

County board mulls idea of adding a student member

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

At the monthly Henry County School Board, Ben Gravely raised the idea of adding a student member to the board.

"I'd just like to get that on the record to get some thoughts on what you guys think in terms of starting a student board member," said Gravely, of the Iriswood District.

The idea was met with agreement and nods from many of the other board members.

Reed Creek District board member Teddy Martin was especially interested in the idea. Having been a speaker for student board members from all over Virginia in the past, "I was fascinated," he said.

"Also, the diversity in them from districts of a thousand students to Fairfax's representatives, and all the students they represent. It's so impressive when you see our students from across the Commonwealth and what they know and understand and I think it's more than people stop and think," Martin said.



The Henry County School Board discussed the addition of a student board member during its Sept. 1 meeting.

"We're talking about developing future leaders. That's what we're all about," Gravely said.

Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said administrative staff "will look into the student board member and the regulations and we'll come back and present something next month at the meeting about what we discussed."

The Sept. 1 meeting also marked the first meet-

ing of interim Ridgeway District member Sidney McClure. "I just want to take the opportunity to say thank you for this opportunity on the board. It's much appreciated and I look forward to my serving and working with all of you guys," he said.

In other matters, the board:

See **County Board**, page 2



Tim Hall plans to help the Uptown Partnership during his tenure as the agency's interim executive director.

Hall to help Uptown advance as the search for permanent director continues

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Although he is serving as the interim executive director, Tim Hall said his goal is to move the Uptown Partnership forward and help when a new director is hired.

"What I want to do is keep moving what's already in the pipeline and make sure that nothing falls through the cracks," Hall said. "I'm more than willing to be the bridge to whatever's next for the organization."

Hall, who retired as Henry County Administrator and General Manager of the PSA in July, was tapped to guide the organization as it searches for a permanent leader after Kathy Deacon stepped down in August.

Beverly Lyle, treasurer and a member of Uptown Partnership's executive committee, said the organization was thankful for Deacon's efforts.

"Kathy has been an amazing executive director. She has helped to continue the work that we've started as an organization," she said. "Kathy helped us, together, to do the Community Visioning series that included input from a broad range of the community of Martinsville."

Deacon worked closely with the Department of Housing and Community Development and sparked interest and engagement around Uptown businesses.

Hall was selected

See **Hall, Interim Executive Director**, page 3

Annual scholarship ride to continue

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

The Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Bike/Car Ride will continue with a new organizer at the helm.

The ride, which funds a scholarship for Bassett High School students in Jennifer Short's memory, will be organized by Ruth Ann Shields, with the Fraternal Order of Eagles handling much of the financial side.

Ray Reynolds, who has organized the event for 20 years, announced before this year's ride that he intended to step down due to health issues. He organized the event after the still unsolved murders of his neighbors, Michael and Mary Short, and their 9-year-old daughter Jennifer. The ride acts as a memorial of their lives and a way to raise awareness about the case, as well as raise funds for the Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship.

Shields, a member of the Eagles Club, didn't want to see the ride end.

"This was going to be his (Reynolds) last year doing it due to his health and everything going on, and I know it goes towards a good cause. It helps the children in our local area with schooling. I thought it was a really good cause and something that needed to be kept going," Shields said.



BY RAY REYNOLDS, RAYZOR'S EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Ruth Ann Shields will begin organizing the annual Jennifer Short Memorial Scholarship Bike/Car Ride. She is pictured here participating in the 2022 ride with her fiancé.

Shields and the Eagles Club are already looking at options to raise more funds for the scholarship and to grow the event. "We've got some ideas that we're working on right now. We're going to do a little bit of a longer ride. We've got some ideas going on," she said, adding new organizers also are explor-

See **Annual Scholarship Ride**, page 2

Early voting opens soon in city and county

Early in person voting begins in both the city and the county on Friday, Sept. 23 and ends Saturday, Nov. 5.

To cast an early ballot, you must be a registered voter and visit your respective early voting location.

In Martinsville, the Registrar's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 55 West Church Street, Office 122, Martinsville.

In the county, ballots may be cast at the Henry County Registrar's Office, 3300 Kings Mountain Road. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Two Saturday voting opportunities will be offered on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5,

from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voters also may request a mail ballot by Friday, Oct. 28 by filling out the application online or visiting the local Registrar's Office. Drop boxes will be available.

In the city, residents may bring completed mail ballots to the Registrar's Office or put them in the drop box outside of the office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office will also be open Oct. 29 and Nov. 5. There will also be drop boxes at regular polling locations on Election Day, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Drop boxes in the county will be at the Henry County Registrar's Office during the same times, including the Saturday dates, as

well as Monday, Nov. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop boxes will also be available at the voter's regular polling location on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. election is Monday, Oct. 17. Voters may fill out registration forms at their Registrar's Office. Identification is not required to register, but is required to vote.

Registrars in both localities want to make voting as easy as possible.

"We'll be glad to help anybody if they need help or have questions. They can always stop by our office or check out our website," Henry County Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn said.

Henry County Fair returns for its second year

The Henry County Fair is set to take place at the Martinsville Speedway from Wednesday, Sept. 21 to Saturday, Sept. 24.

Hosted by Henry County Parks and Recreation, the fair includes rides, games, and food provided by Cole Rides.

Roger Adams, director of the county's Parks and Recreation Department, said that while last year's fair was successful, it was a bit of a learning experience. This year, though, he is excited, both for the lessons of the past as well as this year's event.

