

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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County school survey reveals shifting attitudes post-pandemic

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Attitudes of staff, students, and families are on a general downward trend, according to results of a survey shared with the Henry County School Board last week. The school community engagement feedback survey, distributed to students, staff, and families in the spring, reflected declines in satisfaction, particularly among school staff.

Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) Communications Director Monica Hatchett said

one hypothesis for the decline in many of the scores was “it’s been a very difficult transition over the course of this school year.” Additionally, “a lot of times, we see people who are completely 100 percent satisfied don’t take the time to do a survey.”

She noted that fewer teachers took time to respond to this year’s survey. While student participation was nearly level over last school year and family participation increased, the number of staff who took the time to respond to the survey declined from the 2020-2021 academic year.

According to the survey data shared with the board by Hatchett, only 72 percent of staff who responded to the survey agreed that they feel appreciated for the work that they do. This was a marked decline from last year’s 97 percent and was, in fact, the lowest satisfaction rate across the four academic years of data shared by Hatchett.

“To be very transparent,” Hatchett said, “in the past we thought that might be tied to salary. However, we know that the climate in our world and the way our world has viewed and treated teachers in the last

year may have contributed to the decrease in their response rate this year. Certainly, we are excited to provide them with an additional raise this year, but obviously money is not everything, and so this was a signal to us that we need to consider other possible contributors to that answer for our staff members.”

Another of the most notable declines in staff responses was to the statement, “The division office actively seeks input from a diverse group of employees regarding decisions that affect staff.” In the 2020-2021 school

year, the division received a 96 percent positive response to that statement. Just one year later, that number dropped to 74 percent, the lowest it has been in the four years of survey data shared by Hatchett.

“Obviously, there is some concern about the drop from last year to this year,” Hatchett said. “We have continued this year with our parent cabinet, student cabinet, teacher cabinet, and support staff cabinet. We issue surveys, we ask principals to get feedback, we work with

See **Attitudes**, page 9



Del. Les Adams (far left) reads a joint resolution approved by the General Assembly in 2020 to honor longtime Henry County educator and former school board chairman Joe DeVault (center). Del. Wren Williams (far right). The resolution was presented this year due to pandemic-related delays.

Former school board member honored with resolution

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Joe DeVault, former teacher, coach, principal, chairman of the Patrick and Henry Community College Board, and school board chairman for Henry County Public Schools, was belatedly honored with a joint resolution upon the occasion of his retirement.

Dels. Les Adams, R-Chatham, and Wren Williams, R-Stuart, attended the Henry County School Board’s July 7 meeting to present DeVault with House

Joint Resolution 394, which was approved by the General Assembly in 2020 but, due to the pandemic, had not yet been presented to the long-time educator.

According to the resolution, DeVault began his teaching career in 1965 as a teacher and coach at Drewry Mason High School. Over the course of more than 30 years with the school division, he served as principal of Rich Acres Elementary, Drewry Mason High, and Magna Vista High.

Following a decade as principal of a North Carolina high school,

See **Resolution**, page 8

Raffle to raise funds for Historical Center war memorial

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Bassett Historical Center (BHC) has organized a raffle to help recoup some of the costs of recent improvements to its Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Monument. The area around the monument, which was dedicated on Veterans Day in 2018, has recently undergone a facelift both to better beautify the area and to protect it.

The stone monument is situated just outside the center, located at 3964 Fairystone Parkway, Bassett. The large stone wall is engraved on the front with the names of

See **Raffle**, page 9



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newly-completed hardscaping around the Vietnam veterans’ monument at the Bassett Historical Center includes stone pavers and polls to protect the monument from damage by vehicles. The Center has organized a raffle to help recoup the cost of the upgrades.

Basketball clinic shoots for student success on and off court

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

As a longtime player and coach, Michael Jarrett knows that the skills learned in basketball extend well beyond the court. At his upcoming fourth annual basketball clinic, Jarrett, who previously has hosted such events in Virginia Beach and even some in Richmond, said he hopes to instill local youth not only with the skills they need to be successful on the court, but in life too.

“I’ve been around basketball ever since I was 8-years-old” both as a player and coach, Jarrett said. “My goal (with the clinic) is to teach fundamental

See **Basketball**, page 10



Michael C. Jarrett
2021 Basketball Clinic

The coaches and some of the participants in last year’s Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic, which will take place again on Monday, July 25, and Tuesday, July 26 at the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA. Jarrett, who has organized a local basketball clinic the past four years, said the clinic aims to teach life skills as well as athletic ones.

Dinosaurs take over VMNH at annual Dino Fest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) technicians at work installing displays for the 2022 Dino Festival, which will be held this Friday and Saturday at VMNH. The annual event generally draws thousands of visitors, many from outside Martinsville and Henry County, generating a boost in area tourism for the weekend

A two-day dinosaur extravaganza is set to descend upon the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23. The event will feature life-size cast skeletons of some of the most iconic creatures of the Mesozoic Era, a large variety of dinosaur fossils, expert paleontologists, and dino-themed activities and crafts.

“A prehistoric adventure awaits everyone visiting the museum July 22 and 23 for Dino Festival,” said Robbie Hendrix, VMNH visitor services and events manager. “From the moment visitors enter the museum’s doors, they will be

greeted with a festive atmosphere full of amazing activities and displays, including life-size cast skeletons of some of the most incredible dinosaurs to have ever roamed the earth, such as Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Tentontosaurus, Acrocanthosaurus, and Allosaurus.”

While the age of dinosaurs is best known for, well, dinosaurs, VMNH Assistant Curator of Paleontology Dr. Adam Pritchard is quick to point out that Earth had an amazing diversity of life during this time and the museum’s Dino Festival will also highlight other long-since extinct creatures that lived alongside dinosaurs.

“Life on our planet during the age of dinosaurs had incredible diversity,” said Pritchard. “While Dino Festival puts the

See **Dino Fest**, page 8

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 FOR MORE UPDATES



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 and 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.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the

Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

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.

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

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. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

Talley honored at 40th class reunion

Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr. was honored at the Martinsville Class Reunion of 1982 (40th). The Class of 1982 also gave a \$500 donation to Martinsville High School.

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.

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

He pastors the United Holiness Worship Center Church in Pelham, North Carolina, and has for the past 38 years. He has served in the ministry more than 46 years. He is married to Patricia, and they have three children, Zeb III, Chris, Ashley, and nine grandchildren.

All of his 45 years teaching experience has been with Martinsville City Public Schools.

PIEDMONT ARTS
Purrrfect Art Family Day
with SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County
Sponsored by SOVAH HEALTH and Carter Bank & Trust

Cute critters featured at fun Family Day

Have a bark-tastic time with Piedmont Arts and SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County at Purrrfect Art Family Day, Saturday, Aug. 13 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

This free Family Day for all ages has tons of fun activities for youth, including furry friends available for adoption from the SPCA, a bounce house from King Kidz, face Painting by the Teen Arts Council, performances by Pirates of the Piedmont, Zumbini, critter-themed storytelling with Gale Buck and the launch of the children's book "Manners Matter"

by Pam Cobbler.

Curly's Good ol' Eatin' will be on-site with lunch available for purchase from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

To support the SPCA, bring a donation and/or an old t-shirt to turn into a dog toy to donate. You can also create a dog toy for your own pooch. Needed donations include, bleach, Dawn dish soap, paper towels, gloves (medium and XL), cat litter and paté canned cat food.

Purrrfect Art Family Day is sponsored by Sovah Health and Carter Bank & Trust.

Bray receives degree from Washington and Lee University

Tyler James Bray, of Spencer, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington and Lee University on May 26.

Commencement ceremonies for 444 Washington and Lee seniors were held on the University's historic Front Lawn. Bray majored in Accounting.

Bridge work to close section of Horsepasture Price Road

Beginning Aug. 1, a section of Virginia 692 (Horsepasture Price Road) will be closed for about nine days due to bridge work.

The Virginia Department of Transportation will be replacing the concrete riding surface and span on the bridge over Jennings Creek. The bridge is located on Virginia 692 about 0.2 mile from Virginia 694 (Wagon Trail Road) and 0.3 mile from Virginia 793 (Bouldin Road).

Motorists should expect flaggers controlling traffic on the bridge for a few days before and after the closure as crews complete the bridge work.

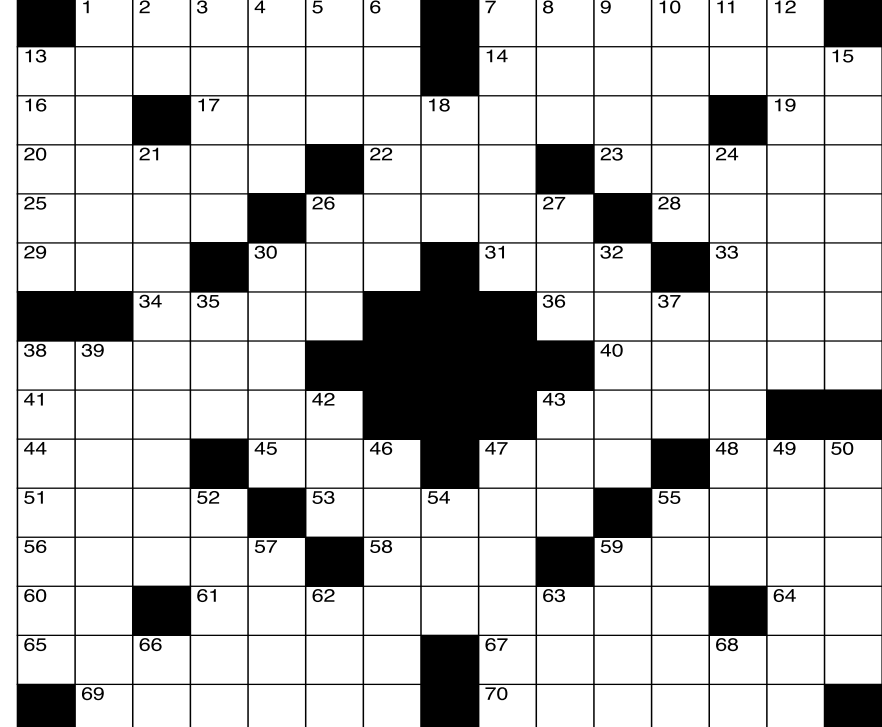
During the closure, drivers will need to seek alternate routes. A truck detour is available using northbound U.S. 220 at the North Carolina state line onto westbound U.S. 58.

Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming closure.

Weather permitting, the road is expected to reopen on Aug. 9.

