

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 24, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Del. Wren Williams is pictured above with his wife, Britt, and their son, Rhett, at a victory party Tuesday night.



After winning the GOP primary, Del. Wren Williams addressed supporters gathered at his victory party, held at Stanburn Winery.

PHOTOS BY RAY REYNOLDS

PSA receives positive marks on annual report

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) has met all of its annual investment requirements stipulated by the 1991 Master Trust Agreement between the PSA and Crestar Bank.

Kevin Heath, an engineering consultant from the Lane Group, certified during the PSA Board of Director's June meeting that the PSA was in full compliance with the expectations of the original 1991 agreement which was entered into in conjunction with the issuance of bonds amounting to \$47.9 million.

A master trust agreement is a contract between two or more entities where each entity agrees to invest a certain amount of money into a fund that collectively manages pooled investments.

Heath found that the PSA's adopted budget for the fiscal year 2023 exceeded the prior year's direct operating expenses by 5.7 percent. Additionally, the PSA exceeded the minimum replacement reserve fund by nearly \$200,000.

The PSA has not had a water or sewer rate increase since 2013. Production volumes have remained relatively stable over the last five years.

See PSA, page 3

Williams wins the Republican primary

By Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, easily won Tuesday's GOP primary election against Del. Marie

March, R-Floyd County, unofficial results indicate. Williams carried the vote in Patrick, Henry, and Carroll counties and the City of Galax, with March

being more popular among Floyd County voters.

"Our campaign focused on the issues and our proven record in Richmond. The voters

see the results we are getting for Southside and Southwest Virginia and overwhelmingly support our vision," Williams said.

See Williams, page 3

Metz seeks Reed Creek District post

By Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd

Gordon Metz is throwing his hat in the ring for the Reed Creek District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Metz said he decided to run because of his lifetime of experiences and because several people in his church urged him to seek the position after incumbent Tommy Slaughter said he would not seek reelection.

"That's when I got it in my mind to do it. I looked into it. After talking to several people, I decided to try and do it so I could maybe look at what's going on," he said and explained he considered getting involved in local government "several years ago, but" at that point, didn't have the time.

When he retired, "I thought I'd have gobs of time," he said, but somehow, he manages to stay busy. However, Metz makes the time to read all the minutes from board meetings.

Pamela Cobler is also seeking the seat. Cobler has described Slaughter as her mentor - both in her social media

See Metz, page 6



Gordon Metz is seeking the Reed Creek District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.



Mary Martin is seeking to become the at-large member on the Henry County School Board in the November election.

Martin mounts bid for the at-large seat

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Mary Martin is seeking to become the at-large member on the Henry County School Board in the November election against incumbent Cherie Joyce Whitlow.

After a stint on the school board as the Ridgeway District representative in 2008-2012, Martin sought a second term but lost her reelection bid.

Martin said she decided to seek election now because she had a lot of encouragement from people at different levels who work for the county school division.

"I've had a lot of calls from parents. Oddly enough, as many years as it's been since I've been on the board, there's still people who call me for advice when they're trying to navigate the process of school policies," she said.

With her grandchildren now enrolled in the school division, Martin said she still

has a great interest in how things are done and what goes on.

"I think there's some policies we probably need to work on that I'd like to have an opportunity to have a hand with, and just look to serve the community as I always have," she said.

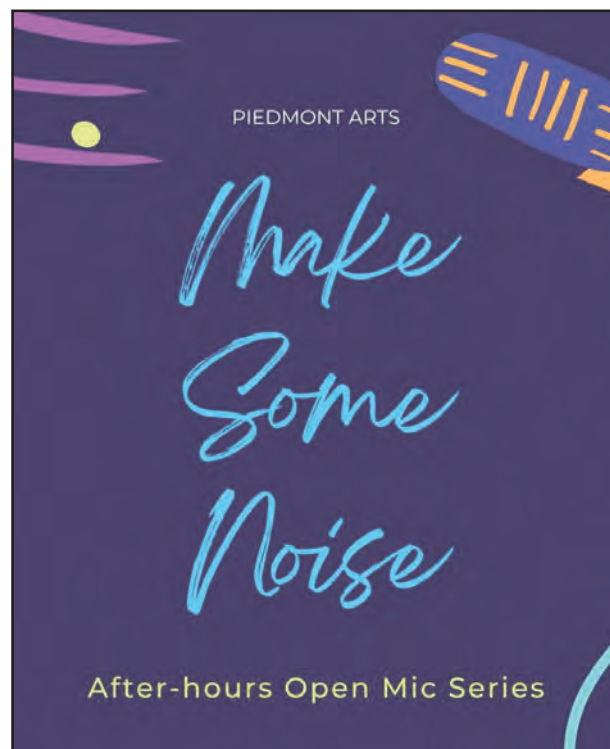
Martin believes the school division needs to have stricter discipline policies and enforce the ones it does have.

"I'm always proactive in trying to get our teachers better pay. That's always an absolute must-do," she added.

Make Some Noise open mic series to launch at Piedmont Arts



Martinsville's own Natalie Hodge will be the first emcee for the Make Some Noise open mic series.



Make Some Noise, Piedmont Arts seasonal open mic series, will start on July 20.

Piedmont Arts will host Make Some Noise, the first in a series of open mic nights, on July 20, at 7 p.m., at the museum.

Participants are invited to grab the mic and express themselves through music, poetry, comedy, or spoken word in a safe, creative space. Slots will be capped at five minutes to ensure all participants get a chance to share their work. Sign-up sheets

will be available at the door. A guest emcee will host each event.

Event dates and details:

- July 20, 7 p.m., Piedmont Arts, hosted by Natalie Hodge, local author, content creator, and founder of Rudy's Girl Media.

- Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Piedmont Arts, hosted by Bryan Hancock, hip hop artist and creator of

Soul Sessions in Roanoke, Va.

- Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Piedmont Arts, hosted by Monique Holland, a local writer.

- May 9, 6:30 p.m., Gravely-Lester Art Garden following an outdoor theatre performance, hosted by Chase Young of Rives on the Road.

Admission is free. Cash bar. For more information, visit PiedmontArts.org.

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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.)

Meetings

Wednesday, June 28

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at noon, with a public hearing set for 1 p.m. The board will meet in the Planning, Zoning and Inspection Department Conference Room, Room 205, in the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville.

The public hearing on S-23-09, Yasmin Holland, will be held in the Summerlin Meeting Room, which is also located in the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville.

Events

Friday, June 23

Double Down For The Arts at this fun casino night fundraiser that begins at 7 p.m. Live music, games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, photo booth and more. Black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 and are available on the Piedmont Arts website.

Saturday, June 24

Painting Workshop led by award-winning artist Lisa Garrett, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$40, with all supplies provided at Imagination Lavender Farm. Participants will create their own 11 x 14 painting to take home. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to register.

Friday, June 26

A Virtual Reality Tour of Anne Frank's Secret Annex, which houses a group of 8 Jewish people as they hid from the Nazis, will be offered from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Martinsville Main Library. Call (276) 403-5430 to register. The program is free for ages 13 and up.

Saturday, July 1

Storytime at Spencer Penn, 10 a.m. Monthly program includes special readers, crafts, and other fun activities! Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages. No registration needed.

Saturday, July 8

Spend the evening with Martinsville native, and now Philadelphia-based musician, Mandy Shearer & Friends with Roanoke's Ben "Jamin" Trout, Mark Henderson on drums and Soul Sista Tina Marie from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Imagination Lavender Farm 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. No Cover Charge (donation appreciated) Bring a chair, cooler with your choice of beverage. For more information, call (276) 734-2828. Las Tapatias Taco Food Truck on premises.

Sunday, July 9- Friday, July 14

Twists & Turns Vacation Bible School at Fort Trial

Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. 2 to 5 years, 6:15 to 8 p.m.; completed K-12th grade, 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.; adults, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11

Building the Foundation for Your New Business, presented by the Longwood Small Business Development Center via Zoom, 9-10 a.m. Sign up at <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=91430009>.

Friday, July 14

Music Night at Spencer Penn with Galax Fiddlers Convention two time winners, Alum Ridge Boys and Ashlee, to perform in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions will be sold.

Franks + Dranks, 6 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. The cook out-themed summer party, with music by Jake Earles, yard games, food by Hylton's Wood-cooking Grill and a cash bar. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. No outside franks or dranks allowed. In case of rain, Franks + Dranks will be held at Piedmont Arts.

The Longwood Small Business Development Center hosts Marketing on a Budget via Zoom, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Register at <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=91430008>.