"Last year, being the first year, of course everything was brand new. We had to

figure out everything to do for the fair, but this year was a lot easier," he said.

Many of the fan favorites from last year will return, including the Rock n Circus performance.

"We have the Rock n Circus show back for a performance. That was a fan favorite last year, everybody just loved it. He puts on a high energy show," Adams said.

Animal exhibits, complete with a petting zoo, also will return. However, there are many things new and different about this year's fair.

"The big difference is our concerts we're having each

See **Henry County Fair**, page 8



The second annual Henry County Fair will be held at the Martinsville Speedway from Sept. 21 to Sept. 24. Last year's animal exhibits included a camel, which will be returning this year.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, September 10

The Southside Survivor Response Center will celebrate its second annual Community Without Limits at Jack Dalton Park in Collinsville from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Attendees at this free event will enjoy free lunch, giveaways, a DJ, games, face painting, a dance contest, and more! For more information, call (276) 734-0040.

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, will host an advanced canning class, Soups and Such, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA will host its annual fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fido's Finds, 119 East Main Street, Martinsville. Items will be sold at low prices and proceeds will support the SPCA. For more information, call (276) 656-1101.

Monday, September 12

The Martinsville City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the City Municipal building.

Tuesday, September 13

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host Book BINGO at the Bassett Branch, 3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited, so register by calling (276) 629-2426.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host the Lego Club at the Main Martinsville Branch, 310 E. Church Street, Martinsville from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The club will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Space is limited and registration is required. Registration opens Sept. 1. To register, call (276) 403-5430.

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the City Municipal building.

Saturday, September 17

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, is hosting the MHC is for Book Lovers Book-fest, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Attendees will enjoy vendors, food trucks, and meet and greets with attending authors. Admission is free.

Saturday, September 24

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, will host an advanced canning class, Soups and Such, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

The Col. George Waller Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will host their fall muster at 9 a.m. at Historic Martinsville-Henry County Courthouse, 1 E. Main Street, Martinsville. Chapter member and Virginia SAR Chancellor Eric Monday will be the program presenter. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Sunday, September 25

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, will host a Barn Quilt class from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Supplies are provided. Pricing is based on size: 12" by 36" exterior \$75, 24"x24" exterior \$65, 36"x36" exterior \$85. Pre-registration is required by Monday, September 16. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

Tuesday, September 27

The Bassett Historical Center will host a discussion with Pittsylvania County author William Guerrant at 10 a.m. Guerrant will discuss his first novel, "Jim Wrenn." The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will meet at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Henry County Administration Building.

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the City Municipal building.

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 second and fourth Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts their new book club, "Books and Brews," at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. Talk about the month's books while sipping on a good beer. The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The book for October is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.

Annual Scholarship Ride from page 1

ing the idea of adding more fundraising events on ride day, including an auction. The Eagles Club will be helping to raise money for the memorial ride and handle the finances, and as a result, also discussed hosting related fundraisers such as a bake sale. "This way, come time for the ride, that's more money that we'll have towards that time that we can say, 'This is something that we've worked towards throughout the year to go towards this,'" Shields said.

Reynolds said that this changing of the guard will provide opportunities for more involvement, and he is excited at the future prospects. "I think it'll be even bigger," he said. "You've got so many people involved. Any time you've got bikers that take over a bike ride, you're going to get more participation." Reynolds said he offered his support to the new organizers, and added that he is happy to help any way that he can.

Bassett purchases Noa Home Inc.

Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (NASDAQ: BSET) announced that it has acquired the capital stock of Noa Home Inc. ("Noa"), a mid-priced e-commerce furniture retailer headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

Noa has operations in Canada, Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom and had net revenues of approximately C\$19.1 million for its most recent fiscal year, according to a release about the acquisition. The purchase price included cash payments of C\$2.0 million paid to the co-founders of Noa and approximately C\$5.7 million for the repayment of existing debt. The Noa co-founders will also have the opportunity to receive additional annual cash payments of

C\$1.33 million per year for the following three fiscal years based on established increases in net revenues and achieving certain internal EBITDA goals.

"We are excited to add the digital commerce ability and the entrepreneurial spirit of the Noa Home management team to the Bassett portfolio," commented Rob Spilman, Bassett Chairman and CEO. "In less than six years, with a very lean staffing model, the Noa team has built an operational blueprint that can grow significantly beyond the C\$19.1 million of revenue that they generated in their fiscal year ended February 28, 2022. The acquisition will provide Bassett with a greater online presence and will allow us to

attract more digitally native consumers."

Noa was founded in 2016 in Montreal by Jeremy Kopek and Jean-Claude Renaud. Kopek served as Vice President at Canadian furniture retailer Structube from 2005 to 2015, while Renaud founded Quebec based e-commerce site Vie Urbaine in 2010, which was later acquired in 2017. Kopek commented, "Becoming part of Bassett is a great pathway to pursue our original vision of growing Noa into a significant player in the e-commerce furniture world. Access to greater resources will immediately allow us to improve our in-stock position and to expand our Canadian distribution beyond our original eastern Canada footprint."

County Board from page 1

- * Proclaimed Sept. 19 - Sept. 22 as Adult Education and Family Literacy week in the school system.
- * Recognized the national celebration of Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage month.
- * Approved the agendas for all August meetings, including the interim position interviews and public

- hearing.
- * Paid the bills.
- * Approved a contract for painting services to Dale Harrison Painting from Rocky Mount, Virginia, Dynamik Construction from Richmond, Virginia, MGM Painting from Martinsville, Virginia, and

Oakley Painting from Martinsville, Virginia. The contract agreement is not to exceed \$100,000 annually without permission from the board.