For the latest road condition information in Virginia, visit www.511Virginia.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 41. Counts on | CLUES DOWN | 32. Belonging to the bottom layer |
| 1. Eurasian shrubs | 43. Dad | 1. Flowing | 35. Black tropical American cuckoo |
| 7. Strikes and rebounds | 44. Woman (French) | 2. Computer department | 37. Music genre |
| 13. Group of advisers | 45. A digital tape recording of sound | 3. Lasts | 38. Indicates one is in mourning |
| 14. Modern necessity | 47. Polish Baltic peninsula | 4. DiFranco and Samsonian are two | 39. Secured forever |
| 16. Top lawyer in the land | 48. Recipe measurement | 5. ___ de sac | 42. Bodily cavity |
| 17. Philadelphia university | 51. Requests out of dire need | 6. Merchant | 43. A dog is one |
| 19. Of I | 53. Precious stone weight unit | 7. Hosts film festival | 46. Chose to do something |
| 20. Functions as a laser | 55. The immaterial part of a person | 8. State of agitation of fuss | 47. Annoy persistently |
| 22. Basketball phenomenon | 56. Anoint | 9. A way to praise | 49. Large hotel rooms |
| 23. Famed island | 58. Golf score | 10. Opaque gems | 50. Beg |
| 25. Parent-teacher groups | 59. Supernatural | 11. McKinley is one | 52. Docket |
| 26. Distributes | 60. Northwest Territories | 12. Smallest interval in classical Western music | 54. Subway dwelling rodent |
| 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual | 61. Can be made suitable | 13. Famed designer Lauren | 55. Sources |
| 29. Ad ___ | 64. A professor's helper | 15. Occupies | 57. Mild Dutch cheese |
| 30. Circulation problem (abbr.) | 65. Having a toothlike edge | 18. Small island (British) | 59. Spanish city |
| 31. Brother or sister | 67. Got atop a horse | 21. Misuse of the sacred | 62. Consumed |
| 33. A famous "Squad" | 69. Judged | 24. Covers with a thin sheet | 63. Ballplayer's tool |
| 34. Stage actor Anthony | 70. Static balance between opposing forces | 26. Title of respectable player | 66. Midway between north and east |
| 36. Violent seizure of property | | 27. Most of respect | 68. Atomic #3 |
| 38. Saclike cavities | | 30. Investigated discreetly | |
| 40. Sound units | | | |

Rotary rocks out at first TGIF concert of the summer



The Rotary Club of Martinsville and Henry County kicked off its summer TGIF concert series last Friday. The three-concert series takes place over three months in the summer and helps Rotary fund scholarships for local youth.



The local Elks Lodge is joining forces with Rotary for this year's TGIF, volunteering their time to sell tickets and beer at the events. A number of other community organizations also were represented at the first show of the series.



The Pizzaz Band kicked off the first TGIF concert of the summer, playing Top 40 hits that got the crowd out of their seats and dancing.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Hundreds of people converged on the Broad Street parking lot in Uptown Martinsville last Friday when the popular TGIF concert series kicked off for the summer. The concerts, hosted by the newly-combined Rotary Club of Martinsville and Henry County, provide an opportunity for locals and visitors alike to enjoy a warm summer evening of music in the heart of the city.

Rotary took over TGIF, which originally was organized by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, in 2019 said Ruth Ann Collins, Rotary club secretary.

"We used to be one of the organizations that volunteered with the event," she said. When they were approached about taking over leadership of the event, "we thought it was something we would enjoy doing and it's been a lot of fun."

"We start planning as early as January and February" for the three shows of the summer series, she said. Some Rotarians are tasked with securing bands, others find sponsors, while some coordinate with various organizations within the city.

Rotarian Carol Lovell said Rotary works with the city to get a permit, Public Works to close down the parking lot, the Sheriff's Office to cordon off the parking lot, with the Electric

Department to provide power for the stage and equipment.

The day of the event, there is still work to be done. "(Rotarian) Rob King has been here practically all day," Lovell said, "waiting for vendors to come in and making himself available."

So eager were some for the festivities to begin that they arrived a full hour ahead of show time, setting up their chairs right in front of the stage, waiting patiently for it to begin. As the audience filled in around them, a number of community organizations joined with Rotary to populate the parking lot with activities for attendees.

Among those set up in the lot last Friday night was local coffee shop The Ground Floor, on hand selling lemonades to help stave off the summer heat. Hugo's Restaurant and Sports Bar was set up with hamburgers hot off the griddle to feed hungry music-lovers. The Boys & Girls Club of Martinsville and Henry County was set up selling rubber ducks ahead of their annual duck race at Smith River Fest, one of the festival's most highly-anticipated events.

Across the parking lot, the Martinsville-Henry County Community Health and Wellness bus was parked, with community health workers on site to discuss health issues with visitors and distribute take-home bags that included at-home COVID tests and hand wipes. They were also prepared

to give COVID shots or boosters to those who might need them.

Before the music even began Community Health Worker Karen Millner said COVID vaccines had been given to five people.

"We have a mobile clinic. We're giving out COVID vaccines, first dose, second dose, boosters, whatever people need," said Brooke Roberson, an intern with the West Piedmont Health District. "We're also checking blood pressure if you need that done."

Millner said she and her fellow health workers met Lovell at this year's Kiwanis Pancake Day. Lovell invited the team to attend TGIF, which they were happy to do because "the objective is to get a shot in the arm."

Millner cautioned that COVID-19 "is not going anywhere," particularly as the new BA-5 variant continues to circulate.

On the other side of the parking lot, serving beer and wine to thirsty patrons, was a group of people dressed in bright red shirts with Elks emblazoned in white on the back. The Martinsville Elks Lodge

As the Elks served up their brews and brought in ticket sales, The Pizzaz Band was rocking the stage with a selection of Top 40 hits. Some audience members nodded their head or tapped their toes to the music.

Lynnette Kyle, Elk Lodge secretary, said this is the second

year that the Elks have helped Rotary with the event.

"We worked the first event last year and did such a great job, they asked us to come back." She said the Elks will be at all of the TGIF events this year.

"In my opinion, we don't do enough to toot our own horn," Kyle said of partnering with Rotary for the events. "We do so much good in the community and we need to keep getting our name out there. We have a lot of members, but a lot of people in Martinsville and Henry County don't even know we exist."

Kyle said that the Elks are a national organization with nearly 1 million members nationwide. "Our official name is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks," she said, adding that the mission of the Elks is "doing good, not only to your fellow man but in your communities."

In addition to other projects, Elks particularly focus on helping veterans. "Our motto is, as long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget."

As just one example of that service to veterans, Kyle said for 15 years before COVID, she and other Elks traveled to the VA hospital in Roanoke each month to play BINGO with veterans, purchasing canteen books from their campus store as prizes, allowing winners to purchase clothing, snacks, and other items from the store.

In the community, she said the Elks use grant funding and a partnership with a local vendor to provide book bags, shoes, socks, a book, and school supplies to local children in need.

She said the Elks view supporting Rotary with the TGIF events as a way to "support the community however we can."

Rotary, too, is a community-focused organization. The profits from TGIF stay in the community," Collins said, as those audience members who remained at the end of the evening continued to dance during the band's curtain call.

The money, she said, goes toward Rotary scholarships for local youth. "We try to support the community and the money goes back towards that," she said. Ultimately, she said, the months of work and the three summer shows are about "bringing the community together."

The remaining 2022 TGIF concerts will be on Aug. 19 (The Kings) and Sept. 16 (Slick Jr. & the Reactors.) All shows begin at 7 p.m. in the Bridge Street parking lot in Martinsville. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the gate.

This year's TGIF title sponsors are Carter Bank & Trust, Burton & Company, Rives S. Brown, and Southwestern Virginia Gas.

For more information on the TGIF concerts, visit @TGIFConcertSeries on Facebook.

Updated COVID-19 quarantine guidance issued for Early Childhood Education

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced updated guidance on quarantine procedures following exposure to COVID-19 in school, child care and camp settings. This revised guidance outlines that quarantine is no longer routinely recommended after exposure to COVID-19 infected individuals in child care, K-12 schools, and camp settings.

In general, masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except during isolation. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2.

The updated guidance also states that those who are symptomatic (regardless of vaccination status) should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.

Those who test positive

(regardless of vaccination status) should isolate at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5, provided:

*If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.

*If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time (including children under age 2), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommends a negative test on or after Day 6 in order to return to programming OR the person should remain home through day 10.

Schools with the resources to do so may consider offering rapid testing on-site to symptomatic individuals and/or distributing at-home rapid antigen test kits for testing at home. If a student becomes sick at school, arrange for the student to be picked up, while the student waits in a separate isolation room/area.

For exposed but asymptomatic persons (regard-

less of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended in the above settings. Rather, these individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.

*Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person.

Masks - Students/staff that attend programming during this time may consider wearing a mask around others indoors until Day 10.

Testing - Schools may use Test to Stay protocols and VDH testing resources to support this testing. If a student or staff person in this group has ongoing household exposure to a person with COVID-19, VDH recommends students, families and staff consider more frequent testing; please see Test to Stay protocols for more information.

If the school or facility is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 that has been difficult to con-

trol or is unusual in size or scope, regional and local epidemiologists may apply professional judgment and recommend traditional quarantine and isolation standards be applied until the situation is stabilized.

Earlier in the year, individuals were encouraged to consider their own risk tolerance and determine what precautions made sense for them and their families. Currently, vaccines, tests and treatments continue to be readily available, and, at the same time, hospitalization rates are low and the number of Virginians with natural immunity has increased. As such, it is again timely for individuals, families and employers to re-evaluate which precautions are appropriate to them.

"From the first days of my administration, I have supported parents in making informed decisions for their own families, whom they love and know best," said Youngkin. "As Virginians continue to return to the office and social settings, the pandemic is disrupting workplaces and family life when entire child care facilities, camps and class-

rooms shutter in response to as few as two cases. Today marks a shift in my administration's recommendations to optional quarantine for exposure to COVID-19 in child care and school settings as the severity of the disease decreases."

While our communities and Commonwealth are learning to live with the pandemic, we recognize that COVID-19 continues

to impact many individuals. We are encouraged by our health systems' continued advancement in both the understanding of, and treatment for, the virus. We will continue to be vigilant about surges or new variants and any impact to our healthcare system. While maintaining that prudence, Virginia's communities can, and should, continue on a path to normalcy.



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
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Submit your community news and photos to
newsreporter@theenterprise.net

OPINION

The divide

My favorite sketch comedy show of all time is “Mr. Show with Bob and David,” which ran on HBO for four all-too-brief seasons between 1995 and 1998. Mr. Show is one of my comedy polestars, a bright guiding light whenever I sit down to write something funny.