Composting 101with VT Horticulture Extension Agent, Melanie Barrow, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn how to compost properly, the proper balance of materials, aerobic conditions, and the microorganisms that break down scraps with little to no odor. This presentation will give you the knowledge and tools needed to compost in your own backyard. Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to reserve your spot.

Tuesday, July 18

The Bassett Historical Center will present The Life of Patrick Henry, Virginia's First Governor at 10:30 a.m. in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. The program is free and open to the public.

ONGOING:

Saturdays through November 18

Martinsville Uptown Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon, with the freshest fruits and veggies, homemade snacks, locally raised beef, and more. July 5-September 27, the market is open Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to noon.

Tuesdays in September

A series of four genealogy classes will be offered at the Bassett Historical Center on Tuesdays in September (5, 12, 19, 26), from 10 a.m. until noon. Classes are free and open to the public, but there will

be a limit of 12 participants. Call (276) 629-9191 to register.

Zumba is held Tuesdays and Thursdays at Spencer Penn, beginning at 5:45 p.m. Join Body by Jenise for a great, fun workout. The drop-in price is \$8.

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 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.

Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

The Disability Rights and Resource Center (DRRC) will be represented at the Henry-Martinsville Health Department in Martinsville every third Wednesday afternoon to provide information to health department visitors about DRRC and its services.

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed after almost 3 years. Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age in-person: Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Community Storehouse, 128 E. Church St (lower level of the old Leggett Building) in Martinsville, or by phone, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Medicaid members may need to update their mailing address to renew their health insurance. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions, let you know when to expect your renewal packet and help you apply or renew. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to learn more or for an appointment.

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. Call (276) 647-9585.

Trail Trekkers meet as a group on Thursdays (1 p.m. Fall & Winter; 9:15 a.m. Spring & Summer) 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 Henry County Parks & Recreation (HCPR) Senior Services to find out more at (276) 634-4644.

Ride and Dine Friday afternoons with members of the Henry County Bike Club. Fellow cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the Dick & Willie Trail to put in some miles and refuel with lunch at a different eatery each week. For more information, call Marti at 276-358-1312. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees.

Inclusive Program Brings Enriching Music Experiences to Local Students with Unique Needs

More than 200 students in Henry County and Martinsville City schools enjoyed a variety of enriching music offerings and experiences during the 2022-2023 academic year, thanks to VIVO - an innovative and inclusive music and arts instructional program developed by Da Capo Virginia.

The program is designed specially to address the unique needs of students from ages 3-22 with disabilities that often make it challenging for them to participate in many traditional music programs.

"VIVO has served hundreds of students in Virginia through its classroom instruction, rehearsals, and full-scale concert events," said Tracee Prillaman, who co-founded Da Capo Virginia in 2010 along with her husband, Jeff. The couple and their four children moved from Richmond to Martinsville in 2014 and quickly established the VIVO program in the local schools, much to the delight of students, parents and school administrators.

"In the past year alone, we made some beautiful music with students in 34 classrooms at 13 schools," she said.

Vivo students performed

in four major concert events for hundreds of appreciative attendees, with the concerts boasting 200+ performers of ALL ability levels. Two concerts were televised with an audience reach of 10,000+. VIVO serves students with cognitive/developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, hearing/vision impaired, Down Syndrome, Autism, Emotionally Disturbed, ADD/ADHD, and trauma.

Some of the skills that the VIVO program teaches through music and arts instruction include:

- Posture, poise, presence, strength, stamina
- Visual and dramatic arts through exposure and experience
- Math, language arts, science, social studies through arts integration
- Solo, small group, and full group demonstration and performance
- Concert performance skills
- Music instruction including vocal development, classroom instruments, musical terminology, rhythmic/melodic skill development, musical genres, music composition and improvisation, guided listening/analysis, instrument identification, musical form dance and creative movement, sign language

Prillaman noted that VIVO students demonstrate stronger academic skills, improved social skills and awareness, increased confidence, increased empathy toward others, greater ability to focus and concentrate, and improved physical capabilities.

Of the VIVO program that Da Capo runs in her school, Katrina Perry, Laurel Park Middle School principal, said, "Da Capo is one thing that I think all districts should have. It is something that is needed, especially during this time looking at the social and emotional needs of all of our students. With our unique student population that participates in Da Capo, this is something that gives them a voice."

Da Capo Virginia is a 501c3 nonprofit music school that offers choirs, classes, and concerts for students of all ability levels. Da Capo's mission is to provide transforming music experiences that inspire and capture passion, equip through exceptional, dynamic instruction, and champion sharing music's profound effect with one's community. www.dacapova.org.

Ninth District Traveling Staff Office Hours for June

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available locally on June 28:

City of Martinsville, 10 - 11:30 a.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church Street Martinsville.

Patrick County, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

Office to be closed on July 3

Due to the July 4th holiday, the Henry County Enterprise office will be closed on Monday, July 3.

It will reopen on Tuesday, July 4. You can reach us by calling (276) 694-3101.

Open House set, Drama Class to perform June 29

The Piedmont Regional Governor's School (PRGS) will hold an Open House at 5 p.m. on June 29, in Chatham High School, and the 2023 Drama Class will present Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man Jr.," at 6:30 p.m. in the Chatham High School Auditorium.

The PRGS offers summer camps for gifted students in grades 3-7 who attend Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Bedford, Halifax, and Campbell county schools, as well as the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

The summer camps are intended to provide enrichment opportuni-

ties for gifted students while allowing them to develop their intellectual abilities, talents, and creativity. The students are allowed to choose which class they would like to attend, and there are several to choose from. The classes include Art, Drama, The Great Outdoors, Piedmont Justice, Let's Start from Scratch, Ooey Goey Biology, Exploring History, Engineering and Design, Eco-Agriculture, Around the World, and Applied Chemistry and Physics.

The drama is about a fast-talking travelling salesman who swindles from people by promising to organize a boys band.

5th annual basketball clinic set

The 5th annual Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic will be held July 24-25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA.

The clinic is for boys and girls, aged 6 to 16 years old. Each year, coaches with a gifted specialty for the sport contribute their knowledge and skills.

Coaches include:

*George Bell, former Globetrotter, television and screen actor. All participants have an opportunity to get their photo taken with Bell.

*Bill Adkins, a former basketball player at Carver High School and Averett College, Adkins has assisted boys and girls basketball at Carlisle School for 15 years.

*David Cunningham, who has played baseball and football at Guilford College, coaches upward basketball and has coached baseball at Carlisle School.

The camp includes teaching fundamentals of basketball, amazing skilled coaches for instruction, discount when you register for both days, opportunity to take a photo with George Bell and adjustable goals for younger participants.

The camp costs \$20 per day, or \$30 for both days.

For more information, call Jarrett at (757) 237-2644 or email him at mcjarrett4833@gmail.com.

Williams from page 1

Williams won the district overall with nearly 67 percent of the vote to March's little more than 33 percent, according to unofficial results.

In Henry County, Williams received 686, or 87.39 percent of the votes, while March won 99, or 12.61 percent, of the votes. He also carried all seven of the county's eligible voting precincts, according to the unofficial results posted on the state Board of Elections website.

In the Bassett #2 precinct, Williams won 88.37 percent of the votes, or 38, and March won 5 votes or 11.63 percent. In Gunville, he won 88.19 percent of the votes, or 112, and 88.98 percent of the votes at Scott's Tanyard, 210 ballots, to March's 11.81 with 15 votes, and 26 votes, or 11.02 percent respectively.

At the Spencer precinct, Williams won 106, or 86.18 percent of the votes, while March won 17, or 13.82 percent of the votes.

Williams won 72.73 percent of the votes, 40 ballots, at the Bassett #1 precinct; March won 27.27 percent or 15 votes. He also won 87.58 percent of the votes at Stanleystown, with 141 votes, and 97.50 percent (39 votes) at Oak Level.

March won 12.42 or 20 votes and 1, or 2.50 percent, of the votes cast at Stanleystown and Oak Level respectively.

In Patrick County, Williams won 2,201, or 87.69 percent of the votes compared to March's 309 votes. He also carried every precinct in the county.

Williams won 3,060, or 61.87 percent of the votes in Carroll County, while March won 1,886, or 38.13 percent of the votes.

In the City of Galax, Williams garnered 202 votes, or 58.89 percent, compared to March's 141 votes, and 41.11 percent.

In Floyd County, March won 840 votes or 63.40 percent of all votes cast. Williams won 485 votes or 36.60 percent of the votes.

Following the election results, March thanked her supporters in a social media post: "We were funded by small-dollar contributors, he spent half a million \$500,000 of the big time lobbyists donations and his family's big money and the backing of the Richmond swamp. Goes to show you, elections can and are being bought every single day."

Noting that he is incredibly humbled by the overwhelming support and confidence his campaign received, Williams said he now is looking forward to returning to Richmond and continuing the fight for conservative results.

"From day one, I have sought to represent all of the 47th district. From securing \$1.5 million in funding for Floyd County to working

to reopen the hospital in Patrick County, serving our district, and getting results for our district have been my top priority," Williams said.

Williams also maintained the biggest war chest, according to the most recent financial records compiled by the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP).

Williams began the June 8 reporting period with \$69,413 on hand as of April 1. Total receipts for the period were \$185,871 and included 106 cash contributions of more than \$100, 35 cash contributions of \$100 or less, and three in-kind contributions of more than \$100.

Top donors include a total of \$20,000 from Dominion Energy Inc. Political Action, \$12,500 from Gilbert for Delegate, and \$10,000 from Kilgore for Delegate.

Donors of \$5,000 include Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Assoc PAC, Sparkle Painting Co. Inc., Christopher Clemente, Machinery Sales LLC, Virginia Trial Lawyers PAC, Eric Glasser, Daniel Schuster, and Friends of Barry Knight.

In-kind contributions included \$15,000 from the Realtor Political Action Committee of Virginia and a total of \$5,761 from Wren M. Williams.

Williams reported spending \$211,842 in itemized expenses and \$20,760 in in-kind expenses. His total expenses during the primary were \$359,620, according to the VPAP.

Among Williams' top itemized expenses are a total of \$124,870 to Medium Buying LLC, a total of \$32,834 to JLK Strategies LLC, and a total of \$29,177 to Point1 LLC.

Williams' ending balance was reported at \$22,682.

In the time frame, Marie March reported receipts of \$28,641 and a starting balance of \$3,321 on April 1.

March reported 29 cash contributions of more than \$100, 35 cash contributions of less than \$100, and a loan totaling \$15,333 from Marie March.

Among her top contributors were \$2,000 from each Patrick Daley and Garrison Hill, and \$1,000 each from Carl Krell and Marlon Goad.

March reported expenses of \$28,419, including itemized expenses that totaled \$15,816 to Action Advocacy Group LLC, \$2,490 to WBRF, \$1,598 to Dynasty Digital Design, \$1,360 to Virginia Media Inc., and \$1,138 to the Department of Elections.

She spent a total of \$78,968 during the primary, according to VPAP.

March reported a June 8 ending balance of \$3,543.

PSA from page 1

Even so, it is expected that revenues will outpace expenses in the current fiscal year by \$488,181.

According to the master trust agreement, the PSA must maintain a debt service ratio in excess of 1.2. The current debt service ratio of the PSA is 1.695. The PSA is also required to maintain two months of direct operating expenses in its reserves. That amount would equate to \$1.59 million. An operating reserve

fund established by the PSA in 2004 currently sits at \$1.69 million which covers the two-month requirement.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved the write-off of uncollectible utility billing accounts for 2022 estimated at approximately \$42,800.

- Received monthly reports on finance, construction, engineering, safety, and treatment, and regulatory compliance.

Bassett Kiwanis Club Donates \$500 to the Ferrum College Panther Pantry

On June 15, 2023, Stewart Warren from the Bassett Kiwanis Club donated \$500 to the Ferrum College Panther Pantry.

The panther pantry also includes the career closet, toiletries and is a part of the student support services housed in Roberts Hall, along with the counseling center and the mindfulness and creativity suites.

"We are truly thankful for this thoughtful gift from the Bassett Kiwanis which, will help us support our students in times of need," said Dr. Mirta Martin, Ferrum College president. "Food insecurity is a reality in our communities and on every college and university campus. At Ferrum College, we are grateful for partners like the Bassett Kiwanis who come along side us to care and provide for our Ferrum Family."



Stewart Warren, of the Bassett Kiwanis Club, presents a \$500 check to Dr. Mirta Martin, Ferrum College president.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ fi (slang)
4. Anecdotes about a person
7. Central Standard Time
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Football's Newton
12. Be in debt
13. Tattles
15. Musician ___ Lo
16. Arrange again
19. A binary compound of carbon with a metal
21. Brazilian futbol great
23. Feared
24. Annoy
25. Unit of heredity
26. Small freshwater fish
27. Muscular weaknesses
30. Fined
34. One-time EU currency

CLUES DOWN

1. Put fear into
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Interiors
4. Agrees to a demand
5. No (Scottish)
6. ___ Hess Corp.
7. Ornamental molding
8. Garment
9. Electric car company
13. Decimal digits in binary (abbr.)
14. Gibbon
17. Sun up in New York
18. ___ the line
20. A vale
22. Old Irish alphabet
27. A type of band
28. A team's best pitcher
29. Floor covering

CLUES ACROSS

31. A ___ in the machine
32. Supplement with difficulty
33. Prosecutors
37. Place in order
38. Japanese lute
39. Mongolian city ___ Bator
40. Perceived
41. A cloth for washing dishes
42. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
43. Grassy plain
44. Barometer
47. Father
48. Of the ear
49. Thomas ___, British dramatist 1652-85
51. After eighth
52. Where golfers begin
53. Time units (abbr.)
58. Basics

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net

OPINION

A sound of laughter

Ladies, gentlemen, and members of the media, thank you for attending today's press conference.

As many of you no doubt already know, I have served as the President and CEO of Time Safari Inc. since its inception two years ago. Our mission is simple: using advanced wormhole technology, we allow anyone with a taste for adventure and twenty million dollars to travel back in time to the late Cretaceous and shoot a Tyrannosaurus rex. This is the fulfillment of the dream my great-grandfather had when he came to this country many years ago as an angry young man with a strange and traumatic past.

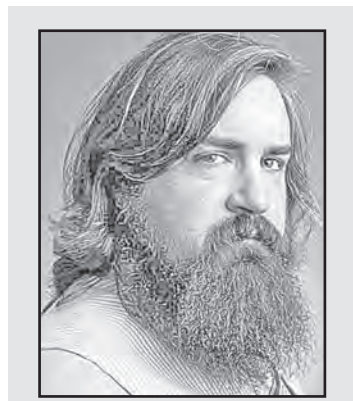
Last Sunday, we opened our time portal for three very important clients: Francis Schwab III, CEO of Applied Dynamic Systems; Errol Kochburn IV, CEO of Systemic Applied Dynamics;

and Laurent Aubergine, CEO of Dynamic System Applications.

After receiving their training while we ensured their checks cleared, these three celebrated billionaires stepped through our time portal, high-powered rifles in hand, and ventured into what we call "The Valley of Horror" in order to hunt as many Tyrannosaurs as time allowed.

Unfortunately, an intern, who has since been fired and blacklisted from all future employment, decided that he just couldn't wait half an hour to make his popcorn. Tragically, the break room microwave tripped the main breaker and the time portal shut instantly.

Over the last several days, our team at Time Safari Inc. has worked tirelessly to locate and rescue these important members of the global community. However, time travel



By Ben R. Williams

is very complicated, and we keep opening the time portal to the moment that they first entered it rather than the specific moment in time where they currently are. We are currently working with "Back to the Future" writer/director Robert Zemeckis to try to remedy this situation.

I have held this press conference because I want to underscore one very important point:

All of this is in no way funny.

Frankly, I have been shocked by the comments I have seen on social media regarding this tragic and

entirely unpreventable situation. Apparently, many people think that if something horrific befalls a billionaire, it's the funniest thing since Rob Schneider. I assure you, this situation is not comedic.

The dangers that these three men face are very real. In addition to the obvious threat of bloodthirsty dinosaurs, these clients must endure enormously hot and humid weather, possible volcanoes, and enormous nightmare insects. Just because they decided to spend twenty million dollars each to hunt long-extinct super predators against a global backdrop of poverty and suffering, are we to laugh at their very real terror and possible dismemberment?

Please, put yourselves in their shoes. Imagine that you've inherited such enormous generational wealth that you legitimately think a cheap pair of shoes costs \$1,200, and now you find yourself being carried through the air in the savage claws of a Pterodactyl, no doubt ferrying you to its nest to feed its ravenous young? Imagine that you're so

incredibly wealthy that once bought an original Monet to hang in the bathroom of your third beach house, and now you find yourself trapped in the web of a three-foot-long face-eating spider, your pitiful, mewling cries for help going unheard as you wet yourself in incomprehensible terror? These are soft men, pampered men, men who have never before turned a screwdriver or worked in an environment with sub-par air conditioning, and people are choosing to laugh at their terrible misfortune?

There's simply nothing funny about any of this.

We maintain hope that our crack team at Time Portals Inc. will be able to recover these three valued clients alive and with their sanity largely intact, but whatever fate should befall them, we ask that you treat them with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

I also wish to announce that in an act of goodwill to celebrate the sacrifices of these three brave men, Time Portals Inc. will be donating 75 cans of pumpkin pie filling to the local food bank.

A Week of Hearings

Morgan Griffith
Representative

tee action.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

My first hearing was in the Energy Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, to discuss recent decisions made by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) centered on the Biden Administration's rush-to-green agenda and in turn, putting our grid reliability at risk.

Many times, I get questions as to what an average week is like for me. In this column I thought I'd review a recent week of commit-

Commissioners from FERC testified, including my friend Mark Christie. Christie testified to the importance of dispatchable energy, or energy that is not dependent on the weather to run like coal and natural gas, to our electrical grid as there is less concern about its reliability.

Christie testified to the fact that one of our country's biggest problems right now is that we are losing existing generating capacity, that could be running, due to the Administration's focus on green energy. The EPA recently announced a set of new rules aimed at closing coal and natural gas power plants around the country.

Improving our Preparedness and Response

My second hearing, in the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, examined ways for our country to improve our preparedness and response to hazards and public health threats. I spoke to witnesses about the need for our federal agencies to better coordinate for better efficiency and transparency. For example, a company in my district had a contract, facilitated by the Department of Health and Human Services, to produce both nitrile butadiene rubber, the main

ingredient in disposable gloves, as well as the finished gloves.

They were told to submit two separate proposals to both the Department of Defense and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (or ASPR). Due to a lack in communication between agencies and a lapse in transparency, the company has only received partial funding and has had to halt construction on their manufacturing facility, leaving my district with hundreds of acres unused land and a half-built manufacturing facility.

This is unacceptable. When requiring multi-agency approval, the government must be able to work together, not stand in the way of new projects.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

My third hearing, in the Energy Subcommittee, focused on nuclear energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts to ensure that as we expand our nuclear footprint, our country has efficient and predictable regulation of nuclear energy. I asked each of our witnesses what the timeline for early site permitting would be, during which the NRC would determine if a site had the appropriate geography for a nuclear plant, particularly small modular

nuclear reactors, and it would be safe to build.

All of the witnesses agreed that the current timetable to issue these permits is 24 months, with one commissioner stating that they could do it in less time. All witnesses confirmed that the NRC is committed to being as efficient as possible so that projects could move ahead in a timely fashion.

NanoSonic

My fourth Energy and Commerce hearing, in the Health Subcommittee, focused on access to care. I spoke to one witness, Kevin O'Connor of the International Association of Fire Fighters, about current work being done to improve fire fighter gear, specifically lowering PFAS toxins in the gear. While they are effective fire-resistant chemicals, PFAS have been shown to cause cancer, liver damage, and increased risk of asthma, among others health issues.

I suggested he reach out to the company NanoSonic, which makes fire gloves with flexible, fire-resistant fiberglass, instead of using PFAS. A number of years ago, I toured their facility in Pembroke, Virginia, and experienced firsthand the capability of the gloves. Wearing one, I put my hand over a blowtorch without feeling anything.

H o u s e

Administration Hearing

There was also a House Administration hearing in their Oversight Subcommittee during the week. The Subcommittee held the first-ever congressional hearing with the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE). OCE reviews allegations of misconduct against House members, officers, and staff.

Field Hearing on Grid Security

Further, the Energy Subcommittee held a field hearing in Pinehurst, North Carolina on how to enhance our country's grid security. I questioned witnesses about how to ensure a strong grid and supply chain. Members also saw an actual location where a well-trained marksman took out the power for more than 40,000 customers in one location in North Carolina.

During this week, along with committee action, I had numerous meetings and votes on the floor. So, I hope this helps answer the question as to what I generally do in Committee during a week in Washington.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

LEGAL NOTICES

COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **July 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing. **Case R-23-10 Homestead Mulch & More, LLC / Zachary S. Hawks** The property is located on the south east corner of Virginia Avenue and Murry Hill Lane, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.5(40)/A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.36-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to locate his commercial landscaping sales establishment on this property.

The application for this requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*Debbie Hall, *Editor*
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager*
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

Avoid disaster, prioritize safety when mowing lawns

Lawn mowers are useful equipment, but a devastating accident can happen in an instant.

There were over 900,000 lawn mower injuries treated in the U.S. from 2005 through 2015, with an average of about 85,000 injuries annually, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Scott DeNoon, a member of Virginia Farm Bureau's Safety Advisory Committee, said lawn mower-related injuries are usually the result of taking unnecessary risks.

"You're dealing with a very dangerous piece of equipment, and I think people have a tendency to overlook that when they're busy," he remarked.

Users should read the operator's manual before using the equipment, evaluating its safety features, items to check before operating, start and stop procedures, maintenance schedule and specific angle limits.

"Most rollover accidents occur when the mower is being operated on an incline that's too steep," DeNoon explained.

Avoid mowing on slopes with an angle of over 15° if not specified by the manufacturer, and areas where the drive wheels are within 5 feet of retaining walls, embankments or other areas that present an overturn or rollover hazard, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"Before you begin mowing, you want to inspect the mower and make sure that all guards, shields and safety devices are in place," DeNoon added.

It's also important to examine surroundings for loose objects, bystanders and pets. Rotary mower blades can spew out debris at speeds of 100 to 200 mph, according to Virginia Cooperative Extension.

"Before turning it on, check the area for anything that could become a projectile to avoid hurting yourself or other people—whether it be a rock, toy, sporting equipment, branches or twigs," DeNoon said.

Skip the shorts and flip-flops, and wear close-fitting clothing, such as long pants and closed-toe shoes, and

recommended protective gear like gloves and hearing and eye protection.

Users should never mow on wet grass, leave the mower running unattended or refuel when the engine is hot or running.

According to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, lawn mower injuries typically occur when the user tries to remove an object that is "stuck" in the machine, and related injuries can range from minor cuts and burns to broken bones and amputations.

"Whenever you do any type of work on a mower, make sure it's turned off and the blade is not operational—even a dull blade can cause you to lose a limb," DeNoon said.

Don't allow extra riders on any type of mowers, as unexpected maneuvers resulting in injury can happen in an instant, he added.

"Just think safety, and always have safety at the forefront."

For more lawn mower safety tips, visit osha.gov/riding-mowers.

VMNH, Boxley renew long-standing education programming partnership

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) and Boxley Materials Company (Boxley) renewed a year-long partnership in support of the museum's wide-ranging educational programming initiatives. The \$10,000 gift from Boxley to the VMNH Foundation will help the museum deliver and market a variety of STEM-based educational programs to be led by VMNH educators, scientists, and research staff, with the various programs to be delivered to schools, families, and general audiences throughout Virginia and beyond.

"Increasing access to STEM education throughout our communities is a key focus area for Boxley and our partnership with VMNH is a natural fit," said Bo Farr, Vice President and Chair of the Boxley 360

Community Giving Committee. "Increasing participation in STEM programs helps address the workforce demand long-term and strengthens our communities by preparing workers to secure well-paying jobs in fast-growing STEM occupations, including those in the construction materials industry."

The partnership is a continuation of a collaboration between VMNH and Boxley forged in 2019 designed to enhance the museum's educational programming efforts.

"Boxley's support of the museum's education initiatives over the years has played a significant role in helping the museum increase both the number of programs we are able to offer, as well as the diversity of audiences we reach," said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. "The renewal of this partnership will

not only support the implementation of our educational programming, but it will also help us reach more audiences throughout Virginia and the surrounding region."

Specifically, the partnership supports the museum's standards-based school programming, as well as field trips to Boxley quarry sites located throughout Virginia, the museum's Homeschool Science & Engineering Academy, and VMNH Science Festivals.

VMNH standards-based school programs

Popular with schools throughout Virginia, the museum's standards-based school programming is offered in multiple formats and provides students with interactive lessons led by VMNH educators and scientists. Formats include:

At-the-Museum pro-

grams, in which school groups take part in educational programs within the museum's exhibit galleries and classrooms.

Outreach programming, which allows museum educators to travel to off-site locations to provide standards of learning correlated programs to a variety of entities, such as schools and community centers.

Distance Learning Programming, which brings students to the museum without them ever having to leave their classroom. Through the use of two-way video, classes join museum educators to explore Virginia's natural heritage and uncover its rich biological and geological history. Together, with the use of videoconferencing and interactive activities, museum educators spark imagination, enhance curricula, and support

Virginia and national educational standards.

Boxley Quarry Field Trips

Through the partnership with Boxley Materials Company, VMNH educators and science staff partner with Boxley staff to deliver supplemental STEM-based lessons during selected school field trips to Boxley quarry sites.

Homeschool Science & Engineering Academy

The museum's Homeschool Science & Engineering Academy is a series of bi-monthly programs held from September through May that are designed to supplement students' learning and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) based topics.

VMNH Science Festivals
Favored by visitors of

all ages, the museum's science festival series combines science education with immersive entertainment to provide audiences with one-of-a-kind experiences centered around popular science disciplines, such as paleontology, herpetology and entomology.

"Demand for the museum's educational programming continues to increase and the programming we deliver continues to evolve as we constantly look for the best ways to engage with audiences," said VMNH Education Manager Christy Deatherage. "Partnerships like these are critical for success and we are grateful for Boxley's constant support of our efforts."

For more information about VMNH educational offerings, including how to request programming, visit www.vmnh.net.

Draper, Harrison among P&HCC's Distinguished Alumni



Row 1 (L to R): Sandra Heath, Frances Wade, Dayna Bobbitt, Dr. Bethany Lackey, Rodney Mills, Elizabeth Ashby. Row 2 (L to R): P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood, Dr. Jan Harrison, Angie Brown, Rick Love, Dr. Dylan Jones, Brad Draper, P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored eleven P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at the awards dinner on Friday, June 9, at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have completed a minimum of twenty-four credit hours at P&HCC, have demonstrated success within their field of expertise, and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.

This year's award recipients are Elizabeth Ashby, Dayna Bobbitt, J.D., Angie Brown, Brad Draper, Dr. Jan Harrison, Sandra Heath, Dr. Dylan Jones, Dr. Bethany Lackey, Rick Love, Rodney Mills, and Frances Wade.

Ashby completed credits towards her associate degree from P&HCC in 2005. While attending undergrad, she completed the CNA program at P&HCC during the summer of 2008 then finished her education at William & Mary earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in December of 2008. Ashby earned a Master of Arts degree in curriculum and instruction with an integrative STEM certification from Virginia Tech in 2014. She also completed postgraduate biology credits from Framingham State University to teach dual enrollment courses and earned a Teacher Leadership certification from James Madison University in 2022. Ashby currently serves as a Secondary Science Instructor of Physical Science, AP Biology, Life Science and General Biology for Virtual Virginia. She is also a Science Content Specialist with the CHOICE Program & Virginia Ed Strategies.

Bobbitt graduated with her associate degree in science from P&HCC in 2010 by participating in the D2 and Governor's School programs. She continued her education at Virginia Tech, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and public relations with a minor in business leadership in 2013 and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2016. Bobbitt is the Commonwealth's Attorney in Patrick County. She has also been an Adjunct Professor at Patrick & Henry Community

College in the Legal Assisting/Paralegal program.

Brown earned her associate degree in business administration from P&HCC in 1988. She continued her education by earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Radford University in 1990. Brown currently serves as the Site Facilitator at the Patrick County site of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Draper graduated from P&HCC in 1982 with his associate degree in business administration. He continued his education at Radford University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and insurance in 1986. Draper is the owner and operator of Draper Flowers & Gifts. He has served as an adjunct instructor in Floral Design classes for Patrick & Henry Community College.

Harrison earned her associate degree in early childhood development from P&HCC in 2003 and her associate degree in general studies in 2006. She continued her education by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in human services in 2006 from Old Dominion University, a Master of Arts degree in counseling, marriage and families in 2008, a Doctorate in educational leadership in 2019, and a graduate certificate in preschool in 2021 from Liberty University. Harrison is an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Development at Patrick & Henry Community College.

Heath graduated from P&HCC in 1988 with a certificate in bookkeeping and in 1992 with an associate degree in computer information systems, microcomputer specialist. She continued her education at Averett University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Heath is in her 27th year serving as District Manager for the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District, a sub-division of the Commonwealth. In addition to her full-time job, Heath is also co-owner and operator of Heath Ridge Beef Cattle Farm.

Jones earned his associate degree in general studies from P&HCC in 2014. He continued his education by earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Roanoke College in biology in 2016, a Master of Science in biology, ecology and evolution from Montclair State

University in 2018, and a Doctor of Philosophy in biology, ecology, evolution and behavior from Binghamton University, The State University of New York State in 2023. Jones is a biologist with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC.

Lackey graduated with her associate degree in general studies in 2008. She continued her education by earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Ferrum College in psychology in 2011, a Master of Arts degree in counselor education from Virginia Tech in 2013, and a Doctor of Philosophy in counselor education and supervision from Virginia Tech in 2020. Lackey is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia and is the Executive Director and co-founder of A Tree Planted Counseling, a mental health nonprofit built on collaboration and reducing barriers within the community through healing, inclusive and trauma-informed practices. She also started the Roanoke Refugee Partnership in 2017 and is the director. Lackey is an adjunct professor in the Counselor Education department at Virginia Tech.

Love graduated from P&HCC in 1980 with an associate degree in business. He continued his education at James Madison University, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in marketing in 1982. Love is a Senior Member Advocate at ValleyStar Credit Union.

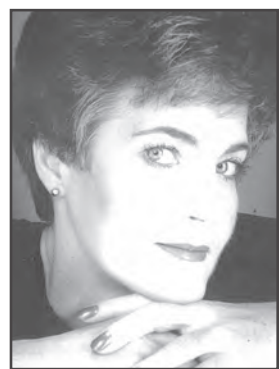
Mills earned his associate degree in general studies from P&HCC in 2005. He continued his education at the University of Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Arts in African American and African studies in 2007. Mills is an AVID English and Sociology Teacher at Greensville County High School in Emporia.

Wade graduated from P&HCC in 1982 with an associate degree in secretarial science. She received a computer programming certificate from ECPI Technical Institute in 1977. Wade is a Master Chief Deputy Clerk with the Henry County Circuit Court.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Distinguished Alumni Awards program, please contact the P&HCC Foundation at (276) 656-0250.

OBITUARIES

Edna Mae Pauley Griffin



Edna Mae Pauley Griffin, 85, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on Friday, June 16th, 2023. She was born on June 21, 1937 in Boissevain, Va. to the late John Gordon Pauley and Lois Audrey Sizemore Pauley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paige Griffin. Also, her sisters: Shirley Miller, Martie Alice Pauley, Ellen Carter and brothers Thomas and John Pauley.

She is survived by her children, son, Lionel Nolen (Cindy) and daughter, Lisha Nolen Cassell, (Doug). Surviving are her sisters, Ruth Dalton, Carol Payne and Linda Dunn. Brothers include: Eddie Pauley and Bernard Pauley. Grandchildren are Lionel Blair Nolen, Eric Dwayne Cassell (Shannon) and Franklin Bryce Nolen

(Whitney). Mrs. Griffin is also survived by 7 Great grandchildren.

Mrs. Griffin was retired from the Henry County Treasurer Office as Deputy Clerk, and was also active in the VFW Lady Association. She Graduated in 1955 from Pocahontas High School.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, June 20, 2023 with Pastor Tim Hunt officiating.

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

Nearly \$11 billion offered for clean energy solutions

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is launching two new programs, which represent the largest single investment in electrifying rural areas since President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law in 1936.

Nearly \$11 billion in grants and loan opportunities are being made available through President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to help bring affordable, reliable clean energy to small cities and towns across the country. Virginia rural energy and utility providers can be part of that success story by applying for one or both of these offerings:

Empowering Rural America ("New ERA") – \$9.7 billion available to eligible rural electric cooperatives (current and previous USDA borrowers) to deploy renewable energy systems, zero-emission and carbon capture systems. Eligible entities must submit a Letter of Interest between July 31 and Aug. 31, 2023.

Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) - \$1 billion in partially forgivable loans to help renewable-energy developers and electric service providers finance large-scale solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydropower projects and energy storage in support of renewable energy systems. Eligible entities include municipals, cooperatives and investor-

owned and tribal utilities. The maximum loan is \$100 million with a forgiveness option for 40 percent of the loan amount. Tribal communities are eligible for up to 60 percent loan forgiveness. USDA will begin accepting Letters of Interest on a rolling basis from June 30 to Sept. 29.

"This really is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help combat the climate crisis while also enhancing Virginia's rural quality of life," said Perry Hickman, USDA Rural Development Virginia State Director. "This groundbreaking investment could also lead to a healthier population, create new jobs and support economic development in the commonwealth."

More information on the New ERA program is available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/empowering-rural-america-new-era-program>. Visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/powering-affordable-clean-energy-pace-program> to learn more about the PACE program.

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Metz

from page 1

posts and according to previous reports.

Slaughter "didn't know I was running," Metz said, adding that he hopes voters "look at what she brings to the table and what I bring to the table, and make a decision based on facts."

His name and reputation are familiar in the agriculture and human services fields as well as many others. For years, Metz and his family have supported local food banks, aided Christmas projects, and organized/conducted events such as community Thanksgiving dinners.

He recalled that during the final dinner before the pandemic, 42 dinners were delivered. His wife, Brenda, other family members, and volunteers prepared "26 or so turkeys," as well as side dishes and desserts that included pies.

Preparing and delivering the meals was rewarding to the family and the network of volunteers who helped, Metz said.

A beef cattle and hay producer, Metz spent 34 to 35 years with the Farm Bureau, including serving 11 three-year terms on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation (VFBF) board of directors. In that position, Metz represented Farm Bureau producer members in Henry, Patrick, Franklin, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke counties.

"I even went to Augusta County" when seeking the necessary permits for a project, Metz said. "In that position, I was doing a lot of meetings. I chaired a lot of meetings in" those counties.

During his time with that agency, Metz said he met with the boards of supervisors in all of the counties and worked on projects with them, including those which involved the school systems. His efforts included attending legislative meetings and meetings with state legislators in various areas.

"In Farm Bureau, I was exposed to many areas of the state. I dealt with all the legislators, from Lynchburg to Roanoke, Martinsville and Henry County" and all of the counties he represented, Metz said. Due to those frequent interactions, "I know them all fairly well" and he considers many friends.

He retired from board service at the conclusion of his final term in 2020, and in 2021, was honored with the agency's Distinguished Service Award.

At that ceremony, VFBF President Wayne F. Pryor said, "Gordon is the very embodiment of community service, and his commitment to Farm Bureau and to his neighbors is inspiring. He's unfailingly generous with his time and ideas, and he imparts solid business sense and a wealth of contacts to any project he takes on."

His experience includes working with budgets, serving on and/or being chairman of various committees, personnel issues that extended to hiring and firing, and a well-rounded knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, and organizational structure.

If successful in his bid, Metz said he will work to ensure the county has the economic development it needs. That includes examining the current practices to ensure accountability, both to the county, residents, and other stakeholders.

Other issues of interest are "checking the school system to see what we need to do as far as being able to provide teachers a better place to work. I do think that we need to look at that, we're losing so many teachers," he said.

"I'm concerned about teachers, teacher pay, teacher responsibility, and parent responsibility," Metz said, adding his family includes teachers. While he understands that "some of these areas, I don't have much say in," he also is willing to help and ask questions to gain a better understanding.

Metz also hopes to have some input on other issues that come up, like zoning and solar panels.

He is open and willing to visit various groups during his campaign and encourages residents and voters to ask him questions and/or share concerns.

"I'm not afraid to say I don't know," he said, adding he is good at asking questions that will lead to a better understanding of issues. "I find out all I can and vote for the people. That's my job," he said.

He has experience with several county and city departments, and along with his family, has owned/managed several local businesses, including the Midget Market, BG's Express convenience stores, and others, Pincrest Meats in Bassett (closed after he and an employee were injured), and Pincrest Equipment Sales. He also helped start projects like Hunters for the Hungry, a program that provides meat to those in need.

In addition to his service on the VFBF board, Metz chaired the organization's Equine Advisory Committee and served on its Membership Services Advisory Committee and the boards of Mississippi-based Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co. and New York-based Countryway Insurance Co.

Metz is a past president of Henry County Farm Bureau and served for more than 20 years on that organization's board. Additional local involvement includes service on the advisory board for Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Plantation and active participation in Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Metz also is a former president of the Figsboro Ruritan Club, the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, and the Augusta Military Academy board of trustees, according to online reports.

Metz, who grew up on a dairy farm in Franklin County, has spent most of his life living in Henry County. He and his wife, Brenda, have six children, 11 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. He lives in the Figsboro community.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Ferrum College's Stanley Library Receives Thomas Nelson Page Collection

A collection of books by Southern writer Thomas Nelson Page has been given to Stanley Library by a retired University of North Carolina professor.

Sherry L. Salyer of Apex, N.C., became interested in Page's work after her grandmother, Eleanor Elliott, gave her a copy of *Two Little Confederates*, a novel about the Civil War written from the perspective of two Virginia brothers who are too young for enlistment. Salyer says that some of the books were probably presented to her grandmother as rewards for good grades at Pine

Grove School outside Mansfield, Georgia. An inscription in a different book reads, "for good spelling" and is dated 1913.

Salyer was a teenager at the time of her grandmother's gift but had seen the novel displayed in Elliott's home for many years. Salyer began searching for other Page works, her collection eventually numbering about two dozen. She says locating the additional books was a "conscious, but leisurely" process and also challenging because it happened "in the days before the Internet or Amazon or eBay." Salyer simply frequently used book-

stores and sometimes got lucky.

The books' author, Thomas Nelson Page, was born in Hanover County, Va., and was eight when the Civil War broke out. He is credited with establishing the "Plantation tradition" of writing, a stylized presentation of life in the antebellum South. His collection of short stories *In Ole Virginia* is considered a prototype of the style. The collection given to Ferrum also includes three works with "Santa Claus" in the title. In addition to his writing career, Page served as U.S. ambassador to Italy from 1913 to 1919. He died at his

birthplace in Virginia in 1922 and is buried in Washington, D.C.

Salyer says she chose Ferrum as recipient of the collection because of her friendship with two members of Ferrum's English faculty: Katherine Grimes, Professor of English and coordinator of Ferrum's English program, and Lana Whited, Professor of English and director of the Boone Honors Program. Salyer says the "dedication and longevity" that Grimes and Whited have shown to Ferrum ensure that her collection will continue to be appreciated.

Grimes underscores

the collection's cultural value: "Even though Thomas Nelson Page represents nostalgia for a culture that many of us now find abhorrent, it is important for us to understand the mindset of people who are still devoted to the Lost Cause. His work is of interest to me as a specialist in Southern literature, and it should be of interest to historians of the South."

Sierra Alley, interim director of Stanley Library, said the gift of the Page collection "will add value to Ferrum's collection. The generosity to support our collection and campus is greatly appreciated."

Salyer also became attached to the Ferrum community because of another relative. As a girl, she visited her uncle Kermit Salyer at his home on Turners Creek Road. As the editor of a Rocky Mount newspaper, her uncle was a well-known resident.

Salyer's role at Carolina, where she spent about twenty-five years, was as a faculty member in Exercise and Sports Science. Yet she loved literature from an early age. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in Health and Physical Education

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DRBA offers at home summer activities for youngsters

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) offers an at-home page filled with summer activities to help get youngsters outside.

The page, DRBA at Home, can be accessed at <https://www.danriver.org/programs/environmental-education/drba-at-home>. It includes At Home Challenge Chart with lots of ideas to get kids (and parents) to unplug and get outdoors because being in nature can boost your whole family's mental and physical health and learning about our local heritage can inspire kids to have a lifelong love for their home town.

The site includes an Interactive Map to encourage participants to 'explore a new destination every month.' Recorded 'Lunch with DRBA' webinars are available, as well as activities that can be downloaded and printed, or complete online to keep youngsters busy and learning about the environment.

Offerings include

Nature Indoors Game, Advanced Environmental Word Search, Quick 10 Minute Nature Scavenger Hunt, Riparian Buffer Assessment, Children's Coloring Book, Trout in the Classroom Life Cycle Videos Playlist, and Earth Day Fun! Booklet.

Resources from partner organizations like the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), Introduction to Scientific Sketching - California Academy of Sciences, Water Footprint Calculator - <https://www.water-calculator.org/>, and O.Berk Water Glossary of Terms also are available.

DRBA's Forest School is a great way for parents and kids ages 3-6 to bond, play and learn more about nature. With generous support from the Martinsville Area Community Foundation, DRBA held the first ever Forest School Day program in Henry County, in

May 2016 to encourage young children and their parents to experience the outdoors in a safe environment. The program was held in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake.

Forest School Day was held at Philpott Lake in the group camping area with an outdoor amphitheater in a forested area which made it suitable for all of the activities of the program. Eleven children, ranging from 3 years to 6 years old, and seven parents participated in the program. The children learned about a variety of topics related to the natural environment including the basic needs of all animals (food, water, and shelter), outdoor safety and survival, and flora and fauna identification.

DRBA is currently seeking support to continue to Forest School year-round.

Amendments to food, drink and industrial hemp laws take effect on July 1

During a reconvened session in April of 2023, the Virginia General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to establish new requirements and restrictions for certain hemp-derived products.

Beginning July 1, 2023, amendments to Virginia's Industrial Hemp Law and Food and Drink Law will direct the manufacturing and retail sale of certain hemp-derived products in the Commonwealth. The amendments also detail how the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will administer the hemp, and food and drink laws and related regulations. Amendments to the Code of Virginia impacting hemp products that will take effect on July 1 include:

- When offered for retail sale, a hemp product may not exceed 0.3 percent total tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and may not have more than two milligrams of total THC per package unless the product's cannabidiol (CBD) to THC ratio is at least 25 parts CBD for every one-part total THC. "Total THC" means all of the THC in a product, including delta-8 and delta-9 THC.

- Any person that intends to manufacture, sell, or offer for sale a substance intended to be consumed orally that contains an industrial hemp-derived cannabinoid must

submit an Edible Hemp Products Disclosure Form.

- Edible hemp products that contain THC must be in child-resistant packaging.

- Edible hemp products must bear a label with specific information and be accompanied by a certificate of analysis produced by an independent, accredited laboratory. Retailers must have the laboratory's certificate of accreditation available for review.

- Civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation of the Food and Drink Law.

- Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA) prohibition on the sale or offering for sale of a substance intended for human consumption, orally or by inhalation, that contains a synthetic derivative of THC.

- VCPA prohibition on the sale of a topical hemp product that does not bear specific label language.

- Amendments establishing a regulated hemp product retail facility registration program to be administered by VDACS will become effective once VDACS develops this new registration program.

VDACS has distributed a communication to retail outlets in its database to advise them of these amendments. This communication is available at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-hemp-product-enforcement.shtml.

Local students named to P&HCC's Dean's, Honors Lists

Students from the following local communities were named to Patrick & Henry Community College's **Dean's List**:

Axton: Marshall Bowles, Camryel Broadnax, Dakota Carter, Jose Diaz Rodriguez, Joshua Eanes, Cristian Espinosa, Jade Gravely, Keri Jackson, Cameron Landaverde, Melanie Manzano-, Elley McGuire, Jollette Navarro-Tamayo, Liam Nies, Tanijuh Preston, Jovany Ramirez Devora, Kayla Whitlock.

Bassett: Bryce Boothe, Timber Callahan, Alexis Castillo, Dakota Clark, Lani Craig, Cierra Hagwood, Autumn Handy-Harrell, Zachary Johnson, Elizabeth Lester, Taylor Lieteau, Kevin Martell-Rios, Madison Mayes, Deven Newman, Dylan Rigney, Steven Rorrer, Kadee Southers, A-Kyiah Valentine, Kevin Valentine, Emily Vaught, Emilee White, Joshua Wright.

Collinsville: Lago Andrade, Nicolas Blanc, Wenceslau Coimbra, Laken Collins, Cameron Easley, Karen Ferguson, Andrew Fisher, Amanda Goad, Tony Gonzalez, Donna Hairfield, Faith Hale, McKayla Jamison, Robert Jones, Elizabeth Joyce, Madison Joyce, Elizabeth Lopez, Gustavo Moreira, Ashlyn Mullins, Trent Murchison, Kyndall Nelson, Bradley Pegram, Leslie Perez-Leal, Bradlee Vasconcelo, Emma Warren, Jaden Watson.

Fieldale: Jeremiah Bullard, Eling Cheng, Candice Lockard, Jonathan Nolen.

Martinsville: Yousef Bensadik, Cailyn Bouldin, Kaylee Brooks, Hayden Calfee, Leah Chacha, Nakya Chism, Morgan Clark, Ajani Cole, Joseph Collins, Deon Cruickshank, Caroline Davis, Brandon DeShazo, Daniel DeVivo, Jonathan English, Tracey Fitzgerald, Shenyah Fuller, William Goodman, Breona Gravely, Joerome Gravely, Jakiyah Gravely, Gabriel Hagwood, Ashton Hairston, Gavin Hamlett, Austin Harding, Alexandria Holland, Audrey Hundley,

Lizbeth Jaramillo Mata, Jaikee jefferson, Jazmyn Lafollette, Michael Lee, Aaron Legg, Faith Lewis, Nicolas Lopez, Ludwin Lopez Chavez, Dakiya Martin, Revocatus Marwa, Jehnae Mitchell, Kinya Moore, Cedejah Myers, Amirhossein Poat Kisomi, Elizabeth Poe, Kristian Preston, John Ratliff, Brandon Reid, Anastacia Reynolds, Papion Ritenour-Shelton, Ailyn Rivera, Kimberly Rodriguez, Kayla Solomon, Caleb Sunkins, Nakysa Tatum, Patrick Taylor, Jalyn Waller.

Ridgeway: Saige Adams, Cole Burgess, Kaylah Dillard, Skylar Hopkins, Anne Laine, Madison Mullis, Cooper Owen, Carlie Pritchett, Zachary Souther, Michael Thompson, Khamren Toney, Jeffrey Wallace, Helaina Wright.

Spencer: Aundrea Burks, Logan Clifton, Kansas Cutchins, Luke Cutchins, Hunter Meade, Qualeak Pride, Hannah Rankin.

The following local students were named to Patrick & Henry Community College's **Honors List**:

Axton: Alexis Tiznado, Amiya Dillard, Ashlynn Patten, Austin Wells, Carlee Ashworth, Chandler Norman, Hannah Moxley, Hannah Young, Kevin Tiznado Marmolejo, Kimbryl Martin, Lakyn Cochran, Mario Garcia Ramirez, Noelia Valderrama, Oscar Rodriguez, Paula Painter, Stephanie Altamirano, Yulisa Salinas.

Bassett: Aleeyah Galloway, Alexis Lemons, Allison Kitzmiller, Bryan Martell-Rios, Camryn Martin, Daniel Marshall, David Craig, Elisha Helms, Emily Gilley, Eunela Manzano, Evan Parnell, Jalyssa Wagoner, Kaitlyn Hooper, Kayin Spencer, Logan Manley, Nicole Cockram, Nolan Poperowitz, Olivia Keaton, Sally Hafey, Samantha Shough, Savannah Gravely, Shawn Foley, Taylor Martin, Taylor Reed, Trinity Hylton.

Collinsville: Carlos Neto, Clarence Linkous, Elizabeth Ferguson, Ethan Duke, Guilherme Ravaneda, Harriet Hayford, Hunter Goad, Jacob Gilbert, Lauren

Carter, Luca Mattos Brandão, Lucas Epiphanyo, Maggie Arnold, Perla Vasconcelos Martinez, Peyton Whitlow, Sara Wall, Sergio Traitel, Timothy Rakes, Trinity Gilbert.

Fieldale: Kasandra Shipton, Katie Fulcher, Matthew Hendrix.

Martinsville: Abbygale Bender, Abigail Jimenez-Ramirez, Abigail Mosley, Alan Rodriguez Rosas, Alexis Ashby, Alfredo Santacruz, America Mendoza-Sanchez, Anaya Brown, Ariana Gravely, Blayne Lutz, Briana Tatum, Caitlin Kennedy, Caleb Jenkins, Carlyna Parks, Catherine Maxwell, Cesar Garcia, Chloe Wray, Claire Coleman, Colby Hairfield, Dakota Hairston, David Hernandez-Arteaga, David Root, Destiny Witcher, Dua Umar, Emma Bredamus, Eyad Mohamed, Gabriel Haley, Grace Gongora, Heaven Gaten, Javarron Cox-Stockton, Jelani Chandler, Jennifer Ruiz, Joseph Nguyen, Justin Ford, Kaedon Byrd, Katherine Cecil, Katherine Hall, Kaylee Hall, Kaylee Hughes, Kinza Yasar, Kylan Roberts, Leia Richardson, Madison Barker, Madison Harbour, Madison Ross, Marco Angles-Ocana, Maria Jennings, Matterson Hunt, Matthew Evans, Matthew Gilbert, Megan Eanes, Melissa Preston, Nala Preston, Nathan Hopkins, Nathan Mason, Nayti Patel, Nicholas Bokman, Nicholas Carter, Omarion Hairston, Rachel Hairston, Rachel Perry, Ruben Duran, Sarah Loftin, Savannah Greer, Scott Harmon, Shania Adams, Tyrese Perkins, Wesley Mills, William Morrison, Zachary Palumbo, Zane Gardner.

Ridgeway: Amanda Jones, Austin Gammons, Avery Brown, Brittney Mitchell, Clarisa Tye, Danielle Edwards, Dayton Royster, Eric Lane, Ivanna Gutierrez, Jacob Conway, Jacob Kerrick, Jada Setliff, Jakob Foley, James Smith, Joanna Gutierrez, Jordan Caldwell-McGhee, Joseph Fincher, Kylie Minter, McKenzie Vaught, Megan Vaughn, Olivia Jones, Rachel Gehrke, Summer Stone, Tanner Mintz, Thomas Powell, Zachary Jones.

Spencer: Alexander Doyle, Caleb Murphy, Dante Carnes.

Miss Henry County Fair crowned



The winners of the 3rd Annual Henry County Fair Pageant were crowned following the contest on June 10 at the Henry County Recreation Center.

Brianna Millner, 21, took home the title of "Miss" Henry County Fair, in the 17-22 age bracket, and will go on to compete in the Miss Virginia Association of Fairs State Pageant in January 2024.

"I'm so honored to be crowned Miss Henry County and to have the privilege of representing our area," Millner said. "I hope to serve as a role model in our community and inspire others to achieve their goals."

The pageant featured divisions for multiple ages from babies to adults. Prizes and awards were given for each age group. As the winner of the "Miss" division, Millner received a \$500 scholarship.

A total of 28 participants entered the contest this year.

"I'm very thrilled with the turn-

out and performances of all of our participants this year," said Roger Adams, Director of Henry County Parks and Recreation. "Henry County was very well represented and it was a tough competition. I wish Brianna luck as she advances to represent our area on the state level."

Below are the winners for each category:

- Beautiful Baby (Ages 0-12): Kayzlyn Holland
- Beautiful Baby (Ages 13-23): Izabella Fulcher
- Wee Baby: Emma Rowles
- Little: Teagan Combs
- Young: Cheyenne Owens
- Pre-teen: Annastin Hammock
- Junior: Kayleigh Wimbish
- Miss: Brianna Millner
- Ms.: Amy Schlosse
- Miss Community Service: Annastin Hammock
- Miss Personality: Brooklyn Hairston

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from Appalachian State University, Salyer decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She eventually earned a doctorate from UNCG in ESS.

Despite being an avid reader, Salyer says she read only a few of the books by Page due to fear that she might damage the more fragile ones by excessive handling. She says she always assumed that if she pursued a master's degree in English, Page's work would be her thesis topic.

When Salyer recently downsized her library following retirement, she decided to give the Page collection to Ferrum. She kept only one volume: Two Little Confederates, the gift from her grandmother.

JUNE
MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Be Part of History
American Red Cross

MHC
MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, June 26, 2023, 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia
Walk-ins welcome; appointments preferred
Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org or text 276-806-5022

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Local blood drive scheduled amid donation shortfall

A shortfall in blood donations last month may jeopardize blood supply, according to the American Red Cross, and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is sponsoring a "Be Part of History" Blood Drive in celebration of Men's Health Month, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Monday, June 26 at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street.

The Red Cross said they were 26,000 donations short of the total amount needed to meet the needs of patients in May.

Officials said this is "concerning." Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages, from accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U. S. needs blood. Each year 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions.

Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. or If necessary, you may text or call (276) 806-5022.

First-time donors, Power Red donors, and those reaching milestones are especially welcome. Donors will receive a \$10 e-gift card to use a merchant of your choice and be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package.

"Throughout June, Men's Health Month aims to encourage boys and men to take charge of their overall health by implementing healthy living decisions," said John Phillips, historical society president and Ferrum College nursing professor. "In addition to regular checkups and awareness of the risks for their age, ethnicity, and lifestyle, it is crucial that men lead by example in donating blood."

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society owns and operates the Historic Henry County Courthouse which houses the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum which will be open during the blood drive. It is also open Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m., due to generous donors and corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The building and grounds are fully handicap accessible.

Paddle on Townes Lake during July 1 outing

You're invited to begin July with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) on a cool mountain lake in Patrick County, Virginia. For its July 1 First Saturday Outing DRBA will host a leisurely 2-mile paddle on scenic Townes Lake near the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Meeting at 9 a.m. at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church, 77 Baptist Lane, Meadows of Dan, participants will carpool to the put-in near the Lower Dam. DRBA has obtained special permission to use the limited parking lot at the lake.

Coordinator for the paddle is Wayne Kirkpatrick, a DRBA volunteer and avid kayaker.

Located in the wild Dan River Gorge south of Meadows of Dan, the reservoir is the secondary catchment and storage area for water that drives the Pinnacles Power Plant at the head of Kibler Valley. Capturing water from the Dan River and Round Meadow Creek (with its major tributary, Mayberry Creek), the lake is just north of the iconic Pinnacles of the Dan, twin conical mountain peaks rising from the gorge below the lake.

At over 2,200 feet of elevation, Townes Reservoir offers some spectacular scenery. Lush summer foliage will hide the "bones" of the mountains and provide shelter for birds and other wildlife. Access is gated and restricted to hand-carry boats, assuring a clean, quiet, and undisturbed setting for paddlers.

"The scenery of this mountain lake is spectacular. Deep, clear water, a narrow channel that winds through the high walled gorge, the feeling of seclusion is immediate from the time you start paddling," Kirkpatrick said.

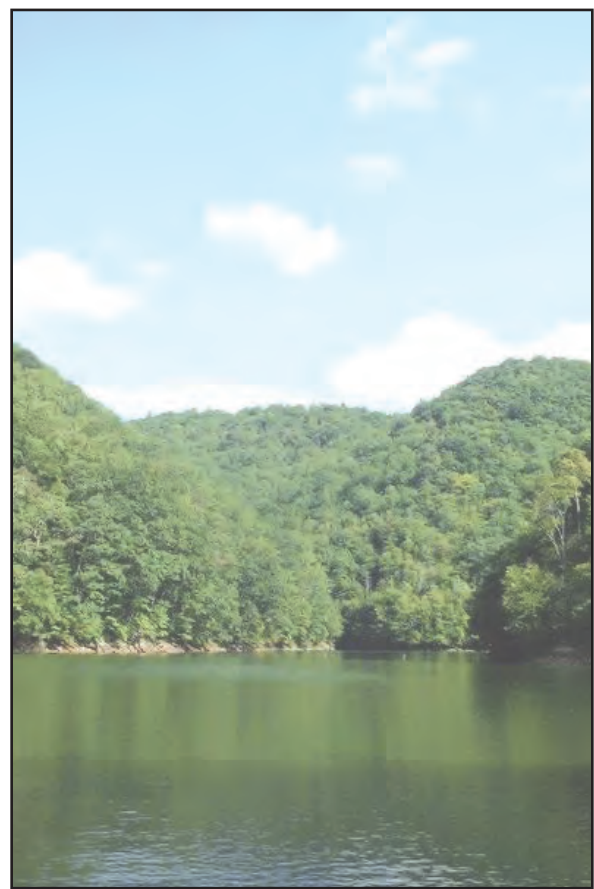


PHOTO COURTESY OF DRBA
DRBA's First Saturday Outing on July 1 is a leisurely 2-mile paddle on scenic Townes Lake, near the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Water from Townes Reservoir is piped to the power plant through a six-foot-diameter aqueduct, dropping over 700 feet in elevation over its long course. Originally built of tongue-and-groove Douglas fir, the aqueduct, now a steel pipe, is maintained via a trail accessed by a long wooden stairway below the dam. For a half mile the trail alongside the pipe provides a nearly-level path overlooking the gorge.

This lake is private and visitors to the area are required to have a permit (DRBA will secure a group permit for this paddle), and for safety reasons, park regulations do not allow swimming, camping, hunting, firearms, pets, or alcohol. Near the entrance to the reservoir is a section of the original wooden aqueduct, providing a close-up look at its ingenious construction. Participants in the out-

ing are asked to meet at 9 a.m. at the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church. You will need to supply your own boat, paddles, life jacket - a life jacket is required for the paddle. Please bring water and lunch. Dress in water-shedding artificial fabric or wool; and be prepared for wind or rain. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver before the paddle.

Directions: Take US 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway) to Meadows of Dan. Continue on Jeb Stuart Highway, US 58 Business, toward the Blue Ridge Parkway for 0.8 mile. Meadows of Dan Baptist Church is on the right.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

For more information about the trip, contact trip coordinator Wayne Kirkpatrick, 540.570.3511 or wynbtyk@embarqmail.com.

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for the Fall Semester

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