind
 1/4 cup watermelon juice
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 For the salad and toppings:
 4 thick wedges of watermelon
 4 tablespoons real bacon crumbles
 4 tablespoons blue cheese crumbles
 2 tablespoons pecan chips
 1 scallion, sliced



1. Place all ingredients for the dressing into a medium bowl and mix gently to combine.
2. Place each watermelon wedge onto a serving plate and top with 1/4 of the dressing.
3. Sprinkle the bacon, blue cheese, pecans, and scallions over the top of the salads before serving.

Medicaid expansion aims to help Virginia mothers, newborns

By Jonah Chester

New Virginia mothers now are eligible for up to a year of Medicaid support. It's a major expansion of the program, and advocates hope it will help reduce maternal mortality rates.

The new version of Virginia's Medicaid program has been in the works for years, and was first approved by state lawmakers in 2020.

Previously, most new mothers were only able to draw Medicaid benefits for two months after the birth of their child. But Sara Cariano, senior health policy analyst for the Virginia Poverty Law Center, said many postpartum issues take more than sixty days to appear.

"This really is going to enhance the care the mom can get, and make sure that - if she does need any

kind of physical help, behavioral health, even dental health - she doesn't have interrupted care," said Cariano. "She can continue on with the same provider she had through her pregnancy."

According to a 2020 report by Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services, more than 60% of maternal deaths among women with a chronic health issue happen after the 43 day mark. The maternal mortality rate for Black Virginia mothers is more than double the rate of their white counterparts.

Folks can register for Medicaid online at common-help.virginia.gov.

Cariano said folks who already are enrolled in Medicaid and become pregnant are automatically enrolled in the 12 month pregnancy support program, and new mothers who lapsed out of the sixty day ver-

sion of the program, but still fall within the one-year range, can reapply for benefits.

She said Enroll Virginia, a coalition of community organizations, can help folks navigate the process.

"If someone has applied and is having an issue with an application, we also do a lot of case help," said Cariano. "We do a lot of helping people navigate what can be a little bit of a complicated process for enrolling."

So long as they meet income restrictions, all legally residing non-citizens in Virginia also are eligible for the program. Cariano said all mothers, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for coverage during the pregnancy and for up to sixty days after the birth of their child.

Virginia News Connection

Webinar series highlights seafood sector

According to the 2018 Census of Aquaculture, sales of Virginia aquacultural products totaled \$113 million that year—the largest amount on the East Coast and the fifth largest in the U.S.

The bounty of seafood produced by Virginia aqua-culturists and fisherman is the topic of an ongoing webinar series titled "Eat More Fish."

The goal of the series is to present information about the status of Virginia's seafood sector, offer insight on how eating fish supports healthy lifestyles and provide food preparation tips.

The free webinars are co-hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the Virginia Seafood and Virginia Marine Products Board.

"This series we've developed is designed to help (consumers) understand why we should eat more fish, why fish is good for you and the science behind it," said David Crosby, a fish health specialist for VSU's aquaculture program.

"We're going to talk about aquaculture and fisheries development in Virginia and how it relates to aquaculture, which is important," he added. "That's the reason we're doing this—we want folks to eat more fish, and we want them to eat fish that's grown in Virginia."

The first installment of the four-part series, "Know Your Virginia Seafood," was held June 29 and featured a panel discussion led by Crosby.

Susan Prillaman, a Bedford County-based Extension family and consumer sciences agent, started the discussion by highlighting the nutritional benefits of eating fish.

Prillaman explained that fish are high in omega-3 fatty acids, which help improve heart health. Fish also are low in cholesterol and saturated fat, and are high in calcium, iron, zinc and vitamins B and D, among other vitamins and minerals.

Mike Hutt, executive director of the Virginia Marine Products Board, provided industry details about Virginia's blue catfish population. Jonathan van Senten, an Extension specialist at the Virginia Seafood AREC in Hampton, concluded the webinar with market updates.

"Seafood is experiencing an increase in consumption or preparation at home, which is a really positive trend for the industry," van Senten said, citing a National Institute of Food and Agriculture study that monitored seafood-related consumer behavior throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're seeing some encouraging trends emerging from the data, and also seeing a return to seafood being eaten away from home now that many closures have passed."