One of the main actors on Mr. Show was a fellow named Jay Johnston, and he starred in what might be my favorite sketch of all time. In the sketch, Johnston plays an old-timey explorer who has returned home to tell his parents the story of how he climbed Mount Everest. Just as he’s getting to the exciting climax of the story, he trips over a drink cart and knocks his mother’s vast thimble collection off the wall. Everyone laughs at his pratfall, and then they help him replace all the thimbles. He begins telling the story a second time, only to trip again and knock all the thimbles off the wall. Over the course of eight minutes, Johnston knocks the thimbles off the wall over and over again, stretching the premise so far beyond the point of absurdity that it stops being funny, keeps going, and then becomes one of the funniest things I’ve ever seen in my life.

I’ve watched this sketch dozens of times. It’s a flawless piece of comedy, and Johnston’s hilarious physicality sells it.

Unfortunately, I have a hard

time watching the sketch now.

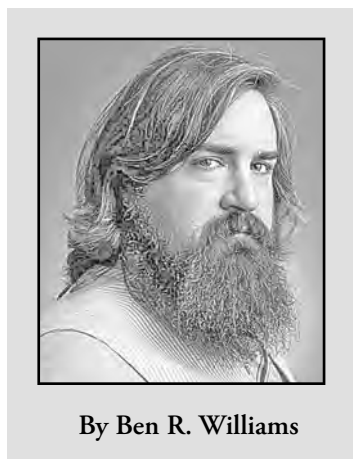
On March 4, 2021, the FBI tweeted two photos of a man who took part in the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. Comedy fans worldwide noted that the guy, dubbed No. 247 by the FBI, looked EXACTLY like Jay Johnston.

Turns out, he didn’t just look like him.

To be fair, the FBI has yet to publicly confirm the man’s identity, but there’s little question. Several comedy figures who know Johnston confirmed it was him and that he had told them of his plans to attend the insurrection. Johnston was let go from the TV show “Bob’s Burgers.” He hasn’t appeared publicly or made a statement since, not even to deny the accusations. The rumor is that he fled to Canada, but no one knows for certain.

I think about Jay Johnston often. I do a Google search every month or so to see if there are any updates. I think about the photos of him from the insurrection, his eyebrows furrowed, his mouth downturned, his face a mask of anger. Who is this hateful man who, according to the FBI, “took part in the violence” at the Capitol? This can’t be the same lovable comedian who played “Choo-Choo the Hurkey Jerky Dancer.” Choo-Choo wouldn’t do that to me.

At the risk of psychoanalyzing myself, I realize that a large part of my fascination with this case isn’t precisely about Jay Johnston. He’s merely a stand-in



By Ben R. Williams

for all the people I know who are a lot like him.

There’s no sense in beating around the bush: I know a whole lot of people who changed around the Trump era. These are people I liked, people I respected, people I knew to be kind and good-hearted. Over time, they became angry at the world. Every conversation would wind its way back to team politics as surely as the rivers flow to the ocean. They would say strange things, hateful things, statements that would have been alien coming from their mouths just a few years earlier.

I remember seeing a friend of mine at the grocery store a couple of years ago, a fellow I had met at a march for equality, of all things. To my surprise, he was wearing a MAGA hat, and he immediately started talking to me about how the Clinton family eats babies and all this other Q-Anon conspiracy theory madness. I told him I didn’t feel like talking politics.

He ignored that and volunteered that he’d had people ask him if he was afraid someone was going to knock his MAGA hat off his head. He wasn’t worried, he said; he packs heat, and if someone tried it, he would shoot them.

I got the impression he was looking forward to the opportunity.

I barely recognized my former friend that day, and he’s not the only friend I’ve lost to the cult of hate. And make no mistake, it is a cult of hate and cruelty. I’m haunted by the quote from a lady named Crystal Minton who, in January of 2019, voiced to a reporter her frustration over Trump’s role in the government shutdown:

“I voted for him, and he’s the one doing this,” she said. “I thought he was going to do good things. He’s not hurting the people he needs to be hurting.”

She didn’t vote for Trump to make everyone’s lives better; she voted for him in the hope that he would punish the outgroups she didn’t like. A lot of folks feel that way, I suppose; they usually just don’t come right out and say it.

We’ve all become inured to this hateful madness. It’s just a part of life. I routinely drive through Boones Mill — I’m sorry, “Trump Town” — and I don’t give it a second thought. Yet when my cousin came to visit from D.C. and asked me what on Earth had happened to that quaint little town on 220,

it took me a moment to realize what he was talking about, that it’s not normal to convert an old church into a shrine to a politician, complete with towering cardboard cutouts that might as well be literal golden calves. If I built a shrine to former Vice-President Walter Mondale along a major highway, folks would assume I’d lost my mind, and they’d be right to. But you can go to Trump Town and get a Trump Burger and some Trump Ice cream and no one bats an eye.

And now, on a daily basis, the Jan. 6 committee is producing remarkably damning evidence of an insurrection against the U.S. government orchestrated by the then-sitting President, and his supporters are more concerned about the latest revelations from Hunter Biden’s legendary laptop and putting stickers on gas pumps than a literal coup d’état on American soil.

I’d like to think that this moment of madness in the history of our nation is only temporary, and that one day — possibly even within my lifetime — it will pass. We’ll be able to go back to the days when having a political disagreement meant arguing about the merits of a flat tax, not which groups of people are deserving of basic human rights. But I’m not so sure.

In the past, I would have consoled myself with some old episodes of Mr. Show. Thanks a lot, Jay.

End of Session Op-Ed

Last November, I asked for your vote so I could fight for you in Richmond. In my first session, we fought hard and accomplished a great deal for Henry County, and our whole district.

To give the citizens a voice in the Martinsville Reversion, I helped pass Delegate Danny Marshall’s bill to put the decision for Martinsville to become a town on the ballot, so voters can decide at the ballot box.

To protect our 2nd Amendment rights, I co-sponsored bills and voted to end red flag laws, end the one-handgun-a-month law, cut restrictions on concealed carry, and end the patchwork of local

gun restrictions that liberal localities imposed on us. We succeeded in passing a bill to allow hunting on Sundays on public and private land. I was proud to vote for every pro-gun bill that came in front of me.

Last year, I called Election Integrity the most urgent issue facing us, and I promised to tackle it head-on. I saw first-hand the consequences of allowing fraud in our elections when I worked as a lawyer on President Trump’s legal team in Wisconsin. This session, I introduced bills to mandate Voter ID, cut back early voting from 45 days to 7, require social security numbers on absentee ballots, and

repeal same-day voter registration.

I promised that my first bill would be to ban Critical Race Theory (CRT) from our Virginia Public Schools. Critical Race Theory is a poisonous ideology that teaches our kids to hate America and each other. It has no place in our schools. I was proud to carry the most conservative, comprehensive CRT ban in the House of Delegates.

My wife Britt and I are church-going Christians. We attend the same local church as my parents and grandparents. It appalled all of us when Governor Northam used the Emergency Disaster and Services Act to shut down and restrict our churches, while leaving “essential” liquor stores open. A governor should NOT have such power. So I introduced a religious freedom bill that would protect our churches from getting shut down ever again.

Britt and I are both strongly pro-life. As attorneys, we love supporting pregnant mothers in difficult circumstances and helping to facilitate adoptions. Ralph Northam’s

on-air comments about third-trimester abortions (Read: Infanticide) horrified us. I introduced a “Born-Alive Protection Act” to require babies born alive following a botched abortion to be cared for and given life-saving aid.

Now that Roe vs. Wade is overturned, I will wholeheartedly support a ban on abortion here in Virginia. It’s time for our unborn children to be recognized for who they are: precious gifts from God who are made in his image and worthy of every protection.

Unfortunately, far-Left Senate liberals blocked many of our common-sense conservative bills after we passed them in the House. But I’m not discouraged. I was proud to bring good, common-sense, conservative bills to Make Southside Virginia Great Again.

One of our greatest achievements this year was passing a Parole Board FOIA bill through the General Assembly that Governor Youngkin just signed. This bill brings transparency and accountability to the Virginia

Parole Board by making all their votes public record. No more scandals. No more letting violent felons and cop-killers out on the streets without oversight.

And in a HUGE victory, we ended mask mandates for ALL Virginia Public School students. We’re putting parents back in charge of our kids’ education — right where parents belong.

We are getting Virginia back on the right track.

In the budget that Governor Youngkin signed in June, we achieved a major victory in tax relief for Virginians and critical funding for teachers and law enforcement. We nearly doubled the standard income tax deduction from \$4,500 to \$8,000 (or \$9,000 to \$16,000 for married couples), and provided for a rebate of \$250 per filer and \$500 per couple. We also repealed the 1.5 percent state-share of the grocery tax.

Our teachers and law enforcement have been woefully underfunded. With the budget surplus, I supported a funding increase to give 10 per-

cent raises for teachers and major pay increases for our law enforcement and correctional officers. I was proud to support our law enforcement with this extra funding. We also funded opt-in grants for school resource officers, so every school district can keep our students safe.

The Supreme Court has just drawn new district lines and redistricted us, but our district doesn’t change very much. I will still be seeking re-election to keep representing you here in the western part of Henry County, in Virginia’s new 47th House District. It is an honor to fight for you, fight for our home in Southside Virginia, and fight for our conservative values in the House of Delegates.

Solving local problems and helping people in our community energizes me. It’s what gets me out of bed every morning. Please call my office at (276) 693-9024 if there is anything I can do for you. I am truly humbled to serve you and the people of Southside Virginia.

Del. Wren Williams

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

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

Congressional staff to visit

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith’s staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on July 27. Staff will visit Henry County from

10 – 11:30 a.m., set up in the Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. They will travel to Patrick County,

where they set up from 12:30 – 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Several local students named to Spring 2022 Dean’s List

Emory & Henry College congratulates students named to Spring 2022 Dean’s list. The following local students made the list:

Caitlin Barker, of Collinsville.
Madeline Bishop, of Collinsville.
Hannah Mitchell, of Ridgeway.
Tizianna Palumbo, of Martinsville.

Blake Wilson, of Axton.
To be named to the Dean’s list students must be a full time student and receive a 3.6 GPA for the semester.

VDOE recognizes Tarpley as a leader

Dr. Cynthia Tarpley was recognized as a Leader of Continuous Improvement by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of School Quality. She was

selected by her peers for leadership in student achievement and growth.

Tarpley attributed this student growth to data informed decision-making.

She has been employed by Martinsville City Public Schools for more than 32 years, and has served as principal, assistant principal, and teacher. She is currently the Executive Director

of Special Education and Student Services.

Tarpley also is a 2022 graduate of Virginia Tech, earning an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

Authorized Verizon retailers to donate backpacks during annual event

Round Room, LLC., the nation's largest Verizon Authorized Retailer, announces that its TCC and Wireless Zone stores are donating 140,000 backpacks full of school supplies in the upcoming milestone tenth annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. In its ten years of occurrence, the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway has provided more than 1.2 million backpacks full of school supplies to children across the U.S. as they prepare for their upcoming school years.

