

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 29, 2022

(USPS-6)

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County honors local heroes with bridge memorials

Seven law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty were recognized by the Henry County Board of Supervisors Tuesday night with the unveiling of bridges named in their honor.

The fallen honored were John Hughes Mitchell, George S. Frame, John J. Johnston, Willis Herman Ferguson, George Melvin Brown, Paul Edward Grubb, and Sgt. J. Michael Philippi.

"While we know that a mere sign is a small token and cannot replace what these families have lost, we sincerely hope these signs will guarantee that the names of these officers and their sacrifices will never be forgotten," Jim Adams,

chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said.

The idea for the memorials began in 2021 when Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District and a retired police officer for the City of Martinsville, was approached by Grubb's family about the board's consideration of a bridge renaming to honor the late officer's sacrifice.

During deliberations, the supervisors decided to offer a similar gesture to all of the law enforcement officials who encountered their end of watch while valiantly serving. County staff coordinated with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to get the signs authorized and worked with

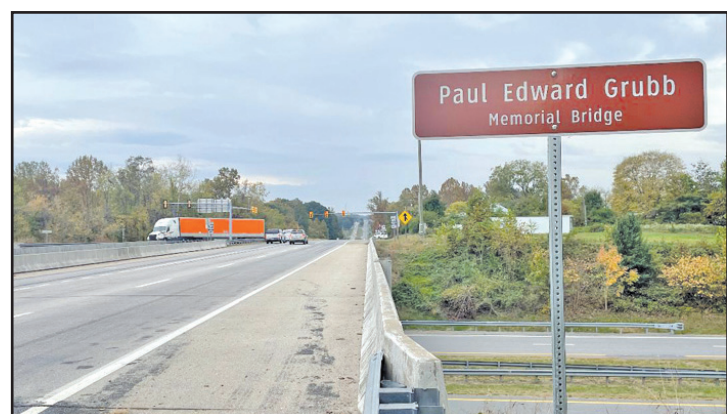
the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the families of the fallen officers to find suitable locations for the memorials.

To be considered for a bridge memorial, the officer must have either been a resident of Henry County or primarily performed their duties in the county.

In other matters, the Board:
*Approved an additional appropriation of \$220,200 to the school nutrition budget for the fresh fruit and vegetable program for the elementary schools.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$17,262 received from

See Memorials, page 2



The bridge on U.S. 220 over William F. Stone Highway in Henry County has been named the "Paul Edward Grubb Memorial Bridge" in honor of the Henry County deputy who was killed in the line of duty on July 2, 1989, while honorably fulfilling his duties.



Martinsville Circuit Court Judge Carter Greer was one of among those to present information to members of the Martinsville City Council.

Council candidates draw lines at forum



Danny Turner

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce held a candidate forum at the Virginia Museum of Natural History on Oct. 21. The forum was moderated by Phil Gardner of Gardner, Barrow, and Sharpe P.C. and sponsored by Appalachian Power.

Incumbents Jennifer Bowles and Danny Turner participated, along with challengers Aaron Rawls and LC Jones. Candidates gave opening statements before the questions began, and then were allowed four minutes to answer each question. Questions broached topics of council disorganization, funding,

reversion, and more.

Regarding a perceived disorganization of council, Rawls said he is "tired of petty squabbling and really small, bitter bickering." The city has "paralyzed partnerships" which causes many to not want to work with the city.

"Running for this position, and when people find out you are earnest, they will come to you and tell you things. And the things I have been told by people that I've been able to independently corroborate have horrified me. What is happening in our government is frankly unacceptable," he said.

"If I'm elected, it won't

See Council, page 5

Candidate resigns amid employee policy flap

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

A candidate for Martinsville City Council resigned Thursday, days after an employee policy was scrutinized at an Oct. 25 council meeting.

In a social media post Thursday, LC Jones, a Martinsville police officer and candidate for city council, wrote, "This morning I submitted my resignation to the Martinsville Police department. It has been a pleasure to serve all Martinsville citizens as a Martinsville City police officer. Working with the staff and students at the Martinsville City schools has also been my greatest joy, honor, and privilege. I Love you all. I am com-

mitted to ensuring that reversion is stopped and that all Martinsville City Schools remain open for our city kids. I am also committed to restoring a respectable level of professionalism, integrity, transparency, and legitimacy back into our local government. Lastly, I am committed to ensuring that your voices are heard...."

According to discussions Tuesday, Jones would be unable to operate as both a city employee and city council member if he wins the Nov. 8 election due to the employment policy.

Danny Turner, an incumbent who is seeking reelection, sought to

See Candidate, page 4

Petty to hold book signing in Martinsville

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

NASCAR driver Kyle Petty will be signing copies of his memoir "Swerve or Die: Life at My Speed in the First Family of NASCAR Racing," at Roosky's Bar and Grill in Uptown Martinsville on Oct. 29, following the Dead on Tools 250 Xfinity race. He also will sign copies at the Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30.

Petty's book, which was written with Pulitzer Prize-winner Ellis Henican, came about during the pandemic, when he had time to sit and reflect.

"People have always said, 'Man, you've been

around so long, you should write something down.' You just never have time. And when the pandemic came along, I had time," he said.

The book is a combination of history, stories, and a memoir, all wrapped up into one package.

"There's funny stories, history about my granddad and about my dad, and about myself and about my son, Adam. At the same time, it's how I've dealt with different things of life, so then it gets a little personal. It kind of weaves in and out of two or three different genres," Petty said.

Petty has held book

See Petty, page 7

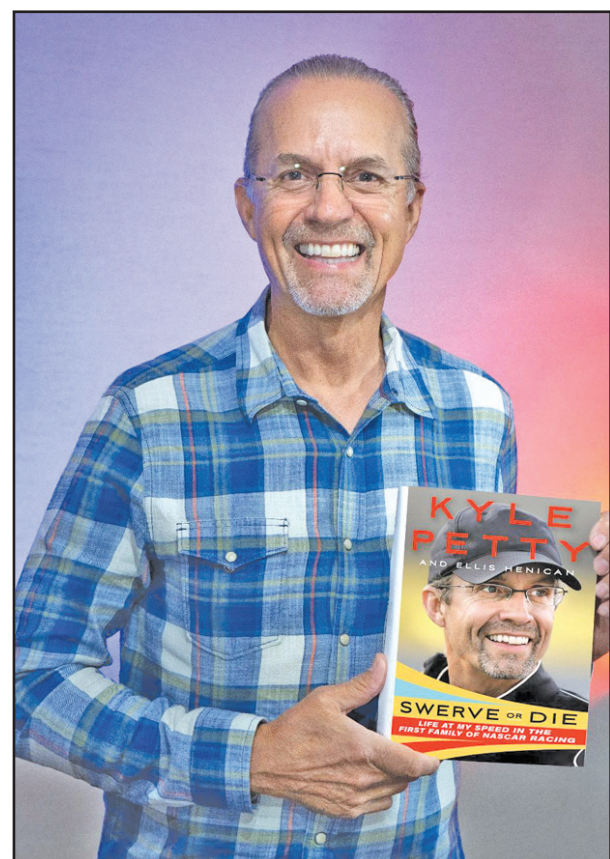


PHOTO CREDIT TO MACMILLAN AUDIO

Kyle Petty with his new memoir.

Griffith mounts reelection bid



Incumbent U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, is seeking reelection for Virginia's 9th District seat in the November election.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, is seeking reelection for Virginia's 9th district seat in the November election against challenger Taysha DeV Vaughan, a Democrat.

Griffith, 64, has held the position since he was first elected in 2010. He previously represented Virginia's 8th district in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1994-2011.

Griffith said he decided to seek reelection as he believes there is still a lot he can do for the district.

"It may not be the way it should be, I have enough seniority that I should be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight

See Griffith, page 8

DeVaughan seeks congressional seat

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Taysha DeV Vaughan hopes to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith in her bid for Virginia's 9th Congressional District in the

November election.

A Democrat, DeV Vaughan, 32, said she decided to run against Griffith, R-Salem, because she believes the area deserves better representation than what it currently has.

"We have had a couple

of people that have won this race that have not moved the needle very far," she said.

She also wants to get people more involved with what their congressional representatives are doing.

See DeV Vaughan, page 2



Taysha DeV Vaughan hopes to win the 9th District congressional post in the November election.

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UPDATES



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 or newsreporter@theenterprise.net)

Saturday, October 29

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will host "Bonez and Booz" from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be fire performances, stilt walkers, magic shows, carnival games, a beer garden, live music, and more. Costumes are encouraged. Admission is \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for ages 18-59, \$5 for seniors age 60+, and free for children under three and VMNH members.

Parking is off site.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will be having a "Books & Treats" event at the Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be candy and treats while supplies last. Interactive Halloween story times will take place at 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:15 p.m. Admission is free, and the event is open to children ages 2-12.

Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown, will hold its Fall Festival from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, October 31

A hayride and trunk-

or-treat will be held at Jack Dalton Park from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., hosted by Henry County Parks and Recreation and Martinsville-Henry County 4H.

A "Halloween Haunted House for Kids" will be held at the Bassett Train Station Event Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

BTW21 and the Bassett Fire Department will hold a "Family Fun Night" from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 3735 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

Friday, November 4

The Spencer-Penn Centre will hold a Dehydrating Foods class from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To register, call (276)957-5757.

Piedmont Arts will host an Exhibit Opening Reception at 5:30 p.m. for their upcoming exhibit The Art of the Quilt and Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild. Admission is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will host "An Evening of Music and Dinosaurs" from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Jam out with

museum favorite's and enjoy a cash bar and food. Tickets are \$15 and advance tickets are required. Tickets can be purchased at www.vmnh.net/events/an-evening-of-music-and-dinosaurs.

Saturday, November 5

A Veterans Day Banquet will be held at the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A L Philpott Hwy, Ridgeway, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained from any Post # 78 member.

Piedmont Arts will hold a Mini Art Quilt Class at 1 p.m. All supplies are provided. Cost is \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. Registration is required.

Friday, November 11

The MHC Veterans Service Organization will hold a Veteran's Day Service at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, at 11 a.m.

Theatreworks will perform their Piano Bar, "Shake, Rattle, and Rock" at 7 p.m.

ONGOING

The Coats for Kids Coat Drive will be accepting donations at Hollywood Cinema and One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road until Nov. 30. For more information, call Debra Buchanan at (276) 358-1463.

The Grace Network Pumpkin Patch is underway at First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville, through Oct. 31. It is open Monday-Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20 Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleleuptown.com.

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 headquar-

ters, 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 (MHCCHW) continues to offer "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Call or text Ann Walker today at (276)732-0509 to see if you may qualify and get help applying.

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 their new book club, "Books and Brews," at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Rd, 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.

21 BTW
FAMILY FUN NIGHT
OCTOBER 31, 6-9PM
BASSETT FIRE DEPARTMENT
MUSIC BY DJ R. SEAY **BOUNCY HOUSE BY KING KIDZ**
SPONSORED BY:
BASSETT FIRE DEPARTMENT • BASSETT INDUSTRIES
BASSETT FUNERAL HOME • PAPA'S PIZZA
SHIVELY ELECTRIC • AUTOSBYNELSON • JERRY'S PIZZA
MARTINSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MARTINSVILLE FIRST SAVINGS BANK • BTW21

Memorials

from page 1

the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to pay for overtime hours for the sheriff's office to provide high impact law enforcement activities in areas that are experiencing increases in crime.

*Approved the additional appropriation of two grants received from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, in the amounts of \$20,350 and \$19,550 respectively, to be used for training, equipment and overtime compensation related to the enforcement

of alcohol and speed-related laws.

*Approved the additional appropriation of \$426 received from state asset forfeiture funds to cover the cost of a real estate title search by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

*Approved the additional appropriation of \$9,000 received from a grant managed by Piedmont Community Services to cover additional expenses in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office related to the drug court.

*Designated Slaughter to serve as the voting representative for Henry County at the 2022 Virginia Association of

Counties (VACO) Annual Business Meeting. Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, was selected to serve as an alternate.

*Approved a resolution authorizing an application for the Industrial Revitalization Fund Planning Grant to help the Bassett Community Center with a feasibility and market study to rehabilitate their building located at 119 Blackberry Road. The projected cost of the study and design plan is \$50,000 with no local match required.

*Recognized Patrinda Toney Hughes for her recent induction into the Radford University Athletic Hall of Fame.

*Recognized the Department of Public Safety for the Blue Ridge Fire & EMS Academy's recent selection as a recipient of the 2022 Achievement Award presented by VACO.

*Approved a resolution to honor veterans through the "Operation Green Light" initiative.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved a request to rezone approximately 35-acres in the Iriswood District from Suburban Residential District to Rural Residential District. The applicant plans to use the property for gardening, an orchard and to raise agricultural livestock.

DeVaughan

from page 1

"I do a lot of work in the community, and I just felt like this was an opportunity to really have peoples' voices heard in a different way and let them know that their vote really matters," she said.

DeVaughan said a perceived lack of transparency is another factor.

Before kicking off her campaign, DeVaughan was doing lobbying work, "and the frustration came from not getting the right information, or getting information that was skewed in some way based on possibly like politics and money and things like that."

She believes increased transparency is part of changing the political process and will help ensure elected representatives care about the most vulnerable in their communities.

"The way we know that they care about that is if they are actively listening to you and providing multiple options and multiple ways of doing that," she said.

If elected, DeVaughan, who is a proponent of listening sessions and town hall meetings, also would use television, radio, and social media to reach her constituents, with plans to increase the outreach of the office, especially in western areas like Wise County.

"I believe that in order for us to make the best decisions for our communities is to really know our communities and hear from our communities," she said.

DeVaughan plans to use community input to gauge the committees she should seek appointments to, if elected.

"I'm already thinking of Agriculture, Energy, and Education are things that people are interested in and have concerns with," she said.

She is also interested in ensuring a diversity of jobs is brought into the region, especially since the state is going through a transition of energy production.

"I think that it's important that we have people who want to plan for the future and also protect the environment at the same time in our communities," she said.

DeVaughan plans to use funding available in the recently passed infrastructure bill to help fund these goals. She will take time to make sure people know about the resources that come from the federal and state levels.

DeVaughans also is interested in ways to redistribute the country's wealth and working towards having top earners provide the taxes for needed transitions and projects. She wants to make sure the earmarked funds are "going to the communities so that when we're moving legislation it's just not going from us to the state, it would make sure that it's filtering into the communities the way it needs to," she said.

DeVaughan said youth leaving the area in astronomical numbers is one of the biggest challenges facing the district.

"I want to address that, and I think we do that by offering a vision of what the future can look like in the 9th. For me, what I hear is the ability to go to and from work, to afford a vehicle, and to afford gas," she said.

Bringing a diversity of well-paying jobs that provide benefits and pensions is one way she believes youth will be retained in the area.

DeVaughan believes focusing on what younger people care about like the environment, quality of water and air, and recreation, are other ways to keep younger generations from leaving.

"All of those factor in when they're thinking about building their future," she said.

DeVaughan said many of the items in her platform tie in together.

"When it comes to transportation, infrastructure, our healthcare, mental healthcare, and substance abuse disorders, they all are issues that we're dealing with and are related to them not having access or quality access to the others," she said.

DeVaughan said she believes the district excels at transitioning.

It is "positioned in a place where we are talking about eco-tourism and we're talking about the diverse ways of energy. Wise County just put solar panels on their schools," she said.

However, the area lacks the funding to move a lot of ideas forward.

"I think what we're lacking is the amount of funding that could be in our areas, and not just at the capacity I would think to also make sure that we're executing those in the right way," she said.

Originally from OK, DeVaughan moved to the area 13 years ago with her family. A single mother to her 14-year-old son, DeVaughan lives in a multi-generational home with family members.

She received a B.A. in communications from University of Virginia (UVA)-Wise in 2018, and later began working at the Appalachian Community Fund as a Regional Organizer before being promoted to her current position of Donor Engagement Coordinator.

DeVaughan also served a year in AmeriCorps' Environmental Education Outreach.

She is the president of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, is active in Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid, and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice.

In her spare time DeVaughan enjoys spending time with her son.

New College Foundation

October 29, 2022

Dear Community Friends,

This is the third in a series of letters where I'm sharing important information about New College Foundation (NCF). Previous letters have reported on our scholarship program and mission. In this week's letter, I'm addressing overhead costs. Overhead costs can include things like administrative salaries and associated labor overhead, occupancy costs, office expense, insurance, professional fees, travel expenses, etc. As you can imagine overhead is an essential cost in running any organization, but it none-the-less needs to be must be closely managed. Over the past years NCF has aggressively driven down its overhead costs. In comparing fiscal year 2022 to a decade ago our overhead costs have decreased by well over 50%. We are a very lean organization and this allows us to better fund programs that directly benefit our community.

Kevin DeKoninck
 Executive Director
 New College Foundation (NCF)

Board recognizes Radford Hall of Famer as Headliner



Patrinda Toney Hughes autographed cards for members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.



Patrinda Toney Hughes was recognized by the Henry County Board of Supervisors as a Headliner.



The Blue Ridge Fire and EMS Academy received a Achievement Award.

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Patrinda Toney Hughes was recognized as a Headliner for her achievements in basketball by the Henry County Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 25 meeting.

Hughes, a native of Henry County, was described by Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner as “one of the best basketball players that ever went through Bassett High School.”

She then attended Radford University, where she was recently inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame. While there, from 1987-1992, she won three All Big South Selections and scored

2,020 points, 379 assists, and 228 steals during her career.

“Being an elected official comes with a lot of different responsibilities...but oftentimes ceremonial duties are overlooked. While this responsibility might not receive as much attention, most elected representatives will tell you it is their favorite part,” Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said.

“When we think of all those accomplishments, there’s one word that comes to mind: Headliner. Headliners steal the show. They are people that we look up to and admire. Quite simply, a headliner is someone that deserves attention,” he said.

The board had cards with a photo of Hughes playing and a list of her accomplishments printed. Each member received a card signed by Hughes.

“Patrinda, it is our honor and pleasure to have you here today. You make us all proud by representing our community and making us proud. I know that you make your family proud. And we would like you to have this certificate and an encased playing card,” Adams said.

“I’m not a public speaker, but I would like to just thank you guys for the recognition,” Hughes said. “Thank you to my family and friends for coming. When we had the induction at Radford, a lot of my friends,

because of the hurricane, they couldn’t make it. So, I really do appreciate you guys showing up today.”

In other matters, the board: * Presented the Virginia Association of Counties’ Achievement award to the Blue Ridge Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy.

“This is the 20th year of our achievement awards, which we established in 2003. I’m proud today to present Henry County with the award,” said Joe Lerch, director of Local Government Policy, when presenting the award.

This marked the second time the county received the award.

The first was in 2015.

“You saw a problem, in terms of improving and retaining qualified personnel, and it was a great discussion reading through the application among the different counties, and not only that, there’s the ability to add other counties in the future,” Lerch said.

Henry County Director of Public Safety Matt Tatum explained the academy came into existence during the COVID pandemic due to staff shortages.

At the time, the academy included Henry, Franklin, and Patrick counties, he said, adding that Pittsylvania County, Danville, and Martinsville also are welcome to join.

Fourth graders learn about the environment, plant trees



Students planted trees along the waterways of Philpott Lake.



Students learned about various environmental topics, such as water quality and safety.



More than 150 Black Willow trees were planted this year with the STIC program.

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Fourth grade students from Martinsville City and Franklin County schools planted trees along Philpott Lake while learning about the importance of taking care of the environment.

The Streamside Trees in the Classroom (STIC) program aims to teach children the importance of the environment in a way that is relevant to what they are learning in the classroom. The program has been in operation for 10 years. This year alone, students planted more than 150 trees.

Krista Hodges, education manager for the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), said the pro-

gram helps teach children a wide variety of topics.

“We partner to offer this to fourth grade students because it aligns well with what they’re learning in the classroom based around watersheds, water quality, riparian buffers,” she said.

Participating students visit stations to learn about conservation, erosion, water quality, life cycles, riparian buffers, water safety, and more, she said.

Stations are manned by DRBA partners, including Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, DRBA, the Reynolds Homestead, Patrick County Master Gardeners and the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers.

The program also goes hand in hand with federal program Every Kid Outdoors, or EKO, which provides free day passes to federal recreation facilities for fourth grade students.

“I was counting just over 400 students participating in the program. So, that’s really good coming back from the pandemic and having that many students,” Hodges said.

The trees planted were Black Willows, which are native and grow quickly. Black Willow trees also thrive around streams.

“All of the trees are planted along a stream or a lake that is in need of restoration, so anywhere that you can plant a tree along a waterway is definitely helpful,” Hodges

said. Dillon Brown, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which manages Philpott Lake, said “we’re happy to host this at Philpott Lake. It lines up great with both our initiatives, them being community outreach and us being community outreach as well, but also environmental education. We’re just glad we can partner with this and make this happen.”

The impacts of the program are evident all

around, but especially in the children who participate.

“For some of these kids, it may be the first time they’ve ever planted anything. Just to be able to get outdoors into the forest, into somewhere that’s somewhat wild, if you will. To be able to play and interact with that kind of stuff, it’s good for a lot of kids who may not get to do that very much,” Brown said.


There is also a slight environmental impact.

“As far as environmental impacts, the survival rate is not bad. It does make a difference, though, because it helps regenerate better than it’s regenerating on its own,” Brown said.

Hodges added the trip was many of the children’s first field trip in years due to the COVID pandemic.

“For most of them, this is the first field trip they’ve been on since they were in first grade,” she said.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Unhappy
- Clairvoyance
- One who works under you
- What happens there stays there
- Not ingested
- Got the picture
- One thousandth of a gram
- Breakfast item
- About
- Tall deciduous trees
- Safe keeping receipt
- Cowardly
- Pueblo people of New Mexico
- Herring-like fish
- A very large body of water
- Angle (abbr.)
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- White clerical vestment
- Cool!

- Matchstick games
- Thick piece of something
- A state that precedes vomiting
- Burned item residue
- Jaguarundi
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- The home of “60 Minutes”
- Dorm official
- Give cards incorrectly
- One who is learning the job
- Popular R.L. Stevenson novel
- Attentively
- CNN’s founder
- Criticize
- CLUES DOWN
- Fijian capital
- Assist
- Elected lord in Venice

- The capacity of a physical system to do work
- People of the wild
- Parent-teacher group
- Midway between south and southeast
- Moved quickly on foot
- Handheld Nintendo console
- “Top of the Stairs” playwright
- Electronic data processing
- “Dog Day Afternoon” director
- Leaned
- About aviation
- Mountain is a popular type
- Lake along Zambia and Congo border
- Soviet tales
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- “Star Trek” villain
- Hand gesture popular on social media
- Renters have one
- Tubular steel column
- Database management system
- Similar
- Providing no shelter or sustenance
- Death
- What a sheep did
- Midcentury Asian battle-ground
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Mortified
- Improper word
- No seats available
- Financial obligation
- It can be hot or iced
- Tough outer skin of a fruit
- Spumante (Italian wine)
- Misfortunes
- Negative
- Camper

OPINION

How the West was lost

Back in 2004, I was riding to Richmond with a friend of mine. Somewhere along the endless stretch of Route 360, he popped his new favorite CD in the car stereo:

"The College Dropout" by Kanye West.

To my surprise, I loved it. While I appreciate hip-hop as an art form, I generally find myself listening to genres that feature screaming guitar solos and songs about evil wizards. However, "College Dropout" had that rarest and most sought-after of qualities in the world of music: crossover appeal.

The Kanye West that appeared on his 2004 debut album was charming. He was funny. He had some interesting observations about society. He could write a song that would make you want to move.

Additionally — and I realize this may be incredibly difficult to believe — he was humble.

"My persona is that I'm the regular person," West said in a long-ago interview. "Just think about whatever you've been through in the past week, and I have a song about that on my album."

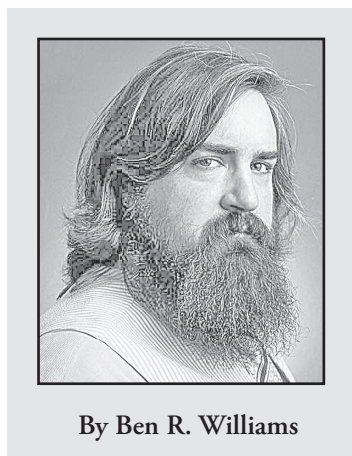
The Kanye West of 2004 was a regular guy who just happened to have a gift for music. He was someone you could relate to.

Sure, he was no stranger to bragadocio, but he was a guy you'd want to hang out with.

It's hard to believe that I'm describing the person who would become Ye, the Kanye West of 2022. Ye is a howling vacuum of ego and untreated mental illness, a rampaging narcissist who has never encountered a question he cannot answer despite professing to have never read a book. He is also, apparently, a massive anti-Semite; it's safe to say that his recent rants about the Jews have gained a wider audience than "Donda 2" ever did.

It appears that the fallout from West's grotesque comments may be the worst thing to happen to a famous anti-Semite since April of '45. On the morning that I'm writing this column, Adidas dropped their sponsorship with West. If you weren't aware, about \$1.5 billion of West's net worth came from his longtime relationship with Adidas, which produced West's "Yeezy" brand of footwear, a series of shoes as remarkably expensive as they are unspeakably hideous. Seriously, if you want to spend thousands of dollars on something that looks like the Elephant Man's orthopedic shoes, Yeezys are your brand.

Or at least they were before Adidas finally dropped West,



By Ben R. Williams

knocking him from a billionaire down to a humble multimillionaire with the stroke of a pen. Given that the company was founded by a guy named Adolf Dassler who joined the Nazi party in 1933, I imagine that the public relations professionals at Adidas are somewhat sensitive about being linked with vocal anti-Semites.

Despite everything, West still has an army of vocal supporters. They tend to defend West with one of two claims. The first claim is that he's a genius operating on a different level from the rest of us. Considering that he just talked his way out of \$1.5 billion, I think we can put that one to bed.

The second claim is that West deserves all the sympathy in the world because he has bipolar disorder.

I take issue with this.

I know people who have bipolar disorder. A good friend of mine has it. There's no shame in it.

However, there is a saying I think of often: your mental illness is not your fault, but it is your responsibility.

My friend doesn't have millions in the bank, but he still sought out treatment for his bipolar disorder and found treatment that helps keep it in check. West, meanwhile, is still fabulously wealthy even after losing \$1.5 billion and seemingly makes little to no effort to get help. He could easily afford the finest mental health treatment in the world; instead, he goes on manic sprees in which he publicly announces he's going to go "Death Con 3 on Jewish people."

I'm afraid I don't have a ton of sympathy.

However, I also have no sympathy for the folks who have spent nearly 20 years enabling West to reach this low point.

I still remember being in Barnes & Noble back in 2006 and seeing a Rolling Stone magazine cover featuring West wearing a crown of thorns. "This ain't gonna end well," I thought to myself. If The Beatles couldn't get away with comparing themselves to Jesus, no one can get away with it.

Then, of course, there was the famous moment when he went off-script during a live

Hurricane Katrina fundraiser to announce that "George Bush doesn't care about black people," causing his co-presenter Mike Myers' soul to leave his body on live television. Or the time he rushed the stage at the Grammys to ruin Taylor Swift's moment, or the time he got angry at a concert because he told everyone to stand up and a guy in a wheelchair refused to comply for some reason, or the time he ran for President, or the time he spoke ill of Harriet Tubman, or the time he defended Bill Cosby, or the time he defended R. Kelly, or the time he made false claims about the real cause of George Floyd's death.

And then, of course, there was the time he said that slavery was a "choice," which requires an extraordinarily incorrect interpretation of the word "slavery."

West is finally being held accountable for his actions — I don't think he's coming back from this one — but the folks who spent years exploiting a mentally ill narcissist should face a reckoning as well. West isn't getting dropped by all his sponsors because he's suddenly become erratic; he's been erratic for nearly two decades, he's just finally become so radioactive that he's no longer profitable.

The Kanye West I first heard in 2004 built his career on crossover appeal. Eighteen years later, it's hard to remember a time when he was ever appealing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Support for Rawls, Jones

Why reversion affects me.

Reversion will mean my COUNTY Taxes have to increase. The Henry County debt will grow because reversion means the city school system is dissolved and this means H-C will have to deal with 21 million more in the budget to run the city

schools.

Reversion means over 500 city workers will lose their jobs.

Within 2 years the Town of Martinsville can begin annexation, which means the county revenue from the Patriot Center, Martinsville Speedway, Walmart and other businesses can be stolen/taken

by the town of Martinsville. Once this happens H-C will not have money in the budget to repair its infrastructure.

We know we are getting a 10% increase in taxes because of the jail and new school. Once H-C has taken on the extra debt left over by the city, we can look at 40-50%

increase in county taxes. Let's not forget the town of Martinsville is at 1.05 now and can increase taxes even more for the parts of the county it does annex.

We have watched the city waste over \$1.5 million trying to take cable from Adelphia. The city spent millions on AMP power, which really never existed if you listen closely. The city took \$780,000 out of ARPA money to pay back the medical center debt. We know over \$200,000 has been spent for a chair

to be outside that no one cares about.

We listen to council members claim the mistakes were made before they were elected. Look at the time line and you will see bad decisions have been made in the last 8-12 years. The ones on city council are begging for another 4 years. How many more mistakes need to be made before people decide enough is enough.

The council members voted every time to give over \$1.5 million to attor-

neys to fight reversion (to keep city voters from voting for themselves). If you do the math, this is more than the \$3 million council members claim they have as a deficit. It's time for the city voters to take back the city and vote for ones best for the job. Summer time has passed, and we do not need any more 'flipflops'. Vote Jones and Rawls if you want to keep your schools open and preserve your school history.

*Ray Reynolds,
Collinsville*

Candidate

from page 1

exclude Jones from the "new" policy, citing bad timing and appearance.

"I want to make a motion to exclude LC Jones, candidate for city council of Martinsville

and Martinsville City Police, from our new employment policy that won't allow a city employee to run for city council," Turner said. "I am one hundred percent

in favor of the policy. I think we have an obligation to give elections the appearance of being fair, completely and totally, and I would like for him to be excluded and then let the voters decide if we think it's a good policy by if they're for or against him."

Turner said the timing makes it seem as though the policy was changed to prevent Jones from running. Mayor Kathy Lawson seconded the motion for the sake of discussion.

Council member Chad Martin said he spoke with Jones and Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy, who said Jones was informed of the policy on June 7, and did not turn in his packet to run for council until June 12.

"It's kind of hard to say he was grandfathered in when they already had the policy before," Martin said. "I am definitely in agreement with him running. It would potentially be a conflict of interest, and I think that's what the big sticking point is."

Martin suggested the council render a decision about the policy at its next meeting, which is after the election.

Lawson said she preferred referring the issue to the state Conflict of Interest Council for a state opinion.

Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles agreed that the timing of the policy was "terrible ... LC did state that he was going to run, regardless. He said he was going to run anyway, whether it was a policy or not."

Bowles agreed with the idea of referring the issue to an outside entity with no interest or bias

in Martinsville's local government.

Council member Tammy Pearson said the timing of the policy "worries me greatly." She said Jones was collecting signatures before the policy was put in place. She then discussed research she had done into the policy, and emails she had received from legal counsel.

Paraphrasing her findings, Pearson said, "The city manager and city attorney do not have the authority in the city charter or city code to make a policy on the forfeiture of employment for city employees, subsequently elected to council. The General Assembly has not authorized in the city charter a provision prohibiting city employees from serving on city council."

She then discussed the city charter's definition of conflict of interest and said the conflict of interest in the employment policy was not stated. "Relative to a city council member, a conflict of interest refers to interest in the profits of any contract or work," she said.

She believes that there would need to be a city charter change to make this policy, but was open to discussion and correction on her interpretation.

She amended Turner's motion to "remove the new employed policy adopted by the city manager, Section 7.8.1E effective immediately and defer this matter for further discussion and research by council and city manager and possibly by a non-biased organization."

Turner accepted the amendment, but it died for lack of a second.

Bowles suggested the motion be tabled until the council receives an opinion from the state and other agencies.

"Let's ask a state organization to give us their guidance so it doesn't look like anybody's showing favoritism, we're not being transparent. What's more transparent than asking the Conflict of Interest Act organization," she said.

Lawson cited the city charter, "Neither the council nor any member thereof should have authority to give orders to any of the subordinates of the city manager, either publicly or privately."

Lawson then asked who was in favor of Turner's motion.

Turner voted yes; Lawson, Pearson, and Bowles voted against, and Martin abstained.

Pearson again made her motion, which again died for lack of a second.

"I would like to make a motion to direct the city administration to send correspondence to the Conflict of Interest Act Council and the state of Virginia and ask what is their perception on this policy and to get a reading from it. Also, to reach out to employment law and research that, and I'd like to have this information brought back to council," Bowles said.

She said Jones serving on council would be a conflict of interest because he reports to the chief who then reports to the city manager. But council members oversee the city manager.

Bowles and Lawson questioned why the issue was raised now and not in June when the

policy was put in place.

Martin seconded Bowles' motion.

"For the public sake and for our sake, making sure that if LC wins and he doesn't take office until January, there are not issues going towards him and we revisit this language ... to make sure nothing happens where this can come back on LC to where he would lose his job," Martin said.

"I agree totally that the policy is a good policy and needs to be there, I'm just saying that the perception that it was changed at the 11th hour to penalize him for running, an election has to have no appearance of wrong doing," Turner said.

Bowles' motion passed 4-1, with Pearson objecting.

Jones could not immediately be reached for comment.

In other matters, the council:

* Heard a presentation and report on a new drug treatment court being implemented in Henry County and Martinsville from Circuit Court Judge Carter Greer and Piedmont Community Services members Kelly Koebel and Quincy Gravely. The court serves as a treatment alternative to serving jail time for drug related crimes.

* Held a public hearing for the transfer of properties into the Martinsville Land Bank Authority.

* Recognized city employees for service year milestones.

* Approved the Oct. 11 minutes.

* Designated Nov. 1 as Extra Mile Day.

* Approved the consent agenda.

Your Community, Your Voice

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Council from page 1



Aaron Rawls



LC Jones



Jennifer Bowles

be immediate peace and tranquility. We're going to need a disinfectant campaign. We have to get things out in the public that people should have known a long time ago," he said, adding that he will work "to recruit the most professional, competent, visionary people that I can, to participate in our government" in the next council election.

Jones believes that to grow, Martinsville must repair its relationships, not just with outside parties, but also within the community.

"When we talk about growing Martinsville and getting people to come to Martinsville, new citizens, one of the biggest things that people look at is the dysfunctional situation we have going on with our local government," he said. "One of the biggest things we are missing is putting our citizens first. I feel that our citizens and transparency and the level of information that we've given our citizens, especially when we bring up the reversion conversation, they've missed an essential part of that."

Jones reiterated his call to create "a call line where (residents) can call in or we can call them and give them information in real time basis."

Bowles said her relationship with other members of council allows her access to information about the viewpoints of residents she may not speak to one-on-one.

"I know there's no way I can talk to every 13,000 citizens, but I do know that maybe Danny can talk to some citizens that I don't talk to. Maybe Tammy (Pearson) talks to some other citizens that I don't talk to," she said. "So, I know by talking to her, talking to them, talking to the other council members, that's how you learn things."

According to Bowles, she only knows about her relationships with other council members and not about the disagreements referenced in the question.

"I can't talk about all of the petty disputes. I can't talk about non-essential squabbling. I can't talk about personality clashes. That's not about me," she said. "I don't do those things, I don't have those issues with members of council. I just state my opinions. I ask what I want. And if it doesn't go my way, guess what? I've got to move on and continue doing the work of the city. Let my record speak for me, let my professionalism speak for me."

Turner said he is "not satisfied with what goes on in the city hall, but all you can do is fight. One of the responsibilities of city council I found out is sometimes you've got to protect the citizens from the government and the city has made a lot of mistakes."

Turner questioned the status quo, which earned applause from some attendees.

"I think the current arrangement with the assistant city manager and the city attorney are the

same person absolutely does not serve anybody's purpose," Turner said.

When fielding a question about the entities - Uptown Partnership, which was funded by Harvest for three years and unless the city funds it will cease to exist. The other entity known as Martinsville Uptown is part of the Chamber of Commerce's partnership Economic Progress and it partially funded by the city - involved in promoting and developing the business district, Jones said that he is not well versed in the two entities, but he noted there have been a lot of accomplishments in Uptown.

Going forward, Jones said he believes the city must concentrate on making connections, branding, and continuing to grow to attract businesses.

"That making connections is what we talked about earlier. It's rebuilding partnerships with our community partners, that being Henry County Board of Supervisors, our school systems in Henry County and Martinsville. That is the start," he said.

"When we talk about branding, I'm not sure that other people look at Martinsville. When I go outside of Martinsville, Martinsville is race country. And I know that where Martinsville Speedway, and we generally only use the Speedway a couple times a year on the big races, but we do have several smaller races," Jones said. "I feel that we need something in Martinsville, my idea is a museum, something that when we have race fans come here, they have somewhere to go. Also, throughout the year, they also have another reason to come to Martinsville," he said.

Growth "is really just revising and revitalizing. It's kind of looking at growth from small perspectives. And when we talk about growth and having people look here and come here, we have to look at our businesses and the needs that they have," he said.

Bowles said she understands the roles of each of the two entities, and added both are having conversations now, despite an adverse relationship that may have been present or portrayed in the past.

"I'm all about collaboration. One thing that I do believe is the more that we have people coming to the table, having conversations, bringing ideas, and just hashing it out, the better our community will be," she said.

According to Bowles, the Harvest Foundation approached the city with the idea of the city funding half of the money to continue Uptown Partnership. She said she can't rule out supporting the funding because Uptown Partnership could do something with the Chamber of Commerce.

"One idea that I have is maybe Uptown Partnership has an umbrella under the chamber. We know the chamber has proven leadership," she said.

Turner supports the funding agreement for Uptown Partnership, which he tentatively said equates to \$125,000 a year. However, he is against the notion of giving Uptown Partnership \$5 million in ARPA funding, especially without the agency partnering with the chamber.

"I have met with this group, and I have elected that I would help fund the two years partnership with the Harvest Foundation. It ended up, it's going to be result based. So, if we don't get it, we're not committing after that," he said.

Turner said Uptown Martinsville is a vital part of both the city and the county.

"Uptown is very important to me. It's actually the center of Henry County. It's smack dab in the center of Henry County and going forward, whether we revert or not, it's still a valuable part of both the City of Martinsville and Henry County," he said.

Turner said he is constantly looking for opportunities to get businesses to move to Martinsville.

"I overheard a conversation in Rocky Mount where an international company was looking for a place in Virginia to locate. They talked about another place. I kind of butted into the conversation. After it was over with, I got their people to come here," he said. "We had people from two foreign countries here in Martinsville, and I hope pretty soon we're going to have an economic development announcement."

Rawls is firmly against funding Uptown Partnership, and added the way the entity was introduced "led to a number of issues. A lot of businesses felt like they were omitted from the process. I read the plan the consultants made for them and was made to understand, and kind of got some input from people in the city, as to what that thing should say. What I'm going to say about that is it's one of the most reprehensible documents I've ever read in my entire life," he said.

Rawls said he could have gotten behind the ARPA funding if it wasn't a strange notion with the reversion argument of financial instability and the fact that ARPA money was meant for businesses strongly impacted by COVID that were already established in the city.

Rawls said whether both entities should exist "depends. We need an actual thorough plan and then we can look at what the chamber's done, what Uptown Partnership has done, and be like, 'Ah, they've made strides in that direction.'" I know the chamber has a plan, but I don't know where it measures up to what the city's expectations are, is what I'm trying to say. And I would need to see the same for Uptown Partnership," he said.

On the reversion process, Bowles said she too is frustrated. She added that residents should vote on the issue.

"For years, the city council has spared the citizens the pain of increased taxation, service cuts, by doing budget cuts. Had we not done that, I do believe it would be more clear to our citizens why we need reversion," she said.

Bowles said the city used ARPA funding to avoid raising taxes, but that it was a "once in a lifetime gift."

"Honestly, letting the citizens vote, letting them decide, it's a sigh of relief to me. Because that way, you can move forward in the path of whatever the citizens want. But I do want to be extremely honest with our citizens. If we don't revert, we will have to raise taxes or cut services," she said.

Turner said that he was not a part of the negotiating committee, but he wishes he had been.

"I think we could have negotiated a better agreement. I'm still hopeful that the three judge panel, when they meet December 5, will be able to figure out that this is something that's got to take place and tweak it a little bit," he said. "I think if we had spent our time with the county at the General Assembly session, instead of fighting for a referendum, fighting for a better solution ... we could have come out really good on that."

He also said the city was ready to revert six years ago after a study was done, but the mayor changed her vote, causing the city to have to wait five years before another vote could be held.

"That put us in a very bad position. I think that Mr. Jones and Mr. Rawls solution, we can't afford the five more years," he said.

Rawls said there is a laundry list of cases where the city has not made good use of its resources, and the city needs professionals who can negotiate deals.

"This is what happens when you don't do your homework, you don't have professionals running very serious processes like this. We got caught trying to push this through. The playbook has been out there for reversion. Other cities have done this, there's a lot of documentation," he said.

Rawls wants to grow Martinsville, with a focus on baby boomers and young professionals.

"I really want to see us focus on growth and I also want to focus on getting some of our wayward, crazy expenses under control. I also think, in terms of reorganizing administration, there's a lot of opportunity there," he said.

Rawls said he tries to look at a realistic five year plan the way the average citizen would.

"A couple things we can all agree on is that the city is broke. We have had new citizens come here. The city is making money. Over the past years, we have made money. How much, and the significance of that growth, is really (neither) here nor there because there is the growth," he said,

He also questioned whether

the city would be in its current situation had administration not made some of the decisions of the past.

"With the growth that we have, just right now, and the bad decisions that we've made over the years, had we not made those decisions, had we not been spending money for lawyers, had we not been fighting against our own school system, forcing them to go get lawyers, had we not been fighting Henry County Board of Supervisors, would we be in the same situation right now," he asked rhetorically.

"What is the single most important issue, other than reversion, facing city council right now and how would you deal with it?"

Bowles said, "One thing that I frequently hear from citizens is that they want to continue to be advocated for and they want to have more communication and transparency."

She said she pushed for the city to post meeting information on social media and for the hiring of a public information officer. She is continuing to pursue methods for communication.

"I had the city administration look into putting things in our electric bills. Another thing the city administration is looking into is direct text messages to our citizens. That way, they'll know it's the city, they'll know they can vote," Bowles said.

Jones' issue was the "trifecta" of mental health, homelessness, and drug addiction.

"If you look up and down your streets right now, no matter what time of day it is, you're dealing with one of those three things and it's going to have an impact on the community," he said. "When we talk about bringing new people to this community, they come into this community, they walk these streets, and they see these things."

Jones said the city needs a place for their homeless to go where they can rehabilitate and receive 24 hour help.

Rawls said the issue can be addressed by new leadership and rebuilding Martinsville's brand and reputation.

"What you see in the news is not who we are. That is not our character, that is not our spirit. We have to rebrand ourselves and start telling our story better," he said, adding that he wants to create a council that is "professional and earnest."

"I promise you, I will go to the max for this. I've probably walked 40 miles going door to door for myself, I will do that for any other candidate who is sincere and experienced in doing this," he said.

Turner said economic development "cures a lot of ails. We need to continue on that route, partnering with the chamber. Making sure that we have the resources, and we also need to be advocates. Each member of the city council needs to be an advocate for the city."

VDOT encourages race fans to follow signs, reduce traffic congestion

With a weekend full of racing, drivers should expect an increased volume of traffic in the vicinity of the Martinsville Speedway on Thursday, October 27, Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30.

For the race being held on Sunday, October 30, the Virginia Department of Transportation encourages race fans driving to and from Martinsville Speedway to follow the recommended traffic patterns listed below and as posted on signs and message

boards.

VDOT will place many signs and changeable message boards throughout the region to assist travelers. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be heavy. Traffic is being routed to the speedway in certain patterns to minimize overall congestion as much as possible. Watch for the speed limit to reduce gradually from 65 mph to 35 mph on the U.S. 220/U.S. 58 Bypass as you approach the speedway.

- From Roanoke and areas north of Martinsville: Race fans

traveling south on U.S. 220 should continue on the U.S. 220/U.S. 58 Bypass past the speedway interchange and turn right onto the access road that leads into the speedway. The entrance is located one mile east of the U.S. 220 interchange and may provide easier access. Signs are in place designating the entrance to the speedway.

- From Danville and areas east of Martinsville: Motorists on the U.S. 58 Bypass should follow signs directing them

to use the track's back gate. This entrance is located off the bypass, east of the track.

- From Greensboro and areas south of Martinsville: Motorists should watch for electronic message boards and obey police directing traffic. Through traffic should use the left lane.

- From Stuart and areas west of Martinsville: Motorists should stay on U.S. 58 east and follow signs and message boards to the track.

As drivers exit the races, VDOT reminds drivers of the

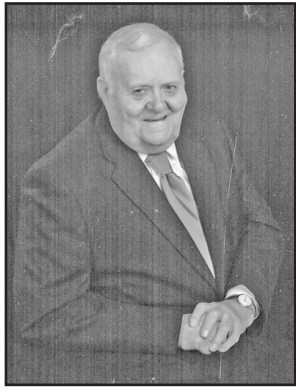
U.S. 220 Business northbound bridge replacement currently underway. It is located over Reed Creek about 0.4 mile east of the U.S. 220 and U.S. 220 Business intersection. The northbound side is reduced to one lane of travel and may cause delays due to the increase from race traffic.

Those attending the race should closely follow directional information and plan to arrive early and expect heavy traffic and delays throughout the area.

OBITUARIES

William Wayne Young

William Wayne Young, 82, of Figsboro, VA passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at his home. He was born on April 11, 1940, in Franklin County, VA to the late James William (Mellin) Young and Irene Hundley Young Sutton. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sister, Ann Young Long and brother, Curtis Wendell Young.



Christopher Young, Morgan Young, LeAnne Shelton, Logan Custer, Abbey Custer Keys, Jaime Little, Kelly Roberts, and Kevin Roberts; great-grandchildren, Jeremiah Young, Hunter and Emma Shelton, Cora Grace Custer, Joshua, Jacob, and Jasmyn Little; and numerous nieces, and nephews.

Wayne was a member of McCabe Memorial Baptist Church for sixty-eight years and a Figsboro Ruritan Club member. He retired from carpentry work in 2005. He enjoyed building bird houses, reading and watching westerns.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Ruth Adams Young of the home; children, Betsy Roberts (Rob), Dwayne Young (Linda) and Jennifer Custer (Kelly); grandchildren, Adam Shelton,

26, 2022, at McCabe Memorial Baptist Church with Dr. G.H. Vaughan and Rev. Lewis Harris officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

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

James Martin "Jimmie" Cassady

James Martin "Jimmie" Cassady, 85, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Thursday, October 20, 2022. He was born in Surry County, N.C. on November 19, 1936, to the late Raymond R. Cassady and Sallie Tolbert Cassady.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Grogan Cassady of the home; sons, Marty Cassady (Phyllis Dodson) of Hillsborough, N.C. and Dr. Richard Cassady (Wendy) of Springdale, Ark., and daughter, Robyn Smart (Billy) of Martinsville; grandsons, Bryant Cassady, Ramey Cassady, William Cassady and Tylor Cassady all of Springdale, Ark. The family is very appreciative of the care and devotion provided by special caregiver Sarah Huff.

Mr. Cassady was a graduate of JD Bassett High School, attended Ferrum Junior College where he played on the first football team, and received a BS degree from Concord College in Athens W.Va. He held a master's degree in Education from UVA.



He began his working years as a teacher with Henry County Schools, becoming Asst. Principal of Fieldale High School. He later worked in industry with Stanley Furniture Company and others. He retired from Henry County Plywood Corp. as VP-sales with 30 years of service.

He was an avid golfer and a member of Lynwood Country Club, Bassett Country Club and Beaver Hills Golf Club.

He was a member of Pleasant Grove Christian Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pleasant Grove Christian Church, 5285 Preston Road, Martinsville, Va. 24112.

A graveside service was held at Pleasant Grove Christian Church on Sunday, October 23, 2022, officiated by Reverend Doug Ramsey.

Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, Va. is serving the family.

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

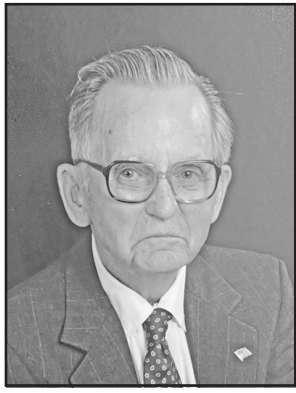
Douglas Mark Anthony

Douglas Mark Anthony of 145 Cherward Street, Collinsville, Virginia died exactly two months short of his 100th birthday on Sunday, October 23, 2022.

He was born in Stella, Patrick County on December 23, 1922, to John Virgil Anthony, Jr. and Ethel Foster Anthony. He was preceded in death by his bride of 67 years, Josephine Hodges Anthony. Also preceded in death by two sons, D. Mark Anthony (Judy) and Larry Allen Anthony, Sr. (Kathy). He had lost six brothers, Clarence E. Anthony, Thomas A. Anthony, John Virgil Anthony, III, Charles G. Anthony, Sr., William Penn Anthony, and Maxwell James Anthony; and two sisters, Elizabeth Anthony and Hallie Anthony Slagle.

Doug graduated from Hardin Reynolds Memorial High School in Critz, then served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

He was a member and had served as



a deacon at First Baptist Church of Collinsville. He had been a long-time member of the Men's Fellowship Sunday School Class. Doug was co-owner of Anthony Brothers Lumber and Supply Company for forty-nine years.

Survivors include his son, Paul John Anthony (Sherry) of Lynchburg; daughter, Linda Anthony Shelton (Mark) of Kernersville, NC; eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren; and the last surviving sibling, Richard Myron Anthony.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Collinsville, with Rev. Dr. Larry Cheek officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service, from 10 to 11 a.m. Burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Frances Jewell Davis

Frances Jewell Davis, 94, of Martinsville, Virginia died peacefully on October 25, 2022, at her home in the Rich Acres Community of Martinsville.

She was born on Jewell Ridge, in Richlands, Tazewell County, Virginia on February 11, 1928, to the late Albert T. Jewell and Mary Young Jewell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey Wilson "Willie" Davis and her son, James "Steven" Davis. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond Jewell and Earl Jewell; eight sisters, Chloe Colley, Nila Abshire, Thelma Horton, Janie Smith (MacDaniel), Dorothy Patrick, Jean McGlothlin, Reba Harper and Shirley Jewell.

Survivors include a son, Jeremiah L. Davis (Sandy Hodge Davis); two granddaughters, Sarah Jean Davis (Nathan Zaborowski) and Sydney Jewell Davis; one great-granddaughter, Tatum Claire Zaborowski. Frances was also blessed with her special caregivers, T. Bertha Prunty, Jerri Allen, Carolyn Jones and Sharmaine Thorton.

As a born again Christian and a servant of God, Frances was an organizer



for Martinsville Church of Truth Holiness Church in the Rich Acres community. Frances helped her husband, Wilson, build and establish Davis' Curb Market now known as Peoples Save Station. There she prepared meals at the lunch counter and was known for her homemade cakes and pies.

Not surprisingly, her nurturing nature and desire to help others led her to attend Danville Memorial Hospital School of Nursing where she graduated top of her class to become a LPN, class of 1967. During her 35-year career, she worked at Martinsville Memorial Hospital, Patrick County Hospital and Danville Memorial Hospital. Her most fulfilling position was Head Nurse for Dr. John R. Smith, Cardiologist.

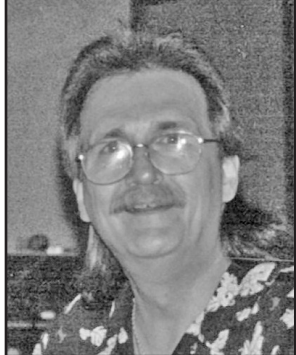
The family will receive friends at Martinsville Church of Truth on Friday, October 28, 2022, with the funeral to follow. Brother Bill Preskitt will officiate. Burial is at Horsepasture Christian Church Cemetery.

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

William Curtis Hall

William Curtis Hall, Jr., 74, of Axton, VA passed away Wednesday, October 19, 2022. He was born June 3, 1948, in Danville, VA to the late Gwen Hall and William C. Hall, Sr. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepson, Todd Amos.

He is survived by his



wife, Carol Amos Hall; son, Jon Hall; stepson, Roger Amos; and sister, Diana.

Services will be held privately.

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

"A Beautifully Broken Virginia," unique photographic journey comes to PA



An example of John Plashal's hauntingly beautiful photography. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Piedmont Arts will host Richmond based photographer John Plashal for a presentation and art talk, "A Beautifully Broken Virginia," on Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. During the talk, Plashal will take audiences on a photographic journey through the beautifully decaying rural places with which so many Virginians have become fascinated. For admission, a donation of \$20 is suggested.

"A Beautifully Broken Virginia" is part of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Statewide Programs. The abandoned architectural gems captured in Plashal's work will be delivered to you in a presentation by the artist, full of powerful imagery and emotional stories. This is an opportunity like no other to experience the unseen side of Virginia and the houses, churches, schools, asylums, diners and secret societies that have been frozen in time through the lens and perspective of the artist.

John Plashal is a photographer, author and speaker based in Richmond, Virginia. In addition to pursuing extreme landscape photography, John spends a considerable amount of

his free time assimilating into rural communities in Virginia, ultimately with the goal of tapping into local knowledge in order to identify, photograph and document places that offer beauty in decay and unique histories. He also is a member of the Statewide Faculty Speakers Bureau for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, speaking to VMFA affiliates about his journey, in the form of a presentation full of captivating imagery and amazing stories.

Piedmont Arts, a non-profit art museum in Martinsville is located at 215 Starling Ave. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Property: **403 Clearview Drive - condemned from previous code enforcement on 5/29/2018**

Owner: Flora Jean Bender Smith

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:

403 Clearview Drive

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not clean and sanitary.
- PM-504.1 - Water not maintained safe and in functioning condition.
- PM-505.1 - Every plumbing fixture not properly connected to public water.
- PM-505.3 - Water system not maintained to supply water.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical system not in compliance with requirements for occupied building.
- PM-604.3 - Electrical system constitutes hazard.

ORDER

The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

Right of Appeal

You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 am until 5:00 p.m.

Nkembe is new primary care physician in Martinsville

Kwamba Nkembe, MD will be providing primary care for patients at Sovah Internal Medicine - Martinsville, according to a release.

"We are excited to have Dr. Nkembe alongside our team of providers at Sovah Physician Practices," said Carole McGovern, Director of Physician Practices. "His extensive experience and training combined with his passion for his patients will help us to meet the healthcare needs of our region."

Dr. Nkembe is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician and received his Doctor of Medicine from St. Matthew's University School of Medicine

(Grand Cayman Islands). He completed his residency at the State University of New York (Stony Brook, NY) and Master of Public Health from the City University New York (New York, NY). Dr. Nkembe is a member of the American Association of Family Practice and American Medical Association.

At Sovah Internal Medicine - Martinsville, Dr. Nkembe specializes in hypertension, diabetes, acute illnesses/injuries, chronic medical conditions, physicals, and preventative health. Dr. Nkembe is accepting new patients ages 2 and older, and appointments may be made by calling

(276) 666-0452. The Hospital Dr. Suite 202 in Martinsville.



Kwamba Nkembe, MD

Shaffer selected chief financial officer

ValleyStar Credit Union announced Mendy Shaffer as its chief financial officer.

During Shaffer's time as interim CFO, the credit union has experienced historical growth in almost every key performance measurement, including asset growth from \$573M to \$671M and net income of \$4.7M, which surpasses the net income earned for the previous three (3) years - combined.

Shaffer joined the ValleyStar team in 2018 as the VP of accounting,

with oversight of such functions as investments, securities and asset liabilities to ensure the strength and security of ValleyStar's financial assets.

"Mendy has several years of expertise in the credit union industry, leading results-oriented teams and creating better processes with advanced technology," said Mike Warrell, CEO of ValleyStar Credit Union. "Her skill set will advance sustainable and scalable strategies in financial technology and capital growth for

ValleyStar, translating into value for our members."

Shaffer holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Averett University and her Master of Business Administration from Radford University. She obtained her American Bankers Association, Stonier Graduate School of Banking, Banking Leadership through The Wharton School, and attended the CUNA Financial Management School and Southeast Region Credit Union

School of Management.



Mendy Shaffer

Petty from page 1

signings in Dallas, Daytona, Charlotte, and more, but Martinsville is a special place to him.

"Martinsville is a place that we really wanted to come for a couple of reasons. For me, growing up in North Carolina just across the border, down around Greensboro, Martinsville was always kind of ..., my dad considered it our home track," he said. "And that race-track is the oldest track on the circuit. They've been running that track

since 1949. My granddads ran there, I ran there, you know, my dad ran there obviously, he won a million races there."

The book signings he's held so far haven't quite been what Petty expected.

"Race fans are the greatest fans in the world. You tell a bunch of race fans there's going to be one of their favorite drivers or somebody in NASCAR's signing autographs somewhere and they're going to go line up to get an autograph," he said. "But

at the same time, I've had a large quantity and a large number of people that have come through the line and bought the book that bought the book that bought nothing about racing."

He said those new to the sport readers often tell him they learned a lot about him, his family, and NASCAR's history.

"That's been the biggest thing for me is seeing how people that really aren't race fans and don't know our life story and how they react to it," Petty said.



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Tuesdays- 9AM-12PM
Thursdays- 2PM-4:30PM

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Griffith from page 1

Investigation for Energy and Commerce next year and have some real authority to ferret out answers and bring policy to the forefront. Policies that are supported by the people of the 9th district," he said.

Throughout his tenure, Griffith said he's tried to create an environment that's conducive to the creation of jobs in the area. Griffith also worked to get \$600,000 for Patrick County for the purchase of Mobile Health

Units to help with access to healthcare.

"This was an effort that both the Senators (Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats) and I to try and make sure we could pinpoint some money

that was going to be spent for healthcare anyway to make sure it came into our region," he said.

Griffith said he was part of the effort to change the tax code to make it more reasonable for all people of

different income levels.

"That helped up spur the economy before the most recent policies that came in with the Biden administration turned some of that around," he said.

If reelected, Griffith wishes to continue some of his efforts.

For instance, because he is in line to be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight Investigation for Energy and Commerce, Griffith said that would give him jurisdiction to bring government officials in to talk about issues relating to energy, healthcare, Coronavirus issues, Medicaid, Medicare, and other topics.

"Most people don't even realize it, but that subcommittee actually has jurisdiction over the various athletic endeavors under the umbrella of the U.S. Olympic Committee," he said.

Griffith said the biggest challenge facing the district is the need to bring manufacturing back to the United States.

"We're doing it a little bit, but we've got to have policies both on energy and on taxation that encourages companies that are American to stay in America, and encourages companies that have maybe moved offshore to bring it back," he said.

Griffith added there have been successes in bringing companies in who are looking to access American markets. He believes the district excels at having a strong workforce. He said many people don't realize it because companies primarily look at degrees and diplomas.

"A lot of our people know how to do things. So, we've got to make sure the companies know that, and I hope we could figure out ways to get more certificates to people in our communities," he said.

Griffith said the district also excels at having numerous local community colleges with strong vocation

platforms.

The road system needs improvement, particularly I-73 and U.S. 121, or the Coalfields Expressway.

"They are two ways that we could open up the area to better shipping and encourage more economic development in the region," he said, and added the district lacks flatlands to locate large facilities and factories.

Griffith said his office has always been transparent.

"We have a policy of having representatives of my office in every single county in the district at least once a month. That doesn't include the times that I'm traveling around the district either," he said.

Griffith's office receives hundreds of calls, emails, and mail from the public each day.

"The public tells me what they're thinking. Sometimes, it takes a while to get a response back to them, but we always get a response back," he said.

If his office receives several letters about a particular issue or bill, Griffith said he approves one letter to go out to everyone about that issue.

"I wish I was able to read them all, but we have roughly 800,000 constituents in the district and many of them take advantage of the opportunities to get in touch with us, either through our website, phone calls, brick and mortar offices, and our monthly visits to each and every county," he said.

Griffith lives in Salem with his wife Hilary and three children. He graduated from Emory and Henry College with a B.A. before receiving a J.D. from the Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1983.

Griffith has practiced law in Southwest Virginia for 27 years, primarily as a solo practitioner.

In his free time, Griffith enjoys bird watching, collecting old postcards, and swimming.

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