



**Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Administrator of Science Ben Williams hosts “The VMNHcast” podcast, which is designed to help make the sciences more accessible to the public.**

## A new podcast intends to make science light, accessible

**Taylor Boyd**  
*Staff writer*

A podcast started by the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) hopes to make the sciences more easily accessible to the public. Hosted by VMNH Administrator of Science Ben Williams, “The VMNHcast” primarily focuses on the work being done in the museum.

Williams said he “interviews with curators talking about interesting things they’re working on. I also talk to board members” and occasionally brings in folks who are not museum staff or directly related to the museum.

“We did an episode a while back about a paper. It was a collaboration between Dr. Nancy Moncrief, who’s here, and Dr. Brinkerhoff, who’s a scientist of another institution,” he said.

A recent two-part series was an interview of Dr. Art Evans, an entomologist who previously served as the Director of the Insect Zoo at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, about his career and published works.

The podcast began in April and there are currently 13 episodes, Williams said, noting that he tries to put out one or

two episodes each month.

“The idea came about, it was late 2021, Dr. Adam Pritchard and Dr. Hayden Bassett, who are our paleontologist and archeologist respectively,” Williams said. The two “approached me about the idea of doing a museum podcast. I thought it was a great idea, and they asked me what I thought about being the one to host it.”

After some research and purchasing the necessary equipment, Williams published the first episode about the museum’s Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab.

The topics presented during episodes depend on what’s going on at the museum and Williams’ own ideas.

“Sometimes, I’ll just have an idea like ‘hey, that’s an interesting story let’s talk about it.’ Sometimes the curators will say, ‘I just published this paper, or I’m working on a paper and it’s a pretty interesting topic, do you want to do a podcast about this,’” he said.

Like the topics covered, the podcast’s episodes also have a variety of play times, with the shortest being 11 minutes and the longest at 55 minutes.

“I’ve never been a fan of minimum word counts,” Williams, a former journalist, said. “I think a thing should be as long as

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## School officials work to identify the impact after state funds were miscalculated

**Debbie Hall**  
*Staff writer*

A miscalculation in school funding from the state may impact both the current year’s budgets and spending plans for next year.

Teddy Martin, chairman of the Henry County School Board, said the school board has not met since learning about the mistake. However, “if nothing changes, I would say the impact next year would be about \$1.5 million” impact to the school division.

“But that is an estimate,” he stressed.

Callie Hietala, Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator, said school officials predict “a preliminary estimate of \$40,402 in loss of funding for the current fiscal year. “We do not anticipate asking for additional local funding.”

The estimated impact in the city “is based on our understanding of the current guidance from the state,” Hietala said and noted the school division “won’t have a final answer” on the impact “until

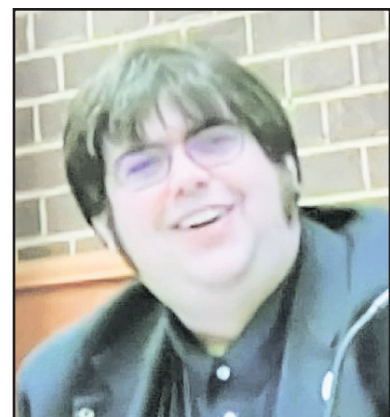
a completed budget is released by the General Assembly.”

However, “based on initial discussions, it appears the impact on our budget will not be as significant for our division as it may be for some other localities,” she said.

Martin said the issue first came to light on January 27 when school superintendents were alerted via email that the Basic Aid Calculation Tool released in mid-December “contained an error related to the Grocery Tax Hold Harmless amount,” Monica Hatchett, director of communications for the division, said of the payment that started in FY 2023 as part of the offset in the Basic Aid formula.

The miscalculation was due to human error at the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), according to the email.

While Martin said he initially heard reports that ranged from \$54 million, current reports indicate the miscalculation means that VDOE overestimated Basic Aid payments to school divisions by



**Teddy Martin, chairman of the Henry County School Board, estimated a miscalculation in state funding may have a \$1.5 million impact on the school division’s budget next year. (Contributed by Ray Reynolds)**

an estimated \$201 million during the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 biennium, including \$58 million in the current budget year.

The Associated Press (AP) on Thursday reported that Gov.

See **State Funds**, page 2

## ‘Quiet Cup With Friends’ Coffee Bar is a labor of love

**Taylor Boyd**  
*Staff writer*

A partnership forged between the Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library and the Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, which supports the library system, made the new ‘A Quiet Cup With Friends Coffee Bar’ a possibility.

“We just thought this was a great project to have,” Leandio Gravely, Library Program Coordinator, said of the bar that is located in the Martinsville branch of the library. The bar offers visitors a choice of light, medium, and dark roast coffee and hot chocolate. The cost is a \$1 donation to the Friends organization at the circulation desk.

“Once they go up and make the donation to the Friends, and specify” which type of product they want, customers are given a cup and a lid, Gravely said. “You get your cream and sugar, and a pod of whatever you select.”

Step-by-step instructions on how to use the Keurig are available beside the machine. “It also has a LED screen to walk you through the process of making the drink,” he added.

Gravely said patrons can sit in the coffee area to enjoy their drinks and read a book, or providing the



**From left to right, Blue Ridge Regional Library Program Coordinator Leandio Gravely, and Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library members Mary Campbell Stromire, Lewis Turner, Betty Turner, and Elmer Hall are pictured in the new coffee bar.**

lid remains on the cup, may walk around the library.

In addition to the Friends, Gravely said several anonymous donors contributed to the project.

Tammy Cope, manager at the Martinsville branch, also applied for and received monies from Dr. Bob & Kay Finch Donor Advisor

Fund through the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia.

All of the books on display in the café area are for sale from the Friends book collection. Hardback books are \$1 each and all paperback books are 50 cents unless otherwise

See **Coffee Bar**, page 8

## Private equity firm acquires two local companies

**Debbie Hall**  
*Staff writer*

The management of Virginia Mirror Company and Virginia Glass Products has partnered with Gemini Investors to recapitalize the company. Gemini is a private equity firm focused on making investments in growing middle-market companies led by strong management teams.

The entire leadership at VMC and VGP will remain in place, and Gemini will continue to support the company’s growth strategy.

The recapitalization allowed the founding family to transition ownership of the company to the management team and an investment group with

a long, successful track record of growing private middle-market businesses in partnership with the management team.

“Our intent is for it to be invisible to our customers and our vendors,” said John Korff, President, and CEO of Virginia Mirror Company and Virginia Glass Products. “The biggest change is the ownership.”

VMC is entering its 110th year in the mirror business, while VGP continues to be a leader in the tempered, laminated, and all-glass entry space.

“We intend to continue growing” the two companies, which together have a total of 180 full-time employees, Korff said.

“I am thrilled that we have found an excellent partner in Gemini

Investors. They understand our culture, approach, and respect the glass, and mirror industry. We look forward to growing our offerings and footprint in partnership with them, our customers, and suppliers in the years ahead,” Korff said.

“We couldn’t be more excited to partner with the team at Virginia Mirror Company and Virginia Glass Products,” said Michelle Kornack, Vice President of Gemini Investors. “The team has built great franchises and partnerships by delivering best-in-class products and service to their customers. We look forward to supporting the continued growth of the company in the years ahead.”

Founded in 1913, Virginia Mirror Company

began as a producer of mirrors for furniture manufacturers in Virginia and North Carolina. Gradually VMC shifted focus to fabricated and stock sheet mirrors for residential and commercial construction. After several plant expansions and installing a five-hundred-foot long, state-of-the-art silvering line, VMC is the industry standard bearer for high-quality mirror products.

Virginia Glass Products Corporation, founded in 1956, is a leading manufacturer of architectural tempered glass, custom laminated glass, all-glass entrance doors, and more. In the last few years, VGP has made several best-in-class upgrades to its fabrication facility with a new tempering furnace,

laminating line, and fabrication centers. In addition, both businesses have made significant upgrades to their trucking fleets, to ensure they meet all their customer’s needs. Founded in 1993, Gemini Investors is a private equity investor in middle-market private companies. Since its inception, the firm has invested more than \$700 million in over 170 companies throughout the U.S. Currently investing in its seventh institutional equity fund, the firm seeks to partner with established businesses and experienced management teams that have strong operating histories and significant growth potential.

The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

For more on Virginia

Mirror Company and Virginia Glass Products, visit [www.va-glass.com](http://www.va-glass.com). For more on Gemini Investors, please visit [www.gemini-investors.com](http://www.gemini-investors.com).





# 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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net).)

## Saturday, February 4

The Sanville Ruritan Club will make its Brunswick stew available for purchase for only \$8 per quart. The stew will be ready by 10 a. m. Pre-orders are appreciated and can be made by calling Joel Cannaday at (276) 421-2212. Leave a message if no one answers, or contact any member of the Ruritan Club.