* Approved paying half of the \$74,550 required for the Comprehensive Classification and Compensation Study and related services to Evergreen Solutions. This study will serve as a measure of the recruitment, policies, pay, and more of Henry County Public Schools, along with the Henry County Sheriff's Office, Henry County PSA, and the County of Henry. The other half of the cost will be borne by Henry County.

* Watched a video of the Superintendent's reports and highlights of the month, including a slideshow of most of the Kindergarteners in the county, the "Class of 2035."

* Change the time of the Nov. 3 meeting from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The board discussed scheduling more meetings for 6 p.m. to allow more community members to attend and facilitate the participation of a possible future student board member.

CORRECTION

Martinsville Vice-Mayor Jennifer Bowles is 32 years old. Her age was listed incorrectly in the previous edition of the Henry County Enterprise.

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OPINION

On Libraries

I grew up in libraries. When I was a little kid, before I could even read, my mom would take me to the Bassett library all the time. I would check out my favorite books over and over again (my apologies to anyone who wasn't able to check out Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" for the entirety of 1988, that was all me).

When I was in elementary school, my mom started working for the Blue Ridge Regional Library system. Over the next several years, she worked at every single branch at some point. After school each day, I'd spend my afternoon at the library. I would get my homework knocked out and then hang around the stacks, looking at books and pestering the staff.

I met some awesome people at the library. At the Ridgeway branch, I met Shawn, who was working there for the summer in between semesters at Virginia Tech. As a college student who was willing to give a fifth grader the time of day, Shawn was automatically the coolest person who had ever lived. He introduced me to Douglas Adams' "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" series, and he also taught me how to play the card game "Magic: The Gathering." That second gift probably didn't do a lot for my social standing as I was entering middle school, but it was still a remarkable kindness.

I remember speaking with Garry Clifton, now the manager of the Patrick County branch, about our shared love of Calvin and Hobbes, and I still remember when he reserved for me a Calvin and Hobbes book that I didn't even know existed (it was "Attack of

the Deranged Mutant Killer Monster Snow Goons," an all-time classic).

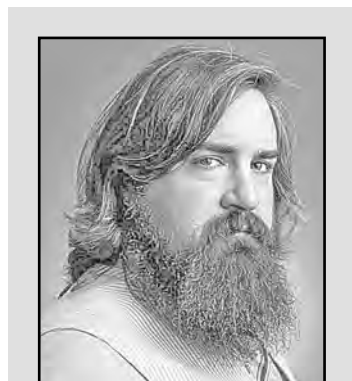
I remember discussing favorite Three Stooges shorts with Becky. I remember talking to Barry the reference librarian about sci-fi. I remember joking around with Rick Ward long before he became the director of the entire system. Frankly, if I discussed every person in the library system that I have fond memories of, this column would be too long to fit the page.

I also remember when the Martinsville Library got its very first public computer connected to the internet with a dial-up modem, probably around 1996. It was so popular that there was a sign-up sheet, and you could only use the computer for half an hour before giving it up to the next person. Given internet speeds at the time, that meant you had time to visit one website and download half a jpeg, but nonetheless, it blew my mind. A whole new world had been opened up to me. I feel fortunate to have experienced that amazing transitional period from pre-internet to post, a time when it seemed as though the internet had limitless potential and it was actually exciting to receive an email.

It's been observed that your local library is one of the last places in America where you can simply exist without the expectation of spending money. It's also true that the local library is one of our greatest free resources. It's not just about checking out books and DVDs; you can take literacy classes, or get help writing your resume, or simply have access to the internet, which has transformed from a novelty to a necessary expectation.

And I can say, speaking from first-hand experience, that the folks at your local library

believe in the importance of these things. They aren't working there to get rich. I've never



By Ben R. Williams

seen a Bentley parked in the employee lot.

And this leads us, unfortunately, to the reason I'm writing this column.

According to a news article from the Idaho Statesman published in late August, Kimber Glidden, director of Idaho's Boundary County Library, will be resigning from her position on Sept. 10.

In Boundary County, a group of "concerned citizens" are attempting to recall four out of the five members of the library's board after they approved an updated collections policy which stated that the library was going to choose books regardless of potential disapproval from special-interest groups and not place materials on "closed shelves" or label books with warnings.

This collections policy update seemed to be spurred by a handful of folks who wanted the library to ban books with LGBTQ themes, and the whole situation has spun wildly out of control from there.

A group calling itself Boundary County Library Board Recall, with a mission

of "protect(ing) children from explicit materials and grooming," has gone hard after Glidden and the other board members. The library has been hounded with Freedom of Information Act requests and veiled threats. Glidden has been told she'll burn in a lake of fire and has been baselessly accused of doing terrible things to children. Members of this group have begun showing up to library board meetings, where they stand at the back of the room with their arms crossed, quietly observing the proceedings.

And they show up armed with guns.

Glidden seems like a good person. The only reason she's waiting until Sept. 10 to resign is because she wants to help finalize the library's annual budget first so she doesn't leave the district in the lurch. Even with the looming threat of potential death and eternal damnation, she cares about the library.

The catalyst for this madness seems to be a list of books that's been circulating on the internet. A number of extremist groups are using this list to bully their local libraries. It's about ten pages long, and it has a key to let you know the reason the book shouldn't be at the library. The reasons include "anti-police," "bisexual," "drugs," "gay," "gender identity or fluid," "occult," "racism," "rape," "sex," and "trans."