The series' second installment, "Fish: Healthy, Lean Protein," was held July 6. The third and fourth installments will be aired July 13 and July 20. Topics include cooking instructions, recipe ideas and safe food handling.

To learn more about the webinar series or to register for upcoming sessions, visit bit.ly/392edtW

Quarantine area expanded to slow the spread

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) announced that Virginia's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine has expanded to include the counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Wythe and the cities of Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Staunton, and Waynesboro. This quarantine expansion is based on survey data indicating that spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) has become prevalent in these cities and counties. Frederick, Clarke and Warren counties and the city of Winchester, which were previously included in Virginia's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine and will remain so until further notice.

The Virginia Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine was established in 2019 to slow the spread of this invasive insect pest to un-infested areas of the Commonwealth. The quarantine also helps businesses avoid additional restrictions that could be placed on the movement of products from spotted lanternfly infested areas to states and regions where the insect has not been detected.

To slow the spread of the spotted lanternfly, businesses in the quarantined area are required to obtain a permit from VDACS and inspect regulated articles to ensure that the articles do not contain any life stage of the insect. Regulated articles are those which are considered to be a risk for movement of spotted lanternfly to un-infested areas and include, but are not limited to:

- Any life stage of the spotted lanternfly;
- Live or dead trees; nursery stock; green lumber; firewood; logs; perennial plants; garden plants or produce; stumps; branches; mulch; or composted or un-composted chips, bark, or yard waste;
- Outdoor industrial or construction materials or equipment; concrete barriers or structures; stone, quarry material, ornamental stone, or concrete; or construction, landscaping, or remodeling waste;
- Shipping containers, such as wood crates or boxes;
- Outdoor household articles, including recreational vehicles; lawn tractors or mowers; grills; grill or furniture covers; tarps; mobile homes; tile; stone; deck boards; or
- Any equipment, trucks, or vehicles not stored indoors; any means of conveyance utilized for movement of an article; any vehicle; or any trailer, wagon.

Businesses located within the identified quarantine area must follow the requirements of the spotted lanternfly quarantine. One requirement is for businesses to obtain a permit in order to move regulated articles out of the quarantined area. This permit will also allow for the shipment of regulated articles into or through states that have restrictions on the movement of regulated articles from Virginia's spotted lanternfly quarantine. The permit application is available for download at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.

Online training is required prior to submitting the permit application. There is a fee of \$6 per person for the training, but no fee for the permit. Once training is completed, businesses must submit the completed permit application to VDACS at SpottedLanternfly@vdacs.virginia.gov.

The quarantine also requires residents and visitors in the area to inspect regulated articles for spotted lanternfly and ensure those articles are free from the invasive insect prior to leaving the quarantined area. Residents and visitors are not required to obtain the spotted lanternfly permit, but are strongly encouraged to learn how to identify spotted lanternfly and kill the pest insect when found.

Spotted lanternfly was first found in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in 2014, with Virginia's first discovery occurring in Frederick County in January 2018. The spotted lanternfly is a native insect of Asia and prefers feeding on Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), but will also feed on grapes, peaches, apples, maples, walnuts, hops, cucumbers, and basil. Additionally, spotted lanternfly has the potential to be a serious nuisance pest to homeowners when it is present in high numbers.

For more information on the spotted lanternfly quarantine and the spotted lanternfly permit, please email SpottedLanternfly@vdacs.virginia.gov, call (804) 786-3515, or visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml.

Digital Cider Trail launched

The American Cider Association launch a digital Virginia Cider Trail on July 6 to encourage Virginians and visitors to explore the Commonwealth's hard ciders and celebrate Virginia's unique apples. The American Cider Association is the official organization of cider and perry producers in the United States representing ciders across 44 states and DC. It is working closely with the Virginia Cider Association to highlight the incredible ciders and apples made in the state.

The digital Virginia Cider Trail is a free program that all Virginians or visitors aged 21 and over can sign up for. The mobile exclusive passport is a curated collection of 29 Virginia ciders, with many offering unique deals and discounts that guests can redeem during visits. The trail is a year-long offering that will run through June 25, 2023, and more ciders are expected to join throughout the year.