The Bassett Historical Center is open from 9 to 11 a.m. to accept DD214s for the Vietnam Bench Project. David Kipfinger will be on site to answer questions. Currently, the names of 83 veterans with ties to Martinsville and Henry County will be on the bench. The deadline to submit a name and proper documentation is 5 p.m. on March 1.

## Tuesday, February 7 - Saturday, February 11

Great American Rescue Bowl at the Martinsville Henry County SPCA. In honor of the 57th annual Super Bowl, adoption fees are 57 percent off. Pick the correct winning team to enter your name to win your choice of a free spay/neuter.

## Wednesday, February 8

The General Joseph Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution (DAR) will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Hugo’s Restaurant. The host is Nancy Baker. Presenter is Jeanne Dooley, District VII Director. Lunch to follow meeting.

## Sunday, February 11

The Rev. Tyler Millner presents a lecture titled the Black Church & “Prophetic Black Pastor” at 1 p.m. at Morning Star Holy Church, 2939 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville.

## Saturday, February 18

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA’s wellness clinic, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule an appointment.

## Wednesday, February 22

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA’s wellness clinic, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule an appointment.

## Thursday, February 23

Longwood Small Business Center offers Building the Foundation for Your Business with Brandon Hennessey, the center’s Director of Innovation, Research and Entrepreneurship, from 9 to 10 a.m. The event will provide free start-up assistance to businesses via Zoom. The event includes prepare to start a successful business, evaluate your entrepreneurial abilities, marketing strategies, financial resources, legal form of organization, tips to prepare & present your business plan, and cybersecurity tips. To register, visit [https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/work-](https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=90430001)

[shop.aspx?ekey=90430001](https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=90430001).

## Sunday, February 25

Dr. King in Virginia & the Virginia Martin Luther King Holiday Narrative, at 1 p.m. will be presented by the Rev. Tyler Millner at Morning Star Holy Church, 2939 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville.

## ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club will hold an in-person at the First Christian Church in Galax. Elections will be held at the BARC meeting, membership dues will be collected, an auction of analog gear is anticipated, and the 2023 events calendar will be discussed. All amateur radio operators and interested non-hams are welcome to attend. Find important test prerequisites and other club activities on our \*new\* webpage, [www.briarpatcharc.com](http://www.briarpatcharc.com), and our BARC Facebook page. And join us on air each Tuesday, 8 p.m. on 147.090+ with 103.5 Tone.”

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History

and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit [brrl.lib.va.us](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

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

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (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. MHCCHW’s specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions about existing coverage or help you apply for new coverage by phone Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5p.m. In-person application help is available on Wednesdays at Community Storehouse’s new location UPTOWN at 128 East Church Street LOWER LEVEL from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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. Contact the Center for Community Learning, 15 Primary School Road, Collinsville, at (276) 647-9585.

# New Podcast

from page 1

it needs to be.”

Williams said his favorite episode involved People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) contacting Dr. Kaloyan “Kal” Ivanov and Dr. Joe Keiper, the museum’s Executive Director, in 2021 to help investigate an animal cruelty case in the Midwest.

“It was a case involving the death of a large cat that PETA believed was due to neglect,” he said.

The two men were called in because PETA wanted forensic entomologists to study the insects and insect egg casings to pinpoint with a degree of accuracy when the cat died.

“So, they were being brought in to determine the time of death of this tiger,” Williams said.

In talking to Ivanov, Williams said he realized the person under suspicion of neglect was Jeff Lowe from the Netflix show “Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness.”

“Somehow, no disrespect to Joe and Kal, but somehow PETA had found the only two people in America that had only not watched Tiger King but were totally unaware of its existence,” Williams said. “I was just floored. I was like ‘you guys know this is a really big deal, right? Like you could end up on a season of this Netflix documentary.’”

Based on the evidence Ivanov and Keiper found, Williams said it seemed that Lowe had not been entirely honest about the nature and timeframe of the



**The VMNHcast podcast began in April 2022. There are currently 13 episodes available.**

tiger’s death.

“We did a whole episode where they talked about that experience and how forensic entomology works and how that trial turned out. That’s one of my favorites because it’s such a crazy story and the fact that the Virginia Museum of Natural History of all places got involved in that,” he said.

Williams said a future episode will focus on Dr. Adam Prichard’s paper on drepanosaurus, a Triassic Period reptile.

“Drepanosaurus were these weird-looking reptiles that had very short and almost club-like arms with a really long claw on one of the fingers,” Williams said and explained “the belief is that they would use that claw to dig beetle grubs out of trees. They wouldn’t

have eaten ants because ants didn’t even exist at this time to my understanding.”

Williams believes it’s often easy for people to find the sciences inaccessible. His goal is to make the podcast something that anyone can listen to and get something out of.

“One of my main goals with this podcast is that I didn’t want it to be very dry, and I didn’t want there to be a lot of jargon,” he said.

Williams said he thinks this is part of why he was asked to host the podcast.

“Even though my title is Administrator of Science and I work very closely with the curators, I’m not a scientist. I was an English major, and in fact, physical science in 7th grade was one of the worst experiences of my life,” he said, laughing.

But, like his work with the museum, he approaches everything as an enthusiast.

“I hope that a lot of the questions that I’m asking scientists are the questions that the average person, the layperson, would ask if they were in my shoes,” he said.

With each episode, Williams hopes to provide something light and accessible to listeners.

“I even crack jokes occasionally, and on rare occasions some of them are funny,” he said.

The podcast can be found at [www.vmnh.net/research-collections/vmnhcast](http://www.vmnh.net/research-collections/vmnhcast), Apple Podcasts or Spotify by searching “The VMNHcast.”

# State Funds

from page 1

Glenn Youngkin asked budget leaders in the House and Senate to include “the necessary resources” in their spending plans to address the error.

The county school division “could experience possible losses of approximately \$587,000 for the current school year and \$1,452,000 for the coming school year,” Hatchett said.

Martin said the estimates include both local and state funds because the amount of state funding “also plays into your matching funds from the locality.” He explained that is due to the tool the state uses to determine the local match or the amount of funding the local government must provide.

Smaller school divisions such as those in Henry County and Martinsville, receive more state funding based on the locality’s ability to pay, Martin said.

“So, it’s a bigger hit to us” than to a larger school division which receives fewer state funds, Martin said, adding he does not know what remedy if any, the county would offer.

“Because we operate on a very strict budget already, we are working to analyze our current and upcoming school year budgets so that we are prepared to make decisions accordingly,” Hatchett said.

Martin said he is hopeful there will be “some type of action at the state level” to address the gaffe. Otherwise, the division would look at the overall budget to try

and identify areas to cut costs.

“It will be a question of staffing ratios, student class sizes,” and determining “what stuff you have to have, and can you delay those purchases” included in the budget, Martin said.

Compounding the issue is “the number of requirements that are put on us” in terms of local funding, he said. Because the county provides categorical funding, the school division is required to maintain a certain amount of funds in each category of its budget, Martin said.

The amount of discretionary funding available to the school division “is not that high,” he said.

Like Martin, Hatchett said she is hopeful the state will address the issue.

“We certainly understand that our legislators and VDOE colleagues are working diligently to ensure that any loss experienced is minimal,” Hatchett said, adding administrators “are working closely with VDOE to ensure the accuracy of anticipated funding for both the current and upcoming school years and will adjust as needed based on final information that we expect to receive in the very near future.”

Hietala said school administrators in Martinsville “will continue to participate in discussions with state officials and adjust estimates if necessary.”

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# Mass shootings in California spark renewed efforts to regulate assault weapons

## Staff Reports

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine joined a bipartisan effort in reintroducing legislation to regulate assault weapons.

The Assault Weapons Ban of 2023 would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture, and import of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and other high-capacity ammunition-feeding devices. This includes the gun used by a shooter on January 22 to kill 11 people and injure 9 more at a Lunar New Year’s celebration in Monterey Park, CA.

During a press conference last

week, Warner, D-Alexandria, said the ban “wouldn’t prevent these types of tragedies,” but at least in one of the recent mass shootings, “it would have made a difference.”

“Communities throughout our country and the Commonwealth of Virginia have experienced the pain brought on by gun violence time and time again,” said Warner and Kaine, D-Richmond. “While this legislation will not prevent every senseless act of gun violence, it is a reasonable step that will take high-capacity weapons off the street.”