You know the craziest thing about this list?

Not a single one of the books on it can be found at the Boundary County Library.

You read that right. These armed protestors are showing up not because they want specific books removed from the shelves, but to fight against the possibility that even one of the books may be added to the

shelves at some indeterminate point in the future.

These people have lost their minds.

Here's the thing: libraries buy books that represent all sides of an issue. The same shelf that holds Obama's "Dreams From My Father" also holds Ann Coulter's "In Trump We Trust." Maybe I think that Ann Coulter is a poison on America and should have stuck to her first job accosting Sigourney Weaver aboard the Nostromo. Nonetheless, I would never say that her book doesn't belong on the shelf at the library.

And maybe I want to go to the library and check out a book about a trans wizard who does drugs and hates the police. If such a book exists, and I sincerely hope it does, I should have the right to check it out. Should a small child read it? Probably not. Fortunately, there's a simple solution to that problem: it's called "being an even slightly engaged parent."

In his book "The Man Who Sold the Moon," Robert Heinlein said that the principle of censorship is wrong: "It's like demanding that grown men live on skim milk because the baby can't have steak." If these groups are so concerned about what their children are reading, they should try parenting, not showing up to board meetings with a 9mm.

Over the long course of human history, there have been numerous groups that have banned books, or burned books, or sought to limit the information that the public has access to. No matter what names they call themselves, they're all the same kind of people, and they all have one thing in common: when the dust settles and we look back on their actions, we have never once considered them to be the good guys.

My Family Reunion at the Bassett Historical Center

Jarred Marlowe
Contributing Writer

When I was growing up, neither side of my family spoke too much about our family history. Sure, there was the occasional story told and names were mentioned, but no real connections were made to past generations that would have been "before our time." I grew up knowing who my grandparents were, but not much beyond them. People would come up to me and say we were cousins, but I would have no idea how we were related (and this included some folks who I shared a last name with). Now I am not blaming my family or

holding them solely responsible for not passing down that knowledge; it was just that the topics never came up and as a youth, I never asked.

I recently made a personal resolution to learn more about my family history and connect the dots for names I had heard growing up. I started to build my family tree through Ancestry.com, but the details they gave on my family were very vague and rarely more than just a name and/or year of birth. I even tried to Google their names to see if anything would come up, but to no avail. So while I started to learn the names of my great-grandparents, I knew absolutely nothing about who they were or what they did.

In an effort to gain more knowledge, I appealed to a national historical organization to gain some answers as to who my ancestors were. The head genealogist for this organization called me and after giving him all the information I had on my family for several generations, he said he would call back when he found out more about my family connections. After several weeks, the head genealogist called back and said he could not locate any information about my family on his national databases.

I shared with my frustrations with the lack of information I had with my friend Andy Doss. Andy is a local historian and genealogist, and he suggested that I continue my research at the Bassett Historical Center (BHC). Being that the center is in Bassett and most of my family (including myself) is from Pittsylvania County, I was a bit skeptical as to how much they would have about my family. I finally decided to go check it out though, and I was absolutely blown away with the amount of information that is stored within the walls of that place. After just an hour and a half of researching, I was able to find out more about my family from the books and compiled records they had than myself and others had been able to find out through months of surfing the web. Who knew that the brick building on the corner that I had driven by countless times held the key to my family's past?

I have since visited several more times and every time I go, I leave with tons of answers and tons more new questions which prompts me to keep going back. Andy said that research there is like pulling a thread: you pull one thread and it leads to another and another. The remarkable part about the Bassett Historical Center though, apart from its wonderful staff and volunteers, is that almost all of the information that people use to research is in a book or on paper. They do have com-



Jarred Marlowe pulls a book off of the shelf at the Bassett Historical Center.

puters for some technological aspects of research, but the majority of the research that people like myself do is located in their troves of books and notebooks that people have donated and compiled over the years. These are books that cannot be found anywhere else but the BHC, Amazon included. There's just something special about the nostalgic feeling that comes with pulling a book off the shelf and thumbing through it to find what you need that typing away on a computer keyboard can never bring. And the moment when you're skimming a page and come across the thing you're looking for is pure bliss. You can have as many moments like that that you desire at the Bassett Historical Center.

So, whether you're like me and are just curious about your family roots or you have a curiosity about any aspect of local history, the folks down at the BHC can point you in the right direction and show you the books that have the answers you need. In a fast-paced world where seemingly all of the information we will ever need is at our fingertips, some questions we have can't be answered by a Google search or looking on Ancestry.com. For those times, there's the Bassett Historical Center; a place that's still embracing the past and thriving in it.

(Jarred Marlowe is the president of the Col. George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and on the board of directors for the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society.)

NC man died in Collinsville crash

The Virginia State Police are continuing an investigation of a single vehicle crash, which resulted in a pedestrian fatality, that occurred Sept 3 at 8:53 p.m. on Virginia Avenue, one tenth of a mile south of Wheeler Avenue in Henry County.

A 2012 Dodge Charger was traveling north on Virginia Avenue, when the vehicle struck a pedestrian crossing Virginia Avenue from the left side of the road-

way.

The pedestrian was identified as Vincent Nicholas Sciarabba, 85, of Warrenton, N.C. Sciarabba died at the scene.

The driver and vehicle allegedly involved in the incident were not identified, but remained at the scene during the initial investigation, according to a release from the state police.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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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

P&HCC receives over \$80,000 to improve student success

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation has received two new financial awards that aim to help students be more successful in their educational pursuits.

The first comes from the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) in the amount of \$5,100 to provide emergency assistance grants so students can overcome financial hardships and excel in college. Funds may support any cost-of-attendance expenses, including transportation, childcare, technology, and basic needs in addition to tuition, fees, books, and required materials/supplies.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation will administer these grants and students in need of assistance should visit the Foundation office in Frith Hall for more information and to apply.

These funds must be expended by December 31, 2022.

P&HCC's second award comes in the form of the Gerald Baliles Annual Award for the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative (RVHI) from the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) in the amount of \$75,000.

The funds awarded under this agreement will be used to support the RVHI which seeks to close the educational attainment gap between the Rural Horseshoe region and the rest of Virginia by increasing secondary school completion rates, increasing postsecondary enrollment rates, and increasing postsecondary credential/degree attainment rates. The RVHI is committed to serving underrepresented populations, including first generation college students, low skill and low wage populations, minorities, and ALICE® households.

(ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and represents the growing number of families who are unable to afford the basics

of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology. These workers often struggle to keep their own households from financial ruin, while keeping our local communities running.)

The RVHI funds must be expended by June 30, 2023.

“Both of these funding sources will provide our students and our community with a greater college experience and higher level of service,” said Tiffani Underwood, Director of Development / Executive Director of the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation. “It’s difficult to do well in the classroom when outside factors are causing you stress. These funds will help eliminate that for a lot of our students as well as help us make college accessible to a broader population.”

The P&HCC Foundation will fund at least 50% of the RVHI program costs under the award agreement.

New project in Bassett intends to honor Vietnam veterans

In 2018, a Vietnam Monument was installed and dedicated to Veterans with Martinsville-Henry County ties who served in Vietnam in country. A committee was formed in 2016 to determine criteria and guidelines for follow for this project. It was unanimously decided after much thought and consideration by the members of the committee which was made up of local Veterans, Bassett Historical Center staff and board members, DAR members, and several community members. It was determined that this specific project would highlight those Vietnam Veterans who served in Vietnam in country. This decision was in no way meant to diminish the service of any Veteran who served our country where they were asked.

After collecting names for more than a year, a monument was constructed honoring the 345 names turned in by the Veteran himself or by a loved one. Twenty-six of those listed on the monument were killed in action. This monument is an attempt to honor not just

those Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while serving in Vietnam, but to also honor those who returned home. It is a way that the community shows their appreciation for military service for our country while at the same time showing appreciation to the families whom they represent.

In 2022, with great support and help from the community, “military square” was born. This area located on the grounds of the Bassett Historical Center received a much needed upgrade and facelift, not only to help make the area more attractive but to also help keep it safe from vehicular damage. An upgrade to the landscape, new pavers, and barriers were added around the Vietnam Monument. A flagpole will be added at the back of the monument in honor and memory of all Veterans and the existing DMZ/Korean Conflict Bench will be moved to be a part of this “square.”

To complete this area, the Bassett Historical Center is embarking on yet another military project.

It was brought to our attention that

a number of Veterans missed the opportunity to have their names included on the Vietnam Monument for numerous reasons. To include and recognize those Veterans in our “military square” who missed the opportunity to be included on the monument, we would like to incorporate a Vietnam Bench with names of those Veterans (living or deceased) who are not on the monument. The same criteria for the monument will be applied to the bench. Veterans must have served in Vietnam in country and must have some ties to the Martinsville-Henry County area. To be included in this Vietnam Bench project, a copy of the Veteran's DD214 (discharge papers) is required.

If the Veteran has been seen at the VA Hospital in Salem, contact them for a copy of the Veteran's DD214.

If the Veteran is deceased and has a military marker, contact the funeral home that was in charge of the arrangements for a copy of the Veteran's DD214.

We at the Bassett Historical Center

cannot request a copy of a DD214 for you due to the privacy act. A family member must do this as these papers are not for public use.

We are prepared to collect names for this Vietnam Bench project for the next six months. We would like as many names as possible as we do not want to leave anyone out who would like to be included. However, once these names are collected, approved, and sent to the engravers, no more names will be accepted.

The Bassett Historical Center will be open Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. for the Bassett Heritage Festival. David Kipfinger, a Veteran and friend of the Center, will be on site to accept DD 214's for this project or to answer any questions about the Vietnam Bench that you may have.

The deadline for this project will be 1 March 2023.

If you have any questions or need further information, contact the Bassett Historical Center at (276) 629-9191 and ask for Fran or Anne.

Kids' Mental Health Still Strained from Pandemic

With a new school year beginning, Virginia parents are being urged to keep an eye on their children's mental health.

According to Mental Health America, 79,000 children in Virginia or 13%, have experienced a “severe major depressive episode” in the past year.

Dr. Asha Patton-Smith, a child psychiatrist with Kaiser Permanente, said there are many ways parents can help provide their children the support they will need. She described some of the signs parents should look out for, which might signal a mental-health concern.

“Some of the main things that come up are changes in sleep, changes in appetite, increased social isolation, increased irritability; challenges with patients not wanting to separate from their parents,” Patton-Smith outlined. “Social-emotional attachment issues.”

Other signs to watch for are panic or anxiety symptoms, and kids complaining of headaches or stomachaches. Given the new school year will more closely



resemble schooling pre-pandemic, Patton-Smith feels the return to normalcy might help children. She acknowledged returning to a structured environment is not always easy, but thinks the adjustment period should be easier this year compared to last.