The store located at 294 Commonwealth Blvd., will participate, from 1-4 p.m., accord-

ing to a company official, along with more than 1,200 TCC and Wireless Zone nationwide stores.

Local families are invited to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, a ruler and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

In addition to the backpack donations, families can enter their students in a sweepstakes to win a \$10,000 college scholarship through the giveaway's Big Impact. Children in grades K-12 are eligible for entry and can be registered at their

local TCC and Wireless Zone stores during the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway event. Five scholarships in total will be awarded to randomly selected winners.

"For the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway to reach its tenth edition is truly monumental for all of us at Round Room, TCC and Wireless Zone. This event is now an annual staple in communities nationwide and we couldn't be more proud of how much we've been able to positively impact students these last ten years," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room. "The rising costs of school supplies have made it

immensely difficult for many families to adequately prepare their children each school year. Our goal is to alleviate these challenges for as many families as we can through this annual give back event."

According to the National Retail Federation, American families with school-aged children spent an average of \$849.90 on school supplies in 2021 — totaling \$37.1 billion spent in America last year on school supplies alone. Round Room is working to ease the strain of rising school supply costs with this annual program through its TCC and Wireless Zone

stores nationwide.

Other participating retailers can be found at <https://locations.tccrocks.com/search.html> and <https://shop.wirelesszone.com>. Any leftover backpacks at School Rocks Backpack Giveaway events will be donated to local schools of each store's choice.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use hashtags #BackpackGiveaway and #10DaysOfGiving on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

To learn more about TCC and Wireless Zone visit www.RoundRoom.com.

Traffic fatalities have increased since 2020 due to riskier driving

If your work commute seems more perilous in recent years, it's because dangerous driving habits established during the pandemic have not abated.

Motorists engaged in riskier driving habits during the COVID-19 pandemic while fewer cars were on the road. Although the disease is now in its endemic phase and Virginians are resuming regular activities, dangerous driving habits have continued.

In just 24 months, Virginia's traffic fatalities increased 17%, according to Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles data—from 827 fatalities in 2019 to 968 fatalities in 2021.

"So far, the trend continues in 2022," said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. and DriveSMART Virginia board member.

"These deaths and injuries are especially tragic because they were easily preventable," he continued. "Sharing the road, obeying speed limits and buckling up are basic driving skills."

Virginia motorists were 50% more likely to speed at least 10 mph over the speed limit from March to June 2020, compared with the same period in 2019, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports. And drivers haven't slowed down since.

"The empty roads probably tempted pandemic-stressed drivers to put the pedal down," says Jessica Cicchino,

vice president of research at IIHS. "But information collected since the lockdowns ended and the roads filled back up suggests that risky driving has become the new normal."

Overall, traffic volumes at study sites fell by a quarter during Virginia's lockdown. Those numbers suggest that the absence of rush-hour traffic prompted motorists to drive faster than usual.

The 2021 Virginia DMV crash statistics report indicated there was one crash every 4.4 minutes, resulting in 2.7 lives lost and 161 injuries on Virginia roadways every day.

Nationwide, crash deaths jumped 7% in 2020 despite a dramatic decrease in the number of miles Americans drove. Fatal crashes involving speeding or alcohol and deaths of unbelted vehicle occupants saw especially large increases, according to National Highway Traffic Administration figures.

As drivers logged more miles in 2021, the pattern continued.

"With nearly 43,000 lives lost on U.S. roadways last year, we can't accept this increase in dangerous driving behaviors," said Cicchino. "We need to double down on implementing proven solutions that have been shown to prevent speeding, like automated speed enforcement and road designs that slow traffic."

For more information, visit drivesmartva.org.

Funding restored to Philpott Lake's Recreation Budget

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said Monday that the Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake is now scheduled to receive full funding for its \$1.6 million recreation budget. As of last month, current drafts of the Fiscal Year 2023 Army Corps Operations and Maintenance budget showed that Philpott Lake's recreation budget had been slashed by 34 percent, or \$545,000.

"Philpott Lake is one of the best-kept secrets of our district, with its pristine beaches, blissful fishing, and beautiful nature views. The Army Corps of Engineers uses the Recreation Budget to maintain the parks, boat launches, beaches, and camping sites for all of our residents and tourists to enjoy. Without that funding, these

facilities would degrade and eventually have to close," Williams said in a release.

"Saving Philpott Lake's recreation funding is a huge win for residents of Patrick, Franklin, and Henry, and for our local businesses that thrive off fishing and tourism," he said, and added that he "especially want to thank the staff at Philpott Lake for their hard work preserving, maintaining, and making available this great natural resource for us to enjoy. And I want to thank Congressman Morgan Griffith's Office for working with us to get this vital funding restored."

The Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake will officially receive the full funding when Congress enacts the FY23 appropriations bill.

Online tool provides price information at hospitals, financial assistance policies

As part of its continuing efforts to enhance public understanding of the health care delivery system, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) has unveiled a new online tool featuring health care price transparency and financial assistance policy information for hospitals across Virginia.

The Virginia Hospital Price Transparency and Financial Assistance Policies tool is a public resource that can help support patients' health care decision-making. The tool provides links through which users can review the cost of many common hospital-based services and procedures at hospitals across Virginia. Available price estimator tools can help users gain insight about potential out-of-pocket costs for needed care. The information available through such tools is based on hospital prices. What patients ultimately pay for health care services is based on provider prices as well as the insurance coverage they have.

Unfortunately, many Virginians continue to experience a dramatic rise in the cost of deductibles and co-pays required by their health insurance plan. A recent Altarum Institute analysis of economic trends in Virginia's health care sector found that "annual single and family premiums have increased 16 percent and 15.5 percent respectively between 2015-2020, while combined premium + deductible totals have increased even faster (22.4 percent for single coverage and 19.2 percent for family coverage)."

VHHA's new online resource includes links to hospital price estimator tools; hospital files of 300 shoppable services in lieu of a price estimate tool; a listing of hospitals' machine-readable files that describe items and services, standard charges, and more; and financial assistance policies for Virginia hospitals.

Many Virginia hospitals provide deeply discounted services and even no-cost care for qualifying low-income patients. In 2020, Virginia hospitals provided \$432 million in charity care to patients. Virginia hospitals also continue to cover the state share of costs for Medicaid expansion, which has enabled more than 671,000 low-income Virginians to gain health coverage. In state fiscal year 2023, Virginia hospitals will fund \$547 million in state costs to support the program.

"Virginia hospitals are committed to

cares for the communities we serve, helping people lead healthier lives, and working to educate the public about how our health care system functions," said Peter M. Mulkey, the CEO of Clinch Valley Health and the Chair of the VHHA Board of Directors. "The publication of this new online tool demonstrates our continued commitment to advancing those values."

VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton said, "his new online tool continues a long tradition of Virginia hospitals promoting transparency about health care prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, inpatient behavioral health admissions, health care quality in hospitals, and so much more. With the support of our member hospitals and health systems, we are pleased to present this information to the public." The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires hospitals to post online a machine-readable file and either a consumer-friendly file with at least 300 shoppable services or a price estimator tool so consumers can shop and compare costs between providers. The dashboard is compliant with these standards and other applicable federal and state price transparency requirements. Publication of this new online tool is a continuation of efforts by Virginia hospitals to promote health care price transparency.

From 2006-2022, VHHA maintained Virginia PricePoint, a public-facing web site created to provide basic demographic, quality, and charge information on Virginia hospitals. In its place, VHHA has created the new online tool with links to facility-specific information to help enhance public understanding of the cost of hospital services. The Hospital Price Transparency Tool is the latest offering from the VHHA Data Analytics Team to help enhance public understanding of the health care delivery system.

Other VHHA data dashboards include the recently launched Behavioral Health Inpatient Data Dashboard, the Virginia Hospital COVID-19 Data Dashboard that was first published in April 2020 and has now been viewed more than 7.1 million times, the interactive Community Benefit dashboard, the Social Determinants of Health Data Dashboard, the Virginia Hospital Patient Experience Data Dashboard, and the Community Health Legislative Dashboards.

Regional event set at Reynolds Homestead

As lead up to the upcoming Women Impact Virginia Summit in October, Reynolds Homestead is hosting a regional event on Wednesday, July 20 entitled Women Impact Virginia: Leading in a Rural Environment. Women from across the region are invited to gather and network, learn from one another, and explore the unique assets and challenges of our region.

A panel of guests will lead a facilitated discussion about topics that are impactful to women leaders in a rural region. The conversation aims to showcase the skills and tools needed to find success as a woman in leadership in the rural context. Invited panelists include Rebecca Adcock, Vonita Brim, Latala Hodges, and Lauren Mathena.

Adcock is the director

of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, assisting businesses and organizations to help support their expansions, missions and overall economic health of the community. Her involvement with the community goes past the job she does and includes being elected as Vice Mayor of Town of Stuart and serving as a board member for numerous community organizations.

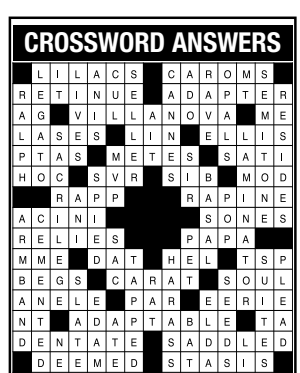
Brim grew up in Patrick County, and has served as a Board Member for STEP, Inc, a volunteer for Christmas Cheer, and is one of the founding members of The Patrick County Friends for Equity and Justice. She worked closely with families within the community as a Mental Health Clinician for 8-years. She is now employed as a Special Education

Teacher for Martinsville City Public Schools. Her hobbies include spending time with her children, photography, writing, investing, and business.

Hodges is the director of Communications at The Harvest Foundation, where she is responsible for sharing the foundation's story and its message of prevailing hope with the community. She is a current graduate degree candidate at Hollins University and a freelance writer in her spare time.

Mathena serves as the director of Economic Development and Community Engagement at Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation. She works extensively with community, institutional, and industry partners to serve the broader region. She serves on various committees and boards including the Southern Piedmont Technology Council and the Science Museum of Virginia.

To register for the free event, visit <https://bit.ly/WIVatRH2022>. Questions may be directed to Sarah Wray via email at wrayse88@vt.edu.



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OBITUARIES

James "Jim" Tobin

James "Jim" Tobin, 76, of Martinsville, passed away on July 12, 2022 at home. He was born November 6, 1945 in Pittsburgh, PA to the late Paul Edward Tobin and the late Regina Yahner Tobin. Jim was preceded in death by his brothers Paul and John.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa; daughters Caren (Darren Aaron), Maureen (Paul Clausen), Christine; three grandchildren Aricin Clausen, Theo Clausen, and Noah Aaron. Also surviving are his sister Barbara and her husband Leroy, sisters-in-law Jane and Paula, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was known in the community for his many years with Piedmont Community Services Board. As director, he worked to expand services and access to resources in the region. He believed that everyone deserved respect and opportunities to live full, healthy lives. He worked for many years to see the area's first drug court become a reality. He sat on numerous boards (including the Harvest Foundation, Citizens against Family Violence, WeCare, Substance Abuse Advisory Council, and Western Piedmont Better Housing Coalition) and volunteered with the Virginia Museum of Natural History and Dan River Basin Association. Jim loved gardening, hiking, and kayaking and often came back with rocks from his trips. He enjoyed learning and took classes to be a naturalist, attended workshops on meditation and mindfulness, and read widely.

He took to heart Mary Oliver's instructions for living: "Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it." He watched sunrises, listened for bird songs, loved to tell people about new ideas he read, mailed poems



to his family, found the joy in simple things, and worshipped in the chapel of the forest.

Jim liked to take "short cuts" on back roads. He pulled the car over to move turtles out of the road. He carried a bag with him when he walked the dogs to pick up trash in the park and carried cans home to recycle. He liked mom-and-pop restaurants that made their own pies. He worried about the butterfly and bee populations. He liked maps and kept a huge file folder with maps of everywhere he went. He was in awe of the redwoods. Inevitably, his eyes were closed in photographs. He liked to plan adventures, like driving across the country, visiting Death Valley, and hearing the Dalai Lama speak. He enthusiastically listened to John Prine, Willie Nelson, and Leonard Cohen.

A memorial mass was held Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery.

Donations can be sent to the Dan River Basin Association, 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden NC 27288, 336-627-6270, <https://www.danriver.org/form/donate> or Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112, <https://www.vmnh.net/support-vmnh/discovery-fund>.

"Suffering is only intolerable when nobody cares. One continually sees that faith in God and his care is made infinitely easier by faith in someone who has shown kindness and sympathy." -Cicely Saunders, founder of hospice.

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

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

Basil Dorse Myers

Basil Dorse Myers, 88, of Ridgeway, VA peacefully passed away July 17, 2022 at his home. He was born March 26, 1934 in Shorts Creek, VA to the late Dewey Clarence and Goldie Bays Myers.

Basil was a professional truck driver for nearly 60 years. A graduate of the N.C. State School of Trucking, he worked as a lead driver for local businesses, including Roy Stone Transfer, E.I. Dupont, Ridgeway Clocks, and Weaver Trucking. He loved to be on the road, frequently crisscrossing the U.S. on his routes or during trips with his wife. He never forgot a road number or an interstate and was better than any atlas when asked a travel/route question. After retirement, he exchanged a steering wheel for a hunting rifle, a fishing rod, or a garden implement - all at home in his very talented hands. He loved the Lord. Basil attended First Baptist Church of Bassett, and had been a member of Hillcrest Baptist and Collinsville Church of the Brethren.

Basil is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Velda Lineberry Myers of the home.



He was beloved by his children - Tim Myers (Kim) of Ridgeway, VA, and Suzanne Boyes (Art) of Danville, VA. He is also survived by dear grandchildren - Mark Myers (Tiffany), Amanda M. Compton (Chris), Matthew Boyes (Amy), Rebekah B. Taylor (Zach), Stephen Boyes, and David Boyes, and his adored eleven great grandchildren.

He is survived by two sisters, Barbara Surratt of Radford, VA and Betty Parnell of Collinsville, VA, and double first cousins that he treasured as sisters. He was preceded in death by his sister, Shirley Martin, and his brothers, Vernon and Jack Myers.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at Norris Funeral Chapel with Pastors Doug Ramsey and Roy McVey officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Esmond Arnold Terry

Esmond Arnold Terry, 89, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, July 17, 2022, at his home, surrounded by family. He was born in Meadows of Dan, VA to the late Otey Kemper Terry and Verona Spangler Terry Calhoun on June 22, 1933. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his siblings, Douglas Terry, R.C. Terry, Juanita Hanna, and Ramona Edwards.

Mr. Terry was a member of Gospel Baptist Church. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Mr. Terry was a minister of the gospel for over fifty-six years within this community and he found no greater joy than leading someone to Christ.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-eight years, Sara Watts Terry; daughters, Wanda Williams, Jennifer Pruet Hollyfield (Bart), and Laurie Terry Prillaman; son, Scott Terry (Suzanne); sister, Gloria Pruitt and brother, Orville Calhoun (Vivian). Also surviving are



his grandchildren, Adam Williams (Alex), Aprille Kelly (Aaron), Jared Pruet (Erica), Jordan Pruet, Tiffanie Adkins (Andy), Mallaurie Hickman (Logan), Kemper Terry, and Britney Terry; great-grandchildren, Eli Williams, Annabelle Kelly, Riley Kelly, Walker Pruet, Barrett Pruet, Keri-Jean Pruet, Kaden Pruet, Haley Adkins, and

Tatum Adkins.

The funeral was held on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Collinsville with Pastors Eugene Chitwood, Peyton Gilbert and Larry Cheek officiating. Burial was at Henry Memorial Park.

Donations may be made to Gospel Baptist Church Missionary Fund, 8208 Daniels Creek Rd., Collinsville, VA 24078.

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

Cheryl Ann Lemons

Cheryl Ann Lemons, 70, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, July 17, 2022, at her residence. She was born on December 25, 1951, in Martinsville, VA to late Charles A. Lemons, Jr. and Minnie Ruth Hairfield Lemons of Winston-Salem, NC.

Ms. Lemons graduated from Fieldale Collinsville High School in 1970.

In addition to her moth-



er, she is survived by her brothers, Charles E. Lemons (Brenda) of Winston-Salem, NC, Ray Lemons of Capron, VA, and Joseph H. Lemons of Navarre, FL.

Funeral arrangements will be private.

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

Ethel Irene Ingram McGhee

Ethel Irene Ingram McGhee, 71, of Henry, VA peacefully made her transition from her home, surrounded by family, to her heavenly home on Monday, July 18, 2022. She was born in Henry County, VA on September 7, 1950, to the late Monroe Birch Ingram and the late Irene Carter Ingram. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Douglas Ingram and a very special niece, Jenny Cassell.

Ethel was a devoted and faithful wife, mother, and sister. She was very compassionate and loved doing for others. She especially loved sharing her love for the Lord with others everywhere she went. As her illness progressed, she dearly missed the fellowship she had with her friends at Victory Christian Center.

She graduated from John D. Bassett



High School and Patrick Henry Community College. After working for many years at Bassett-Walker, she enjoyed her job in local schools as a teacher's aide, and as a caretaker for several years.

Ethel is survived by her husband of fifty years, Ronnie G. McGhee, Sr; her son, Ronnie "Ron" G. McGhee, Jr. (Sarah); sisters, Frances "Judy" Ingram Reed (Bennett) and Nancy Ingram Gilley (Mike); brother, Wilbert Ingram; nieces, nephews, cousins, and an abundance of friends.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services with Janet McGhee officiating. Burial will be at Henry Memorial Park.

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

Harry Maxwell Little

Harry Maxwell Little, 89, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Friday, July 15, 2022. He was born on November 10, 1932 in Elkatawa (Breathitt County), Kentucky, to the late Leonard Little and Flossie Lewis Little. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sallie Elizabeth Holliday Little; sister, Betty Stacy; and nephew, Len Stacy.

He is survived by his daughters, Susan Wimbish (Chuck) and Kay Martin (Mike); grandchildren, Chris Wimbish, Andrew Wimbish (Peyton), Brandon Wimbish, Emily Martin and Adam Martin; nephew, Alan Stacy (Karen).

Harry proudly served in the Army during the Korean War. He married his high school sweetheart, Sallie, in 1955. He was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, and later earned his master's degree in Extension Education from Virginia Tech. He served 30 years as the Henry County Extension Agent and 4-H Leader.

Harry had been dedicated to walking since 1980, and walked more than 58,000



miles. After his retirement he enjoyed flatfoot and ballroom dancing. He was also an avid fisherman and loved to hunt. Bee keeping and gardening were among his favorite hobbies.

He loved helping people and making new friends. He will be remembered as a kind and compassionate Southern gentleman. His was "a life well lived."

A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. and will be officiated by Reverend Chris Bennett and Reverend Tim Gearheart. The graveside service was private.

Consider a donation to the Harry Little 4-H Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to: Treasurer, VT and mail them to Virginia Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA. 24078.

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

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

DEATH NOTICE

Melissa Frith

Melissa Frith, 52, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, July 16, 2022. Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

School boards to meet

The Martinsville City School Board will hold a regular school board meeting on Monday, July 25, beginning at 6:15 at the Central Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

The Henry County School Board will

hold its regular monthly meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, in the Summerlin Room, which is located on the 1st Floor of the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville. The meeting will be followed by a closed session.

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Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has

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the following job openings: 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.

Piedmont Community Services

Piedmont Community Services has Full time position with benefits available for a Residential Support Specialist (# CS-543-19) in Patrick County, VA serving adults with intellectual, mental health & developmental disabilities. Duties include direct care and training in independent living skills, personal care skills, housekeeping skills, and recreational/leisure activities in the home and in the community. Includes some weekend hours. Must work well on a diverse team. High school diploma or GED required. Must exhibit good documentation and computer skills. Must have

HELP WANTED

valid driver's license and good driving record.

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

P&HCC

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.

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ATTENTION

Attention PCHS Class of 1977

45th class reunion, Saturday, Sept 17th 2022, 6p.m.-11:30p.m.

Live music, BBQ dinner, BYOB w/bar set up

Patrick County location TBA.

\$25 per person, casual dress

Email Cathy Turner at ctburton58@gmail.com if you plan to attend and how many will be attending with you, no later than Aug 1st.

Make check payable to Cathy Turner Burton, \$25 per person

Mail to 334 E. Church St, B7, Martinsville, VA, 24112 no later than August 17th.

To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **August 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia.

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

Case R-22-12 Joseph Clark
The property is located at 177 Wheeler Ave in the Collinsville District. The Tax Map number is 29.7/74. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.79-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to convert the existing building into a medical office.

Case R-22-13 Randy L. and Tina L. Williams
The property is located across from 2521 Reed Creek Dr in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.6/181N. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.22-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-I. The applicant wishes to construct accessory storage buildings on this property for personal use.

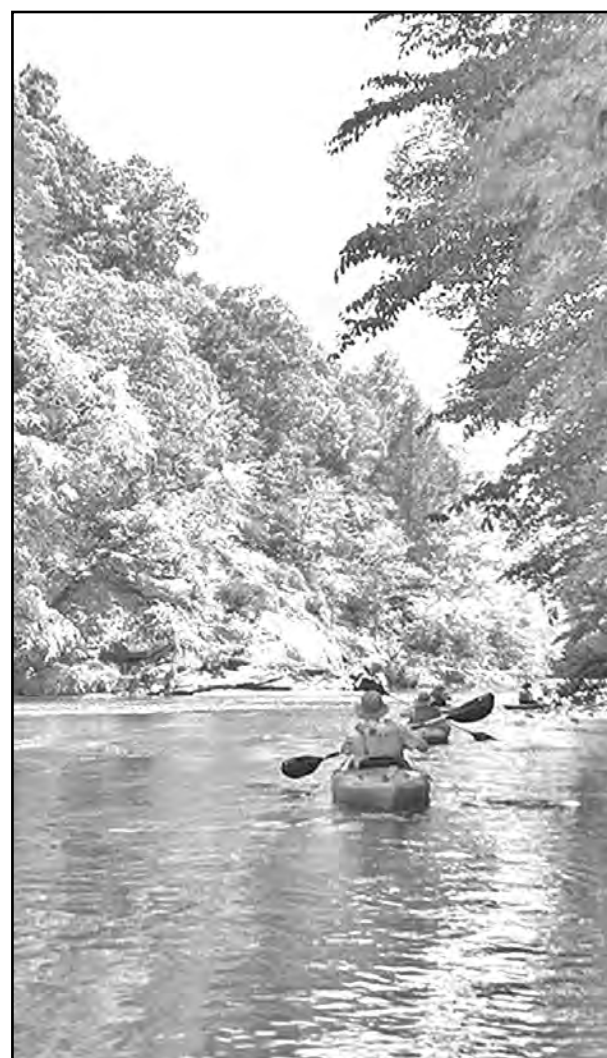
Case R-22-14 Katy J. and Gaylon R. Winesette
The property is located immediately south of 2090 Axton Rd in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 55.9/160D. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to construct a garage on the property to conduct a small engine repair business and potentially expand to do auto repair.

Case R-22-15 Glenna T. Young
The property is located on the north east side of Deerfield Ln, approximately 0.1 mile north of Stones Dairy Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map numbers are 25.9(9)/40A,40C. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots, one consisting of approximately 4-acres, and the other consisting of approximately 0.63-acres. The lots are proposed to be rezoned from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to market the property for sale for the potential placement of manufactured homes.

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

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

DRBA's August First Saturday Outing at Hanging Rock State Park



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DRBA

All are invited to DRBA's August 6 First Saturday Outing on a popular section of the Dan River for a 4.5-mile paddle from Hanging Rock State Park to Moratock Park in Danbury, NC.

Will Truslow, past president of DRBA and an avid kayaker, will coordinate the scenic five-mile float.

Participants are asked to be at the put-in by 9 a.m. at the Hanging Rock State Park canoe access off Flinchum Road to unload boats and gear and set the shuttle.

According to Truslow, the scenery is magnificent. "This outing goes through one of the most scenic sections of the

Dan in Stokes County. One of the most popular stretches of the Dan River, there are incredible bluffs that come straight down to river-side along with areas of dense rhododendron." Along the way, there is a cave in a rock cliff and near the end of the trip, he adds, is "a quarter-mile-long bluff that is stunning."

At normal levels this section offers mostly calm waters with one easy Class II rapid at Moratock Park, just before the take-out. The easy put-in and take-out make this an excellent family trip.

Shortly after the put-in, boaters will pass under the NC 89 Highway Bridge. About

three miles into the trip is Seven Island Bridge. Except for these two landmarks, most of the trip reveals little evidence of human disturbance, with nearly half of the river corridor passing through State Natural Heritage Areas.

Most of the trip will be through lands recognized by the state of North Carolina as State Natural Heritage Areas, and about half a mile is in Hanging Rock State Park. Besides natural ledges, paddlers will pass vee-shaped fish traps, used for centuries by Native Americans and European settlers to channel fish into nets or baskets during their annual spawning runs.

After loading their

boats at Moratock Park, participants may enjoy visiting the historic 1843 Moratock Furnace, a 40-foot-high granite structure where iron ore from local mines was smelted. According to "The Dan River Atlas," water from the river was channeled through "an ingenious tunnel through the horseshoe bend" to power the bellows for the furnace. Only the furnace near the canoe access remains today.

Additional interesting facts about this river section's history, culture, and nearby attractions are found in Maps 68 -- 70 of DRBA's publication, "An Insider's Guide to the Dan River in North Carolina and

Virginia," available at www.danriver.org.

Participants in the outing are asked to provide boat and paddles, life jacket, lunch and water, to dress in layers of artificial (quick-drying) fabric or wool, and to sign a waiver.

To reach the Hanging Rock Access from Stuart, VA, travel south on Virginia 8. Turn left on Route 89. Travel about ¼ mile, and turn right onto Flinchum Road, which is marked by a brown DAN RIVER ACCESS sign. Drive past the Dan River Company on the way to the concrete launch ramp.

From the town of Danbury, travel west on Route 89. Pass the hospital and the road

to Hanging Rock State Park. About one mile west of the hospital, turn left onto Flinchum Road, which is marked by a brown DAN RIVER ACCESS sign. Drive past the Dan River Company on the way to the concrete launch ramp.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge. For trip information, contact trip coordinator Will Truslow at 336-547-1903 or willtruslow@hotmail.com.

To learn more about DRBA and its recreation, education and stewardship programs that protect and preserve our local natural resources, visit www.danriver.org.

Resolution from page 1

the resolution states that “DeVault returned to Henry County Public Schools as a well-informed and influential voice on the Henry County School Board.”

The division “accomplished significant improvements during (DeVault’s) tenure

... moving toward full accreditation, closing the achievement gap, incorporating more equitable curriculum offerings, improving school facilities, and constructing a new elementary school.”

The resolution also credits DeVault with the introduction of the

Warrior Tech and Bengal Tech education programs, which were introduced under his stewardship and “were the first programs of their kind in Virginia, earning Henry County Public Schools state and national awards and preparing today’s students for the world of tomor-

row.” The resolution noted that DeVault was presented with the 2019 Jack Dalton Community Service Award, Henry County’s highest citizen honor, in recognition of his tireless efforts. It concludes, “whereas Joe DeVault’s leadership,

determination, and perseverance were invaluable assets to Henry County Public Schools during his 12 years on the Henry County School Board and his decades in the school division as a principal, teacher, and coach; now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly hereby commend Joseph DeVault, longtime educator and valued civil servant on the occasion of his retirement from the Henry County School Board.”

DeVault was presented with a copy of the resolution “as an expression of the General Assembly’s profound respect and heartfelt admiration for his contributions to Henry County and the Commonwealth.”

Accepting his resolution from the delegates,

DeVault said that “the opportunity and the privilege to be part of the education process, particularly the education process here in Henry County was something I will always be thankful for.”

He recalled “many, many years ago,” when he was considering pursuing a career in education, his father told him that he should strive to reach the end of a career in which he could look back “and say there were a whole lot more ‘I’m glad I did that’ than there were ‘I wish I’d done that.’”

DeVault said that, with the exception of marrying his wife, “the best decision I ever made would be coming to Henry County and having the opportunity to serve the students and the community and, I hope, serve the profession of education in a way that has been meaningful.”



Former Henry County educator Joe DeVault (center, foreground) with Dels. Les Adams (right, foreground) and Wren Williams (left, foreground) and members of the Henry County School Board shortly after receiving a joint resolution for his years of service to Henry County Public Schools.

Dino Fest from page 1



Visitors marvel at a collection of fossils at a previous Dino Festival. This year, visitors to the festival will be the first to see some of the sauropod (long-necked dinosaur) fossils unearthed during VMNH-led dinosaur digs in Wyoming.

spotlight on dinosaurs, we also want to give visitors an idea of other types of phenomenal life that existed during this same time period, as well as some of the amazing animals that even preceded dinosaurs.”

One such animal was Platecarpus tympaniticus, a massive sea-going reptile that lived 84 to 81 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This animal, a species of mosasaur, once swam in waters that covered what is now the central United States. A 17 foot long cast skeleton of Platecarpus tympaniticus will be on display at Dino Festival, along with other life-size cast skeletons and skulls, including:

Triceratops (cast skeleton): a large, plant-eating dinosaur distinguishable by its large frill and three horns that lived during the Late Cretaceous period, from approximately 68 to 66 million years ago.

Stegosaurus (cast skeleton): a large, plant-eating dinosaur distinguishable by two rows of bony plates on its back. It lived during the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago.

Acrocantosaur (cast skeleton): a massive, carnivorous theropod dinosaur that existed in what is now North America during the Early Cretaceous period, from approximately 125 million to 100 million years ago.

Allosaurus (cast skeleton): a large, carnivorous theropod dinosaur of the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago.

Tentontosaur (cast skeleton): an herbivore dinosaur that lived during the Early Cretaceous period from approximately 120 to 110 million years ago.

Platecarpus tympaniticus (cast skeleton): a massive sea-going reptile that lived 84 to 81 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This animal, a species of mosasaur, once swam in waters that covered what is now the central United States.

Tyrannosaurus rex (cast skull): one of the most iconic dinosaurs of all time, T. rex was a large carnivorous dinosaur that lived in what is now western North America approximately 68 to 66 million years ago.

Dromaeosaurus (cast skull): a medium-sized carnivorous dinosaur and a very close relative of the famous Velociraptor that lived in what is now the western United States and Alberta, Canada during the Late Cretaceous from approximately 77 to 74 million years ago.

Albertosaurus (cast skull): a genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaurs that lived in western North America during the Late Cretaceous Period, from approximately 70 million years ago.

Edmontosaurus (cast skull): a genus of duck-billed dinosaur that lived in western North America during the Cretaceous Period approximately 73 to 66 million years ago.

Dunkleosteus (cast skull): an armored fish from a group of fish called placoderms that lived approximately 360 to 380 million years ago.

Tylosaurus (cast skull): a gigantic, sea-going relative of lizards, Tylosaurus was one of the biggest ocean predators ever to live. With a skull almost six feet long, a body over forty feet, and a mouth full of pointed teeth, it could pretty much eat whatever it wanted, from fish to other giant lizards.

In addition to the cast skeletons and skulls, Dino Festival will feature a large variety of actual dinosaur fossils, including the only fossil evidence that Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops engaged in battle, as well as the debut of an assortment of sauropod (long-necked) dinosaur fossils never before exhibited at the museum.

“The museum has a long history of conducting paleontological field work in Wyoming, with efforts yielding a tremendous amount of sauropod fossil material,” said Pritchard. “We’re very excited to be able to allow the public to see some of these specimens for the first time during Dino Festival.”

While Wyoming is a hotbed for unearthing dinosaur bones, Virginia is a very different story. In fact, the only confirmed dinosaur fossils that have ever been discovered inside the Commonwealth have come in the form of footprints, not bones.

During Dino Festival, visitors will be presented with a special display of fossils found in Virginia from the Age of Dinosaurs and learn why dinosaur bones are not among them and why that may soon change.

“VMNH research teams, in collaboration with amateur paleontologists, are working on fossil sites in the Richmond area from the earliest parts of the age of dinosaurs,” said Pritchard. “The only dinosaur fossils we have from the Commonwealth are footprints of small meat-eaters. So far, we have lots of fossils from the environment of the early dinosaurs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Children participate in a craft activity at a previous Dino Festival. Though there will be plenty of child- and family-oriented activities, Dino Festival also presents plenty to do for adults without children, including engaging with the museum’s scientists.

These include the teeth and bones of crocodile-like reptiles, plants and ancient trees, and many fish skeletons. Our quest is to find dinosaur bones at these sites, confirming their presence and discovering their place in the ecosystem of ancient Virginia.”

VMNH Director Dr. Joe Keiper pointed out that “most of Virginia’s surface geology is older than 225 million years old, which is when dinosaurs first appeared on earth, or younger than 66 million years, which is when most dinosaur lineages went extinct. The exception to that is birds, and we do find bird fossils.”

Though no dino fossils have been found in Virginia (yet), dinosaurs are still relevant to the state’s natural history museum. “We use dinosaurs as an exciting subject of earth’s past as a gateway for people to learn more about ecology, extinction, animal diversity, and other STEM-based (science, technology, engineering, and math) topics,” Keiper said.

In addition to plenty of learning opportunities, an abundance of dino-themed activities and crafts will be offered throughout the festival, along with classic festival staples, such as face painting and balloon animals. Additionally, the museum will offer the Dino Fest Food Truck Station outside of the museum for visitors to purchase a wide variety of lunch and snacks items.

“Dino Fest actually predates the current museum facility at 21 Starling Avenue,” said VMNH marketing and public relations manager Zach Ryder. “The event was originally called Dino Day and was first held in January 2007 at the original museum facility on Douglas Avenue. Due to the event’s increased popularity over the years, Dino Day became a 2-day event and was renamed Dino Festival.”

Though the event does feature a number of activities for youth and families, Ryder said it is not specifically a child- and family-oriented event. “The displays are not geared toward any specific age group and the festival provides plenty of opportunities to meet and interact with museum scientists, researchers, and other staff on a one-on-one basis. Making our science team accessible to our visitors is a major emphasis of our festivals and gives visitors a unique and highly valuable experience.”

In the past, those visitors have been numerous and wide-ranging.

“Dino Festival has historically been one of the museum’s most popu-

lar festivals,” said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. He said the 2-day event has drawn an average of 3,000 visitors over the past 3 festivals, held in July 2017, 2018, and 2019.

“At the last Dino Festival, 74 percent of visitors came from outside Martinsville and Henry County, resulting in a significant tourism boost for the area,” Barber said. “The 2019 Dino Festival drew visitors from 18 states (which included Nevada, Oklahoma, New York, Wisconsin, and Illinois) and the District of Columbia.”

“Dino Festival is a fantastic combination of a dino-themed entertainment experience and an exceptional scientific learning opportunity,” said Hendrix. “Not only will Dino Festival offer an extremely fun, festive atmosphere, but also the scientific expertise and actual dinosaur specimens that will provide visitors with an incredibly impactful learning experience. We want every visitor to be mesmerized by the life-size dinosaur skeletons and prehistoric fossils, while also providing everyone with opportunities for fun, engaging, hands-on experiences that they won’t soon forget.”

Dino Festival takes place Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Visitors who attend the first day of the event will be allowed to experience the event again on the second day at no additional charge.

Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 for ages 3-17. Admission is free for children under 3, museum members, and members of museums and science centers that participate in the ASTC Passport program.

The museum also participates in the “Museums for All” initiative, offering discounted admission to low-income families. Through this program and additional funding provided by Hooker Furnishings, visitors who present their EBT card and accompanying ID at the museum’s box office will receive free admission to the festival.

Dino Festival is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, SOVAH Health, Basset Furniture Industries, The Helen S. & Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust, the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, and long-time museum supporter Didi Pancake.

For more information about Dino Festival and other museum offerings, visit www.vmnh.net.

Raffle

from page 1



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chatham-based Johnson Landscaping was selected to complete the project, which was intended to both protect and beautify the area around what is becoming known as Military Square.

around what BHC Director Fran Snead said she has begun to call Military Square. The grass surrounding the new square was turned into a mulched flower bed and, of course, black metal poles were placed around the space to protect the space from potential vehicular damage.

“He did a tremendous job,” Lewis said.
Snead estimated the project cost \$25,000, some of which was covered by donations solicited via a mailing last year. Organizers hope the remainder will be covered by raffle proceeds.
Since its dedication, and even before the new hardscaping was in place, community response to the monument has been positive.

To create the monument, a committee was formed, consisting of several veterans as well as BHC board members and volunteers. It was chaired by 22-year retired Army veteran David Kipfinger, who served in both Vietnam and Korea and is currently Commander of American Legion Post 42. For 18-months, they worked to find names of people with ties to the area who served in-country during the Vietnam War. The day the monument was dedicated, more than 700 people attended the ceremony.

Betty Turner said that the center has focused much of its current memorial efforts on Vietnam veterans in particular because “most people in this area feel that Vietnam veterans were given a raw deal and they were treated very poorly when they came back home. It really wasn't fair for them to be treated like that. We felt like this was a nice way to honor them and their families,” who, she

noted, also sacrificed a great deal while their loved ones were serving overseas.
Lewis agreed with his wife, saying that, for many veterans, “when they walked off the airplane or ship and set foot back on American soil, many were spit on or ridiculed as being kid killers. This is a reflection of what the country and the people really feel in terms of supporting their efforts.”
Snead said there are 345 names on the monument, all with ties to Martinsville and Henry County. Names of 26 who were killed in action during the conflict are listed at the top.

Lewis Turner pointed out that this monument honors not just those who lost their lives, but those who were fortunate enough to return home. “The Vietnam veterans' wall in Washington, D.C. has been extremely well-received throughout the whole world, but all of those people, unfortunately, are deceased. This monument honors not only those who were killed, but all the others who lived through it and made it home. This gives them credit for serving in the country and lets the citizens of Martinsville and Henry County show their appreciation for their service in Vietnam.”

“What it boils down to is the Vietnam wall in D.C. is honoring those who gave their life and with this (monument), the primary target is honoring those who went to Vietnam and the 26 who lost their lives,” Kipfinger said.

Betty Turner said the response to the monument thus far has been excellent. “Even with the number of people who came to the dedication, people still stop by

to see it. I think it's a really good thing we've done for our area.”
“People still come to see it,” Lewis Turner concurred. “That's something that I think the Center and the committee should be very proud of, how well that (military) square has been accepted as a reminder” of those who served.

“It means a lot that people from throughout the state (and even outside of Virginia) who come to see it are very taken with it,” Kipfinger said.
And the work is not over yet.

“Our future plan is to do a Vietnam veteran bench out there,” Snead said. “If anyone served in Vietnam (she later specified in-country, not just during the Vietnam era) and would like to have their name added, we ask that they bring their DD 214 (discharge form) to the Center and fill out some contact information. Our veteran family, like Mr. Kipfinger, will look over the paperwork to make sure that they qualify.”

“The Bassett Historical Center is a facility that specializes in genealogy, family history, and local history, but any time that we can do something for the military and helping out our veterans, that's one of the aspects (of our work) that I think we're most proud of,” Snead said.

Snead said the center purchased \$8,000 in merchandise from Rural King in Martinsville. Items include a swimming pool valued at \$599, a 3-burner gas grill for \$299.99, and a number of guns, including a Henry 45-70 rifle valued at \$949.97. There are 1,000 raffle tickets in total. The cost of each is \$20. If all of the tickets are sold, Snead said, the

center would net \$12,000 (after covering the cost of the prizes) “which would put us where we need to be” to cover the entire cost of the project.

“If we sell all the tickets,” Lewis interjected. The last day to purchase raffle tickets is Friday, July 29 at 2 p.m. The raffle begins Aug. 1 and ends Aug. 30, with a different prize being awarded each day of the month.

“One ticket gives you 30 chances at winning one of the items in the raffle,” Lewis said. “If you buy a book, which is 5 tickets, you have 150 chances of winning,” essentially 5 chances per day.

Winners will be determined nightly by the Virginia Lottery Pick 3 drawing. As there is a chance the same number could be selected more than once during the month, winners will not have to turn in their tickets upon claiming their prize, but rather can hold onto them in hopes of winning again.

Raffle winners will receive a certificate from the center which they will take to Rural King to claim their prize. Snead said winners are not required to claim the prize won if it is not something they want. Rather, they can select other items up to their particular prize's value.

BHC board members and other volunteers have tickets to sell. Tickets also may be purchased by visiting or calling the center at (276) 629-9191 or calling Kipfinger at (276) 806-6186.

For more information on the raffle and other events at the Bassett Historical Center, follow Bassett Historical Center on Facebook.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The work, which took place over the course of a week and was completed last Friday, cost an estimated \$25,000, some of which was covered by earlier donations. The goal of the raffle is to raise the additional \$12,000 needed to recoup the rest of the expenditure.



The monument itself contains 345 names of veterans with ties to Martinsville and Henry County, including names of 26 who died in service to their country. The center is also planning a Vietnam memorial bench once it has identified 100 more locals who served in Vietnam during the war.

Attitudes

from page 1

our mentors to talk to new teachers, so we're going to continue to explore why that difference might have taken place this particular year.”

Yet another decline occurred this year when staff were asked if meeting the needs of students is one of the division's top priorities. Last year, 98 percent of staff who responded to that question responded positively. This year, that number dropped to only 87 percent, marking an 11 percent decline after three successive years of increasingly positive responses.

“Division office administrators have high expectations for all staff” also received a slightly decreased percent positive response among school staffers this year, dropping from 97 to 93 percent. Only 87 percent of the staff who responded felt that the division office provides clear direction and expectations to employees, down from last year's 96 percent.

Of those staff who responded, 81 percent felt that professional learning offered by the division helped them be effective in their jobs, down from 96 percent last school year and on par with the responses from the 2018-2019 academic year. Eighty percent of staff respondents felt their school was well-maintained, down from 97 percent last year.

A whopping 99 percent of staff who responded to the survey said they were aware of the safety and security procedures at their workplace, a number which has remained consistent over the last four academic years. Hatchett noted that staff being aware of safety procedures “is one of the questions that is very important to us. We talk very seriously with our staff about public and private ways that we want to keep them and our students and anyone else who visits our buildings every single day as safe as we possibly can, so our team is very proud to see that remain consistent.”
Of those who responded, 90 percent of school staff said they

felt safe at their workplace, a slight drop from last year's 95 percent.

Of the students who responded to the survey, only 69 percent agreed that they felt safe at school, a decline from last year's 79 percent. The 2018-2019 school year had the highest positive response rate to the safety issue of the four years of data presented, with 92 percent of student respondents saying they felt safe in their school. Of the families who responded this year, 84 percent agreed that the school provides a safe place for their children, down from 92 percent over last year.

Hatchett said, “it is important to note that staff members and students view safety differently.” Most adults, she noted, look at materials and procedures related to safety. “It's important to note that our students don't always know about every single one of those (procedures) because we like to make sure that their privacy is protected.”

Further, she said, “safe at school for a student may be related to things other than physical safety, so we take that into account when we consider their answer.”

Regarding the lower positive response rate from families, Hatchett said that some families have continued to express concerns related to the pandemic, which she suggested could factor into their feelings about overall school safety.

Overall, 87 percent of school staff who responded to the survey said they would feel comfortable referring a good friend to work for the school division, down from 97 percent last year. And 92 percent of staff said they were proud to work for the school division, a slight drop from the 97 percent who felt that way in the past two school years.

Students were overall more satisfied with their school experience, responding with higher positivity rates than staff but still reflecting declines in satisfaction

over previous years. Hatchett noted that not all students have the opportunity to respond to the survey each year. Rather, it is distributed to students in grades 5, 8, and 12.

Of those students who responded to this year's survey, 83 percent said they felt their classes were preparing them to do well in the next grade or after graduation while 65 percent of student respondents said they felt their classes were teaching them skills they needed to be successful in life outside of school. That figure was up slightly from 2020-2021, in which only 63 percent of students responded positively to the question, itself a steep decrease from the 84 percent of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The past four years has seen a continuous decline in the number of students who feel their teachers care about how they are doing. In the 2018-2019 school year, 91 percent of students felt their teachers cared. This year, only 81 percent responded positively to that question.

Fifty-five percent of students who responded said that they were satisfied with their experience at school this year. Last year, only 46 percent of students responded positively to that statement, though both numbers are still a sharp decline from the 2019-2020 school year's 72 percent. “There's been a lot of change and a lot of re-learning, re-acclimation that has had to occur,” Hatchett noted of the last school year.

Of the families who responded to the survey, 86 percent agreed that the school provides the necessary support their child needs, only a 2 percent decrease from last year's 88 percent. However, only 71 percent said they were satisfied with the opportunities available for them to be involved in their child's education. Though that number was up from last year's 69 percent, both are significantly less than the 82 percent positive response rate garnered in the

2019-2020 school year. Asked if they felt well-informed about school and division-wide learning opportunities, 83 percent of families responded positively, up from 82 percent last year and near the four-year high of 88 percent in the 2019-2020 year.

Eighty-seven percent of families felt the schools were teaching their children what they needed to know to be successful, keeping steady the responses to that question over the last four years.

Hatchett told the board that the survey began a decade ago and that, each year, the division's strategic planning teams work collaboratively to look at the questions related to their particular area of focus to see if any changes or updates to the wording need to be made.

She said that, previously, staff, families, and students had been offered a “neutral” option for each question, but that is being phased out as “we felt like we weren't getting true data.” The option has already been removed from surveys for staff and families and will likely not appear on student surveys next year, she said. “We want to know, do you agree or disagree” with the questions being asked. Neutral responses, she noted, are not factored into the percent positive responses.

For example, Hatchett pointed out that, this year, there was a 20 percent neutral response among students regarding whether or not they felt their classes were teaching them they needed to be successful outside of school. If that number was added to the positive responses, they would reach an 85 percent satisfaction rate, rather than the recorded 65 percent.

To view the complete survey responses, visit www.henry.k12.va.us. The link to the survey is included in the online agenda for the July 14 board meeting, found under the School Board tab.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from track coach Kevin Underwood, who at a previous meeting told the board that the conditions at the Bassett High School track is causing injuries to athletes. Last Thursday, he told the board that he would be willing to relinquish one of his additional pay stipends to help cover the cost of a new track.

*Heard from Director of Human Resources Christy Landon about proposed revisions to school board policies. The policies will be presented to the board for approval at its Aug. 4 meeting.

*Approved an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to ABH Staffing (Ameristaff), ABM, and Abacus Staffing for temporary staffing or direct hire staffing fees to fill positions the division is otherwise unable to fill.

*Awarded a contract in the amount of \$240,750 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) to Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates for professional A&E services for new HVAC equipment at Laurel Park Middle School.

*Approved the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget, with changes to reflect a decrease in expected state funding. The board initially approved a total budget request in the amount of \$102,422,358, which also was approved by the Board of Supervisors. On June 24, the division learned state funding would be decreased by \$1,204,561 from the original introduced state budget.

Dr. David Scott, assistant superintendent for operations and administrative services, told the board that the division's budget was amended to decrease the facilities category by \$773,914 and the instruction category by \$430,647 to reconcile the budget with the decreased funding from the state. That brings the total budget request for the fiscal year to \$101,217,797, including \$18,712,619 in local funding.

NRCS taps Berry for Virginia Outreach Position

Telicia Berry was a student at the University of Delaware when the world of agriculture reached out to her. Now, she'll be returning the favor in a newly-created position designed to strengthen ties with partners and producers.

"My major was Wildlife Conservation and I had kind of a hazy goal of

being a wildlife biologist," Berry recalled. "I have no farmers in my family, but agriculture and growing things gradually started looming larger in what I wanted to do. There was a real lure to it. By the time I was out of school, I had a new direction."

That direction ultimately led Berry to a five-year tenure in NRCS'

Hanover Court House field office followed by two more years as a district conservationist in Amelia. The experience she gained working with farmers, landowners, employees and partners will serve her well in this new role as she seeks to build upon existing relationships while forming new ones.

Berry will serve as the

state's primary point of contact for individuals and groups seeking information on NRCS programs and services as well as those interested in new partnership opportunities. She will work directly with our 41 field offices to coordinate agency support for outreach and education programs as well as provide oversight for new equity partnership agreements designed to break down barriers to participation in Farm Bill programs.

Berry, who also holds a master's in Environmental Sustainability from Wilmington University, hopes to play a vital role in extending services to more Virginia producers. She will work to connect historically underserved growers to available technical and financial assistance to not only help the NRCS team get more con-

servation on the ground but also make a lasting impact on natural resource protection in the commonwealth.

"In the field, I quickly learned that many farmers out there still don't know who we are or exactly what we do," she said. "I'm determined to change that. We're here to serve everyone and people need to know that, too."

Toward that end, Berry's initial priorities will include expanding NRCS involvement with historically underserved producers, Virginia's tribal communities and in all phases of urban agriculture, the fastest-growing sector of American food production.

"Partnerships and collaboration are key to our success in addressing the state's top stewardship challenges," said Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez,

Virginia's state conservationist. "We need more boots on the ground to help protect our vital soil and water resources, combat climate change and make fresh, healthy foods more accessible to everyone. Telicia will be a key player in those efforts."

Individuals and groups seeking to engage more directly with NRCS to protect soil and water resources, prime farm and wetlands and fragile ecosystems can contact Berry at 804-287-1517 or by e-mail at telicia.berry@usda.gov.

"I'm ready to meet and talk with people to spread the word," Berry said. "My phone was pretty quiet last week, but I know that won't last. Our agency has great programs and a great message about conservation. I'm looking forward to helping people learn more about us."

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PHOTO BY JOHN MARKON, NRCS
Former Amelia District Conservationist Telicia Berry is taking on a new role as the first outreach coordinator for Virginia NRCS.

Basketball from page 1

basketball skills: dribbling, passing, shooting, playing offense and defense. I also try to teach life skills like discipline, how to be a good teammate, be positive, be kind to people, keep your body and mind fit. Kids, as they play athletics, they can use those skills as they develop" and grow into

adulthood. "I think sports is a good vehicle for young kids to stay off the street, to keep busy," Jarrett said. "God tells us to take care of our body, our mind, and our spirit and you can do that playing sports."

Sports also provides fundamental lessons in positivity, sacrifice, communication, respect, and other such skills Jarrett said he believes young people will need as they get older.

To that end, Jarrett said that all those who participate in this year's clinic will have several take-homes as a reminder of the lessons learned. One such take-home includes phrases like "root for your teammates to succeed," "have fun, enjoy practice time, the game, and your teammates," "be enthusiastic about everything that you do," and "work hard at practice, school, friendship, body, and spirit."

"Hopefully, they can take it with them and long after the clinic's over," and those lessons will remain, Jarrett said.

This year, to help local youth learn or hone their basketball and life skills, Jarrett gathered an all-star lineup of coaches to assist with the clinic.

"George Bell is the marquee coach," Bell said. The former Harlem Globetrotter was once recognized by Guinness World Records as the tallest man in the U.S. and has been friends with Jarrett for 50 years.

The other two coaches, Bill Adkins and Samantha Lester-Mahoney, have more local ties.

In a promotional flyer shared by Jarrett, Adkins is described as a former basketball player at Carver High School and Averett College who has been an assistant basketball coach at Carlisle School for 15 years.

Lester-Mahoney was a basketball player at the University of Virginia's College at Wise "and was

a star basketball player in high school," Jarrett said. "Samantha not only is an outstanding athlete but a great person who loves being around young people ... She's just a heck of a coach and I'm so glad to add her" to the coaching team.

The clinic will be held at the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA. Jarrett's first two clinics were conducted at the Bassett Community Center but, once it closed (Jarrett serves on a committee to reopen the facility), he moved the operation to the YMCA, which he said has been very accommodating.

Costs for the clinic are kept low—just \$20 for one day and \$30 for both days. "I'm not making any money on this," Jarrett said. "I could charge \$100 or more at (his clinics in) Virginia Beach, but I want this to be open to all kids," regardless of their economic status.

He said regardless of how many children attend, each will receive personal attention.

"I don't care if there are 50 kids, it doesn't matter. Each kid is an individual and you need to make sure you work with each one and make sure, when they walk away (at the end of the event), that they had the best teaching possible. It's all about the kids."

The fourth annual Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic will be held at the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA (3 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) on Monday, July 25 and Tuesday, July 26 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. each day. The clinic is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 16 years old. Registration will take place at the door each day beginning at 9 a.m. The cost is \$20 per day or \$30 for both days, payable by cash or check only. For more information, contact Jarrett at (757) 237-5644 or mcjarrett4833@gmail.com.

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July 30, 2022
 Main Street Stuart, VA

3pm - 9pm
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 Stuart, VA 24171

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