Participating ciders include:
 Albemarle CiderWorks, North Garden
 Big Fish Cider Co., Monterey
 Blue Bee Cider, Richmond
 Blue Toad Hard Cider Cidery & Event Barn, Roseland
 Bold Rock Nellysford Cidery, Nellysford
 Bryant's Cider, Richmond
 Bryant's Cider & Brewery, Roseland
 Buskey Cider, Richmond

Ciders From Mars, Staunton
 Corcoran Vineyards & Cidery, Waterford
 Courthouse Creeks, Maidens
 Coyote Hole Ciderworks, Mineral
 Ditchley Cider Works, Kilmarnock
 Halcyon Days Cider Co, Natural Bridge
 Henway Hard Cider, Bluemont
 Lost Boy Cider, Alexandria
 Moss Vineyards, Nortonville
 Mt. Defiance Cidery and Distillery Cider Barn, Middleburg
 Old Town Cidery, Winchester
 Potter's Craft Cider, Charlottesville
 Sage Bird Ciderworks, Harrisonburg
 Sly Clyde Ciderworks, Hampton
 Stable Craft Brewing, Waynesboro
 Sugar Hill Cidery, Norton
 The Winery at Kindred Pointe, Mt. Jackson
 Tumbling Creek Cider Company – Taproom, Abingdon
 Widow's Watch Cider, Edinburg
 Wild Hare Cider Cabin, Leesburg
 Winchester Ciderworks, Winchester

"The new digital cider trail is a great opportunity for Virginians and visitors alike to experience all the wonderful ciders in the Commonwealth in an easy, mobile-

friendly way," said Michelle McGrath, executive director of American Cider Association. "Participants don't even need to download an app. When they sign up for the cider trail, their pass can be saved to their phone's home screen for easy one-tap access."

The platform will use geospatial technology that will allow users to simple check in and record visits to count towards prizes and redeem any available special discounts. The first 100 people to check-in to 10 locations will win a "Virginia is for Cider Lovers" medal. Each check-in also enters users into a grand prize raffle for a chance to win a Cidery Airbnb stay at the end of the year or a Virginia Cider Trail hooded sweatshirt at the end of each quarter.

"Those who opt in to participate in the trail have a whole year to explore all corners of this beautiful cider-rich state. We love the opportunity to get more people familiar with Virginia apples and the cider made from them – and why it's so special," said McGrath.

Funding for this project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

For more on the Virginia Cider Trail and participating ciders, visit VirginiaCiderTrail.com.

Va. farmers diversify, expand with value-added agriculture

Consumers increasingly demand locally produced agricultural products, and farmers are in a better position to fulfill that need with a little help from friends at the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability.

Whether expanding from a farm stand to a farm store, or direct-marketing locally grown and processed meats, the nonprofit cooperative development service offers technical assistance for value-added agriculture projects.

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services saw a few of these projects firsthand at the VA FAIRS annual

meeting and tour in coastal Virginia this June. In a value-added show-and-tell, clients discussed how VA FAIRS' resources helped them become more competitive in applying for financing and grants needed to expand their operations.

Agricultural producers can access new markets with VA FAIRS staff assisting with grant applications, feasibility studies, strategic planning and more. Farmers shared their experiences on the four-stop tour.

Kerry Messer grows lavender at Sweethaven Lavender in James City County. A value-added producer grant helped the farm expand into a venue and retail space showcasing its unique hand-

crafted products.

The Vaughn family direct-markets beef from their Hereford herd at Coastal Cattle in Virginia Beach. They outgrew their sales "shed" and recently expanded into a spacious retail store called "The Meat Shack."

Cullipher Farm Market in Pungo once sold its produce wholesale. The operation has since grown into a bustling farm attraction, offering U-pick, a play area and a farm market selling local produce, seafood, meats and value-added products like canned and baked goods and ice cream.

"If you can get a higher-value product out of what you're already growing—it's

exponentially a gain," said sixth-generation farmer Mike Cullipher.

Kim and Meagan Pugh at Summerwind Vineyard in Isle of Wight County poured samples of popular red and white blends and explained how they expanded the business with VA FAIRS' support.

So far in 2022, VA FAIRS has helped producers apply for more than \$23.95 million in funding.

"We're the best-kept secret in agriculture in Virginia," said Wilmer Stoneman, VA FAIRS executive director. "But I want to be the most well-known service in Virginia."

To learn more about VA FAIRS services, visit vafairs.com or call 804-290-1155.

Ancient History Uncovered from page 1



Vertebrae from an Allosaurus discovered at a previous summer dig are now housed at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.



Members of the dig team work to remove dirt and rock around a fossilized dinosaur toe bone.



One student works to uncover ancient hip bones.



Mason McCabe, VMNH intern and dig site manager (far left) takes field notes as students and volunteers work at the Two Sisters dinosaur site in Wyoming.

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sweeping, hammering, a picking away layers of sand, dirt, and rock to uncover the bones of ancient creatures that, in some cases, are sitting just beneath the surface.

VMNH Director Dr. Joe Keiper said the Code of Virginia states that VMNH “is to establish an efficient network of collaboration between universities and the museum. Essentially, we become the hub and spoke of a collaborative system within the Commonwealth. That was one of the reasons the museum was even established back in the 1980s. It’s one of our purposes and we’re very fortunate to have relatively-nearby universities that have scientists studying topics that are very much relevant to our collections.”

“We’ve been working this particular site since 2004,” said Haiar, who has been involved with the digs since she was a graduate student. Now, as a professor, she offers the trip as a summer class for university students. “We had been working a site about 5-miles north for about a decade,” when two women approached the group (which at the time was just museum staff and graduate students) and said they knew where some fossils could be found.

Haiar, who at the time was a graduate student, recalled her advisor, then-VMNH curator Dr. Nick Fraser, went with the women out into the countryside, “and there were a bunch of dinosaur bones. We’ve been digging there ever since.”

The site, which is on federally-managed land, was named Two Sisters after the two women.

This year, the group is working to begin a new third quarry at the Two Sisters site. Each day (they work seven days a week, weather permitting), they leave their campground at around 7 a.m. to make the 40-minute drive to the site, most of it off-road. Taking up their places around the dig site, all hope for a coveted spot in the shade provided by a pop-up tent, kneeling on pads or laying in the dirt, their faces close to the area they’re working on. Haiar circulates around, surveying the work, guiding the students, and constantly answering the same question: “is this rock or is this bone?”

By 2 or 3 p.m., when temperatures are reaching 100 degrees, the crew packs up for the day, putting away their brushes and dental picks, covering the site, and loading back into their vehicles for a much quieter trip back to camp.

Haiar said the dinosaur they are working on is a sauropod, a group characterized by long necks and tails, small heads, and four thick, heavy legs. A Lynchburg student did some work several years ago to try to narrow down the classification further. “He was able to narrow it down to the (family) Diplodocoidea, which was helpful, but really the only way we’re going to get a tighter definition of what it actually is will be to collect more bones, specifically the diagnostic bones in the neck or the head.” Finding the head bones, however, is unlikely as those tend to be incredibly fragile.

The rock in which the team is digging, she said, is late Jurassic, which is about 145 million years old. “This area of the Big Horn Basin is historically well-known for dinosaur fossils of this age.”

The site is near the edge of an ancient sea, known as the Sundance Sea. Yards away from the dig site are fossilized dinosaur footprints, known as a track site. The giant footprints were discovered by a local of nearby Greybull, WY.

“Tracks can only be made by dinosaurs walking in mud,” she said, “but not heavy water, so it had to be close to the edge of the sea. They were able to redraw the line of the Sundance Sea just from that one find.”

Haiar said most of the bones that have been uncovered at the quarries within the Three Sisters site over the years have been in good condition. This summer, though, “we’re opening up this new quarry, so a lot of the stuff is really weathered” as the initial finds are closer to the surface. However, as the quarry grows deeper over several summers of work, she said she is confident the condition of what lies beneath will improve.

Maggie Kicklighter, a rising junior at the University of Lynchburg who was participating in the dig for her second summer, recalled working last year at a different Two Sisters site.

“Under six feet of rock, there are all these beautiful bones,” she said, recalling that one student found a large bone that went straight into rock. Without enough time to completely remove it, they reburied it at the end of that year’s dig. It still lies underground, waiting for another summer.

Until that find, Haiar said, “most of the stuff that had been coming out of that quarry had been small, so it was a question of whether it was a juvenile, whether it was a new genus we haven’t identified yet. This thing (bone) that she found was good-sized. I have hopes that we’ll be able to get down to that” with next year’s dig.

In addition to working on the bones, there are other ways students can contribute to the knowledge of the site. Kicklighter, who is studying geology, said she was working that summer on a stratigraphic column which “details the

width of different layers of rock within where you’re digging.”

Kicklighter said she is working on digging a trench up the hillside where the dig is taking place. Eventually, she will create a detailed map of the various types and thicknesses of the rock she uncovers. “That will help us figure out where the dinosaur bones are, and you can use the stratigraphic column to find where else in the area dinosaur bones might be.”

Haiar said that, particularly as they are working on multiple sites which are very close to each other, “having a detailed column like that will help us try to correlate if they are all actually the same layer, or if one is a little bit older.”

McCabe, who serves as dig site manager for the project, said he relishes the opportunity to contribute to paleontological research, particularly as that is the field in which he specializes. Given how sparse specimens are, knowing that “you might be able to bring something back that a future researcher could use really helps the community out and moves research along.”

Haiar said that VMNH is the official repository of the bones discovered at the site. For the six-months leading up to the dig, McCabe said he worked at the museum to sort the finds from, not only the previous year, but from the past 20 years of the digs. “We had such a build-up of it, we weren’t keeping track of where we were putting it, so I made a list and catalogued what everything was, where it is, and where it will go,” in part to make space for the finds from this year’s as well as future summer digs.

Some of those finds include a discovery Kicklighter made last year—a complete vertebra with the neural spine attached. She said it was the first find of last year’s dig.

This year, McCabe said, the team has discovered some rib bones (gastralia) and are working to remove a set of vertebrae. “We don’t know if they’re part of the neck, if they’re part of the back, or somewhere in between,” he said. Earlier that day, they removed a toe that one student had uncovered a few days prior and, unexpectedly, uncovered some hip bones.

Haiar said that, though she comes into each summer dig with a plan, “what pops up directs how the plan changes.”

McCabe said that there are goals based on “the idea of what we can get done on the worst schedule possible then stretch goals.” For example, rain may mean the crew loses hours of work as they wait for the ground to dry or, even worse, that they miss a day entirely.

Many of the students on the dig are not eyeing a career in paleontology. In addition to Kicklighter’s focus on geology, this summer’s group included an aspiring dentist and another who wanted to be a doctor. Haiar said she purposely opened up the course to the entire student body, regardless of major.

“Everybody who wants to experience science should get the chance to. You don’t have to have a huge science background to do this work. While they’re here, the skills that they’re learning are applicable to any science and other careers beyond that—how to take field notes, how to do detailed drawings, things like that.”

McCabe, who is pursuing a career in paleontology, said he has learned a lot about the importance of cooperation. He said participating on the dig for the past several years has been his first experience in this type of dig—hot days out in a desert, trying to cooperate with everyone under those extreme circumstances.

“I think that’s something people don’t realize—a lot of scientists are very insular, they stay in their labs, but in paleo you have to cooperate with people.”

Kicklighter said her experience with the dig has taught her that discoveries in the field are not as cut and dry as what she has experienced in the classroom or the lab.

She discovered a layer of coquina, in which shells are cemented together with sandstone, a remnant of the era of the Sundance Sea, which she had previously missed because “things look totally different in the field.”

Though the dig is in Wyoming, Keiper noted that the project still falls within the VMNH mission.

“As an institution, we interpret Virginia’s natural heritage within a global context. How can we understand what we have here in the Commonwealth if we don’t understand how it relates to the larger world?”

“We (in Virginia) have fossils that pre-date the dinosaurs and we have fossils that came after the dinosaurs ... so by understanding the evolution of life through the era of the dinosaurs, we can better understand why we have what we have today on the planet Earth and how we can protect it.”

At the end of this summer’s dig, the site in the middle of the Wyoming prairie will be buried once more.

“We bury it as deep as we can and then try to re-contour it so there’s not as much of a cliff,” Haiar said.

“We try to leave it as we found it,” McCabe added.

“Next year, when we come back, we’ll dig it all up again,” said Haiar.