Patton-Smith pointed out parents who take an active role in their child's life can help them maintain good mental health. She advised parents to talk with their children and encourage them to ask for help. Whether the help comes from talking with a mental health provider, a school counselor or school social worker, she feels parents need to be proactive, not reactive.

“As a parent, just be there for your child,” Patton-Smith advised. “Have that emotional support by establishing an open dialogue, making sure that you are modeling positive, balanced behavior. And I think that goes a long way for kids.”

She added helping children to understand and regulate their own emotions is one way parents can be guides for their child's mental health.

*Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection*

Additional projects receive awards through USDA program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced an additional \$21.9 million of funding is being awarded to 111 grant projects through the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program (MPIRG), bringing total funding to \$54.6 million. This year's awards will fund projects in 37 states. The funding will help strengthen and develop new market opportunities for meat and poultry processors throughout the United States. To further these efforts, AMS is also encouraging MPIRG awardees and eligible participants in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives to request assistance through the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA). Launched in March, MPPTA connects participants to a nationwide network of resources and expertise.

“The Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants will help meat and poultry processors make necessary facility improvements, expand their businesses, and strengthen the nation's food supply chain,” said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. “These grants are one part of USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives and will contribute to our efforts to transform our food system.”

“USDA continues to build capacity and increase economic opportunity for small and mid-sized meat and poultry producers across the country,” added Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt.

Examples of projects funded this round include: Homegrown LG OK, a small processing plant in Locust Grove, Okla., will use MPIRG funding to modernize, expand, and comply with Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) protocols. The funding will allow the plant to purchase new machines to increase weekly production in a rural and low access area.

The Fork Food Lab, a shared-use kitchen incubator in Portland, Maine, will utilize MPIRG funding to expand into a 42,000-sq-ft facility that meets the requirements for a Federal Grant of Inspection

(GOI). The project is helping Fork Food Lab procure specialized equipment, assist five processors obtain Federal GOIs for wholesale distribution, support startup operations, and provide ongoing training and technical assistance to processors positioned for wholesale.

The Wall Meat Processing plant in Wall, S.D, has been awarded MPIRG funding to purchase equipment to improve humane handling and enhance food safety measures and efficiencies. The project will help the plant seamlessly deliver service operations in protein manufacturing to their producers and customers under the Cooperative Interstate Shipping program (CIS). Participating in the CIS program will open the plant to larger markets and add another resource to the food supply chain.

Facility improvements and expansions funded through MPIRG will help processors obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection or qualify for a state's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program. Achieving a Federal Grant of Inspection or operating under a

Cooperative Interstate Shipment program allows meat and poultry processors to ship products across state lines, develop new markets, increase capacity, and better meet consumer and producer demand along the supply chain.

MPIRG recipients and other eligible participants, especially small and underserved stakeholders, in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives are encouraged to take advantage of the broad technical assistance offered through MPPTA. AMS has cooperative agreements with six organizations to form the MPPTA network, which has already provided valuable assistance to over 300 businesses and organizations across the U.S. and its territories since its launch earlier this year.

For more information about MPPTA and the organizations involved, and to initiate a request for assistance, visit AMS' MPPTA webpage. To view the list of this year's MPIRG awardees, visit the MPIRG award page. Additional information on MPIRG can be found on AMS' MPIRG webpage.



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OBITUARIES

Nathan Lawrence Henderson

Nathan Lawrence Henderson, age 37, died unexpectedly at home on August 31, 2022.

He was preceded in death by nephew, Jason Nicholas Williamson; stepfather, Norman "Bud" Lubke; stepmother, Linda Henderson; and paternal grandfather's, Neal Henderson and Willard "Papa" Hodges.

Nathan is survived by his parents, Larry Henderson and Jerry Jessup Lubke; his grandmother, Shirley Henderson Hodges; two young sons, Everett Henderson and Erik Henderson; brothers, David Jonathan Butner and Brian Ashley Butner; sister, Nicole Henderson McKenzie; and long-term girlfriend, Julie Ann Brevard.



Nathan was an incredibly gifted carpenter. He enjoyed outdoor adventuring and spent every chance he got camping, hiking, canoeing or just napping under a tree. Though, nothing made him happier than spending time with his beloved family. He and his sweet soul, caring heart and generous spirit will be deeply missed.

The funeral was held September 3 at Center United Methodist Church in Greensboro, N.C. Burial was at the Center United Methodist Church Cemetery.

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

Neville Broaddus Frith

Neville Broaddus Frith, 67, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Saturday, September 3, 2022. She was born November 16th, 1954, to Willey Richard Broaddus III and Neville Watson Broaddus, who both preceded her in death.

Neville is survived by her 3 children, Kathryn Neville Frith, Jacob Ewell Frith III, and Caroline Dance Frith; her 5 grand-children and step-grandchildren, Grace, Ethan, Will, Ellie, and Avery; 1 brother, Willey Richard Broaddus IV; and 1 sister, Susan Broaddus Hoff.

For over 25 years, Neville bravely battled Multiple Sclerosis. While the disease may have made it more difficult for her to enjoy many of her favorite activities over the years, it never dampened her loving nature and spirit. Neville loved reading, music, and great company, but above all else she loved her children.

The family would like to thank the many caregivers who helped her



throughout the years, and would like to give a special thank you to her friend, Doretha Jamison, who was there with her all the way to end to make her laugh and smile.