Specifically, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2023 would:

- Ban the sale, manufacture, transfer, and importation of 205 military-style assault weapons by name. Owners may keep existing weapons.
- Ban any assault weapon with the capacity to utilize a magazine that is not a fixed ammunition magazine and has one or more military characteristics including a pistol grip, a forward grip, a barrel shroud, a threaded barrel, or a folding or telescoping stock. Owners may keep existing weapons.
- Ban magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, which allow shooters to quickly fire many rounds without needing

to reload. Owners may keep existing magazines.

- Require a background check on any future sale, trade, or gifting of an assault weapon permitted by the bill.
- Prohibit the transfer of high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Ban bump-fire stocks and other devices that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire at fully automatic rates.

Exemptions include:

- The bill exempts by name more than 2,200 guns for hunting, household defense, or recreational purposes.
- The bill includes a grandfather clause that exempts all weapons lawfully possessed

at the date of enactment.

Warner and Kaine have been active supporters of increased gun violence prevention measures in response to frequent mass shootings across the country. Last year, the senators voted in favor of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – landmark legislation to curb gun violence.

California law currently bans certain assault weapons by specific type, series, and model and also by the firearm’s general characteristics as set forth in the three categories, according to online reports. California law also generally prohibits the sale of large-capacity magazines (i.e., magazines able to accept more than ten rounds).

# SNAP Emergency Allotments To End in February

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) will release the final issuance of emergency allotment benefits to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households in February, in accordance with the requirements of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The new law recently passed by Congress ends VDSS’ authorization to continue issuing benefits through the temporary federal program, originally established in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The last issuance of benefits will be automatically loaded onto SNAP customers’ Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on Thursday, February 16.

SNAP households began receiving the temporary emergency allotment benefit in March 2020 through the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (2020). Per federal guidelines, states were required to request a monthly waiver to issue these benefits. VDSS

submitted this request each month for the duration of the period emergency benefits were available to continue providing additional food benefits to SNAP households. Since March 2020, the Commonwealth has issued more than 2.1 billion dollars in emergency allotments and raised the monthly issuance to the maximum allowable amount for over 900,000 individuals in Virginia. According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, emergency allotments have already ended in 17 states.

Households will permanently return to pre-pandemic allowances beginning March 1, and receive their regular SNAP benefit amounts on their usual day of issuance (on the 1st, 4th, or 7th day of the month). To further awareness of this change, VDSS has mailed letters directly to SNAP households.

Additionally, to support Virginians during this tran-

sition, VDSS has also created a dedicated webpage for information and resources. Beginning January 28, households may contact the temporary information line at 1-855-635-4370, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. TTY assistance is available by calling 800-552-7917 or 866-246-9300. SNAP participants can contact their local department of social services or visit CommonHelp at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov> for questions or account information.

For assistance with applying for food benefits, visit the VDSS SNAP webpage at <https://dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi>. To access information regarding resources statewide and in your local community, please contact 2-1-1 Virginia <https://www.211virginia.org/consite/index.php> or visit the VDSS food and other nutritional assistance page at <https://dss.virginia.gov/benefit/wic.cgi>.

# Harvest funds programming to promote safe and secure housing, Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc. receives \$428,230 over three years to reduce evictions

A three-year investment of \$428,230 from The Harvest Foundation will enable Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc. to expand its eviction reduction programming in Martinsville and Henry County.

“We work closely with our community partners to create stronger systems for upward economic mobility — everyone deserves an opportunity to support themselves and their families with dignity in safe and affordable housing,” said India Brown, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. “Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS) provides a critical resource for families and individuals in Martinsville-Henry County who grapple with unstable housing conditions, which often is the spark that ignites a cycle of poverty. Our partnership with VLAS builds hope for MHC residents needing legal support and an advocate who can help end and prevent this cycle.”

Harvest’s three-year investment will primarily help staff take on legal casework, providing representation and advice to low-income residents in MHC on housing-related cases. It also supports legal education and outreach, so VLAS can help tenants and landlords resolve disputes without involving the legal system.

Harvest helped to re-establish a local VLAS office with a grant announced in 2019. Since then, more than 300 housing-related cases helping 689 were closed — including 55 people facing imminent eviction.

In May 2022, VLAS launched an innovative program placing staff at general district courts in Martinsville and Henry County each week when courts heard eviction cases. Judges announce

that representatives from VLAS are in attendance and willing to provide free legal services to eligible clients. With funding from the Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) program and support from the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, a paralegal does vital work to review dockets, identify potential clients, and manage case materials. According to David Neumeyer, executive director of VLAS, this change significantly increased the number of clients they could help.

“Three years ago, a generous grant from The Harvest Foundation enabled us to reopen an office to serve Martinsville and Henry County exclusively,” Neumeyer said. “Harvest’s new three-year grant, beginning in January 2023, will support the critical work we’re doing to reduce evictions in Martinsville and Henry County. Since May 2022, the number of eviction filings in the area has more than doubled, a trend that shows no signs of slackening. Virginia Legal Aid Society, thanks to Harvest’s support, has been able to send a team into the local district courts and make our services available to all eligible tenants facing eviction. We now expect to continue this work, along with helping low-income tenants with many other housing issues, for years to come.”

Founded in 1977, Virginia Legal Aid Society fulfills its mission to resolve serious legal problems for low-income individuals, promote economic and family stability, reduce poverty through effective legal assistance, and champion equal justice. They serve 26 cities and counties throughout Central, Southside, and Western Tidewater in Virginia.

To find out more, visit [vlas.org](http://vlas.org) or call the LawLine at 1-866-534-5243.



Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc. received a three-year, \$428,230 investment from The Harvest Foundation to promote safe and secure housing in Martinsville-Henry County. Pictured from left are DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation, Rhonda Knight, VLAS director of development, Cliff Glickman, grant writer and communications coordinator for VLAS, David Weilnau, managing attorney at the VLAS Danville office, and Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation.

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CLUES ACROSS

37. Plate for Eucharist

38. Train line

40. Russian pop duo

41. Stake

42. Plant by scattering

44. Female sibling

45. City of Angels hoopers (abbr.)

48. Popular cookie brand

50. Group of Niger-Congo languages

52. A team's best pitcher

53. Vomits

55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet

56. Men's fashion accessory

57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)

58. Expensive cut of steak

63. Popular James Cameron film

65. A \_\_\_ relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction

66. Kids' snow toys

67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency

2. Snake-like fish

3. Midway between northeast and east

4. Dabbed

5. TV show

6. Folk singer DiFranco

7. Canadian flyers

8. Of the dowry

9. Commercial

10. The act of imitating

11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals

13. Lands of an emir

15. Swiss river

17. Island

18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan

21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions

23. Garfield is one

24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

27. Small boats used in the Black Sea

29. Small savory Spanish dishes

32. Body part

34. Touch lightly

35. Popular grilled foods on a stick

36. \_\_\_ Hess: oil company

39. Antelope with a reddish coat

40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt

43. Pink Floyd's Roger

44. Short and thick

46. Small, sac-like cavities

47. Performer \_\_\_-Lo

49. Entrails of animal used as food

51. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician

54. Where construction is done

59. Chap

60. Investment vehicle

61. Often mixed with tonic

62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_\_

64. Against



# OPINION

## Tucker Carlson reacts to things

Fox News host and clattering human outrage machine Tucker Carlson has no problem making his opinions known. When Mars, makers of M&Ms, attempted to create a distraction from their child slavery lawsuit by replacing their green cartoon M&M's go-go boots with sneakers, Carlson decried the move as yet another example of corporate wokeness.

"M&M's will not be satisfied until every last cartoon character is deeply unappealing and totally androgynous," Carlson actually said. "Until the moment you wouldn't want to have a drink with any one of them. That's the goal."

Mars ultimately relented and gave the green M&M her boots back, but then introduced a purple M&M that deeply disturbed Carlson.

"Woke M&M's have returned," Carlson informed his audience, many of whom are adults with jobs and responsibilities. "The green M&M got her boots back, but apparently is now a lesbian maybe? And there's also a plus-sized, obese purple M&M. So we're going to cover that, of course. Because that's what we do."

But what other popular topics have caught Tucker

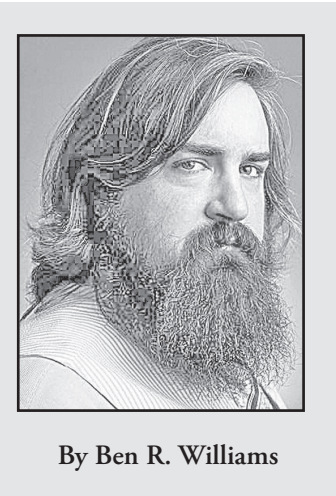
Carlson's attention? While rooting through Rupert Murdoch's trash in hopes of finding some leftover gold leaf on the bone of a tomahawk steak, I came upon a trash bag filled with rough drafts of scripts from "Tucker Carlson Tonight." I suspect Carlson's newest opinions will be appearing on the TV screens of Interstate off-ramp fast food restaurants soon, but in the meantime, I'm pleased to provide these actual, completely real, utterly non-satirical hot takes from Tucker "Dog Being Shown a Card Trick" Carlson:

### THE SITCOM "FULL HOUSE"

CARLSON: The Woke Broadcasting Company has a new abomination to inflict on our children: a show in which a supposed "widower" lets his "best friend" and his Greek brother-in-law not only LIVE with him, but help raise his three blonde daughters. Maybe this sort of thing is accepted in San Francisco, but we don't tolerate it here in America. Cut. It. Out.

### IKEA

CARLSON: Get a load of this, folks: Millennials have a new favorite furniture store, and



By Ben R. Williams

of course it's foreign. If you want to know which direction this country is headed, just go to an Ikea on a Saturday and watch a bunch of shiftless millennials eating Swedish meatballs (not American) and looking at cheap furniture. Why do these kids need so many chairs? Hey, if you're not willing to work, you have plenty of time for siting.

### SANTA CLAUS

CARLSON: Who has a big white beard, advocates for Communism, and is associated with the color red? No, not Karl Marx; I'm talking about Santa Claus. A morbidly obese — I'm sorry, "body positive" — socialist who gives kids presents they haven't earned? I thought this was still America.

### THE 1968 HANNA-BARBERA CARTOON "WACKY RACES"

CARLSON: The anti-Libertarian pro-Communist agenda of "Wacky Races" serves as yet another example of the sad direction this country is headed. Dick Dastardly, the wealthiest and most cunning driver, is thwarted time and again by everyone from cave-men to monsters to women. Meanwhile, Penelope Pitstop is apparently getting her own spin-off! Feminism strikes again, folks. Wacky Races? More like Wokey Races.

### SERIAL KILLER AILEEN WUORNOS

CARLSON: First we let women vote and drive cars. Then we gave women their own NBA league and let them on the golf course. Then we let them join the military! Were they satisfied? No! Now we have a woman who wants to be a serial killer, that last great holdout of traditional masculinity. Oh sure, when men become mass murderers, it's "toxic masculinity," but I guess it's fine when a woman does it. Talk about your double standards.

### THE BLUEHEAD WRASSE (THALASSOMA BIFASCIATUM)

CARLSON: Can you believe this? Here's a fish that thinks that just because it's a protogynous sequential hermaphrodite, it can just go ahead and change its gender whenever it pleases! Girl fish thinking they're boy

fish? I've heard of schools of fish, but I didn't realize they were teaching wokeness!

### THE LIBERTY BELL

CARLSON: Can someone explain to me exactly what's worth celebrating about a cracked bell? Does everything deserve a participation trophy now?

### PHOTOSYNTHESIS

CARLSON: Whatever happened to going to Applebee's? Plants, it seems, are the ultimate freeloaders. They're so desperate to avoid contributing to the economy that they've "evolved" a complex chemical process to create their own food, free of charge! Weeping willow? More like wokey willow.

### HUMIDIFIERS

CARLSON: "Oh no, the air is too dry and my wittle nose hurts!" That's apparently the mating cry of the millennial, a generation that continues to buy humidifiers when winter hits. A little nosebleed never hurt anyone, folks. The only thing softer than these millennials are their precious feelings, and also their sinuses.

### DEHUMIDIFIERS

CARLSON: Cancel culture strikes again, folks.

### THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN DECENCY

CARLSON: Woke.

## Report from Richmond

*Del. Les Adams*

In prior columns during this session, I mentioned the ongoing process for consideration of bills under the subcommittee structure employed by the House of Delegates. It is during these meetings where legislation is most fully vetted. Lawmakers first present their bills before subcommittees where they are questioned by members sitting at the dais. Witness testimony is also heard primarily in the subcommittees offered by both the proponents and opponents of each measure, and subject matter experts, who serve as staff attorneys, also occasionally offer input. Line amendments and amendments in the nature of a

substitute are most likely to be adopted during the subcommittee meetings. Ultimately, these members decide whether particular bills are to be reported to the full standing committee and in what form.

If a bill reported to the full committee passes there also, it is then sent to the floor and calendared for a series of readings. On the second reading, bill patrons present their legislation to the full House and submit to questions and argument. Assuming a bill is engrossed to its third reading, it is on that day when the vote is taken. Most bills require a simple majority of the votes, and if so awarded, are then sent to the Senate for consideration by that body. Any successful bill must follow this



Del. Les Adams

course before the date known as "crossover," which this year will occur the second week of February.

As this date approaches, the time spent on the House floor becomes longer as more floor votes are taken. Of the bills I have introduced, a few have already passed the House unanimously. Two of those are mea-

sures I introduced to combat fraudulent claims made through the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

During the pandemic, the VEC was overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases it was required to process during the unprecedented period of lockdowns and business closings forced by then Governor Northam's executive orders. During this time my office fielded scores of calls from constituents seeking help in having their claims processed. Under Governor Youngkin's administration, priority has been placed on adjudicating the backlog. In the course of this effort, the Commissioner has also identified areas of improvement for prosecuting the rampant fraud that simultaneously occurred during the pandemic.

My bills that have now passed the House of Delegates will help

rectify the VEC's inability to readily access financial records vital to the identification of perpetrators of fraud. They do so by amending the duties and powers of the Commissioner to authorize investigators to issue subpoenas for witnesses and documents from banks. The venue for such prosecutions will also be expanded by the legislation. These provisions will assist prosecutions by Commonwealth's Attorney's offices and in actions taken by the Office of the Attorney General such that VEC efficiency in dealing with fraud will be greatly improved.

To read these bills directly, and any of the other pieces of legislation I have proposed this year, follow the section marked "Session" on my website at LesAdams.org, or to schedule a visit at my Richmond office, call (804) 698-1016.

## Richmond Reports

*State Sen. Bill Stanley*

I must apologize for skipping a week in our usual weekly update from the 2023 Virginia General Assembly, but I had the opportunity to go home from Richmond to watch my young son play in his first youth league

basketball game, and so I chose to soak up every minute I could get spending time with my family over writing last week's edition of this update. But for me, being able to go home and be with my wife and children was not only a moment in time that will forever live in my heart, but also it made me reflect on what I have been seeing during these past two weeks at the Capitol. I am truly concerned as I watch how Virginia Democrats have moved away from focusing on the protection and promotion of family as the guiding principle in making laws for its citizens. I think that we all can agree that family matters, and also that the family unit is the cornerstone for the foundation of a good and just community. And yet this week, bills that would protect children, bills that would place parents as the center of their children's educational choices, and bills that would have even protected parents and their children from government intrusion, were defeated in Democrat-controlled Senate committees over and over again. While the 2023 General Assembly session is a "short" session of 45-days vs a "long" session of 60-days, we will still consider over 1900 bills, and it's a lot of work. And while many of these bills cover various topics that are not remotely partisan, this policy shift away from families by our Democrat state senators is just, well, unjust. Parents and their children matter, and we must always hold firm to the belief that the parent knows better than the government on how to raise and educate their children, period.

Additionally, the Senate Democrats managed to kill bills this week that would have created stiffer penalties for those who traffic and distribute the deadly drug Fentanyl to our citizens, blocked the complete elimination of the grocery tax that would have saved enormous amount for Virginians during this out of control inflationary period created by those in Washington, and voted to let California write our environmental laws for the next decade, forcing Virginians to pay higher prices for energy and face stricter green energy standards that will have a devastating impact on the Virginia economy for years to come. While it might have seemed like a good week for Virginia Senate Democrats, it was a bad week for Virginia in the Senate.

While bills are now dying in Senate committees left and right, I have drafted and submitted proposed legislation that, if given proper consideration by the full senate, can make a big difference in our region. Legislators bills are first vetted in committees before going to their respective chambers for a final debate and vote on the merits of the proposed legislation. The surviving bills are then exchanged at Cross-over on February 7th where the Senate considers the House of Delegates bills and vice versa for the Senate bills being considered by the House. The last bills standing after the bicameral process finishes on February 24th, will then proceed to the Governor for final approval, or not.

Out of the over 750 bills served up by the 40 Senators,

my humble list of 13 bills cover a variety of bills with a focus on our region:

A bill to create a permanent grant fund for high school robotics teams to be created and sustained in lower income rural and urban public high schools;

A bill to add an additional General District Court Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit for Pittsylvania County;

A bill to permit broadband fiber cable to cross railroad tracks unimpeded by Norfolk Southern or CSX so the "last mile" of fiber optic cable can be laid in Southside and Southwest Virginia;

A bill that will create a gateway for our region to promote our green open spaces for residential land development (rather than solar projects);

A bill that will stop the theft of Catalytic converters by eliminating the market place for them to be sold here in Virginia;

A bill that empowers the Virginia Employment Commission to go after the fraudsters that ripped off our unemployment fund to the tune of 1 Billion dollars during the Covid pandemic;

A bill to create standards for our public school systems to modernize their schools in order to deliver all children an equal and 21st century education, regardless of their zip code; and,

A bill to protect all Virginia children under the age of 18 from access to on-line internet pornography.

This past week the State learned more about an exceptionally outrageous scandal that occurred during the administration of Governor Ralph Northam.

To refresh memories, the Parole Board in early 2020 started releasing violent felons. The 95 convicted offenders released in March 2020 was the highest number ever granted in a single month. Most of those released that month were serious offenders, including four capital murders, 31 first degree murderers, and eleven rapists.

In releasing convicted murderers and rapists, Northam's Parole Board deliberately violated Virginia law and its own policies and procedures. It did so without notifying the victims and families of the victims of these crimes, and not giving them an opportunity to testify as required by law.

At the time Virginians were first learning about these outrages, Senate Republicans led the effort to get at the truth and to put safeguards in place to prevent a recurrence. At every turn, the Northam Administration stonewalled and thwarted efforts to learn the full story of what had transpired and opposed legislation that would have brought complete transparency to the Parole Board's proceedings.

On Governor Youngling's first day in office, he issued an executive order authorizing Attorney General Jason Miyares to conduct a thorough investigation of what had occurred. That report was issued this week and it

See **Richmond Reports**, page 5

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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# Richmond Reports from page 4

confirmed our worst fears. The deliberate and determined violations of laws, long-established Board policies, and the rights of victims and families were jaw-dropping. Effectively, the Parole Board operated as a “Get Out of Jail Free” card.

Scandals like these undermine public confidence in government. In this instance, the conduct of the Parole Board also endangered public safety and confidence in our system of justice. Misguidedly, Senate Democrats exacerbated the situation last session by torpedoing Governor Youngkin’s initial appointees to the Parole Board.

The Attorney General’s report had specific and detailed actions the legislature

needs to take in order to prevent anything like this from happening again. This week, Senate Republicans called for bipartisan action on the Attorney General’s recommendations and for those responsible for the unmerited releases to be held accountable.

Please visit your District 20 office should you be at the Capitol area during this session. The Richmond Senate Office Location is 5th floor (Room E504) in the Pocahontas Building located across the street from the Virginia’s Capitol public entrance on Bank Street. Office Contact is JoAnn Lankford, Administrative Assistant, (804) 698-7520 or via email at district20@senate.virginia.gov.



**State Sen. Bill Stanley (second from left) is pictured with (from left) Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry and Henry County Sheriff’s Capt. Wayne Davis.**

# Kelvin Perry to lead Harvest Foundation Board of Directors

The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors is under new leadership, electing Henry County resident Kelvin Perry as chairman. He is the first African American to serve in this role at the foundation.

“It is a great honor to be a part of the Harvest Foundation family and to take on this role,” Perry said. “There’s a little weight on the shoulders because I realize the commitment necessary to do this job well and to make sure that we continue to do what is needed to move Martinsville-Henry County forward. I’m blessed to have the support of an amazing staff and fellow board members who have the biggest hearts and best intentions when it comes to our community.”

Perry said Harvest is in a unique position to support impactful community conver-

sations around diversity, inclusion, and equity. But in order to do that, Perry said “we have to live by what we preach. Having a staff and board that truly is representative of our community is a great start. I want residents to feel like they have a voice and a seat at the table, and know that we want to see our community strive for excellence at all levels. Everyone deserves an opportunity to succeed.”

Over the next two years as chairman, Perry said he would like to focus on community conversations around K-12 education, moving the needle on economic mobility and poverty, and building workforce pipelines that companies can depend on for future workers.

“Collectively, we have a responsibility to the children being born today that by the time they matriculate to the

12th grade, they have everything needed in order to succeed no matter what path they decide to take,” Perry said. “I hope we can start those conversations with stakeholders within the community. Let’s take the gloves off, deal with the hard questions, and become the model that other communities will want to follow.”

Perry joined The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors in 2017. He’s served on various committees including the Grants Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, and chaired the Governance and Nominating Committee.

“I am looking forward to the work we will accomplish throughout the year with Kelvin as our new chair,” said Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation. “I believe

his guidance and knowledge of our community will expertly move us through some critical areas of our strategic plan over the next two years. We are grateful for all of our volunteer board members and the dedication they bring to Harvest and Martinsville-Henry County.”

Perry is the project manager for the Office of Economic Development and Tourism in Danville, Virginia, previously working in the banking industry for more than 30 years. He served as president of Imperial Savings and Loan Association and as chief operating officer, then as president and chief executive officer of First State Bank in Danville. He lives in Henry County with his wife Pelzetta. They have one son and two grandchildren. He also is the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Martinsville.



**Kelvin Perry will serve as chairman of the Harvest Foundation Board of Directors. He is the first African American to serve in the role.**

# Local residents Jeb Bassett and John Korff join Harvest Foundation Board

The Harvest Foundation welcomes two new members to its board of directors this year, Henry County resident John “Jeb” Bassett and Martinsville resident John Korff.

Bassett is a lifelong resident of Henry County and said being considered to serve on the board of directors is an honor.

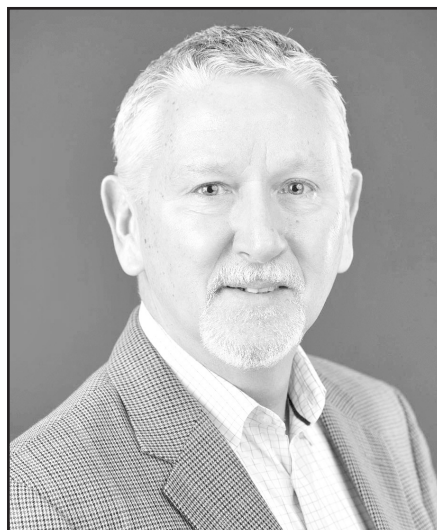
“I have always admired the discipline of the operations of the Harvest Foundation,” he said. “I have had the utmost respect for the Harvest Foundation board members giving their time and talent so freely.”

Previously, Bassett worked with The Harvest Foundation as co-chair of the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative, creating Smith River’s 15 Magical Miles and revitalizing the Bassett and Fieldale communities. He championed the renovation of the Bassett Train Station Event Center and worked closely to renovate the space now home to the Railway Cafe in Bassett.

Two areas Bassett would like to explore while serving on the board include bolstering the diminishing numbers of local primary healthcare providers and supporting youth and education, including early childhood development, childcare, and education from birth to college.

Giving back to the community with his time, experience and vision is a major reason why Bassett said he accepted the nomination. Two of his sons and their wives relocated back to Martinsville-Henry County with three young grandsons living in the community.

“I would like for them all to enjoy the geographical area, the amenities, the



**John Korff**

sense of community,” Bassett said, “and create many pleasant memories as I have over the last 60-plus years.”

Korff said the Harvest Foundation has a positive reputation for giving back to the community and that he was flattered the board felt he had something to bring to the organization.

“There are many opportunities to improve our community through the work of The Harvest Foundation, and I think my experience leading a business, working with diverse groups of people, and building relationships will help support that work,” he said.

Korff joined Virginia Mirror Company and Virginia Glass Products as its chief operating officer in 2009 and now serves as president and CEO. He said Virginia Glass & Mirror Chairperson Chris



**Jeb Bassett**

Beeler, who served as chairman of The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors from 2015-2016, shared his experiences and more about the foundation’s work in Martinsville-Henry County.

“I was impressed with what Chris shared with me and with some of the foundation’s larger community contributions like the Dick and Willie Trail and the (Monogram Foods) Smith River Sports Complex,” Korff said. “I’m also encouraged to see the organization giving more to the community through (Project Hope’s) small grants.”

Korff said he would like to use his background to see local businesses and industries work more closely together and not as competitors.

“Recruiting and retaining talent from outside of Martinsville and Henry

County for new and existing businesses will remain a challenge if we don’t continually improve our quality of life in areas like healthcare,” he said. “I have a vested interest in growing MHC so we do not have to travel outside the area for goods and services.”

Harvest Foundation President Kate Keller said she is excited to welcome Bassett and Korff to The Harvest Foundation family.

“We gained a wealth of knowledge and expertise at Harvest with the decades of business and industry leadership experience between Jeb and John,” Keller said. “They are true hope builders who are passionate about Martinsville-Henry County. They want to see our community reach its full potential.”

Bassett lives in Henry County with his wife, Diane. He serves as chair of the Board of Trustees for First United Methodist Church and has previously served as chairman for the American Home Furnishings Alliance Board of Directors. For 20 years, he was the fundraising chair of the Martinsville Speedway’s July 4th Celebration Event. In his spare time, he enjoys NCAA Football, boating, fishing, duck hunting, dogs, and weekend travels.

Korff lives in Martinsville with his wife, Lynn. He serves as a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, as a member of the Kiwanis Club, and previously served on the board of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph’s Church. In their spare time, he and Lynn enjoy traveling to the mountains and the beach, working in the yard, and all types of outdoor activities.

# Annual African American Read-In and Family Day to be held

On Saturday, Feb. 25 starting at 10 a.m., Piedmont Arts will host its annual African American Read-In and Family Day. with story time, crafts, and a public read-aloud. This event is sponsored by Sovah Health and Carter Bank and Trust. It will be hosted at the museum and is free and open to the public.

Held in conjunction with the National African American Read-In established by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, this is the museum’s annual celebration of African American performers, artists, and writers. This initiative has reached more than six million participants around the world and is a part of an effort to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. It is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering African American books and authors. Piedmont Arts is proud to host such an empowering community event.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville, Virginia that inspires and engages the diverse Martinsville-Henry County community and surrounding areas through visual arts, performing arts and arts education. Piedmont Arts is a statewide partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Piedmont Arts programming is partially supported by



the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Piedmont Arts is located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. 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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# Juvenile detained following bomb threat

A potential security concern in the form of a bomb threat was reported at Laurel Park Middle School On January 27. The threatening message was conveyed via social media, and the recipient reported it to authorities. The Henry County Sheriff’s Office and school officials worked together to ensure the students and staff were safe.

The threat was thoroughly investigated, and the suspect subsequently confessed this was a hoax and there was never a threat to the students. The juvenile has been charged with threats to bomb or burn (felony). They are currently incarcerated at W. W. Moore Detention facility.

Parents are urged to have conversations with their children who are students, encouraging them to immediately report any type of threat they hear and also not be involved in these acts as they can have serious legal repercussions.

Anyone having information pertaining to this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crimes. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

# Recent graduates announced

Emily Crowder of Martinsville received a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences from The University of Alabama. UA awarded over 1,650 degrees during its fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 10.

The following students graduated from James Madison University during the December 2022 commencement exercises.

Alayna Campbell of Martinsville received a degree in General Psychology - BS.

Jamal Martin of Axton received a degree in General Psychology - BS and Marketing - BBA.

Keyonia Adams of Fieldale received a degree in Individualized Study - BS.

The graduates were among nearly 900 to receive undergraduate and graduate degrees.

# Essay contest announced for high school students

The Virginia Council on Women is encouraging female high school students to enter the 12th annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Healthcare essay contest.

“Educational development is an inherently collaborative endeavor, and the Virginia Council on Women’s commitment to investing in Virginia’s students continues to be an invaluable asset to our Commonwealth’s education priorities,” Gov. Glenn Youngkin said about the contest. “The pipeline from education to high paying jobs in Virginia is essential to making the Commonwealth the best place to live, work, and raise a family.”

“The STEAM-H Essay Contest provides an opportunity for young women around the commonwealth to receive scholarships which invests in their future and helps them to pursue the careers they dream of having. I am proud to be a part of this opportunity,” said Secretary of the Commonwealth Kay Coles James.

In 2012, the Virginia Council on Women held the first STEM Essay Contest to award scholarships to high school students who want to pursue a STEM career. The Council has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships during the eleven years the contest has been held. The STEM Essay contest has expanded to the STEAM-H contest to encompass more career opportunities for women and assist them in scholarship opportunities.

The Council will award scholarships to qualifying high school seniors who plan to pursue a STEAM-H career at a community college, four-year college or university, trade or technical school, online, and/or through certificated STEAM-H oriented courses. The 12th annual contest will award one merit-based and one need-based scholarship in each of five geographic regions across the Commonwealth. Merit-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted. Need-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted and the individual’s self-identified financial need. Award amounts may vary and are determined by the council annually.

The contest is open to Virginia women in their senior year of high school who hold at least a 3.0 GPA for the merit-based awards and a 2.5 GPA for the need-based scholarships.

Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2023. Essays will be judged by a panel of Council members and individuals who represent STEAM-H fields. Winners will be notified in April 2023. The scholarship awards will be presented in the late spring of 2023.

“The Virginia Council on Women’s STEM scholarship can open doors to opportunities for young women interested in a career in science, technology, or math to pursue their dreams and further their education. I encourage all interested high school students to learn more and apply for this scholarship,” said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera.

The purpose of the Virginia Council on Women is to identify ways in which women can reach their full potential and contribute to society and the Commonwealth. The Council has initiated several projects to meet this goal, including the annual STEAM-H Essay Contest for high school seniors.

“With the essay contest entering its twelfth year, the Council on Women continues to be thankful that we can assist bright minds in every corner of the Commonwealth as they move forward on their STEAM-H journeys,” said Ashley Marshall, Chair of the Virginia Council on Women. “As a Council, each and every member is dedicated to helping women reach their full potential and make their full contribution to society and the Commonwealth. This essay contest, and its support by Governor Youngkin and First Lady Youngkin is an important way for the Council to be able to continue that work and to lift up women across Virginia.”

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# OBITUARY

## Donna Sue Galliher Hall

Donna Sue Galliher Hall, 61, of Stuart, VA passed away Saturday, January 28, 2023 at her home. She was born July 19, 1961 to Mack Monroe Galliher, Jr. and the late Mary Ellen Blackwell Galliher.

Donna was of the Christian faith.

She is survived by her father; children, Amanda Spencer of Bassett, VA, Joshua Holt (Jen) of Hillsboro, OR; son-in-law, Justin Spencer of Collinsville, VA; grandchildren, Brooke Rivers, Paydence Hedrick, and Haden Rakes; and siblings, Dianna Goins of Stuart, VA and Mack Galliher, III of Bassett, VA.

The family will receive friends at the home of her daughter, Amanda. Funeral services will be private.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Hall family. Online condolences may be made at [norrisfuneral.com](http://norrisfuneral.com).



## Month long exhibit starts Sunday in Martinsville church

A month long exhibit titled “Together,” will be held to honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King and Black history. The Rev. Tyler C. Millner is the curator/presenter of the event that is hosted by Morning Star Holy Church, 2939 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville. It is open on Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. and other times by appointment.

The expanded exhibit includes more than 200 artifacts, newspaper clippings, photographs, magazines, books and unpublished manuscripts. The exhibit is anchored by four features, including CLW/MLK Holiday, Black History/Civil Rights, United Holy Church of America/VA District Convocation (United Holy Church is the oldest Pentecostal church in America), Classic Pictures/Images and materials on the Black college, press and business. A feature on the Black woman, including books also is included. Objectives of the event are to promote the expansion of Black History with the MLK Holiday, History Education and families holding at minimum—I hour session with their children and grandchildren

Encouraging Blacks, their churches and others to persevere the records, papers and letters

Use Black History as a time to be self-critical and to teach “economic empowerment.”

Millner is scheduled to give three lectures during the month, on subjects that include: Dr. King in Virginia & the Virginia Martin Luther King Holiday Narrative, at 1 p.m. on February 25; and Black Church & “Prophetic Black Pastor” at 1 p.m. on February 11.

Check the Morning Star Holy Church page on Facebook for the date and time of the third lecture titled, “Black History Transitioned into Black History Education.”

## US Cellular Kicks Off 8th Annual Black History Month Art Contest with The Boys & Girls Clubs of Blue Ridge

UScellular and the Boys & Girls Club of Blue Ridge are kicking off their 8th annual Black History Month Art Contest. To participate in the contest, Boys & Girls Club members are encouraged to create original pieces of artwork representing influential Black STEM icons. These can include historical figures, world leaders, scientists and educators who have made vital contributions to the world of science, technology, engineering and math.

Ten finalists from Boys & Girls Club will be chosen by Club representatives based on creativity, quality, interpretation, clarity of theme and overall impression. The finalists’ artwork will be digitally displayed in select stores, and from Feb. 1 – Feb. 28, anyone 18 and older is invited to vote for their favorite art online.

The top three vote-getters will be announced in March. UScellular’s Network of Black Associates resource group is funding this year’s prizes, which include \$250 for first place, \$150 for second and \$100 for third.

“We are once again thrilled to work with the Boys & Girls Club of Blue Ridge on this annual contest to celebrate Black History Month and highlight the talented youth in our community,” said Nakeita Stewart, director of sales and operations for UScellular in the Mid-Atlantic. “We look forward to seeing the imaginative and inspirational artwork that Club members create as they learn more about the important contributions Black STEM icons have made in our world.”

A recent UScellular survey<sup>1</sup> revealed that almost half of students don’t know enough about the opportunities a STEM education would afford and the same amount think there isn’t enough racial diversity in the STEM workforce. UScellular is focused on addressing gaps in STEM and connecting tomorrow’s innovators with the resources they need today to help shape their future opportunities.

Since 2009, the company has donated more than \$22.6 million along with countless experiences and technology items to nonprofit organizations across the country. For more information about UScellular’s corporate social responsibility initiatives, please go to <https://newsroom.uscellular.com/community/>.

No Purchase Necessary. Entrants who are minors must have parental consent to participate in the Contest. Official Contest Rules, including full entry details and Finalist and Winner selection criteria/voting are available by email request to [USCDLMediaRelations@uscellular.com](mailto:USCDLMediaRelations@uscellular.com).

If my love was enough, you’d see your babygirl go to school and get tight hugs and butterfly kisses, You’d walk her down the isle someday and maybe have a grandbaby or two.

If my love was enough, I’d get to hear “I love you Mama” and get a hug and a kiss on the cheek, I’d hear you giggle at some mischievous thing you said or did.

If my love was enough, we’d celebrate your 30th birthday

Happy 1st birthday in heaven. You’re always in my heart. I love you.

SHELDON DREW CAPPS  
2/3/93-2/22/22

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

W	E	E	P	S	A	R	D	A
A	T	H	E	N	A	E	N	C
P	R	O	L	E	T	A	R	I
P	E	A	T	A	I	F	A	C
U	R	N	C	E	R	E	S	L
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M	E	A	T	C	A	P	I	T
K	A	I	A	K	P	A	T	E
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S	D	F	I	L	E	T	M	I
A	V	A	T	A	R	P	R	I
S	L	E	D	S	Y	A	N	G

## ADVERTISE!





# 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.

### SERVICES

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**Mahogany China cabinet**, an antique set-  
tee and an antique chest of drawers.  
Call 276-694-4100 for more information.

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**Experienced Mechanic**  
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Patrick Springs area  
Call Duncan Speed Shop  
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Beach Maintenance Ranger  
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Apply online or at the park office:  
967 Fairystone Lake Drive  
Stuart, VA 24171  
276-930-2424

Let our readers know you're hiring with a  
classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8  
a week. If you've read this far, you can see how  
a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise  
can work.

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 141 SEVENTH STREET, FIELDALE, VA 24089 LOCATED IN HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

In execution of the Deed of Trust executed by Stacy M. Ilconich in the original amount of  
\$55,000.00 dated October 24, 2018, and recorded as Instrument No. 180003692, a default having  
occurred in the payment of the debt therein secured and having been request by the holder of the debt  
therein described, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the high-  
est bidder at the front steps of the Henry County Courthouse located at 3160 Kings Mountain Road,  
Martinsville, Virginia 24112 on February 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM, the property described in said Deed  
of Trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

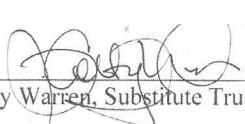
PARCEL 1: All that certain lot or parcel of land, beginning at a stake in the south edge of Seventh  
Street, said stake marking the northeast corner of Lot No. 9, Block No. 5, in the village of Fieldale,  
Virginia, as shown on Map of Fieldale Development, Sheet 2 of 2, dated April 10, 1941, and recorded  
the 1 7th day of April, 1941, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, in Map  
Book 2, page 3 1 3, and running thence with the south edge of Seventh Street, North 86 degrees 33  
minutes East 61.78 feet to an iron in the south edge of Seventh Street; thence South 2 degrees East  
151.75 feet to an iron in the north line of Lot No. 10, said Block No. 5; thence with the north line of  
said lot No. 10, South 83 degrees 41 minutes West 75.9 feet to an iron marking the southeast corner of  
Lot No. 9, said Block No. 5; thence with the east line of said Lot No. 9, North 6 degrees 50 minutes  
East 157.73 feet to the point of beginning; containing 10,544 square feet, more or less, and being the  
west part of Lot No. 8, Block No. 5, of the above said map.

PARCEL 2: All that certain lot or parcel of land with improvements thereon located, situate in and  
near the Village of Fieldale, Henry County, Virginia, and being Lot No. 9, Block No. 5, of Subdivision  
of the Fieldale Development of the Village of Fieldale, as shown by Plat marked Sheet 2 of 2 dated  
April 10, 1941, and recorded on the 17th day of April, 1941, in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's  
office in Map Book 2, page 313.

Property Identification: PIN: 19678, 19679

This sale shall be for cash or cashier's check to the highest bidder, and bidder's deposit of 10%  
shall be required at the sale with the balance in 30 days. The Trustee's special warranty deed will be  
delivered at closing to the buyer or order. The property will be sold "AS IS". All announcements at the  
time of sale take precedence over this notice.

Given under my hand this 25th day of January, 2023.

  
R. Colby Warren, Substitute Trustee

For More information contact:

R. Colby Warren  
Warren Shelton PLLC  
217 Lynn Street  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 792-2350

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



## Artists At Large announced for RW13

Each year, Rooster Walk brings in an assortment of immensely talented individu-  
als to serve as 'Artists at Large' during the festival. These musical maestros bounce  
around all four days, sitting in as guest performers with other bands in the RW  
lineup.

Artists at Large also join forces onstage to form the "Rooster Walk House Band"  
for three special sets over the weekend. Each set has a musical theme, plus special  
one-day musical guests who are a perfect fit for that particular theme. The core of  
the RW House Band is always the seven spectacular musicians who will be hustling  
all weekend at Pop's Farm.

Artists At Large for Rooster Walk 13, which will be held May 25-28, are Robby  
Carden, Jake Dempsey, Ron Holloway, Erin Lunsford, Walla Mullinax, Josh Shilling  
and Jeff Sipe.

Apply to volunteer, join the family of vendors, buy tickets or for more informa-  
tion, visit <https://roosterwalk.com>.



## Offbeat News Briefs

### *He picked himself up*

Floridian Wesley Williams broke  
his back a couple of years ago when  
he fell off his 27 foot unicycle at a  
Spain's Got Talent event. According to  
the Association of Mature American  
Citizens (AMAC), he survived the fall  
and, to paraphrase that old song sug-

gests, he picked himself up, dusted  
himself off and started all over again.  
But his time he didn't break any bones  
but he did break the Guinness record  
for building the world's tallest unicycle  
-- nearly 32 feet in height -- and riding  
it for a distance of nearly 28 feet 27 feet.

### Toadzilla

Forest rangers in Queensland, Australia on patrol in Conway National Park  
got quite a shock recently when they came across Toadzilla. The average toad  
weighs in at about 3 ounces, says the Association of Mature American Citizens  
(AMAC). Toadzilla, the name the rangers gave the cane toad they found,  
weighed nearly six pounds. Ranger Kylee Gray said she "reached down and  
grabbed the cane toad and couldn't believe how big and heavy it was ... A cane  
toad that size will eat anything it can fit into its mouth, and that includes insects,  
reptiles and small mammals."

### *A very big pizza pie*

In 2012 Italian pizza chefs set the  
record for the largest pizza known to  
man -- a very hungry man, of course.  
It measured 13,580.28 square feet,  
reports the Association of Mature  
American Citizens (AMAC). Not  
to be outdone, America's Pizza Hut  
chain outdid the Italians by bak-  
ing a 14,100 square foot pizza pie  
on the floor of the Los Angeles

Convention Center. They layed out  
the dough, topped it with cheese and  
sauce and then used heat lamps to  
bake the [tasty?] treat. Why did they  
do it? The chain wanted to break  
the Guinness Record and tell us that  
they were bringing back its Big New  
Yorker pizza -- a somewhat bigger  
version of their standard pizza pie --  
that they discontinued 25 years ago.

## NASCAR Fan Rewards Launches as Part of 75th Anniversary Season



Program is First of its Kind  
Currently Offered by a Major Sports  
League

NASCAR is home to the most  
loyal and passionate fans in all of  
sports, and now fans are being reward-  
ed for that loyalty. As part of its  
75th Diamond Anniversary season,  
NASCAR has launched NASCAR  
Fan Rewards, a free program that  
rewards fans for simply engaging with  
the sport they love.

"Our fans are the reason we race  
week in and week out, so we wanted  
to show our appreciation by creat-  
ing this free program that rewards  
them for doing what they're already  
doing -- connecting with the sport  
they love," said Pete Jung, NASCAR  
senior vice president and chief mar-  
keting officer. "The best part is, the  
more fans engage, the more rewards  
they will earn towards things such as  
merchandise, gift cards and even race  
tickets."

There is no cost to join the rewards  
program. Fans can visit [nascar.com/fanrewards](http://nascar.com/fanrewards)  
and create an account and start earning points towards rewards  
immediately. For those fans who  
already have a NASCAR.com account,  
they can simply opt-in to NASCAR  
Fan Rewards via their profile page.  
Once points are earned, fans can  
redeem them for items such as race  
tickets, VIP experiences, autographed  
merchandise and gift cards, or even  
donate to the NASCAR Foundation.

Some ways to earn points towards  
rewards include:

Watching Races from Home:  
Fans can check in on the NASCAR.  
com (desktop, mobile app, or  
mobile web) leaderboard during any  
CRAFTSMAN Truck Series, Xfinity  
Series, or Cup Series race

Attending NASCAR Races: Fans  
can check in from the NASCAR  
Track app

Playing NASCAR Fantasy Live  
Participating in Weekly Trivia:  
Available via the NASCAR Fan  
Rewards dashboard each week

Purchasing Race Tickets and  
Camping: Points are earned auto-  
matically when fans purchase tick-  
ets or camping at any NASCAR  
CRAFTSMAN Truck Series, Xfinity  
Series, or Cup Series race

Visiting the NASCAR Hall of  
Fame

Purchasing Merchandise from the  
NASCAR.com Shop

To help launch the program and  
generate awareness among fans,  
NASCAR and Spire Motorsports  
will collaborate to showcase a special  
NASCAR Fan Rewards paint scheme  
on the No. 77 Chevrolet driven by Ty  
Dillon during the Busch Light Clash  
at the Coliseum on Feb. 5.

For further information on the  
NASCAR Fan Rewards program and  
a full list of ways to earn points and  
rewards, visit [nascar.com/fanrewards](http://nascar.com/fanrewards).

The NASCAR Cup Series hits the  
track for the first time in 2023 at the  
Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum  
this Sunday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. ET on  
FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR  
Radio. Tickets begin at \$65, and  
kids 12-and-under are \$10. Fans can  
get tickets now by visiting [www.nascarclash.com](http://www.nascarclash.com). Then, the regular  
season gets underway with the 65th  
running of the DAYTONA 500®, the  
Great American Race, on Sunday,  
February 19 at 2:30 p.m. ET on  
FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR  
Radio. UNOH Fanzone passes are  
still available at [www.daytona500.com](http://www.daytona500.com)  
or by calling 1-800-PIT-SHOP.

### Help Wanted Insight Textiles LLC

138 Elamsville Road  
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#### MATERIAL HANDLER— KNITTING DEPT.

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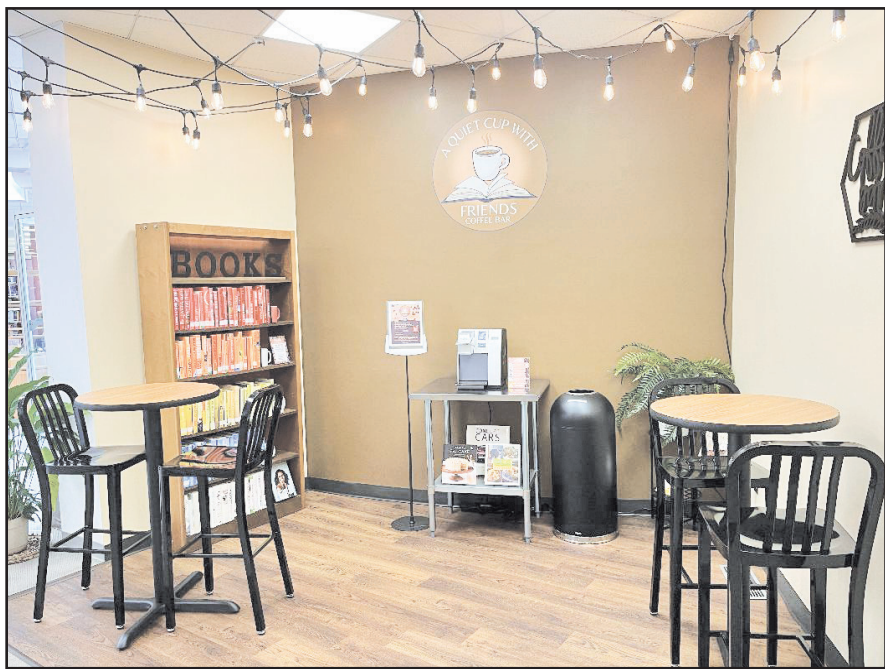
Replace Yarn or Beams in Knitting  
Machines, install new warps of yarn,  
Doff rolls of fabric from machines,  
Other duties may be assigned

Be sure to  
like the  
Henry  
County  
Enterprise  
on Facebook



# Coffee Bar

from page 1



A coffee bar, intended to foster connections with the community, recently opened at the Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

marked. There also are cookbooks and other coffee table literature available for purchase.

Gravely said the idea of the café area came up about two years ago, but it didn't seem like the right time to cultivate the idea until recently.

As the project came to fruition, a wooden floor was installed in the area designated to be used as the bar. The walls were painted, a design plan was used for furnishings and a logo was installed to complete the new space, officials said.

Gravely said the library connected with local businesses on the project "where we could. We want to do that because it's important. We're a community, and it's important for the community to work together."

"This is our most modern" project, Gravely said, adding a tagline for the project could be "Coffee with a Cause, because you are actually helping to support the Friends who help support the Blue Ridge Library system. All the proceeds go back to the Friends" group.

Mary Campbell Stromire, a group member, said funds raised by the group are primarily used to sponsor the summer reading program for children, but also help other projects in the library system.

The reading program costs \$5,000 "for a summer for all of the libraries," she said.

Gravely said the 2022 summer reading program was attended by 5,369 children and teens.

"We have bought the book drop outside, we have done a bench at the Ridgeway library," Stromire said of other investments the group has made into local library facilities. "We've also made a sizable donation to the Bassett expansion that's just starting."

The group also purchases items to supplement the library's budget, stimulates the public use of libraries, and enhances literacy drama, and educational programs.

In short, "we just support anything that a library cannot afford," Stromire said.

One thing is certain, according to Gravely.

The bar has "been a big welcome addition to the library," he said. "A labor of love."

## Hike the Red Tail Hawk Trail during DRBA's First Saturday Outing

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will host a mid-winter hike in Person County, N.C. at Mayo Lake Park on the 2.5-mile loop trail, the Red Hawk Trail, February 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The natural surface trail is rated low moderate for gentle elevation change and for exposed roots and rocks along its well-worn length. The wooded, hilly terrain offers excellent views of the lake as the trail circles along the shore. The park, located 8 miles east of Roxboro and 3 miles from the Virginia line, is named for Major William Mayo, a member of William Byrd's 1728 survey party. Established in 1996, the park includes about six miles of hiking trails. An additional point of interest along the trail is the 1/10th mile Sappony Spring Trail. The Sappony Indians, also known as the Indians of Person County, likely used the spring as a drinking water source while inhabiting the area.

Participants are asked to meet by 10 a.m. at the Environmental Education parking area. You will be asked to sign a waiver, bring lunch, drink, snacks, dress for the weather, hiking poles are a plus and leashed pets are welcome. The exposed roots and rolling terrain along this trail prevent

it from being ADA accessible. Hike coordinators and DRBA members, Sonya Wolen and Wayne Kirkpatrick, find the trail inviting for a relaxed hike along the lake shore.

Early February in the eastern portion of the Dan River Basin is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Birders should bring their binoculars as the mixed wood forest hosts a variety of species.

The park is located at 1013 Neal's Store Road, Roxboro, NC 27574; GPS for the Environmental Center parking area is 36.479187, -78.874453. The parking area at the Environmental Center is accessed from the second park entrance sign. For additional park information, visit <https://www.personcountync.gov/home/show-publisheddocument/5221/636223387579130000>

DRBA's First Saturday Outings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Wayne Kirkpatrick at [wynbtyk@embarqmail.com](mailto:wynbtyk@embarqmail.com) or (540) 570-3511.

Weather can be tricky this time of year. Visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) by Friday, February 3, to determine whether the outing will be held. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.





Join the Dan River Basin Association's hike on the Red Tail Hawk Trail on Saturday, February 4.

Be Winter-Wise.


And COVID/flu Smart.

Wash hands. Mask when needed. Circulate the air. Vaccinate. Stay home when sick!





West Piedmont  
HEALTH DISTRICT



VDH  
VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus)