

Uganda Conservation Foundation founder visits Martinsville

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Michael Keigwin, the founder of the Uganda Conservation Foundation, stopped in Martinsville recently as part of his lecture series in the U.S.

Bill Martin, president and founder Blue Ridge Aquaculture, a large indoor fishery in Martinsville, said he has worked with Keigwin for years and welcomed the opportunity to help host him at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Noting their lengthy partnership and friendship, Martin said many years ago, Keigwin discussed the idea of Martin's company installing a fishery in Uganda. While that did not materialize, Martin said their work together has continued.

"Things just kind of developed from there, and our friendship that we've had for a long time now," Martin said, and outlined some of Keigwin's efforts in Uganda since 1997.

"Michael is the founder of this Uganda Conservation Foundation. He did a lot of work

in the parks all over Africa, but in Uganda primarily, and trained and equipped rangers, does anti-poaching protecting elephants, lions, and giraffes," Martin said.

In presenting more in-depth information about the foundation, Keigwin said he initially did not plan to get involved in conservation, and he believes that the current attitude towards getting involved in or funding the field has faults.

"It wasn't a plan. There was no plan. There is no career path into this type of conservation. It's one of the things I find really bad. It's become an elitist thing where the only conservation money runs through academia and they exclude others, and frankly that's not what we need in the parks," he said.

Keigwin, who is from England, promotes and directs conservation efforts in Uganda, primarily in Murchison Falls, Kidepo, and Queen Elizabeth national parks.

But he said the idea of a national park originated in America.



Michael Keigwin, the founder of the Uganda Conservation Foundation, stopped in Martinsville as part of his lecture series in the U.S.

"The National Park concept actually came from America. In the 1950s people said, 'Actually, do you know what? There's an idea here. We could protect some of the

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P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges presented a list of accomplishments for the year to date.

P&HCC looks forward to successful post-COVID year

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Between a long list of accomplishments for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023 and a slight increase in enrollment, P&HCC is hopeful for what's to come.

At its Sept. 19 meeting, Vice President of Academic and Student Success Services Dr. Chris Wikstrom informed the P&HCC Board that the school has seen a slight increase in enrollment for the past two terms.

"We wrapped up summer on a good note, a positive note, with a

3.8% increase in enrollment, so that was an excellent sign of things to come," Wikstrom said. "At this point, we've exceeded projections for fall enrollment. Right now, we're up 2.7%."

Wikstrom added that a large portion of this increase was made up of dual enrollment students, but that the non-dual enrollment population was still up by 1%. He is hopeful that this increase will only continue with the second 8-week term.

P&HCC President

See **P&HCC** page 3

Support for the 'Back the Blue' ride surpassed 2021 event



More than 70 participants registered for the 'Back the Blue' ride.

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

At the September Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In, 71 cars signed up to participate in a "Back the Blue" ride, with proceeds to benefit local law enforcement.

The money earned from the ride, which began at CrossPoint Church in Ridgeway and ended at the cruise in in downtown Bassett, goes

towards the benevolence fund for the Henry County Sheriff's Office, Martinsville Sheriff's Office, and Martinsville Police Department.

"We don't use taxpayer funds to pay for some of the things that we do for our officers, and that's what a benevolence fund is for," Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper said. "I don't care how little we get, every little bit counts. Because a lot of the time, even if it's just a

basket for one of our officers who may have lost a family member or somebody's in the hospital, they don't cost too much anyway. But it means a lot to those officers."

The community's support was voiced by a number of speakers.

Tim Stone, organizer of the event, estimated that this year's ride beat last year's participation by about 10 cars. Last year's

See **"Back the Blue"**, page 8

PSA board learns about staff changes, tours water plant

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

A new safety manager was introduced during a recent meeting of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board at the newly upgraded Upper Smith River Water Filtration Plant.

Lucas Draper was named to the post currently occupied by Tim Byrd, who is retiring September 30.

Byrd has served as the PSA's safety

See **PSA Board** page 2



The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board met this month at the Upper Smith River Water Filtration Plant.

Martinsville Speedway gears up for exciting weekend

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

The ValleyStar Credit Union 300 will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Martinsville Speedway, one of many events scheduled before the end of its 2023 season.

Track president Clay Campbell said this weekend promises an exciting race for competitors, with its payout of at least \$32,000 being the largest for the division.

"You're coming here and running on a worldwide known racetrack, where competitors from all over have run here. The greats of NASCAR have won and run, so I think it means a lot for late model guys to come here and be on the same playing field that all the greats have been on," Campbell said.

One of the drivers for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, 15-year-old Katie Hettinger, is both excited and nervous for the race.

"I'm really excited. Martinsville is a huge race, it's the biggest late model race I'll run. There's a lot of big names running and I'm pretty nervous about it," she said. Hettinger said her goal for the race is to make top 10.

Despite her young age, Hettinger already has a long list of accomplishments under her belt.

"I am the youngest female at Hickory Motor Speedway to win a limited late model and a late model race. I'm also the youngest female to win a CRA championship and I'm the winningest female at Hickory Motor Speedway," she said, naming a few of what she considers to be her biggest accomplishments.

Racing has always been a part of Hettinger's life.

"My grandpa raced. He raced mostly spring cars and midgets on pavement, so mostly open wheel stuff. And then my dad raced, too. He raced a little bit of everything. So, I went to my first race when I was less than a month old," she

See **Martinsville Speedway**, page 5

VMNH receives \$25,000 grant to support Science Outreach Initiative

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) received a \$25,000 grant from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust in support of the 2022-2023 Virginia Museum of Natural History Science Outreach Initiative.

Through the initiative, the museum will implement a series of high impact festivals and exhibits that provide engaging and educational science-based experiences for regional, statewide and national audiences. The museum's festivals and exhibits aim to introduce diverse audiences to vital STEM-based topics that prioritize science education through immersive and entertain-

ing experiences. Festivals and exhibits that are part of the initiative include:

Bonez & Booz Festival

On Saturday, October 29, the museum will host its first-ever Bonez & Booz festival, merging science with fantasy. The event will include special bone and fossil displays presented by museum scientists, along with Halloween-themed entertainment offerings ranging from fire performances to magic shows.

Reptile Festival

On April 21 and 22, 2023, the museum will offer a special event focusing on the reptile life that resides in Virginia and beyond. The event will feature numerous live animals, specimens from

the museum's scientific collections, and will serve as a celebration of the museum's upcoming herpetology research program

See **Science Outreach Initiative**, page 5



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 and 6 p.m. in the Henry County Administration Building.

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a free job seekers workshop at the Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street, Martinsville, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register, call (276) 403-5430.

Thursday, October 6

The Henry County School Board will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

ONGOING

The Grace Network Pumpkin Patch will be held Sept. 24 to Oct. 31 at the

First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave. The pumpkin patch will be open Monday-Friday from 1 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

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 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 for the location. Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

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

visit brrl.lib.va.us.

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

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

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts its 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.

Uganda

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About 30 people attended a recent lecture by Michael Keigwin at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville.



Blue Ridge Aquaculture president and founder Bill Martin introduced Michael Keigwin during his lecture at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville.

most wonderful places around the world, and why don't we," Keigwin said.

His goal with the lecture series, which will include places in the United States such as San Francisco and other areas, goes beyond trying to raise funds with partners who have helped his foundation along the way. He also aims to show others that they can get involved in conservation, regardless of their skills or background.

"There's a big movement at the moment, which has been going on for about 10 years, where professional skills are being encouraged," Keigwin said. "One of the things that we're all trying to do now is say to people, 'If you want to get involved in conservation, park management, and whatever else, there is a route. You don't have to be a PhD vet; you don't have to be an incredible botanist or whatever. You can be whatever skill you've got.'"

He also hopes to provide a more direct line of communication and information

for those who are interested in conservation.

"Previously, they had seen a program on TV. Now they're actually getting front line. 'Would you like to meet the head ranger? Here he is. Would you like to ask him or her a question?' It's bringing people together, to this directly," Keigwin said.

He is hopeful the lecture series will encourage those who are curious about conservation to apply their skills and interests, whatever they may be.

"There are just endless opportunities. It doesn't have to be about publishing papers. The skills that the world has are everywhere," he said.

An estimated 30 people attended the event at the museum, including Dr. Joe Keiper, executive director of the VMNH.

"This is a pretty special experience," Keiper said. "It's great when we have travelers who come around and then volunteer their services."

PSA Board

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manager since 2009, according to Dale Wagoner, General Manager of the PSA and County Administrator.

Byrd has "been a true asset to the Public Service Authority for the past 12 years," Wagoner said. "He took our program and gave it structure and process and a lot of organization that will make it easy for the next person to administer."

Draper "comes to us from the construction and maintenance division. He's been there about five years, so he's been with the PSA for a few years, and we know him pretty well," Wagoner said. "He's demonstrated work ethic, so we're looking forward to putting his talent and skills to work."

"I'm excited for the opportunity and there's a lot to learn but I'm ready to get in there and learn," Draper said.

The board also toured the newly upgraded plant, led by Justin Pruitt, superintendent of water plant opera-

tions, water loss, and distribution.

The process for the upgrades first began in 2009, when the withdrawal permitting applications began. From 2016 to 2018, engineering and design plans were drawn up. Construction began in 2018 and was completed in 2021.

The improvements include increased capacity, rehabilitation of the four old filters, installation of one additional filter, a new chemical feed building, and much more.

Pruitt also discussed the quality of the water filtered at the plant.

"Our engineering firm cannot believe the small amount of turbidity we have in our finished water," he said. "I've not personally seen another plant that gets the same amount of quality from their filters that we do. It's extremely, extremely clean."

Board members praised Pruitt for his efforts.

"I'm very blessed to have a great

staff here. They're the ones who make my life easy," Pruitt said.

In other matters, the PSA board:

- *Addressed the issues presented with the new software upgrade.
- "The customer service office is having quite a challenge with some of the things that the system did during the upgrade that we don't understand why," Finance Director Darrell Jones said, and noted that upwards of 400 customers are seeing incorrect charges on their accounts.
- "There have been some customer accounts that have been affected and charges to their account that shouldn't have been there," he said. The customer service department "is basically spending a lot of time going through it trying to figure out who's been affected to try and get them corrected. It's probably going to take some time for them to do that."
- Jones also said that the system has had a few instances of crashing.



Justin Pruitt led members of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board on a tour of the Upper Smith River Water Filtration Plant, pointing out some of the upgrades to the facility.

- *Heard the finance report. The PSA is reporting a small decrease in sales between last August and August 2021, though it is unsure why. It will continue to monitor sales to see if there is a trend.
- *Heard the construction report.
- *Heard the treatment report.
- *Paid the bills.



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Martinsville residents graduate from JMU

Taylor Robertson, of Martinsville, graduated with a master's degree in education from James Madison University during commencement exercises in August.

Olivia Cooper, of Martinsville, graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in health services administration from James Madison University during commencement exercises in August 2022.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Warner recaps visit to Southwest Virginia, announces federal funds for region

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

U.S. Senator Mark Warner, DF-Alexandria, noted the work and successes of the area and the region after touring Southwest Virginia last month.

Although hesitant to identify specific communities, Warner said “I want to give a special shout out for Danville. I call it the ‘comeback city’ and if there was a community that was more dependent upon 20th century in terms of tobacco and textiles, some furniture, that has turned itself around and revitalized its old mill district and river district it is Danville.”

Like Danville, Warner said many of the communities in southwest and southside Virginia have improved and are getting back on their feet since he last visited.

“With this job I don’t get around, particularly southside and southwest as much as I used to when I was governor,” he quipped. “It was great getting around Virginia.”

Warner hopes that communities in southwest and southside Virginia will con-

tinue to thrive with the help and support of their local, state, and federal government, and voiced his intention to push forward legislation that will help these communities grow.

“It was great to revisit with a whole lot of communities that are really doing well,” he said, adding that many communities are “roaring back. That roaring back requires the same federal and state collaboration that hopefully I’ve been a part of for some time.”

In addition to the recently announced \$1,200,000 in federal funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for Henry County to help improve 3,550 linear feet of Reservoir Road and update gravel roadways to meet Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, Warner’s efforts to secure funding for the area are not slowing.

A recent release announced that Warner, along with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Richmond, also have secured nearly \$135 million in federal funding for Virginia in pending government funding

bills for Fiscal Year 2023.

The latest text of the bills recently was unveiled by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The next step for the legislation is a markup and advancement by the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is expected later this year, followed by Senate floor consideration, according to the release.

The funding includes \$1,201,000 in the Senate appropriations bill to support TriArea Community Health in the renovation of the Laurel Fork Clinic and Pharmacy to provide medical and behavioral health services to residents of Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick Counties and the City of Galax.

“I’m proud to have worked to secure these investments for communities all throughout Virginia,” said Warner. “By propelling impactful local projects, these dedicated federal dollars will further build on the progress we’ve made through the bipartisan infrastructure law and the many rounds of COVID-19 relief funding authorized by Congress. I look forward to

seeing these diverse projects generate jobs, support Virginia’s tourism economy, make neighborhoods safer, and bring communities together.”

“The annual budget is always an important opportunity to fight for Virginia priorities and America’s leadership around the world—and I’m pleased with how that effort is shaping up for the upcoming Fiscal Year,” said Kaine. “I will keep fighting to keep the many critical components of these bills intact as we get this budget across the finish line—from keeping Virginia communities safe from gun violence, COVID and future health crises; to addressing food insecurity and the root causes of migration.”

As part of last year’s budget process, the Senate revived a process that allows members of Congress to make Congressionally Directed Spending requests, otherwise known as earmarks, in a manner that promotes transparency and accountability. This process allows Congress to dedicate federal funding for specific projects, the release stated.

Appalachian Power requests to increase fuel rate for Virginia customers amid spike in energy markets

A rise in the cost of coal, natural gas and purchased power over the past year will increase the rate Virginia customers pay for electricity starting November 1. Appalachian Power, a utility subsidiary of American Electric Power (Nasdaq: AEP), outlined the effect of rising energy market prices and the steps it is taking to reduce customer costs in its annual fuel factor update filed this week with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC).

The SCC reviews the company’s fuel factor each year to determine whether it should be increased or lowered. Fuel costs are the portion of a customer’s bill used to recover the cost of purchasing natural gas and coal for its power plants, as well as the cost of purchased power. Appalachian Power does not earn revenue from fuel.

Energy costs began to spike in 2021. The rapid rise was due to several factors including the resurgence of the economy following the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Instead of recovering the increased costs over one year, the company has asked the SCC for approval to

spread the amount over a two-year period, decreasing the impact on customers. For a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours in a month, this will result in an approximate \$20 monthly increase in their bill.

“We recognize these are challenging financial times for many people and families,” said Chris Beam, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. “We strive each day to keep fuel costs as low as possible, continuously monitoring energy markets for opportunities to purchase fuel and energy at prices that are advantageous to customers.”

Incorporating more renewable sources of power into the company’s energy mix is another step in reducing customer fuel costs. As Appalachian Power adds more renewables, there is less need for coal and natural gas to generate power. At present, approximately six percent of power used by the company’s customers is generated by renewable sources to include solar and wind. The company will continue to add to its renewables mix to comply with the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which requires Appalachian Power generate electricity with 100

percent carbon free sources by 2050.

Customers experiencing difficulty paying their monthly bill are encouraged to contact the company for assistance. Appalachian Power offers energy efficiency programs and payment options including the Average Monthly Payment Plan (AMP), which helps customers avoid seasonal spikes in their monthly bills by spreading costs throughout the year.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP’s approximately 16,700 employees operate and maintain the nation’s largest electricity transmission system and more than 224,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation’s largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 7,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

P&HCC Receives Funding To Boost Short-Term Training Opportunities

Patrick & Henry Community College has received \$138,271 as part of the Road to Success In Virginia Program (RSVP). This program seeks to prepare Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients for employment leading to self-sufficiency and independence from temporary benefits. The program will serve as an entry point into career pathways for TANF recipients and provide an opportunity for partners to collaborate to enhance career pathways that support sector strategies. The program design will incorporate in-demand, industry recognized, credential-based training, work readiness development, and wrap around coaching to assist TANF recipients in obtaining self-sufficient employment.

Funding is provided by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - US Department of Health and Human Services through a partnership with the Virginia Community College System.

RSVP is designed for the improvement and or

development of programs that support the following priorities: (1) increasing the attainment of postsecondary credentials and degrees in regional demand, (2) increasing self-sufficiency through stable, continuous employment, (3) reducing reliance on temporary benefit programs such as TANF, (4) fostering a culture of adult learners using the career pathways model for economic stability.

As a sub-recipient of the RSVP funds, Patrick & Henry Community College, will use the funding for the following:

Address barriers to employment to include career and success coaching; cognitive behavioral therapy; integrated, contextualized adult education and basic skills instruction; digital literacy training, and a cohort design.

Post-secondary training leading to in-demand credentials, to include occupational training in regionally high-demand fields that leads to industry-aligned credentials, programs of study in credit

or noncredit areas.

Post-training employment and retention, to include job search, preparation, and placement activities, financial literacy, soft skills development, work-based and experiential learning opportunities, employment retention strategies and support.

“We’re always excited to receive funding that will help us serve our community, along with our partners, Virginia Career Works – West Piedmont, Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services, and West Piedmont Regional Adult and Career Education,” said Rhonda Hodges, P&HCC Vice President of Workforce, Economic & Community Development. “Many in our area don’t have the resources and supportive services to attain the education needed for high-paying jobs. These funds will put a better future within reach of so many families in the area. Having a well-trained and educated workforce is crucial to growing our local economy.”

P&HCC from page 1

Dr. Greg Hodges eagerly added, “This is the first time in four years and only the second time in 10 years that we’ve been able to say, year over year, enrollment has increased on the academic side. We are thrilled. Hopefully, we’re getting back to what we think is a pre-pandemic norm for us here at Patrick & Henry.”

Hodges also pointed out some accomplishments that the college has already seen for fiscal year 2023.

Some of these accomplishments include the launching of a CDL program, with courses designed for both full time students and career switchers; the 5th class of SEED students exceeding the college’s goal of 250 students, with 261 students in the cohort; receiving multiple sources of funding for cost of attendance expenses; and the earning of a “very prestigious national award,” the details of which will be announced soon.

In other matters, the Board:

*Approved the minutes of the July 11 meeting.

*Heard an update on the budget and finances.


*Approved the updated Drug and Alcohol Use Prevention policy.