The funeral was held at First Baptist Church of Martinsville on Thursday, September 8, 2022, officiated by Reverend Dr. Libby

Grammer. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial can be made to the National MS Society by using the website below or by mail to 4200 Innslake Drive, Suite 301, Glen Allen, VA. 23060, or <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/campaign/Neville-Frith-Memorial-Fund>.

You may also make a donation to the charity of your choice in her name.

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

Audrey ODell Nester

Audrey ODell Nester, 77, of Walkertown, N.C., passed away Thursday, September 1, 2022 at her home. She was born in Henry County, VA to the late Lem Carter and Ruth Snow Carter. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Carolyn Gillette and brother, Robert Leonard Carter.

She is survived by her husband, James William Nester; daughter, Lori Scott Nowlin (Mitch); son, Kevin Odell; grandchildren, Demi Moore, Justin David Scott, and Kaleigh Scott Willard (David); six great-grandchildren, Hunter Willard, Ethan Willard, Westyn Willard, Corbin Willard, Lillian Scott and Ezra Scott; and sister, Marilyn



Hall (John).

Mrs. Nester was a past member of the Fieldale Methodist Church. She worked for the Henry County Sheriff's Office and retired as a Sergeant after 27 years of service. She enjoyed the time spent with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her beloved pets.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Chaplain Amanda Harris officiating.

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

Submit your
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and photos to
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Three among new appointees to Youngkin administration

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently announced additional key administration appointments, including:

*Richard W. Hall of Martinsville, Managing Director, Orion Capitol. Hall was appointed to the New College Institute's Board of Directors.

*Dr. Betty Jo Foster of Ringgold, Retired Professor, Danville Community College, was appointed to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, which also serves the City of Martinsville as well as Henry and Patrick counties.

*Dr. William D. Sroufe of Colonial Heights, Colonial Heights Public Schools Superintendent, was appointed to the Commission on School Construction and Modernization.

Sroufe is a former school superintendent in Patrick County.

"I am continually encouraged by the work this administration has done to create a best-in-class government for Virginians" said Youngkin. "I'm excited to welcome these new additions to our team and look forward to their future contributions."

Redd named President, CEO of Martinsville First Savings Bank

Martinsville First Savings Bank announced Simone Redd as President and CEO of the independent depositor-owned bank. Redd, a lifetime resident of Martinsville with more than 30 years of experience as a banking professional, will assume her new role immediately.

Redd takes over leadership of the bank from the longtime President and CEO Roger Hornsby, who recently retired after 33 years of service with Martinsville First.

"Simone knows first-hand how important mutual banking is for our customers and communities and the impact we can have on making an economic difference to our region," said Glenn C. Edwards, Martinsville First Board chairman. "With deep roots in the community and strong banking experience, Simone will lead Martinsville First into the future."

Redd represents Martinsville First throughout Martinsville and Henry County as well as the surrounding communities. She proudly demonstrates her community commitment and engagement by serving on the Board of Directors for local organizations

including the MARC workshop, and the New College Foundation. She has been an active leader in other local and regional organizations including United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Harvest Foundation, and Boys and Girls Club.

"Our rich legacy in this area makes us a true partner to the customers and businesses we serve," Redd said. "I am honored to continue that legacy by strengthening our current relationships and creating new opportunities to help our communities thrive."

Redd previously served in Branch Operations and Administration at Martinsville First. Before joining Martinsville First in 2017, she held the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Head of Retail Banking for other area banks. Redd holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Virginia Tech.

Martinsville First Savings Bank is an independent mutual bank based in Martinsville, Virginia with approximately \$40 million in assets. Martinsville First has provided banking products and services to Martinsville and Henry County and the surrounding communities since 1924. martinsvillefirst.com.

Virginia Banks, the VBA Education Foundation contribute \$130,000 in scholarships for community college students

Beginning this fall, the Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) Education Foundation and seven Virginia banks will sponsor the new Virginia Banking Fellows Program in partnership with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE). The mission of this new statewide program is to provide opportunities for deserving community college students to pursue their academic goals, strengthen their leadership skills, and learn more about the banking industry.

Thirteen students from ten Virginia community colleges have been designated as Virginia Banking Fellows and will each receive a \$7,000 scholarship to support tuition, books, fees and other expenses related to their education. The banking industry contributed an additional \$3,000 per Fellow to cover educational elements and the administrative fees of the Program, for a total of \$10,000 per Fellow and \$130,000 in all. The Virginia Banking Fellows will be a cohort within the larger VFCCE Fellows Program, which was established in 2011 to help promising second-year students at Virginia's community colleges.

Fellows participate in statewide leadership training and conferences, cultural opportunities and community service activities. Virginia Banking Fellows will also have the additional opportunity to participate in online banking industry training as well as a variety of banking industry networking and educational

events throughout the year.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the VBA Education Foundation has committed a total of \$60,000 to sponsor six Fellows from the following community colleges:

*Germanna Community College
*Laurel Ridge Community College
*Mountain Empire Community College
*Patrick & Henry Community College
*Rappahannock Community College

Seven Virginia banks have also committed a total of \$70,000 to sponsor a student from each of the following community colleges for the 2022-2023 Virginia Banking Fellows Program:

*Blue Ridge Community College - Blue Ridge Bank
*J. Sargent Reynolds Community College - Chesapeake Bank
*Laurel Ridge Community College - First Bank, Virginia
*Northern Virginia Community College - Atlantic Union Bank
*Northern Virginia Community College - The Bank of Clarke County Foundation
*Tidewater Community College - TowneBank
*Virginia Western Community College - American National Bank & Trust Co.

The Fellows program will launch September 15-16, at an orientation in Richmond, and run through May 2023.

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Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: **Magna Vista High School Career Coach, International Liaison/Athletic Coach, Office Support Specialist, CDL Driver, 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, NC-CER Plumbing, Nursing, and Welding and Assistant Coaches in Women's Basketball, Baseball, Men's Basketball, Wrestling, Women's Soccer, and Volleyball.** For details and appli-

cation 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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The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2022-2023. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.
Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://www.plow4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).
Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday October 7, 2022 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.
Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
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Employment scams continue, AARP finds

When it comes to the labor market, the supply of jobs is outpacing demand but that doesn't mean that employment scams have gone away. With many workers looking for a side hustle to help make ends meet, there are still enough potential victims to fuel these schemes.
Here's what you need to know to avoid employment scams. Beware of any job postings that offers

a large income with little to no training or experience. Business offers that are guaranteed to "pay off quickly" or "double your investment" are also highly suspicious. Lastly, avoid any job offer which requires you to pay in advance for certification, training or materials.
Many of these employment scams are advertised as "work from home," which is particularly dangerous

with so many people looking for this option. Before accepting any work from home position, research the company to ensure it is legitimate.
The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

Many Older VA Residents Struggle, Even as Government Benefits Go Unused



Many older, low-income adults in Virginia struggle to pay for medicine, food, and rent, and they may be unaware of the many programs available to help them.
The National Council on Aging has a free online tool at BenefitsCheckup.org, which screens people for 2,000 programs, and a national helpline they can also use.
Heather Fortune, director of support services and engagement with Senior Connections in Richmond, part of the Capitol Area Agency on Aging, said every year, billions of dollars in benefits go unclaimed by older adults.
"Most older adults are not applying for the benefits because they don't know that they qualify, or they don't know how to apply at all," Fortune explained.
According to the Elder Index, it takes more than \$2,500 a month to survive as a single older adult with health problems in Virginia. And yet, the average

Social Security benefit is only about \$1,600 dollars a month.
Erin Kee, director of programs for the Center for Benefits Access at the National Council on Aging, said the gap is a major stressor for many.
"About one in four older adults depends on Social Security for 90% of their income," Kee pointed out. "And about half of them depend on it for 50% of their income."
Lots of people know about Medicaid and SNAP, but other, lesser-known programs can provide significant savings. They include the New Eyes program for eyeglasses, and the Affordable Connectivity Program, with big discounts on internet service, laptops, desktop computers, and tablets.
Mary Bontly, benefits enrollment specialist at Senior Connections, uses the Benefits Checkup tool to make sure each of her clients knows if they are eligible for the various programs. She said a lot of people are surprised to hear there's a Medicare Savings Plan which can waive their monthly \$170 contribution.
"You're getting a Medicare savings, it's going to allow you to not have to pay the \$170," Bontly stated. "But the way you get it is by submitting a Medicaid application, and we help them with that."
And the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program can help with air conditioning and heating costs.



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Child among holiday weekend fatalities

According to the Virginia State Police, a six-year-old child died in a Saturday crash in Pittsylvania County.
The single-vehicle crash occurred on Sept 3 at 3:37 a.m. on Mount Cross Road, near Log Haven Road in Pittsylvania County.
A 2007 Chevrolet Aveo was traveling west on Mount Cross Road, when the vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway, struck a ditch and overturned, authorities reported.
The Chevrolet was driven by Czachary Paul Roe, 37, of Callands, Va. Roe was injured and transported to a near-by hospital.
There were three juvenile passengers in the vehicle. A 10-year old male, who was not wearing a seatbelt, and a 3-year old boy, who was in a child safety seat. Both children were injured and transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.
The third child, 6-year old Kias Jordan Salas was unrestrained and ejected from the vehicle. Kias died at the scene, according to a release from the VSP.
The crash remains under investigation, according to authorities, who noted that charges are pending.



AXTON SOLAR COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Our community grant program seeks to provide community groups and organizations with funds to further their mission and hands-on work in Henry & Pittsylvania counties. Any local entity that meets the following criteria may apply for a grant.



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Henry County Fair

from page 1

night. This year, we're having a couple national acts," Adams said. "Wednesday night is a local band, the TC Carter Band. Thursday night is going to be Spirit FM night, we're having We Are Messengers. Then, Friday night is B99 night and we're having Celeste Kellogg," Adams said. Adams said he believes fair goers will particularly enjoy one of this year's new attractions. "This year, we have a new ground attraction, the Pompeyo Amazing Dog Show. They were on America's Got Talent a few years ago, so we're really excited to see the dog show," Adams said. The reigning Miss Henry County Fair, Emily Vaught, will attend the fair all four nights. Vaught won the pageant held in June and also will compete in the Miss Virginia Association of Fairs Pageant later this year. "It's going to be a great, exciting four days with all the national acts, the concerts, the rides. We just encourage folks to come out," Adams said. The fair runs from Wednesday and Thursday, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets for the fair can be purchased beforehand or at the fair, with a discount for tickets bought in advance. All-inclusive tickets, which include gate admission, ground shows, unlimited rides, fireworks, and more, can be bought online at colerides.com



Shane Hansen of Rock n Circus will be returning to perform at the fair again this year.

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