*Approved the Fiscal Year 2023 Local Funds

Budget as amended.

*Heard an update on Workforce, Economic, and Community Development.

*Heard an update on Athletics.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. One of the four Vedas

5. Part of (abbr.)

8. At the peak

12. African antelope

14. Expression of satisfaction

15. Yankees’ ace

16. Belittled

18. A baglike structure

19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder

20. Actress Tomei

21. Explosive

22. Formal for “on”

23. Cruelties

26. Country singer Brad

30. Make very happy

31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal

32. Albanian currency

33. Subatomic particle

34. Type of salt

39. 007’s creator

CLUES DOWN

42. Emerging

44. Railroad flare

46. Observed

47. Capable of reproduction

49. Indicates adjacent to

50. Legendary Notre Dame coach

51. Not wide

56. An embarrassing mistake

57. Pearl Jam’s debut album

58. Denotes passerine birds

59. Stumble

60. Midway between east and southeast

61. W. Indian trees

62. You

63. Pippen

64. Be aware of

CLUES DOWN

1. Crease

2. “Honey” actress Jessica

3. Broad volcanic crater

4. Product safety watchdog

5. Southern Colombian city

6. Part of a church

7. Perceptible by touch

8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

9. Hairpiece

10. Variety acts

11. “Mystic River” actor Sean

13. Remove salt

17. Went out with

24. Type of bread

25. Popular Eagles song

26. Philosophy degree

27. Yes vote

28. Passports and licenses are two

29. No seats available

35. Pounds per square inch

36. A way to launch an attack on

37. The lowest cardinal number

38. Popular Miller beer

40. Pokes holes in

41. Closest to

42. Folk singer DiFranco

43. Rivne’s former name

44. Flat ruler

45. Lacking the means to do something

47. Cockatoo

48. Dred Scott decision deliverer

49. Explosion exclamation

52. Canadian flyers

53. Houston university

54. At some prior time

55. Red, swollen mark

OPINION

The outrage machine clatters on

Earlier this month, Disney shared a trailer for their new live-action remake of “The Little Mermaid,” and the fact that a black actress named Halle Bailey was cast as Ariel caused racists to lose their minds.

Now, I realize many of the people who were upset by Ms. Bailey’s casting probably don’t consider themselves racists and would be offended by that label. Fortunately, I don’t care what racists think.

Racists have been getting upset about a whole lot of stuff like this just lately. For example, racists are angry that the new Lord of the Rings series on Amazon has black and Asian actors playing elves and dwarves and whatnot, believing it to be some sort of betrayal of J.R.R. Tolkien’s original vision. Given that Tolkien was famously asked by a Nazi Germany-based publishing house if he was Jewish and he replied with one of the classiest “screw-you” letters of all time, I doubt he would be too upset about the casting of this new show.

It’s tempting to write about how mermaids, elves, and dwarves are all fictional creatures and can therefore be played by anybody, or about how the original story of the little mermaid was a thinly veiled metaphor for Hans Christian Andersen’s unrequited love for another man, so if anything, the original little mermaid is a gay man.

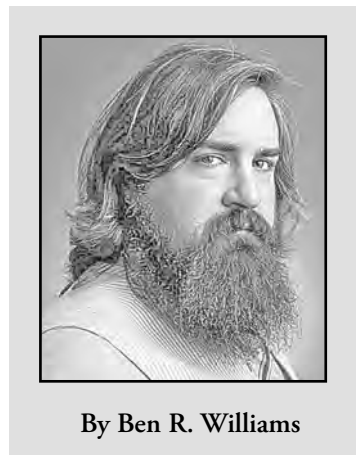
I’m not going to do that, though. It’s already been done, and frankly, explaining to the racists why they’re wrong will never get you anywhere. Racists don’t engage in reason or good-faith arguments. If they did, they wouldn’t be racists.

It’s better to just sit back and enjoy the fact that Disney and Amazon are playing these dummies like fiddles.

Disney and Amazon are massive corporations that provide products and services I frequently enjoy. They are also — and I say this without hyperbole — evil.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is the closest thing we have to a real-life Lex Luthor, an impossibly wealthy super villain who made his billions off the backs of the overworked and under-

paid. Disney, meanwhile, seems to operate under the sole mission of buying out and hoover-



ing up every studio available until all Earthly media is owned by the House of Mouse.

For both of these companies, it’s all about money. Disney and Amazon don’t do anything because it’s a nice thing to do. They do things that make money, and if the thing that makes money happens to be nice, that is completely incidental.

For example, Disney made the film “Song of the South” back in 1946, and then re-released it to theaters in 1956, 1972, 1980, and 1986. Since then, Disney has banished the film to their secret vault and

will barely acknowledge that it ever existed.

“Song of the South” didn’t become racist sometime after 1986; it was problematic all along. But Disney realized at some point in the late 1980s that society had shifted to a point where the film was too problematic to be profitable and continuing to trade off the name could actually cost them money, so away it went.

Similarly, remember when Disney fired Gina Carano from “The Mandalorian” after she tweeted a bunch of weird extremist stuff? That was because someone ran the numbers and realized it was cheaper to fire her than keep her. I’d argue it was the right call; “The Mandalorian” is still a huge hit, and I’m somehow doubtful that Carano’s next project, in which she plays a Secret Service agent who crosses paths with that ne’er-do-well Hunter Biden, will achieve the same level of success as the Star Wars extended universe.

All of this is to say that Disney and Amazon know exactly what they’re doing, and it all comes down to money.

The moment I heard that a black actress had been cast as Ariel, I knew it would be a huge controversy. If I knew that, I guarantee you Disney knew it,

too. They also knew that the racist outrage over the decision would prompt endless articles on the internet, thereby getting this movie in front of people who otherwise don’t pay attention to live-action Disney movies (like me).

They also knew that a lot of people who never would have watched this movie to begin with are now going to make a point to watch it just to stick it to the racists.

And by doing all that, Disney has found a way to turn their soulless cash-grab remake into a cultural flashpoint while also coming across as progressive.

Let me be clear: I am certainly in favor of colorblind casting. Ms. Bailey is an established actress with a slew of Grammy nominations, and I have no doubt she’s an excellent choice for “The Little Mermaid.” I’m just not sure if doing the right thing for cynical reasons means that it’s still the right thing to do.

Either way, Disney and Amazon can thank these hateful idiots for providing the kind of advertising that you can’t even buy.

So what will be the next major outrage in our stupid, endless culture war?

Oh, I’m sure we’ll find out next month.

ValleyStar Donates \$8,000 to P&HCC Scholarships, Motorsports Program

ValleyStar Credit Union recently made two donations to the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation totaling \$8,000. These donations will provide student scholarships and help support the Racing College (P&HCC’s Motorsports program) to continue racing locally.

The first donation of \$3,000 provides

two \$1,500 scholarships for full-time students enrolled in a business curriculum.

The \$5,000 donation allows the Motorsports program to race their late-model car in local races while continuing to provide hands-on training opportunities for our students.

These scholarships will be adminis-

tered by the P&HCC Foundation.

“We are so thankful for these donations from ValleyStar Credit Union,” said Tiffani Underwood, P&HCC Foundation Executive Director. “This gift is an extension of our partnership with ValleyStar and we are grateful for their continued investments in both our college and our students.”

“We’re excited to help support P&HCC and their Motorsports program,” said Michael Warrell, ValleyStar Credit Union President/CEO. “Our partnership with Patrick & Henry is very important to us as members of this community, and we hope that this contribution will assist them in providing opportunities for students to succeed.”



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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

City seeks input on the demolition of Paradise Inn

Martinsville City Council is seeking public input regarding the possible demolition of Paradise Inn on Fayette Street and the issue will be discussed at three upcoming Council meetings:

West End Neighborhood Meeting- September 26th at 7 p.m. at Albert Harris Elementary

*City Council Meeting- September 27 at 7 p.m. at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building

*City Council Meeting- October 11 at 7 p.m. at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building

Paradise Inn was a staple of social life for African Americans in Martinsville during the Civil Rights era. The inn was a restaurant and club that hosted a number of national musical acts during its peak of business. Paradise Inn closed in the mid-90's and the building was condemned by the City of Martinsville in 2008. Lack of maintenance and repairs by the property owner since that time has resulting in a continual deterioration of the building. An architectural and engineering assessment was conducted in 2018 regarding the possibility of restoring the building to a usable condition, and costs are simply prohibitive.

Residents will have an opportunity to provide input on this issue at the council meetings.

West End Neighborhood Meeting

At Albert Harris Elementary School

Topic: Paradise Inn Demolition

After receiving several requests from residents to demolish Paradise Inn, City Council will hold a public hearing during the West End Neighborhood meeting on September 26th, along with the next two council meetings on how the matter should be handled. Council will then vote on the matter at the October 11th council meeting.

Monday, September 26th 7 p.m.

We Need Your Input

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Science Outreach Initiative

from page 1

that is set to launch in Fall 2022.

Dino Festival

The museum’s annual 2-day dinosaur extravaganza will take place July 21 and 22, 2023 and will feature life size-cast skeletons of some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils presented by renowned paleontologists, as well as dinosaur-themed activities and crafts led by museum educators.

Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas

From February 11, 2023 through January 20, 2024, the museum will host an immersive traveling exhibit curated by the American Museum of Natural History that showcases the world of modern paleontology. The exhibit provides a dynamic vision of dinosaurs and the scientists who study them, while exhibiting how advanced technologies allow scientists to look at fossils in fresh ways.

“The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust has once again provided the museum with tremendous support that is vital in allowing the museum to offer exceptional science programming and exhibits that will provide a direct benefit to VMNH Members and the general public,” said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. “We are greatly appreciative of the foundation’s continued support of the museum.”

The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust has been a long-time supporter of the museum, including supporting the museum’s first Science Outreach Initiative that was introduced in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. That initiative was designed to develop and deliver a library of STEM-based virtual pro-

gramming tailored to students and school groups throughout the 2020-21 school year, as well as provide additional science-based, virtual programming for children, adults and families.

“The Virtual Outreach Initiative was crucial in allowing the museum to remain connected with audiences throughout Virginia and beyond during the pandemic,” said Barber. “As the museum reopened its doors, the foundation graciously continued its support by providing funding the following year for the 2021-22 Science Outreach Initiative. Having the foundation’s support again this year is a testament to its commitment to science education and the museum’s ability to offer high quality science programming.”

For more information about the museum and its programming, visit www.vmnh.net.

Martinsville Speedway

from page 1

said.

It wasn’t long before she got behind the wheel herself.

“I’ve always wanted to race, so when I was five, I started racing quarter midgets. When I turned 10, I switched over to dirt micros and I ran those for two years, and then I switched back over to junior late models in 2019, and in 2020 I won a championship in that,” she said. “Then I started running limited late models and late model stocks.”

However, it isn’t always easy. Hettinger said that one of the most difficult things about being a young female in racing is getting out there.

“I have a lot of people that help me out with that, spread my name and everything,” she said. “But, you know, there are a few women in our sport, and I just feel that as a female, I need to show results if I want to move up, and so making sure that I am showing results and taking it seriously so that I can get more rides and move up through the sport.”

Hettinger has big goals for herself, and hopes to one day win a Cup Series.

“I do drive for Team Chevy,” she said.

The ValleyStar race is not the only race coming up at the Speedway, however. October 27-30 is shaping up to be a packed weekend at the Martinsville Speedway

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will be held Thursday, Oct. 27, the Xfinity Series will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, and the Xfinity 500 Cup Series will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30.

“Three great races, big weekend. (The Xfinity 500 Cup Series) is a penultimate race in the playoffs for NASCAR. You’re coming here with eight guys that are vying

for the championship and you leave with four to go to Phoenix. It’s always a very high intense, action packed weekend,” Campbell said, adding that the track has many activities and attractions planned for fans to keep the weekend exciting.

“We like to say that once a fan gets here on the weekend and gets out of his car, there’s something to see or do somewhere on property,” he said. “We put a lot of effort into the fan experience. We’ve got a lot of things planned in our midway, just all weekend long there will be something going on. In our campground we’ll be doing concerts up there, we’ll have things for Halloween. It’s going to be a fun weekend.”

There also will be celebrations planned to commemorate the track’s 75th anniversary at the upcoming races, especially for the Xfinity 500 weekend.

“I think you’ll see things this weekend to celebrate the history of our 75th anniversary. Obviously, for the Xfinity 500 weekend, we want to have things that will also celebrate that 75th anniversary,” Campbell said. “We’ll have cars that were run here through the many decades. We’ll probably have some drivers that will make their way here from earlier years in our speedway’s history.

“It’s something that we want to finish up in grand fashion because the 75th anniversary is a big deal and we want to recognize that, we want to celebrate it, and we want our fans to be a part of that,” Campbell said, and encourages fans to come out for all of the upcoming races.

“For fans looking for something to do this weekend, the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 is going to be a great race. The weather’s looking great for it. It’s going to be exciting,” he said.

Eight students awarded scholarships, director laments decline in applicants

The New College Foundation (NCF) recently announced that eight area students have been awarded scholarships for the 2022/2023 academic year. These individuals are participating in one of the New College Institute’s (NCI) affiliated programs leading toward a college degree.

“I’m grateful for donors who have made these scholarships possible. Also, I’m grateful for NCF’s Trustees unwavering commitment to collegiate education,” Kevin DeKoninck NCF’s Executive Director, said.

“The trustees recently increased the payout formula resulting in a \$6,000 (or 52%) increase in scholarships over the prior formula,” he said, and added that while he is pleased by the individual higher scholarship amounts, he was disappointed by the significant decline in applicants for this cycle.

“NCF had approximately \$25,000 in unspent scholarship funds, and this is disappointing,” DeKoninck said.

Each year, a college professor teaching in one of NCI’s affiliated programs is selected to receive the Lula White

Johnson Distinguished Teacher Award. The award comes with a plaque and \$1,000 check from NCF. This year professor in Bluefield University’s Master of Counselling Program, was selected as the recipient.

“I can genuinely say Dr. Mabry is one of the most passionate, authentic, and driven servant leaders I have ever met. She provides academic guidance in a loving yet directive way,” one student said.

NCF’s commitment to higher education extends well beyond providing scholarships.

In July, NCF trustees provided NCI a \$40,000 grant for augmented Reality/Virtual training equipment. Earlier this year, NCF provided a \$41,500 grant to help Longwood students at NCI pass their licensure exams.

“Providing these students the proper resources will be a direct benefit to our community,” DeKoninck said.

Another awesome community event to be a part of was NCF providing \$4,000 of the \$7,000 funding needed for Martinsville-Henry County National Society of Black Engineers chapter to attend the National Kidwind



Dr. Challen Mabry

competition in San Antonio, Texas in May.

The New College Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization established for the purpose of supporting New College Institute and its students.

Deacon appointed to post with Buena Vista agency



Kathy Deacon

The Advancement Foundation appointed Kathy Deacon as the new Vice President of Business and Resource Development for the organization. An experienced business leader, Deacon will assume responsibilities on October 1.

Most recently, Deacon served as Executive Director for Uptown Partnership, a Main Street affiliate, in Martinsville, Virginia where her leadership sparked renewed focus on revitalization of the Uptown business district. Before that, she served as Executive Director for Staunton Creative Community Fund (now Shenandoah Community Capital Fund) where she helped exponentially increase the capacity of their loan fund and initiated a regional footprint for the organization.

Deacon is a valuable leader in TAF’s Gauntlet Program, a serial entrepreneur, and a community/business development professional with more than 35 years of experience. She worked in international development for several large US Government contractors in Washington, DC for nearly 25 years before moving to Staunton, VA.

“Kathy is a brilliant strategist in business and community development. Her extensive experience will accelerate TAFs efforts to foster the identification and engagement of businesses, with a focus on scalable companies across the region. Kathy will expand business development programs that connect talented entrepreneurs to industry expertise, acceleration and commercialization services,” said Annette Patterson, president of The Advancement Foundation.

The VP of Business and Resource Development will promote access to business commercialization services available through TAFs most recent launch of Virginia Innovation Collective. The Virginia Innovation Collective at Buena Vista is a 40,000 square foot industrial building reimagined for business acceleration that offers value-added product development, increased access to affordable manufacturing space, and commercialization services. These resources were made possible through a Go Virginia grant focused on increasing value-added product development in agriculture and technology.

Notices about polling locations are in the mail

Beginning this week, Virginia voters will receive notices in the mail regarding their polling locations for the November 8 general election.

“Districts and polling locations have changed for some voters as part of the redistricting process following the 2020 Census,” Department of Elections Commissioner Susan Beals said. “We encourage every voter to check their polling location on their voter notice.”

District boundaries for federal, state and local offices are redrawn every 10 years following the census. The 2022 election is the first November general election for which the new districts resulting from the 2020 census will be in effect.

All registered Virginia voters will receive a notification containing their district information and polling location regardless of whether any changes were made.

Separate polling locations for town elections will not be listed because town elections have been moved from May to November and will be held November 8.

Virginia maintained all its 11 Congressional districts following the 2020 U.S. Census, though many boundaries were altered due to demographic shifts. The Virginia Supreme Court unanimously approved the new district boundaries (https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/redistricting_final.pdf) December 28, 2021, after reviewing a proposal (https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/2021_virginia_redistricting_memo.pdf) from two court-mandated special masters after the newly created bipartisan Virginia Redistricting Commission was unable to reach an agreement on the new boundaries.

Voters can also find their district and polling location information on the Virginia Department of Elections website (<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/polling>).

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OBITUARIES

Stella F. Draper Barker-Owens

Stella F. Draper Barker-Owens, 93, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Saturday, September 17, 2022. She was born in Martinsville, April 25, 1929 to William Thomas Draper and Thelma Elizabeth Stokes Draper. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband of 45 years, E. Leo Barker and her second husband of 10 years, Walker M. Owens Jr.



community free meal and kitchen for homecoming committees.

She was also a member of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for over 25 years where she served on the board as a timekeeper, recording secretary, vice president and treasurer of the gift shop for many years.

She was a former member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority serving as the secretary and president of the Phi Omega Chapter.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 21, officiated by Reverend Dr. Michael Hatfield at McKee-Stone Chapel. Interment was in Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to Chatham Heights Baptist Church, 1235 Chatham Road, Martinsville, VA. 24112; Grace Network, P.O. Box 3902, Martinsville, Va. 24115 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, VA is serving the family.

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

She is survived by her son, Thomas E. Barker and his wife Hope Myers Barker of Martinsville; grandson, Thomas Scott Barker and his wife Melissa and great grandchild, Caitlin Grace Barker of Collinsville.

Mrs. Owens graduated from Martinsville High School and worked for the Finance Department for the City of Martinsville for over 5-years.

She was a member of Chatham Heights Baptist Church for over 60 years. She served as Sunday School Secretary for over 50 years and ordered the literature for the church. She also served on the church's budget, personnel, benevolence, bereavement, com-

Mary Kathryn Campbell Higgins

Mary Kathryn Campbell Higgins, 89, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Thursday, September 15, 2022. She was born September 22, 1932 in Martinsville to Ernest Mitchell Campbell and Audrey Powell Campbell.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Lewis Mitchell Campbell and daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Bullins Higgins.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Joseph D. Higgins, whom she married in 1954; her son, Joseph Scott Higgins; granddaughter, Audrey Katelynn Higgins, sister-in-law, Gail C. McKinney; niece, Mary Catherine Campbell; nephew, Kirk Mitchell Campbell.

Mary loved her class of 1951 at



Martinsville High School and then attended two years at Longwood College. She was a charter member of Chatham Heights Baptist Church where she served in the choir and served as a deacon.

She was also a 48-year volunteer with the American Red Cross Blood Drive services and was a 20-year member of the Collinsville Lioness Club serving as President and Secretary.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at Chatham Heights Baptist Church, officiated by Reverend Dr. Mike Hatfield. Interment was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Arrangements by McKee Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, VA. Online condolences may be expressed at www.collinsmckeeestonemartinsville.com.

Donna Marie Self

Donna Marie Self, 59, passed away Friday evening, September 16, 2022 at her residence. She was born March 31, 1963 in Martinsville, VA to the late Shirley Law Self and the late Henry Clyde Self.

Donna earned her Associate's Degree and worked as a receptionist for many years in the Recycling industry. She was never married but enjoyed the love of several family members who survive her, including her sister, Marcia Self of Collinsville, VA, brother, Mark Clyde Self (Karen) of Danville, VA, and aunt and uncle, Creed and Claudine Law of

Snow Creek, VA and aunt, Rita Major and Ken of Union Hall, Va. She is also survived by two nephews, Jordan Self and Dustin Self, both of Danville, as well as several cousins.

To honor her life, a graveside service was held on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at Roselawn Burial Park, Martinsville, VA officiated by Pastor Carl Keith.

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

Kimberly Yvonne Frye

Kimberly Yvonne Frye, 55, of Axton, VA passed away on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at her residence. She was born on September 17, 1967, in Baltimore, MD to Gary Eugene Craig and Alice Dawn Rudisill Craig.

Mrs. Frye was a member of Central Baptist Church in Axton, VA.

She is survived by her husband, Lester "L.T." Thomas Frye of the home; daughters, Elizabeth Frye and Mary Grace Frye both of Axton, VA; son, Tommy Frye (Lori) of Axton, VA; sister, Michelle Piner (Pam) of Vinton, VA. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Ella Frye, Emma Frye and Na'Havah Frye; nephew, Jarrod Piner of Vinton, VA, niece, Emily Wilmer



of Vinton, VA, and niece, Rachel Baldwin of Vinton, VA.

Visitation will be held from 1:30 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Central Baptist Church. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Central Baptist Church in Axton, VA, with

Pastor Stan "Brother Corky" Haak, Pete Dunford and Robert Daugherty officiating. Burial will be at Central Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Animals (SPCA) of Martinsville and Henry County #5, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA 24112.

Bob White

Former Martinsville Chevrolet Dealer Bob White, 93, of Martinsville, Va. and Islamorada, Fla. passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 in Martinsville. He was born August 25, 1929 in Oakhill, W. Va. to Gorman Thurston White and Geneva Porterfield White. In addition to his parents, Mr. White was preceded in death by his son, Robert Charles White, who passed May 20, 2006.

Surviving are his wife Charlene Gesell White; son, Ross Porterfield White (Susie Ray) of Martinsville; grandchildren, Kayla White and Jamie Marsigit (Dino); 4 great great-grandchildren.

Mr. White, a long-time business man, became the Chevrolet dealer in Martinsville in 1969 and operated Bob White Chevrolet for many years prior to retiring. He also owned Roanoke Highway Used Parts in Martinsville, Bob's Full-Service Car Washes in Winston Salem and Greensboro, N.C. and Bob's Mobile Home Park in Greensboro.

After graduating from Martinsville High School in 1947, Mr. White attend-



ed Virginia Military Institute and Randolph Macon College where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

In 1951 he volunteered for the Air Force and served at RAF Fighter Base Manston in Kent, England. He was honorably discharged in 1956 as a First Lieutenant.

He was a former member of the Martinsville and Henry County Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants Association. He was also a former member of the Martinsville Jaycees and a director of the Commonwealth Dealers Life Insurance Company.

Mr. White earned his Eagle Scout with Troop 63 of the United Methodist Church. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Martinsville.

A private graveside service will be held at Roselawn Burial Park.

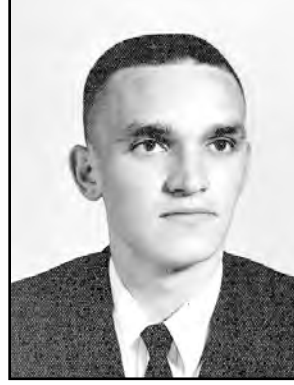
Memorials may be made to the Robert Charles White Scholarship Fund at Carlisle School, 300 Carlisle Road, Axton, VA. 24054.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home of Martinsville is serving the family. Online Condolences may be made at Collins-McKee-StoneMartinsville.com.

Jerry W. Wilson

Jerry W. Wilson, 75, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Tuesday, September 20, 2022. He was born in Martinsville, October 9, 1946 to Paul Linwood Wilson and Violet Shelton Wilson. In addition to his parents, his brothers David and Louis Wilson also preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Willard Wilson; son Jeffrey Wilson; grandson, Gregory Wilson; sisters Florence Stanley of Charlotte, NC and Carolyn Hanes (Damon) of



Surfside Beach, SC; sister-in-law Judy Wilson of Hamilton, Oh; nephews, Dave Stanley, Mark Stanley and Timothy Purdy; niece, Tammy Hampton and great-nieces and nephews.

Jerry enjoyed playing golf for many years.

There will be no services as this was Jerry's request.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, VA is serving the family. To express condolences online, visit www.collinsmckeeestonemartinsville.com.

Nominations being accepted for 2022 Outstanding Military Veteran Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Martinsville-Henry County Outstanding Military Veteran award for 2022. The award will go to the nominee judged by the selection committee to best represent what service to the country and to our community means.

The award was created in 2009 by the Henry County Board of Supervisors at the suggestion of board member Debra Buchanan. With the support of the Martinsville City Council, the award was expanded in 2013 to allow nominations of both Martinsville and Henry County veterans.

Nomination forms are available from the Martinsville website - www.martinsville-va.gov and the county website - www.henrycountyva.gov. They are also available at the City Municipal Building and the County Administrator's office.

All nominations must be received at the City Manager's Office or County Administrator's Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 21.

The winner will be announced at the Veterans Day Service to be held at the HJDB Event Center on Thursday, November 11 at 11 a.m.

Previous winners include David Kipfinger and James Rogers (2009), Olaf Hurd (2010), Donald James Myers (2011), Herbert S. Gibbs and Winford "W.C." Fowles (2012), S.T. Fulcher (2013), Robert L. Hazlett, Jr. (2014), Thomas Spencer (2015), John R. Redd (2016), Walter E. Sheppard (2017), Warren "Sonny" Richardson (2018), Charles A. Washburn (2019), David King (2020) and Curtis R. Millner, Sr. (2021). Questions about the award may be directed to the City Manager's Office or the County Administrator's Office.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

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
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

New MMS principal welcomed with flag flown over Capitol

Ama Waller, Martinsville Middle School's (MMS) new principal, was recognized in a schoolwide Constitution Week assembly on Monday, hosted by members of the MMS Student Council Association (SCA). The students presented Waller with an American flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Waller, who has been with Martinsville City Public Schools for 16 years as a coach, teacher, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) coordinator, and assistant principal, became principal at the beginning of this school year.

The assembly and presentation were organized by MMS SCA staff sponsor and 6th grade history teacher Beverly Woody.

"It is important for young people to know they do have a voice in their community, and it is our duty as educators and mentors to demonstrate the proper way to make their voices heard," said Woody. "Mrs. Waller has been so supportive and encouraging to the MMS faculty and students. The SCA thought that honoring her with an American flag at the Constitution Week kickoff would be a great way to pay tribute to our leader in combination with a good civics lesson for the student body."

"I am honored to be both the principal of Martinsville Middle and to be honored by the Student Council with yesterday's flag presentation," Waller said. "More importantly, I am proud that students' voices are a part of our climate and that they are taking active roles in their education and democratic rights. Mrs. Woody organized the event and does an excellent job daily bringing learning to life in her classes and having students connect their learning to real life experiences. In times like this, this is critical. As Ghandi stated, 'what is really needed to make democracy function is not knowledge of facts, but right education.'"

Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said, "we celebrate our great country during this time and the great symbol of freedom and liberty that the Constitution and the American flag symbolizes! Mrs. Waller is an outstanding educational leader and champion for our students. I am so proud of this recognition of her leadership by our students."

New MMS Principal Ama Waller was presented with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol by members of the MMS SCA and SCA staff sponsor Beverly Woody at a school assembly on Monday. Front row (from left): Dre'dyn Hairston, Olivia Campbell, Abigail Campbell, Ama Waller, Anthony Murillo-Villanueva, and Samson Ray. Back row (from left): SCA Vice President Caleb Valentine, Beverly Woody, and SCA President KyAsia Keen.



30TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD TOY RIDE

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 10

\$10 OR NEW TOY

SPONSORED BY:

6537 GREENSBORO RD, RIDGEWAY, VA

REGISTRATION AT 10AM - KICKSTANDS UP AT 1PM
COST INCLUDES FOOD, RIDE, AND BAND
(ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHRISTMAS CHEER)

LIVE MUSIC BY: Madhouse

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“Back the Blue”

from page 1

event raised \$1,915.85, which was split between the three departments, he added.

Joe Bryant, vice chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, was among the speakers.

“We do these rides to show the support that we have for our law enforcement in this area. Without the law enforcement in any area, it's just amazing how chaos in the area would be,” he said, and expressed gratitude for local law enforcement efforts.

“If you look around the United States and also the world, how these other communities are actually trying to defund the police departments and you can see how crime has gone up in our major cities. In Henry County, our crime has been relatively reasonable,” Bryant said, and noted the daily risks to law enforcement officers.

“Every day they get up in the morning time and put on the uniform. They don't know what they're going to face during the day. It is one of those things to say, ‘I can walk out of my house, but I may not come back,’” he said.

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, also voiced his support for law enforcement and thanked them for their work.

“We appreciate them very much, the work that they do. It is constantly thankless,” he said. “This country has integrated, demonized, and made law enforcement the enemy. And we know they're not the enemy, they're the ones who stand between us and the enemies.

“I do everything I can in the House of Delegates to make sure they get the funding they need. We were able to increase funding this year, we were able

to get more equipment, but now we need more people,” Williams said.

He also highlighted the current need for more officers in many departments and urged citizens to join the force.

“It's a strong, productive career. It's something to take pride in, just like all these beautiful cars. That's the pride they take every day when they put on that uniform,” Williams said.

Draper expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended the event.

“We're flattered. We're very flattered that y'all honored us and our officers. It is a tough time right now for us,” he said.

Martinsville Police Lt. Doug Graham also thanked participants.

“I'm flattered and I'm awfully grateful for everybody that's showing support for law enforcement,” he said.

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry said, “We're always thankful for good communities here and in Martinsville City. We receive good support, community organizations, and good unity and fellowship.”

Perry also said that events like the ride help bring awareness to the work police do and the fact that much of the community supports them.

“There are people watching, you see them on the side of the road and media publicity,” he said. “Just reminding people that the police officers do a really tough job, a very important job, for the community and they make some really tough decisions in a split second. The vast majority of the community supports our officers, and things like this just unify them.”



The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department showed its support for local law enforcement.



**We are
all in this
together.**



www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus