

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, November 4, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Racing legends featured in program at NCI

By Holly Kozelsky

More than 250 filled the Martin-Lacy Lecture Hall at New College Institute (NCI), and many more watched from big screens in other parts of the building, when Richard Petty and Frank Scott had a “Legendary Conversation.”

The Legendary Conversation program, hosted by Warrick Scott, was a joint presentation by NCI and the Wendell Scott Foundation on Oct. 25.



Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell speaks as Frank Scott (left), Richard Petty (second from right) and Warrick Scott listen.

See **Legends**, page 6



The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum in Uptown Martinsville hosted agencies, organizations and others who set up on Halloween to hand out treats.

Blue Ridge Folklife Festival Celebrates 50 Years

By Gabrielle Walker

This past Saturday, the Blue Ridge Institute hosted the 50th annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival. Spread across the beautiful Ferrum College campus, the festival hosted a number of activities. Vendors crossed county and state lines to showcase classic cars, antique engines, and traditional handicrafts for thousands of visitors. Across the street, the Blue Ridge Farm Museum hosted livestock demonstrations and competitions in the midst of a recreated nineteenth century farmstead. The festival began at 10 and was scheduled to end at 5, but that did not seem long enough for visitors to see everything available.

After walking through

the Farm entrance, bluegrass music was heard over passing cars, drawing just as many people as the nearby BBQ vendor.

James Houchins, Patrick County Tourism Director, was seen smiling and nodding his head in time to the beat. He explained that he believes in forming mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring counties to foster economic growth and community uplift. When asked if the Patrick County Tourism department would be interested in sponsoring the festival, Houchins agreed and sponsored one of four tents dedicated to live music.

Just before lunch, Henry County resident

See **Blue Ridge**, page 5



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE WALKER

Sisters Jane and Alice Brown pose with grandmother, Sherrie Bryant, of Collinsville, at the rug hooking demonstration. Jane and Alice are the youngest rug hookers in the Blue Ridge region.

Tricks and Treats Uptown



See more photos inside - **Halloween**, page 11

Davis Says Experience Sets Him Apart

By Gabrielle Walker

Interim Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis took office on July 1 this year, and after only three months in the position, now faces his first election. He says that his experience sets him apart from his challenger, Del Mills.

“I am the only certified law enforcement officer running for sheriff. I’m one of only twenty-nine sheriffs in Virginia to be certified by the Virginia Sheriff’s Institute, and I have been promoted to, and held every rank in the Henry County Sheriff’s Office,” Davis said.

Some of those positions include serving as supervisor over the patrol division and criminal investigations, serving as a member

and eventual commander of the SWAT team, and serving on and commanding the search and recovery dive team. Davis has spent the past 14 years in a leadership position. He also has logged over 2,000 hours of in-classroom instruction with numerous certifications in various topics including sniper instruction, defensive tactics instruction, and active shooter response instruction.

His transition into the top post was unique. After twenty-three years of working in the sheriff’s office, Davis said he had a good idea of what the role would require and the improvements he wanted to make, and was given the leeway to begin making some of the improvements in late-March.

Now, “I’m very pleased with the progress made in a short period of time,” Davis said, highlighting a few of those improve-



Interim Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis

ments, such as placing a School Resource Officer (SRO) in every county school, reallocating resources and changing tactics to better target drug activity at the dealer level, and finalizing a \$361,000 grant to improve some of the technology the sheriff’s office uses.

A large portion of that grant, he said, has gone towards imple-

See **Davis**, page 7

Mills Would Start Meeting Staff on Day One

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

If successful in his bid for the Henry County Sheriff’s post, Del Mills said the first thing he would do when he takes office in January is start meeting with everyone in the department.

Mills, who will face interim Sheriff Wayne Davis for the position, said meeting employees is necessary because “you know, get to know everybody, get to find out what drives them, what their passion is, where they can better serve the community.

“We’ve got to get to know the people there, and get to know the officers,” said Mills, who also pledged to donate his salary during the first year to charity if he is elected.

Mills said he plans to use a more community-oriented policing strategy to involve the community in the functions of the sheriff’s office so the department can better serve the public. He also wants to make a strong push for neighborhood watch associations, and those ideas are making strides with supporters.

“Everywhere we go, the feedback’s been good. You know, we’ve tried to plant positive seeds along the way. You haven’t heard any form of rhetoric from us. We’re not going to do that. We’re just trying to be positive and upbeat and try to do as much for the community and support the sheriff’s office along the way,” he said.

Regarding his promise to put his brother,



Del Mills

See **Mills**, page 7

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FOR MORE UPDATES



Why Sheriff Davis Is The Best Choice For Henry County

- ★ Sheriff Wayne Davis has faithfully served the citizens of Henry County for the past 23 years.
- ★ Sheriff Davis is the *only* certified law enforcement professional in the Henry County Sheriff’s election.
- ★ Sheriff Davis placed a School Resource Officer in every Henry County Public School.
- ★ He brought the D.A.R.E. program back to Henry County Schools.
- ★ Pledges to bring the Henry County Sheriff’s Office to the forefront of technology to better fight crime.
- ★ He has served in patrol, investigations, SWAT, and every level of supervision and leadership.
- ★ Sheriff Davis is certified by the Virginia Sheriff’s Institute. Only 29 Sheriffs in Virginia have ever achieved this certification.

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Sheriff Wayne Davis Humbly Asks For Your VOTE On November 7th!

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Paid For and Authorized by D. Wayne Davis Jr. for Sheriff

A gallery of art by elementary school students on display at Piedmont Arts

Artwork by students from Meadow View Elementary and Mt. Olivet Elementary will be on display from Nov. 7-30 in Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery. A reception will be held for exhibiting students and their families, Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 4-6 p.m. at the museum. Piedmont Arts is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



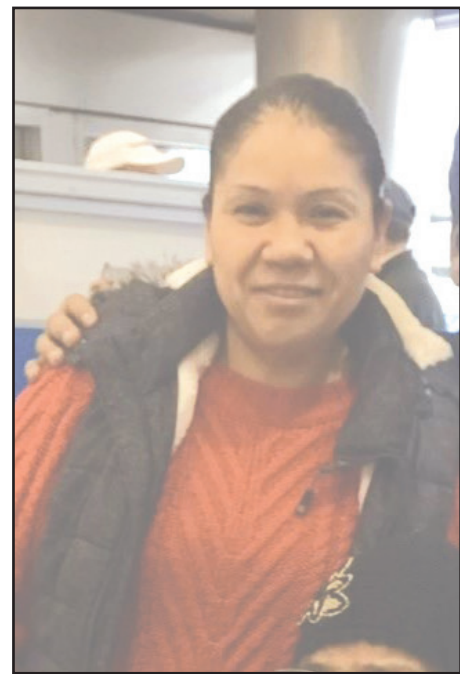
The Foster Gallery is a point of pride for area students who have their work displayed on its walls. Friends and family are invited to come see it.

Piedmont Arts is known for hosting amazing and innovative exhibits. Nowhere is that truer than in the Foster Gallery. Exhibits are curated every six to eight weeks, allowing work by students from all 19 schools in Martinsville-Henry County to be displayed during the year.

the Foster Gallery is an important part of Piedmont Arts' community programming, encouraging young people to participate in the arts and giving the public the opportunity to experience the

wealth of talent in the area. Piedmont Arts and Charity League believe that the arts are a vital part of an excellent education, and both are pleased to take an active role in arts education in the community.

Curated by Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County,



Ridgeway woman reported missing

The Henry County Sheriff's Office is requesting help in locating a woman who has been missing since Saturday, October 21.

Laura Alaracon Cardenas, 51, was reported missing on October 25, according to a release. She was last seen at a residence located at 1588 Kings Mill Road, Ridgeway.

Cardenas is described as a Hispanic female, 5-feet tall and weighing 134 pounds. She has black hair and brown

eyes.

Anyone with information about her whereabouts 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 crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

Winter at Piedmont Arts offers a variety of classes and studio time

When the weather outside gets frightful, there is no better time to get cozy and enjoy creating arts and crafts. Whether you are honing existing skills or trying something new, the roster for classes this winter at Piedmont Arts is full of exciting opportunities for all ages. Sign-ups are available on the Piedmont Arts website and admission prices vary depending on the class, materials required, and the instructor.

Certified Bob Ross technique instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse will be teaching a Bob Ross painting class once a month. Learn his famous painting techniques and create your own happy little painting of a natural landscape. On Thursday, Nov. 2, Hodge-Muse will be guiding participants to paint a "Soft Mountain Glow" and on Thursday, Dec. 7 she will teach participants how to paint a "Covered Bridge." All classes begin at 9:30 a.m. Students are asked to bring a roll of paper towels, but all other supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required, and tickets are \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members.

Chix with Stix is a group for knitters who are invited to

See Winter, page 9



A student in Naomi Hodge-Muse's Bob Ross painting class adds details to her canvas.



Participants in a painting class concentrate on the works they are creating.

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Joseph C. Campbell, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Campbell is originally from the town of Buena Vista, Virginia. He attended college at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va. and Medical School at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, Virginia. He did his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda Maryland. He was a staff Orthopedic Surgeon at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, NC 1997-1999. Orthopedic areas includes General Orthopedic Surgery. Special Orthopedic Interests include Sports Medicine, Arthroscopic Surgery, Foot and Ankle surgery. Dr. Campbell is a board certified Orthopedic Surgeon.



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MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

Events

Friday, November 3

Exhibit Opening Reception – Venus Inferred and Z.L. Feng, 5:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts

Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits. Gallery talk at 6:15 p.m. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments. Live music. RSVP by October 30.

Friday, November 3 – Saturday, November 4

Yard Sale, 8 to 1 at Fieldale Recreation Center, 7 Marshall Way, Fieldale. Cash only. Lots of bargains and great Christmas gifts.

Saturday, November 4

Blackberry Baptist Church's Free Event "FALL-O-WEEKEN JESUS FESTIVAL," 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., featuring Four4One Quartet! Festive Foods, Kids Activities, Live Animals, Train Ride to Pumpkin Patch, Candy, Games and much more.

An afternoon of family fun is planned at "Hometown Heroes Touch A Truck Fundraiser," hosted by the Bassett Library Building Expansion Committee at HJDB Event Center and Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett, from 2-6 p.m. Children 2 & under are free. Child's wristbands are \$10; Adult \$5 to touch everything. We will have representatives from Bassett Fire Department; Bassett Rescue Squad; Henry County law enforcement; VDOT; Air Life Helicopter; Henry Co. Mobile Health Unit; AEP; PSA; & more. There will be a bouncy house and slide. Snacks and water for sale. All proceeds benefit the Bassett Library Building Expansion Fund. The rain date is Nov. 5, 2-6 p.m. Call (276) 629-2426 with questions.

Storytime at the Spencer Penn Centre, 10 a.m. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts,

and other fun activities related to Falling Leaves. Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages. Registration is not needed.

Friday, November 10

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Centre, with Gap Civil, to play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 CASH donation. Come enjoy some great mountain music and dancing! Concessions, including our ever-popular Spencer Penn hotdogs, will be sold.

Friday-Saturday, November 10-11

TheatreWorks Community Players Readers Theatre's version of "Hospitality Suite," an internationally renowned stage play about three men who work for an industrial lubricants firm promoting their wares at a convention hospitality suite in Wichita, Kansas, will be presented at 7 p.m. nightly in Martinsville. Tickets are \$10, only available at the door.

Sunday, November 12

"The Maps of Thomas Jefferson" by Zack Fleming: 3 p.m., at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Tuesday, November 14

Renae "Spring Morning" Wagoner will present a Native American program, "We Are Still Here," at 10:30 a.m. in the Bassett Historical Center. Renae is of Shawnee descent and lives in Spencer. Proud of her heritage, she is honored to be able to share a part of her culture, and hopes you will look with a more insightful view of the American Indian, with perhaps a better understanding of their views and how they came to have them all while having an enjoyable morning learning something new and realizing yes, Native Americans are still here. This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room.

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.

ONGOING

The 28th annual Coat Drive for Kids is underway. Anyone wishing to donate a new or gently used coat may call Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, organizer of the event, at (276) 358-1463. Drop coats off at Hollywood Cinema or One-Hour

Martinizing on Rives Road. The deadline for donations is Nov. 30.

Registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading for youngsters aged 5 years through 5th grade, until Nov. 30. Practices begin Jan. 6, with a first game on Jan. 27 and the last game set for March 16. Cost is \$65. All practices and games are held at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleystown. For more information, call (276) 629-2964 or pastordreed81@gmail.com.

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts Rook Music & More on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon. Play Rook, work puzzles, make a craft and listen to a mixture of bluegrass, country & gospel music by different bands each week. If you want, you can bring a snack to share. This event is free to the public. Any donations received will go to the Bassett Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

Registration is underway for UPWARD Basketball and Cheerleading, for youngsters 5 years old through 5th grade, \$65 each at Fort Trial Baptist Church in Stanleystown. Call (276) 629.2964 or email pastordreed81@gmail.com.

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

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 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.

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed. 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. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate is available to help. 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.

Application Period for Fuel Assistance Now Open

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance online and at all local departments of social services through Monday, November 13, 2023. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

The Energy Assistance Program, funded by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) federal block grant, provides state support to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs such as electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. Assistance may also be available for delivery and installation charges as well as connection or re-connection fees.

To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,822. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$3,750. Additional income guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,822
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,107
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,392
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,677
8	\$6,282
Each additional person	\$642

"Keeping warm during the winter months should not be a struggle Virginia families have to face," said VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula. "With this assistance, households will be able to dedicate their resources towards other expenses they might have while staying comfortable in their homes. Last year, we provided fuel assistance to over 113,000 Virginia households through this program and look forward to supporting families again during this enrollment period."

Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services. To apply online or check eligibility for benefits assistance, visit the CommonHelp website at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications (available in English and Spanish) may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

Pregnancy Care Center receives PUP grant to support program for expectant parents

The Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) of MHC is growing its Earn While You Learn program with a \$23,200 PUP grant from The Harvest Foundation.

Earn While You Learn assists expectant parents with education on how to prepare for the birth of a child. Throughout the education process, earned points can be redeemed for baby items such as cribs, strollers, car seats, diapers, and others.

"Programs like this create opportunities for early interventions to support healthy infants and toddlers, especially low-income families or those who are uninsured or underinsured," said Dr. Sandy Strayer, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. "Providing first-class learning and development opportunities for Martinsville-Henry County's children is a significant piece of the foundation's strategic plan to serve our community. MHC's children deserve the very best care possible, and we are thankful for the local programs and services that fulfill those needs."

The Pregnancy Care Center provides free pregnancy testing, information, and support. Bryan Keith, executive director of the center, said many individuals in Martinsville-Henry County are faced with the financial struggles of an unplanned pregnancy.

"Our Pregnancy Care Center of MHC, Inc. comes alongside them through the first two years of their child's life," Keith said. "The

Harvest Foundation's PUP grant will assist PCC in providing cribs, car seats, strollers, and necessary items like diapers and wipes. Meeting those needs encourages men and women with confidence to face the challenges of raising their child and promotes a healthy family life that pays it forward to other families in need."

Visit pregcc.com or call (276) 634-5433 to find out more.

The Harvest Foundation's PUP Grant Program is a competitive, small grants program designed to engage people and organizations in the transformation of MHC through expanded conversation and action around community



The Harvest Foundation awarded a \$23,200 PUP grant to the Pregnancy Care Center of MHC to support the Earn While You Learn program. Pictured from left are Harvest Program Officer Dr. Sandy Strayer, Bryan Keith, executive director of the center, and Jason Dove, chairman of the center's board of directors.

issues. Grants are funded up to \$25,000 with a quick and easy application and review process. Visit theharvestfoundation.org or call (276) 632-3329 to learn more.

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OPINION

Red flags

On Aug. 1, 1966, a man named Charles Whitman killed his wife and his mother. He then went to the observation deck of the main tower at the University of Texas at Austin and opened fire on random people on the ground below. He managed to kill 14 people and wound another 31 before he was shot and killed by Officer Ramiro Martinez of the Austin Police Department.

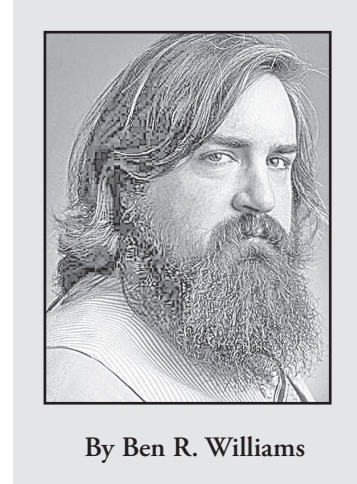
Whitman was the perpetrator of one of the first mass shootings in modern American history, not to mention one of the worst. Despite that, some might consider Charles Whitman a sympathetic figure. In the months leading up to the shooting, he realized that there was something very, very wrong with him. He sought out the help of no fewer than six doctors in his attempts to find out why he was experiencing what he described in his journals as "overwhelming violent impulses." He recognized that something had gone awry and actively tried to fix it. He even

requested in a final letter that an autopsy be performed on him after his death to figure out what was wrong with him.

When a neuropathologist examined Whitman's brain during the autopsy, he found a pecan-sized tumor; based on the tumor's location, it's theorized that it was pressing against Whitman's amygdala, the portion of the brain related to anxiety and fight-or-flight. It's impossible to say whether that tumor was the underlying cause of Whitman's killing spree, but it certainly seems like a factor.

In hindsight, it seems as though the medical industry failed Charles Whitman, although not through malice or incompetence; while brain surgery wasn't new in 1966, it was still fairly primitive, and it's hard to say if doctors of the era could have both successfully diagnosed Whitman's tumor and removed it without serious adverse effects.

Today, we live in an age of medical and technological wonders, yet our systems are



By Ben R. Williams

still failing the people who need them the most.

On October 25, Robert Card killed 18 people and injured 13 others during a shooting spree in Lewiston, Maine. A sergeant first class in the U.S. Army Reserve, Card was a skilled marksman. This past July, service members who were training with Card at West Point asked law enforcement to check on Card due to his erratic behavior; he said that he was hearing voices and threatened to shoot up a military base. He was transported to Keller Army Community Hospital and was committed for two weeks of

psychiatric evaluation.

I don't think it's out of line to say that a trained marksman with a delusional disorder and violent ideations is a person who should not be allowed to own a gun.

In the wake of many mass shootings, there is a vocal contingent quick to point out that the shooter's guns were all purchased legally and they hadn't exhibited any questionable behavior, which means that no amount of gun laws could have prevented the shooting. Those folks have been pretty quiet about Card.

About 20 U.S. states have "red flag" laws that allow people to petition courts to order a family member to give up their guns. Maine, meanwhile, has a more lenient "yellow flag" law; it allows the police to ask a judge to force someone to temporarily give up their guns and blocks them from buying additional firearms, so long as they're deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others.

Card had apparently bought his murder weapon legally just prior to being committed to a psychiatric hospital. Why didn't that trigger the yellow flag law after he was commit-

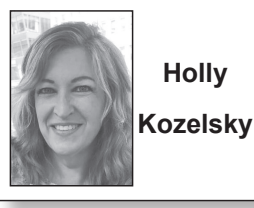
ted? Nobody seems to know for certain. However, Card's sister-in-law has stated that the family had reached out to the police and to the Army to raise concerns about Card's mental health. If Maine had the stricter red flag law on the books, it's entirely possible that the massacre could have been prevented.

Unfortunately, Card was allowed to keep his guns, and 18 people paid with their lives due to a failure of the system — 19, if you count the shooter. And we all know it's only a matter of time until another person grappling with mental illness buys a semi-automatic rifle and takes their pain out on the innocent.

And that's one of the main reasons I brought up Charles Whitman. For many years, Whitman's massacre was considered a bizarre outlier, a terrible and unfathomable moment in our nation's history. By the standards of today, it's nothing out of the ordinary. In fact, it doesn't even rank among the top ten deadliest mass shooting in recent American history.

That's because the Lewiston shooting pushed it to number eleven.

Petty: King of Smiles



Holly Kozelsky

ity. Each pant leg had a slit at the bottom, presumably to make room for his cowboy boots. He had on his signature dark hat with feather crest and medallion and sunglasses. He looked ageless. You'd never think he was 86 (I had to look it up).

But there was more than just looking good. I looked harder.

He sat and stood with erect carriage, and always looked attentive — and always smiled.

When someone talked — Frank Scott and Warrick Scott of the foundation, and Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell or someone from the audience asking a question — he looked at and listened to that person alertly.

And he smiled. He smiled the whole time.

That smile beamed at whoever was speaking at the moment, and it beamed at the audience.

That smile drew you in, made you feel good, and let you know that the other person who was

talking at the moment was important.

That smile told you the speaker mattered, the audience mattered, you mattered.

The power of the smile really hit me.

I looked around the room at everyone else. For the most part, people's faces were plain and distant, except when they laughed at something said.

Make no mistake: The people were hanging on to every word Petty and Frank Scott said. It's just that the emotion didn't translate to their faces except for when they laughed.

That's just the way it goes. I've seen it in myself when I see candid pictures taken of me. They can be taken during events, parties or happenings where I feel particularly joyful and cheerful, but in photographs my face is dull and distant. I look like I'm staring into space when I remember that I was actually feeling good.

When I take pictures, my rule of thumb is to take at least 30 shots for

See Petty, page 7

News from the 9th: We Have a New Speaker



Morgan Griffith Representative

I disagreed with this move. It was my belief that there was nobody at that point in time who could quickly obtain the 217 votes needed to become speaker.

On October 3rd, a motion to vacate was brought to the House floor and eight Republicans voted with Democrats to oust the Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.

The Republicans were frustrated that Congress was unable to pass all 12 fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills before the September 30th deadline and so we had to pass a continuing resolution to give us 45 more days of government funding so that the House could further debate and vote on the bills.

Though I understood their frustration,

It seems I had a point. For the next three weeks, Republicans debated and voted on who to nominate. Three different candidates were put forward by the Republican conference: Steve Scalise, Jim Jordan, and Tom Emmer. But they did not have the votes to win on the floor.

On October 24th, after numerous rounds of voting, it became clear Mike Johnson of Louisiana had the support within the Republican conference and on the floor to become the 56th Speaker of the House.

On the floor, he received all of the votes of Republicans present, 220.

Besides calling on all of us to work together and for a restoration of trust, Speaker Johnson laid out

his vision for how the House should conduct itself moving forward. Below are his core principles for our nation.

First, Individual Freedom.

All Americans are endowed with individual, God-given liberties that are to be preserved against government intrusion. We must all work to maintain and promote our rights and liberties.

Second, Limited Government.

This country was founded on the belief that legitimate government is more efficient and less corrupt when its size and scope are limited. This means decentralizing authority, limiting government regulations, and reducing bureaucracy.

Third, The Rule of Law.

In order to maintain a

See 9th, page 8

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- Nuclear undersea weapon
 - President of Syria al-___
 - Partner to flows
 - "Snow" in Welsh
 - Famed Mexican painter
 - Song
 - ticks outward from the crown
 - Doddering
 - Resist authority (slang)
 - Antsy
 - Wrath
 - Spills the beans
 - Past
 - The woman
 - One has 24 hours
 - Talk
 - It can sting
 - Astronomy unit
 - Halfway
 - Chinese dynasty
 - Australian river
 - Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
 - Fabric
 - Crucifix
 - Defunct European economic group
 - "Hotel California" rockers
 - Michael Knight's car
 - Actress Ryan
 - A digital tape recording of sound
 - Insecticide
 - Scientific instrument
 - Golden-corn
 - Israeli city ___ Aviv
 - Sword
 - Ottoman military title
 - Aromatic plants
 - Cold wind
 - Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
 - Political unit
 - Indiscreetly reveal secrets
 - Comfort food dish
 - Actress Zellweger
 - Romanian city
 - CLUES DOWN
 - One point east of southeast
 - Italian monetary unit
 - Warship prison
 - Tropical American tree
 - Alias
 - Normal or sound powers of mind
 - English county
 - Not compatible with
 - Female deer
 - Not late
 - La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
 - "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
 - Impudence
 - Advises
 - Founder of Babism
 - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - Male parent
 - A type of plug
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - Fungal disease
 - Shelter
 - Finished
 - Excrete
 - Unhappy
 - Partner to cheese
 - Coffee receptacle
 - Spend time dully
 - Makes full
 - Snakelike fish
 - Take in solid food
 - ___ student, learns healing
 - A way to take away
 - Impart a lesson to
 - "Transformers" actress Fox
 - Spiritual leader
 - Every one of two or more things
 - Indian city
 - 17th stars
 - Weapon
 - Amounts of time
 - Isidor ___, American Nobel physicist
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Witness

Blue Ridge from page 1

Darren Moore climbed the stage with his acoustic guitar and played with the New North Carolina Ramblers. Band leader Kinney Rorrer, of Danville, explained that his great uncles Posey Rorrer and Charlie Poole helped form the original Ramblers in the 1920s in Franklin County. They were the first to record the well-known bluegrass song "I'll Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" in New York for Columbia Records. The New Ramblers ended their set with this song, bringing several flat footers to the dance floor.

Across from the music stage, a children's play area provided younger guests with old-time entertainment. Using burlap sacks, kids raced each other and their parents, pitched horseshoes, and tested their strength playing tug-of-war. The highlight, however, was a pile of hay in the corner where kids searched for candy.

The Franklin County Parks and Recreation tent situated at the side of the play area, hosted a checkers tournament for children and adults. Marcia Cramblitt, manager of the Office of Aging and Recreation, explained that originally Parks and Rec hosted checkers and horseshoes, before changing to cornhole. She said the time seemed right to bring checkers back. Thomas Walker and son Bailey, both of Stuart, took home first place trophies for the adult and child tournaments.

A few yards away from the play area, livestock demonstrations began.

One farmer brought sheep and demonstrated how he uses his dog to herd livestock safely. Several farmers brought draft horses, displaying their strength in pulling thousands of pounds of weight effortlessly. Others brought their mules for a jumping contest, but the animals' resistance revealed that mules are just as stubborn as ever. Early in the afternoon, the Coonhound dog contests began. "Smoke," a Treeing Walker Coonhound from Floyd, took home first place in the water race and water treeing contest.

Back on the college campus, food and drink vendors worked tirelessly to fill orders. Along with BBQ and fried chicken, vendors offered milkshakes, lemonade, and coffee - which one person made with a nineteenth century steam engine. Unsurprisingly, moonshine booths became some of the most popular. Vendors offered tastings, explained the process of making moonshine, and shared some of the lore of local moonshine history.

Houchins explained that he has been working with Franklin County Tourism Director Kevin Tosh and Floyd County Tourism Director Kathleen Legg on creating a Moonshine Heritage Trail that will pass through Patrick, Franklin, and Floyd counties, eventually including Henry as well.

After experiencing several demonstrations of nineteenth and early twentieth century engines and tractors, visitors eventually entered the tradi-



The Pleasant Quilters from Henry County. Seated from left to right: Libby Bondurant, Myrna Ferguson, Janet Mitchell, and Nora Guilliams

tional handicraft area. Vendors offered items for sale of course, but the draw for many was seeing the traditional process for making them. Henry County group the Pleasant Quilters began learning to hand quilt in 2004. Libby Bondurant, of Figsboro, explained that the group started about 60 years ago, and the original members have all passed away.

"When I retired in 2004, I went to the group and said 'If y'all don't teach us how to quilt it's going to become a lost art,' she said, and they said, 'Sure, come on!'"

The Pleasant Quilters take quilt tops from others, add the backing, and hand quilt it to give to those who need it. Next to the Pleasant Quilters, Reynolds Homestead

had a table with several women rug hooking. Leslie Marsh, owner of Uptown Suites of Stuart, explained that women would take old clothes, cut strips, and pull the strips in various designs through feed sacks to make rugs. Some artisans sell these for hundreds of dollars, but Marsh explained that she sells some for much less than that while the rest are used as they were meant to be - as rugs.

If you've never had the pleasure of attending the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, save the date for next year! It is always held on the fourth Saturday in October.

A few tips for first timers:

Buy admission tickets online. Not only are the tickets cheaper, but you



Classic cars and one of the grounds next to antique engines.

get to skip the long line of people waiting to purchase tickets on the day of the event.

Check the weather. There isn't a lot of shade, and the festival is spread out. If it's going to be sunny and hot, bring your sunscreen and maybe an umbrella.

Arrive early. A lot of people attend the festival. Arriving early can help you get a better parking spot! Also, most of the classic cars left before 3 p.m. and antique tractors began leaving soon after, so arriving early allows you more time to view them.

Be prepared to walk. Parking is free, but thousands of people attend the festival, so you'll probably have to park a good distance away from the

campus unless you arrive early. Also as mentioned earlier, the events are spread out over the campus and Farm Museum.

Bring chairs or a blanket to sit on. There are some seating options but not many. The various demonstrations can last anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour, so bringing something to sit on can make watching these more enjoyable.

Plan for meals. Food and drinks weren't cheap, so if you'd rather spend money on crafts, bring food and drinks with you. That stated, the food was amazing, so if you want to try it, be prepared to spend!

Bring cash. Several vendors accept cards, but having cash made many transactions easier.



The New North Carolina Ramblers featuring Darren Moore of Chatham on acoustic guitar. Band leader Kinney Rorrer of Danville plays banjo, Wayne and Margaret Moore of Raleigh, NC, play the fiddle and autoharp.



Cam Carr of Floyd poses with "Smoke" his Treeing Walker Coonhound.

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Areas

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

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) for a Strategic and Organizational Planning Consultant

The Harvest Foundation (HF), working on behalf of the Minority Business Consortium (MBC), is seeking a consultant to assist with development of a three-year strategic and operational/financial plan for the newly established MBC, preparing the body to launch activities as an independent nonprofit entity with the following Mission: To provide resources, technical and business development support to current and prospective, underrepresented minority business owners in the community. The MBC Vision is to create a dynamic economic development landscape where minority-owned businesses can thrive and contribute to a growing local economy.

This RFP seeks proposals from qualified candidates to assist the MBC in development, drafting, and completion of a Strategic Plan as well as an Operational and Financial Plan.

These materials will be designed to operate as roadmaps for the MBC for three years. The plan start dates will be designated as part of the project.

The planning consultant will meet with the Project Team three times through the course of the project. Two of these meetings will be in-person and the third can be online via a communication service, i.e., Zoom, Google Meet.

The planning consultant will also plan to present the strategic plan after the document has been approved by the Project Team to the Project Advisory Committee, a 10-person committee established to support this work.

The planning consultant will receive scheduling and administrative support from a contractor working for HF who is familiar with this project.

The planning consultant will supply the final deliverables in an electronic format that allows for future editing and convenient use in other documents (Word or Google Document).

The estimated project start date is January 15, 2024.
The proposed project completion date is July 15, 2024.

HF reserves the right to adjust these dates depending on potential schedule challenges associated with the final selection of the planning consultant. If the project start date is delayed, the entire project period will remain six months unless negotiated with the consultant.

A full RFP with detailed instructions is available by contacting Catherine Van Noy, Project Coordinator, at cvannoy@millereekreative.com

Proposals will be due by Friday, December 1, 2023 at 12 p.m. EST.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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Search warrant leads to arrest

Henry County Sheriff's Office Deputies, with the assistance of officers from the Martinsville City Police Department, executed a narcotics search warrant at 1780 Stultz Road, Martinsville, on October 22.

During the execution of the search warrant, unlawfully possessed prescription pills, numerous firearms, and over one pound of marijuana were seized. There was evidence that narcotics had been shipped to and from this residence.

Quinton Lamar Jones, 32, of 1780 Stultz Road, Martinsville,

is being held with no bond in the Henry County Adult Detention Center on charges of possession of Schedule II controlled substance (oxycontin), possession of firearm while in possession of Schedule II substance, and possession of more than one pound of marijuana with intent to distribute, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

Anyone with information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers



at 63-CRIME (632-7463). Rewards of up to \$2,500 are offered through the Crimestoppers Program for information related to crimes. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

One charged in connection with reported robbery

On October 29, around 6:30 p.m., Henry County Sheriff's deputies responded to the Figsboro General Store, located at 3899 Figsboro Road, to a reported robbery. Upon arrival, it was discovered that a larceny had occurred and not a robbery.

A former employee allegedly had entered the store and stolen a money box from behind the counter, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

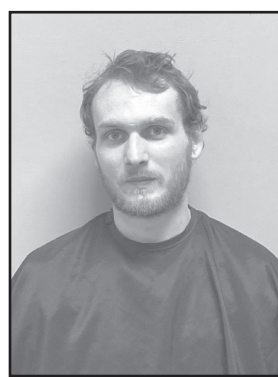
Jacob Andrew Martin, 25, of 21 Dog Patch Lane, Martinsville, was a previous employee, according to the owner of the Figsboro General Store, who also alleged \$240 from the same

money box had been stolen during Martin's employment.

After the money box was stolen, a man fled on foot. Martin was found a short time later, allegedly hiding under the porch of his residence on Dog Patch Lane. He was taken into custody without incident, Davis said in the release.

Martin was charged with one count of larceny from this incident and one count of embezzlement from the previous incident. He is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond.

Anyone with information about the incidents is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office



Jacob Martin

at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for vital information related to crimes. The nature of the crime and the relevance of the information provided will determine the exact reward amount.

Petty

from page 4

everyone one good picture I hope to get out of it. In most of those 30 shots, the faces look dull or awkward; it takes that many just to get one or two that flatter the person and show him as looking alert and interested.

So right then and there, as Richard Petty's lesson on the power of smile sunk in on me, I decided that from now on I will be a smiler. I put a cheerful, welcoming smile on my face and intended to keep it there.

Just a couple of minutes in, my face felt stiff and my cheeks were getting tired. I had to fight to keep the smile going.

Richard Petty was still smiling.

Another minute and I thought, the heck with that, I'll take a break and let my face rest.

Several times throughout the event, I put that smile back on, and it would last a short time before I'd either stop with relief, or realize that I had stopped smiling without noticing.

Yet Richard Petty kept smiling.

Seeing him close up provided one of the best lessons I've ever had. Ever since that night, I've been making a point of smiling a lot more often.

To the world, he is the King of Racing.

To me, Richard Petty is the King of Smiles.

Penn. man pleads guilty to Henry County charges

A Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to several charges in Henry County after an undercover operation by the Henry County Sheriff's Office ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Investigative Unit.

Interim Sheriff Wayne Davis said the unit began an undercover chat operation in September 2022. During the operation, Robert Steven Walker approached one of the Henry County Sheriff's Office Investigators in a chatroom.

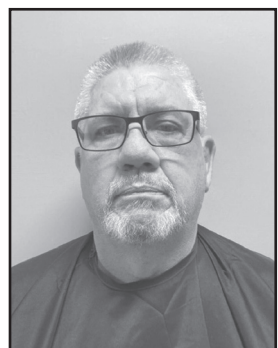
"Over a period of time during the chats, Mr. Walker conducted himself in a very graphic sexual manner," Davis said in a release. It was also discovered during the investigation that Mr. Walker is a retired law enforcement officer in Pennsylvania.

In March, Henry

County Sheriff's Office ICAC investigators traveled to Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania. Along with the assistance of United States Homeland Security Investigators and investigators from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, a search warrant was executed at Walker's residence, and he was taken into custody without incident.

On October 19, Walker, 66, of 5237 Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty in Henry County Circuit Court to 10 counts of using a computer to solicit a child. He was sentenced to serve 17 years in prison.

Davis said the Henry County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the United States Homeland Security Investigations Division and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office for



their assistance in this operation.

"The Henry County Sheriff's Office takes children's safety very seriously," Davis wrote. "This specialized unit will continue to conduct these styles of operations to ensure that we provide the safest environment and community we can for our youth. We also ask the community to speak to their children about social media platforms and the dangers they potentially could pose."

Bomb threat leads to felony charge

The Martinsville-Henry County Communication Center received a call on October 25, around 3:26 p.m., about a potential security concern in the form of a bomb threat at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. The threatening message was conveyed via cell phone to the Martinsville-Henry County Communication Center. Upon receiving the threat, the Henry County Sheriff's Office and Henry County school officials worked together to ensure the students and staff were safe.

The threat was thoroughly investigated, and the suspect subsequently confessed that this was a hoax and there was never a threat to the students or staff. The juvenile has been charged with threats to bomb or burn (felony), and is currently incar-

cerated at W.W. Moore Detention Facility.

Parents are urged to have conversations with their children who are students, encouraging them to immediately report any threat they hear and 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 crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

Davis

from page 1

menting an advanced license plate reader system that will give law enforcement officers real time alerts about vehicles that may be related to a crime. The rest of the grant money is set aside for purchasing drone systems to respond to crimes or other community needs.

In addition, another of his accomplishments is reintroducing a revised D.A.R.E. program to the county's schools after a 20-year hiatus, Davis said. The revised DARE program teaches drug and alcohol awareness along with general life skills, decision making skills, social media safety, and anti-bullying.

Although Piedmont Community Services has maintained a strong drug awareness and prevention program in the schools, Davis is thankful to have the D.A.R.E. program reinstated so the sheriff's office can assist with prevention efforts.

"My primary focus," Davis said, "is the

removal of drug dealers from our community, the safety and security of our citizens, and to continue investing in our youth and being engaged with all the good citizens of Henry County."

Among his greatest successes during his short tenure as sheriff, Davis said that even though the office has faced difficult personnel issues as many others, it has worked to quickly solve numerous homicides, which is "a testament to the strength of the team at the sheriff's office."

The improvements he has instituted thus far will continue, he said, adding he hopes to increase and improve the Community Policing Unit.

"We need to always be looking at how to do things better. We will always be on a constant path to improvement," Davis said.

He first became interested in law enforcement shortly after high school. He met a law enforcement

officer that showed Davis how he was able to give back to the community and how he could help people in their times of need. Davis began working at the Sheriff's Office at age 21 and hasn't left since.

"I have lived my entire life in Henry County and care deeply for this community," he said. "Whether helping someone in need, providing guidance to troubled youth, or making communities safer, these duties and serving you are deeply rewarding. I'm genuinely thankful for the opportunity to serve this community. It's a true honor and a privilege. It has also been a blessing and humbling."

"I ask for your vote because I want to continue working hard for you to make Henry County the best place to live, work, and raise your family," Davis said. "To accomplish this, I need your support, your prayers, and your vote on November 7th."

Mills

from page 1

David Mills, in charge of the Adult Detention Center, Mills said that currently, his brother is the most qualified candidate.

"David and I worked there together in the same sheriff's office for 20 years, and there was never an issue. Even now, you have family members working within the sheriff's office, and I'm sure they do an outstanding job," he said.

From what he's seen over the years, Mills said nepotism is not a negative word.

"Nepotism breeds familiarity. I don't see where it's negative at all, or where it could possibly be negative at all," he said.

Mills said he's going to speak with everyone in the office and find out what they do best and where their passions are at, including Davis, but he in no way plans to clean house or otherwise harm employees who may have supported another candidate.

"As of right now, Daryl Hatcher is the Chief Deputy and David Mills will be the Jail Administrator," Mills said. "This is not a house cleaning effort at all. There are many, many talented men and women at that sheriff's office and we want to utilize them to the best of their abilities."

Mills, who retired from the office in 2019, said he believes the best way to run his campaign is talk to people in the community that know him and those who have worked for and with him, his brother and Hatcher.

"You'll find out truly who we are and where we stand," he said.

Mills served active duty in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1990. He trained at Fort Jackson, SC, Fort Gordon,

Georgia, and Neubrucke, Germany, and was a communications specialist.

Mills was then in the reserves in Salem for two years as an instructor trainer.

"I completed what they call the ITC course, the Instructor Training Course, and what that kind of encompasses is, you're there to train others. Specifically, I had a communications background, so I was certified to train others in communications skills," he said.

Mills served for 25 years from 1994 to 2019 in the Henry County Sheriff's Office, holding various positions. He served as a corrections officer in the jail for 12 years before moving to patrol, community policing, evidence technician, School Resource Officer (SRO), and later, a civil process officer before his retirement.

Mills estimated he served in community policing for 18-months, and spent about two and a half years as an SRO at schools that included Magna Vista High School, Drewry Mason Elementary School, Rich Acres Elementary School, and G.W. Carver Elementary School.

Mills said he requested to go from evidence technician to SRO.

"I requested to go from evidence technician to school resource," he said, adding that later, "there was an opening in the civil process due to retirement, so they put me there."

Mills currently operates the Henry County Food Pantry, which relocated from the HJDB Event Center to the former Bassett Printing building, and serves 1,200 to 1,400 families each month.

Report shows women's health stagnates despite improvements

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

Progress in bolstering women's health in Virginia has stagnated, according to a new report.

Virginia ranks 14th among the states in the latest America's Health Rankings report on the Health of Women and Children. The report said clinical care and health behaviors have improved, but cited modest declines in health outcomes. Also, maternal mortality in Virginia increased to almost 27% in the last year.

Virginia Commonwealth University recently was awarded more than \$1.5 million for maternal-health innovation. Shannon Pursell, senior director of the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, described how that money can be spent.

"What we are going to do with this," she said, "is really provide that connection within communities, to and for women and their fami-

lies, to ensure that they get connected to services." Overall, she said, she wants to see better partnerships between health-care providers and specialized services for maternal health. The report also found fewer women of childbearing age in Virginia are smoking, but more are being diagnosed with depression.

Across the United States, maternal mortality increased 29-percent between 2014 and 2021. The pandemic only added to this, as more than 500 maternal deaths between 2020 and 2021 were related to COVID-19.

Dr. Lisa Saul, national medical director at

UnitedHealthcare, said a healthy pregnancy boils down to health-care access.

"We know that access to obstetric care, access to hospitals, is something that is an issue in our country," she said, "and we know about maternity care 'deserts,' where sometimes women might have to travel for two hours to not only see their physician or their OB provider."

The March of Dimes found that 8% of counties in the United States have seen shifting maternity-care access in the last few years. At least 94 counties increased access while 153 saw less access to care.



Innovators improve work zone safety through automation at VT Transportation Institute

A future with safer roadway work zones is here, thanks to innovations developed through Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's Division of Technology Implementation.

Attendees of DRIVE SMART Virginia's Distracted Driving Summit in Blacksburg in September toured VTTI's facilities to learn about solutions developed to reduce roadway crashes and fatalities.

Will Vaughan, a VTTI research associate, explained how the Automated Truck-Mounted Attenuator protects highway workers. It's a mobile crash cushion barrier that extends backward, absorbing impact and smoothly redirecting crashes.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearing House, there were 28 fatalities in Virginia work zones in 2021, and 956 fatalities nationally.

"Unfortunately, in Virginia, these vehicles are hit about once every three weeks, and there have been two fatalities in the last month," Vaughan said. "That's due to distracted driving—motorists plowing into these things without slowing down because they're not looking ahead. But it's our goal to get drivers out of those vehicles that tend to get hit in work zones."

Some contractors are having trouble finding people to operate these vehicles voluntarily, Vaughan continued. "It's not a matter of if you're going to get hit, but when, how hard, and will you walk away?"

To address this risk, the division team

has established a lead-follow autonomous system for its ATMA.

"We have a package on the trailer hitch receiver of the lead vehicle with computing that will lay down a path for this one to follow, with driverless operation," Vaughan explained. "The vehicle in front will tell it how far behind to follow, from 50 to 400 feet. Our primary source of navigation is GPS, which follows little breadcrumbs from the lead vehicle, like Hansel and Gretel. The ATMA also can navigate using machine vision when GPS is unavailable."

The driverless automation features external controls and wireless emergency stop buttons. It also stops and starts moving again once an unexpected object exits its path.

Following testing on VTTI's high-tech Virginia Smart Roads, Vaughan said they began operating the system on live roads, where it's performing well.

As manufacturers express interest in commercial versions of the system, motorists are still urged to do their part.

"Unlike normal road conditions, work zones involve large equipment, traffic pattern changes, lane closures, uneven pavement and workers," said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager with Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., a DSV partner. "That's a volatile environment. In a work zone, drivers must obey all traffic safety laws, drive distraction-free, adhere to all signage, and watch for highway workers."

9th from page 4

civilized society and for our liberties to be respected, we must adhere to the Constitution and ensure that justice is administered equally and impartially to all Americans.

Fourth, Peace through Strength.

A strong America is good for the entire world. As our greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel, faces violence and with tensions high in the Indo-Pacific region, it is more important than ever to show the world that we are able to defeat any adversary or threat, no matter the circumstance, because we have the strongest and most capable military in the world.

Fifth, Fiscal Responsibility.

Our country's national debt has reached over \$33 trillion, and Congress has a duty to rein in spending, balance the budget, modernize federal entitlement programs, pursue pro-growth tax reforms, and restore regular order in the budget and appropriations processes. Speaker Johnson said that he would be establishing

a bipartisan debt commission to begin working on the debt crisis immediately.

Sixth, Free Markets.

Free markets and free trade encourage entrepreneurs and business owners to pursue their dreams and with that, our country and economy can thrive. Our country will see more growth, more jobs, and a greater chance of upward mobility because of free markets.

Seventh, Human Dignity.

All men and women are created equal, and every American deserves respect and dignity. As a society, we must encourage education and hard work so that every American has a fair shot at a good and fulfilling life.

In fact, earlier in his speech Speaker Johnson talked about how G. K. Chesterton, the English author and philosopher, noted that the United States is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed. That creed, spelled out in our Declaration of Independence, is that all men are created equal and are endowed with

the same inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thankfully, once elected, Speaker Johnson immediately got to work.

His first move was to bring a resolution to the floor to show our support for Israel and its right to defend itself. As our number one ally in the Middle East, it was imperative that the House show its bipartisan support for Israel.

After the Israel resolution, we immediately began debate on the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. I was able to speak on the House floor on behalf of my amendment to better balance fossil fuel and renewable energy research funding at the Department of Energy.

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.

SOVA Innovation Hub Receives \$600,000 Boost for Entrepreneurial Support

Southern Virginia's entrepreneurial ecosystem – the synergistic combination of people, organizations, and culture that interacts and cultivates business creation and growth - is poised for extraordinary growth, thanks to a \$600,000 grant recently awarded to the SOVA Innovation Hub to strengthen the collective regional entrepreneurship initiative known as RISE Collaborative. This substantial investment is set to fortify Southern Virginia's standing as a central hub for fostering small business growth, innovation, and economic development.

This means that current and future entrepreneurs and businesses in Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville can benefit from this support. Through RISE programs, events, and network, entrepreneurs gain a supportive community of peers, direct access to business resource providers, dynamic training and skill-building content, and value-added networking opportunities.

The grant was awarded by GO Virginia, a state-funded initiative administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that works to strengthen and diversify Virginia's economy and foster the creation of higher wage jobs in strategic industries. The funding will support RISE Collaborative, a dynamic initiative dedicated to providing essential support for entrepreneurs in Southern Virginia. Through RISE Collaborative programs, events, and network, entrepreneurs gain a supportive community of peers, direct access to business resource providers, dynamic training and skill-building content, and value-added networking opportunities.

"The RISE Collaborative, the SOVA Innovation Hub, and other key stakeholders who have joined this project will assuredly elevate and advance entrepreneurship and business growth region-wide," said Tim Clark, chairman, GO Virginia Region 3 Council. "I join my Region 3 Council colleagues to say we applaud your past successes, and we look forward to the

SOVA RISE Collaborative becoming a best-in-class for Virginia and the nation."

Winter 2024 RISE Business Bootcamp The first program to launch under this grant will be the Winter 2024 RISE Business Bootcamp powered by CO.STARTERS. Participants will immerse themselves in their business concepts, business strategies, financials, marketing blueprints, and other elements, with the goal of positioning their businesses for either a successful launch or expansion. This 10-week virtual live bootcamp is open to all types of business that are capable of growing and creating jobs and investment in Southern Virginia. More information about the program and program application is available online at sovarise.com/business-bootcamp. Applications for the program are due Friday, December 8, 2023. The program will meet on Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning January 9, 2024 and will conclude in March 2024. If you need assistance completing the application, please email hello@sovainnovationhub.com or call (434) 570-1305.

In addition to the SOVA Innovation Hub, the collaborative effort includes key partners such as the Longwood Small Business Development Center, Hampden-Sydney College, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Patrick & Henry Community College, Microsoft TechSpark, and Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC). Together, they will work hand in hand to break down barriers for historically marginalized populations and rural communities to successfully start, grow, and scale businesses, promoting equity and inclusivity as core principles.

"This funding underscores a resolute commitment to catalyzing innovation in Southern Virginia, fortifying its economic future, and empowering the local workforce with critical skills and resources," said Tad Deriso, President & CEO of MBC and Chair of the SOVA Innovation Hub. "With this grant, the SOVA Innovation Hub and its partners are primed to expand their reach, nurture talent, and continue to

grow a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region."

"Just as MBC provides middle mile fiber infrastructure to Southern Virginia, the RISE Collaborative initiative provides infrastructure for the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Just like the internet, the ecosystem works best when it is connected," said Lauren Mathena, Director of Economic Development and Community Engagement at MBC, who serves as the RISE Collaborative Project Manager for the SOVA Innovation Hub. "If you are a business owner who is ready to grow, if you are an innovator with a startup concept, or if you are an experienced entrepreneur willing to be a mentor, we invite you join RISE Collaborative at an upcoming event. We are especially excited about our upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Week events in November and the launch of the next RISE Business Bootcamp, which is accepting applications through December 8th and will kick off in January 2024."

"Longwood University is committed to supporting the economic health of our region," said Sheri McGuire, Associate VP for Community and Economic Development and Executive Director of Longwood Small Business Development Center (LSBDC). "As a long-standing economic development partner on the local and regional level, our Small Business Development Center network is excited to continue our work with RISE Collaborative as a training and consulting resource for entrepreneurs."

"Hampden-Sydney College is committed to invigorating the entrepreneurial spirit within our rural communities. We wholeheartedly believe that by co-sponsoring the GO Virginia RISE Collaborative grant, we can nurture the next generation of rural founders," said Dr. Andrew King, Director of the Flemming Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Hampden-Sydney College. "Our goal is to both educate and empower them to transform our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem. This partner-

ship signifies our steadfast dedication to making a meaningful difference in our growing community."

"We are grateful for this opportunity to expand our role with the RISE Collaborative," said Dr. Betty Adams, Executive Director, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). "Adding an entrepreneurship track to the CTA Work-Based Learning Program will increase the critical knowledge, skills, and opportunities that students need to gain employment or create their own small businesses. This benefits local communities and further enriches our growing entrepreneurial ecosystem."

"Expanding the entrepreneurial ecosystem is absolutely essential for improving a community's economic growth and overall vibrancy," said Dr. Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College. "Patrick & Henry Community College is honored to be part of the RISE Collaborative and will use these resources to hire a Business Navigator in order to expand our entrepreneurial outreach and provide even greater opportunities for our critical small business owners."

"Microsoft's partnership with the SOVA Innovation Hub brings inclusive tech opportunities to entrepreneurs and communities in rural southern Virginia," said Jeremy Satterfield, Microsoft TechSpark Manager, Virginia. "This additional funding helps nurture local businesses and foster greater economic opportunity across the region."

RISE Collaborative serves current and future entrepreneurs and innovators who live or own a business in GO Virginia Region 3. GO Virginia Region 3 includes the Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, and the Cities of Danville and Martinsville. To find entrepreneurship and small business resources across the Southern Virginia region, visit www.sovarise.com.

Winter

from page 2

work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. These meet-ups are free to members and non-members will be asked to pay \$5 at the door. Advanced registration is required.

Senior Studio is offered every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. Seniors are invited to craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating artwork. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members.

The Busy Bee's Craft Meet is an informal circle to socialize, learn and share with fellow crafters. Bring your lap-sized hand-craft, such as cross-stitch, knitting, crochet, paper crafts, hand sewing, needle felting, etc. Led by Jennifer Reis and Lara Blair. Advanced registration is required. The Craft Meet will meet on

Saturdays Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members.

Wee Create! is a set time for themed crafts for young children (ages 2-6) and their trusted adults. These crafts are curated and taught by Sarah Short. Classes will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 15 and Dec. 6 at 3:00 p.m. Adult supervision and advanced registration are required. This class is free for members and \$10 for non-members with \$5 for every additional child.

Yoga in the Galleries will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Piedmont Arts galleries. Enjoy a relaxing yoga session with instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. This class is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. All payments should be made in cash to the instructor.

For more information and registration, you can call the museum at 276-632-3221 or check out the Piedmont Arts website at PiedmontArts.org.



Children are all smiles making themed crafts during Wee Create!



Ferrum College's Bluegrass Brass getting ready to perform the National Anthem for the NASCAR Xfinity Series Race.

Ferrum College Bluegrass Brass Band Performs at the Martinsville Speedway

Ferrum College's Bluegrass Brass Explosion Band performed the National Anthem for the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Martinsville Speedway on Saturday, October 28.

Emily Walker, student, faculty member Emily Blankenship-Tucker, and Rachel Blankenship-Tucker provided the vocal performance of the anthem accompanied by the Ferrum College's new field performance band, Bluegrass Brass. The band was announced earlier this semester as a collaboration unique to the College between Orchestra Appalachia and Ferrum Marching Band.

Ferrum College senior Ryon Johnson was excited to have such a huge opportunity.

"It was a nerve-wrack-

ing experience for me, but I would not trade it for the world. It shows what I am capable of doing under immense pressure, and it's good to branch out and get well-rounded experiences. I loved conducting the band before thousands of people on television and in person," Johnson said.

"The opportunity for the Ferrum College Bluegrass Brass Explosion Band to perform the National Anthem at Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity race was an extraordinary and unforgettable experience. Surrounded by the roar of engines and the electrifying atmosphere, the moment encapsulated the fusion of music, patriotism and the thrill of motorsports. The sheer magnitude of being on national television and becoming an integral part

of the NASCAR experience was awe-inspiring for our students," said Dr. Mirta Martin, president of the college.

"We would like to thank Mr. Clay Campbell for the opportunity to be part of the NASCAR experience. The band members and vocalists created an unforgettable moment where the unique sound of bluegrass brass and motorsports intertwined. Performing on a national stage gave this new, collaborative ensemble a sense of pride and accomplishment and the thrill of being part of something greater than themselves," she said.

Bluegrass Brass will be performing at the College's last home football game of the season on Saturday, November 4 during the halftime show.

Ryan Blaney claims Championship 4 spot with emphatic victory at Martinsville

Ryan Blaney did what Denny Hamlin couldn't do in Sunday's Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

As a result, Blaney will race for the NASCAR Cup Series championship next Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, and Hamlin exits the Playoffs after a hard-luck Round of 8.

During a 168-lap green-flag run to the finish, Blaney tracked down Aric Almirola and passed him for the lead on Lap 478 of 500. Twenty-two laps later, Blaney took the checkered flag 0.899 seconds ahead of Almirola to earn advancement to the Championship 4 race.

Blaney joins fellow Round of 8 winners Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell in race for the title, along with William Byron, who fought an ill-handling car all day but edged Hamlin for the final Playoff spot by eight points after finishing 13th.

Hamlin came home third, 4.149 seconds behind the race winner.

Chris Buescher, Martin Truex Jr. and Tyler Reddick joined Hamlin on the sidelines after finishing eighth, 12th and 26th, respectively.

The victory was Blaney's third of the season, his first at Martinsville and the 10th of his career, and it propelled him into the Championship 4 for the first time. Blaney aced the Round of 8 with a sixth-place finish at Las Vegas, a runner-up result at Homestead and the win at Martinsville.

"Well, I mean, felt like we put together really strong Playoffs—especially the Round of 8... we had a good run in the whole Round of 8," Blaney said. "Yeah, just overall really proud of the whole effort. RP (Team Penske owner Roger Penske) couldn't be here, unfortunately, but I know he's watching. This is awesome. Can't wait to get to Phoenix next week."

In front of a sold-out crowd at the .526-mile short track, Blaney earned the grandfather clock trophy he has long coveted.

"I grew up in High Point, not too far from here," Blaney said. "Really cool. Wanting to win here for a long time. Been super close for many years. Awesome to close it out."

Hamlin won the 130-lap first stage, finished second to Blaney in Stage 2 and was in position to advance to the title race until the race turned under caution for Michael McDowell's spin in Turn 2 on Lap 323. Blaney pitted from the lead, with Hamlin behind.

But 10 cars stayed on the track under the yellow, among them Almirola and Chase Elliott, who led 77 consecutive laps before Almirola passed him for the top spot on Lap 412. On newer tires, Blaney was able to work his way through traffic and take the lead, where Hamlin could only advance to third.

Hamlin entered the race 17 points below the cutoff for the final round because of a power steering failure that cost him dearly at Homestead the week before.

"The mechanical failure last week with the power steering, that sealed our fate," said the driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, who led a race-high 156 laps to Blaney's 145. "Really proud of this whole FedEx Toyota team for showing up today when we really needed to, having probably a mid 50-point day. They did great. They did absolutely great.

"The 12 car (Blaney) was the best car today, so con-

grats to them—all the final four that made it. It's going to be great. Hate we're not in it. Definitely, I was happy with the performance we had today. Really all-around.

"Just in the Round of 8, you can't have one bad week. Unfortunately, mechanical failure takes us from running really well to in the 30s. That's it."

Truex, the regular-season champion, led the first 47 laps from the pole, but a pit road speeding penalty on Lap 219 mired him in traffic, a circumstance he couldn't overcome.

"I felt like we did really good to get back to where we did," Truex said. "You just burn the tires off so much worse back there in the hot, dirty track, dirty air. You're in more rubber. It's just a dogfight.

"I don't know. We gave it a hell of an effort. I felt like we had a really strong car. I don't think we could have beat the 12 (Blaney). He was really, really strong. We were definitely close."

When Hamlin or Truex led the race, Byron was out of the Championship 4 as they ran. But the driver of the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet held onto the final berth with a determined effort over the final green-flag run. Byron was 13th at the finish, the first driver one lap down.

"Obviously we were not very good," Byron said. "Our worst race of the year. These guys deserve it so much. They work so hard. Honestly, probably with 50 to go I felt really, really bad. I just had to drive the hell out of it. The guys stuck with me, they kept motivating me through little bits and pieces, just kind of keeping my mind straight.

"I'm just really thankful for them. It was just, yeah, a slugfest. Everyone raced me good there at the end. Congrats to Ryan. I was really happy for him... but, man, we just had to hang on. Just had to dig a little bit deeper.

"I knew when I got out of the car I was just beat. But the result means more than anything. These guys work so hard. We've worked so hard all season. I'm just really proud of them."

Chase Briscoe and Joey Logano finished fourth and fifth. Larson, Bell, Buescher, Austin Cindric and Todd Gilliland completed the top 10.

NASCAR Cup Series Race - Xfinity 500
Martinsville Speedway
Martinsville, Virginia
Sunday, October 29, 2023

- (11) Ryan Blaney (P), Ford, 500.
- (12) Aric Almirola, Ford, 500.
- (4) Denny Hamlin (P), Toyota, 500.
- (3) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 500.
- (15) Joey Logano, Ford, 500.
- (5) Kyle Larson (P), Chevrolet, 500.
- (7) Christopher Bell (P), Toyota, 500.
- (18) Chris Buescher (P), Ford, 500.
- (21) Austin Cindric, Ford, 500.
- (17) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 500.
- (6) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 500.
- (1) Martin Truex Jr. (P), Toyota, 500.
- (16) William Byron (P), Chevrolet, 499.
- (13) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 499.
- (28) Harrison Burton, Ford, 499.
- (8) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 499.
- (14) Chase Elliott (P), Chevrolet, 499.

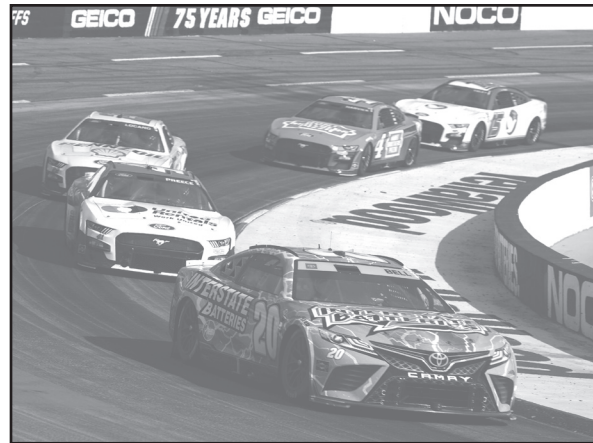


PHOTO BY CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Interstate Batteries Toyota, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., driver of the #47 Kroger/Reese's Chevrolet, Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Hunt Brothers Pizza Ford, and JJ Yeley, driver of the #15 IFCJ.org Ford, race during the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on October 29, 2023 in Martinsville, Virginia.

- (2) Ty Gibbs #, Toyota, 499.
- (20) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 499.
- (9) Ryan Preece, Ford, 499.
- (29) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 499.
- (30) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 499.
- (26) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 499.
- (34) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 499.
- (23) Michael McDowell, Ford, 499.
- (19) Tyler Reddick (P), Toyota, 498.
- (31) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 498.
- (25) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 498.
- (33) Ryan Newman(i), Ford, 497.
- (24) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 497.
- (32) Carson Hocevar(i), Chevrolet, 496.
- (22) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 496.
- (10) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 306.
- (27) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, DVP, 274.
- (35) JJ Yeley(i), Ford, Accident, 271.
- (36) BJ McLeod(i), Chevrolet, Overheating, 147.

Average Speed of Race Winner: 75.244 mph.
Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 29 Mins, 43 Secs. Margin of Victory: 0.899 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 7 for 61 laps.
Lead Changes: 12 among 6 drivers.

Lap Leaders: M. Truex Jr. (P) 1-47; D. Hamlin (P) 48-193; R. Blaney (P) 194-218; D. Hamlin (P) 219-226; R. Blaney (P) 227-228; D. Hamlin (P) 229; R. Blaney (P) 230-324; D. Hamlin (P) 325; C. Elliott (P) 326-331; C. LaJoie 332-334; C. Elliott (P) 335-411; A. Almirola 412-477; R. Blaney (P) 478-500.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Denny Hamlin (P) 4 times for 156 laps; Ryan Blaney (P) 4 times for 145 laps; Chase Elliott (P) 2 times for 83 laps; Aric Almirola 1 time for 66 laps; Martin Truex Jr. (P) 1 time for 47 laps; Corey LaJoie 1 time for 3 laps.

Stage #1 Top Ten: 11,12,19,14,6,20,54,41,22,4
Stage #2 Top Ten: 12,11,14,22,6,54,41,38,4,20

The NASCAR Foundation Announces Finalists for 2023 Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award

Four NASCAR fans dedicated to volunteer support for local children's organizations were recognized last week by The NASCAR Foundation as finalists for the 13th annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award. The announcement, which was made on Fox Sports NASCAR Race Hub, highlighted the volunteers' commitment to improving the lives of children across the country.

"These four volunteers are representative of the generosity of our NASCAR fan base. Their efforts have made an important impact on improving the lives of children, an endeavor shared by Betty Jane France," said Mike Helton, The NASCAR Foundation Chairman. "Darla, Jennifer, Molly and Sandy each exemplify an unparalleled commitment to serving children in their communities and are an inspiration to us all. We encourage our fans to learn more about these finalists' stories and vote for this year's award winner."

The NASCAR Foundation's Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award, named in honor of the foundation's late founder and chairwoman Betty Jane France, recognizes NASCAR fans who volunteer for children's causes in their local communities. Each finalist receives a minimum \$25,000 donation for their organization with the overall winner receiving a \$100,000 donation from The NASCAR Foundation to further their efforts.

The 13th annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award finalists include:

*Darla Crown of Rapid City, South Dakota, a volunteer with Youth & Family Services, a non-profit organization that helps support children and their families to become capable, caring, and contributing members of the community. Through Darla's participation with numerous organizations, she connects families

in need with services provided by Youth & Family Services. Darla is also a 41-year veteran of the South Dakota National Guard.

*Jennifer Gage of Phoenix, Arizona, founder of GiGi's Playhouse Phoenix, a local chapter of a national non-profit organization that serves children and adults with Down Syndrome by helping them find support, network with other families and navigate their diagnosis. Jennifer, whose daughter has Down Syndrome, saw a need for these services in her community.

*Molly Moran of Walpole, Massachusetts, a volunteer with Comfort Zone Camp, a non-profit organization that operates camps across the country that empower children experiencing grief to fully realize their capacity to heal, grow and lead more fulfilling lives. Molly has been volunteering as a camp counselor and mentor for 9 years.

Sandy Stanley of Dalton, Georgia, a volunteer with City of Refuge Dalton, a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for family and community advancement. Sandy has volunteered as part of the hot meal feeding program and foodbank where she packs and delivers food boxes to the area's most vulnerable children.

The overall winner will be determined by an online vote, which is open now. Fans can visit NASCARfoundation.org/Award to watch videos about each finalist's impact on children while voting once a day, every day through November 17 at 5 p.m. E.T. for their favorite finalist.

The overall winner will be announced during the NASCAR Awards in Nashville on Thursday, November 30.

To learn more about The NASCAR Foundation's Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award and the 2023 finalists, visit NASCARfoundation.org/Award.

Eligible Taxpayers Will Receive Tax Rebates

Taxpayers can go to tax.virginia.gov/rebate and check their eligibility for this one-time tax rebate. Beginning this week, tax rebates will begin to be distributed. Rebates will be sent on a rolling basis, with some taxpayers receiving their rebate within the next three weeks.

The Commonwealth anticipates issuing most rebates by November 7th, eligible taxpayers will receive one-time tax rebates of up to \$200 if they filed individually, and up to \$400 if they filed jointly. To be eligible, taxpayers must file by November 1, 2023, and have had a 2022 tax liability.

"We're excited to announce that tax rebates will begin to be distributed in the coming days. As Virginians continue to face inflation and high prices as a direct result of policies out of Washington, D.C., these rebates are an important step going into the holiday season to help Virginians keep more of their hard-earned money for gas, groceries and essentials," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "My administration has delivered over \$5 billion in tax relief to Virginians, and we're pleased that these rebates will provide needed relief to Virginians."

Taxpayers who received a state tax refund by direct depos-

it this year will likely receive their one-time tax rebate by direct deposit in the same bank account. All other eligible taxpayers will receive their rebate by paper check in the mail.

"For the second time in two years, the Commonwealth is returning excess tax revenues to Virginia taxpayers," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "Over the next few weeks, more than \$900 million will be refunded to taxpayers that filed a Virginia income tax return for tax year 2022. That brings the total to \$2 billion in excess tax receipts that are being returned directly to Virginia families since last fall."

Debt Setoff Rules Required for Rebates

If a taxpayer owes money to Virginia Tax, or another state or local agency, the Commonwealth will use their tax rebate to satisfy that debt before sending the taxpayer the remainder of the rebate (along with contact information for the agency that was owed). In the event a taxpayer owes more than the amount of the one-time tax rebate, Virginia Tax will send the taxpayer a letter explaining the use of the rebate toward the debt as well as contact information for the agency that was owed.

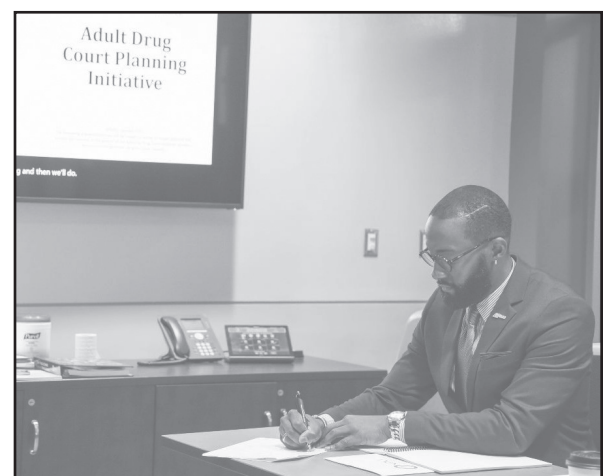
Drug treatment court selected for national training program



Dr. Daryl D. Jackson, a project director at All Rise, holds training material for Adult Drug Court Foundational Training, recently held with team members of the Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court.



Pictured is Dr. Daryl D. Jackson, a project director at All Rise, during a training recently held with team members of the Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court.



Pictured is Dr. Daryl D. Jackson, a project director at All Rise, during a training recently held with team members of the Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court.



Team members of the Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court are pictured with their trainees at a recent training event in late September. The training was held at New College Institute in Martinsville.



Pictured are team members of the Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court.

Martinsville-Henry County's Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court (PADTC) was one of 20 new courts selected from across the United States to receive training from the All Rise Treatment Court Institute (formerly the National Drug Court Institute).

Held at the New College Institute in Septyember, the three-day training course shared best practice standards of drug treatment courts across the nation and examined the PADTC's procedures to ensure high standards of treatment and care.

"This was a wonderful training for our group to continue to grow and enhance our drug court," said Kelly Koebel, senior assistant of clinical services at Piedmont Community Services. "It is the start of wonderful discussions on how to improve our service and expand to more individuals."

Dr. Daryl D. Jackson, a project director at All Rise, said the training program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which is geared toward drug treatment courts that are less than two years old.

"We help new drug treatment courts learn the foundational aspect of how to successfully implement a treatment court in their communities," Jackson said. "We go through how individuals access the program, we look at eligibility criteria, and we look at qualifying and disqualifying factors. But most importantly, we look at the before and after picture — when it's time to graduate, have they successfully reached the after picture?"

The key components of successful drug treatment courts begin with justice and treatment integration, according to Jackson.

"How do you take the justice system and treatment to help a person get to the ultimate place of sobriety? Sometimes it takes the court system to enforce treatment and then your best practice standards to carry those

components out," Jackson said. "You make sure everyone has an equal and fair shot in treatment court and equip them with the necessary tools to be successful, regardless of race, gender, etc."

Jackson also spoke about the need for communities to wholly support local treatment courts.

"Treatment courts have to look at ways they can engage the community to really sustain the program," he said. "We all want the big BJA or SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) grant, but when all the money is gone, what truly sustains your program is the community. You have to get buy-in, and they have to truly know what this is about. Treatment courts are ultimately about changing the face of the judicial system. We are a driving force for help and support... we're not here to only lock up folks and throw away the key."

Jackson praised the PADTC for "doing their homework" and having a great foundation for the treatment court.

"They have a general understanding of how to successfully implement a treatment court, and much of their program material resembles what we're already teaching," he said. "We're helping them understand their roles on the treatment team as every discipline is represented, which is a huge benefit. Everyone is at the same table speaking the same language. That creates a strong team."

Although the eligibility requirements are often set by state regulations, Jackson said each participant should have an individualized treatment plan.

"We want to meet them (participants) where they are... everyone's trauma is different," he said. "When done right, participants become like family. They look at the administrators like family, who can model how to be a gainfully employed, tax-paying citizen who is

productive and healthy. That's what it's all about."

Martinsville Circuit Court Chief Judge G. Carter Greer participated in the training as the presiding judge of the PADTC. He said, "The training was highly informative, and it will give the treatment team a great deal of confidence as the number of participants in the drug treatment court grows. We will apply what we have learned in order more effectively to treat those individuals who have a substance use disorder."

There are more than 4,000 drug treatment courts across the country that treat 150,000 individuals, saving taxpayers around \$6,000 per participant, according to data from All Rise. Jackson said every new drug treatment court joins a national family that's able to offer support and guidance from a variety of disciplines.

"Locally, we want to wrap our arms around (PADTC) so they have support, and nationally, they have so many other drug treatment court families that can help them get to where they need to go," Jackson said. "Just at this training, they heard from an assistant district attorney from Oregon, a clinical director from Oregon, a retired drug treatment court judge from Richmond, Va., and a clinical director from Fulton County, Ga. They are getting the benefit of experience from urban and suburban courts, as well as experience from across different disciplines."

The Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court is a rigorous program for individuals with pending drug or drug-related charges. The program is a minimum of 12 months, with extended stays considered based on the participant's progress. Following successful completion, the judge can rule in three ways: dismissal of the original charge; reduction of the original charge to a lesser charge with no active jail time to serve; or a suspended sentence.

Visit piedmontcsb.org or call (276) 632-7128 to learn more.

Dedication of Monarch Waystation at Martinsville High School

A nationally certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation was dedicated at Martinsville High School in Martinsville, on October 25. Constructed by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and generously funded by Dr. David Jones of Jones & DeShon Orthodontics and Dr. David L. Jones of Roanoke Valley Orthodontics, the Waystation provides a sustainable habitat for butterflies and other pollinators that are critical to all living things.

"This Waystation is both educational and beautiful," said Dr. David L. Jones. "I hope that it serves as a reminder to everyone about the importance of conservation and protection of our natural resources."

Upward Bound and MHC-After3 youth planted all of the pollinator plants as part of community service program through their summer camp.

A certified Monarch Waystation is an intentional garden that has met the criteria for providing food, shelter,

and breeding grounds for Monarch butterflies, as well as other pollinators. It must meet several criteria in order to be certified such as size, type of plants and location.

"Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration," said Krista Hodges, DRBA's Education Outreach Manager. "Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North

America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall.

Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides at a rate of over 9 square miles a day - that's 2.2 million acres each year - and equivalent to losing an area of habitat the size of the state of Illinois every sixteen years!"

As pollinators, the monarch butterfly migration across the continent

provides an invaluable service, essential for many ecosystems to thrive. It is because of pollinators, such as butterflies, bees, and other insects, that flowers, fruits and vegetables can grow.

"Having this visual reminder about the importance of pollination and the value of environmental conservation is a wonderful addition to our community," said Dr. David Jones. "Not only is this garden beautiful to look at, it's already doing its job in helping

to sustain the Monarch Butterfly population as evidenced by the hundreds of caterpillars and butterflies that are here. We are so grateful to be able to work with DRBA to bring this to our City."

Dr. David Jones and his son, Dr. Jones are also donating an additional \$10,000 to support environmental education for students at Martinsville

Middle School, Meadow View Elementary School and Patrick Henry Elementary School in 2023. An additional donation will be made in 2024.

Visit www.danriver.org to learn more about protecting and conserving our local resources and how you can get involved in your community.



Official Ribbon Cutting of the new Monarch Butterfly Waystation at Martinsville High School including youth from the MHC-After 3 program. From left to right: Ajamu Dixon, Jordan Foster, Kaira Womack, Jyshir Plunkett, Kamari Dillard, Tristen Williams, Monica Watkins, Caesar Draper, Regina Flora (DRBA), Krista Hodges (DRBA), Jariyah Smith, Amondre Moseley, Latrell Hairston, Karen Jones, Leon Martin, Zebedee Talley Jr., Superintendent of Martinsville City Schools.



Krista Hodges, DRBA's Education Outreach Manager presents the national Monarch Butterfly Waystation Certificate to Ajamu Dixon, Principal of Martinsville High School.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DRBA

Halloween from page 1



Youngsters flocked to the event, as did many adults, including some, like Kerry Parker (left) and Kerry Tillery, in costume.



PHOTOS BY HOLLY KOZELSKY

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting to kick off the Holiday Season



Piedmont Arts is inviting the community to usher in the holiday season with the annual Christmas Tree lighting in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden on Thursday, Nov. 30. The festivities start at 4 p.m. with holiday music performed by the Martinsville High School Jazz Band, wintery treats like candy canes and hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa. As the sun goes down, the tree will be lit and will continue to shine through New Year's Day. This event is sponsored by State Farm Agent Chris Wyatt and Press Glass. Admission to the event is free.

This will be the sixth year that Piedmont Arts has hosted a Christmas tree lighting event. Just like the sculptures in the Art Garden, the Christmas tree itself will be a work of art.

Created by Ian Hogg, a local independent IT consultant and light artist, the tree will be comprised of more than 3,000 lights. Hogg is known for his Christmas light displays at his own private residence and at local events such as Rooster Walk. The lighting of the Christmas tree is a beloved holiday tradition, and the presence of the tree throughout the month of December has become a staple in the holiday landscape of Martinsville.



Middle school students launch podcast

The Magical Unicodes, a LEGO Robotics team at Martinsville Middle School, recently launched a new podcast, called Knowing Your Neighbors. The podcast is designed to help the community feel more connected. As the students say in their introduction to each episode:

People are separated and disconnected now more than ever before. We don't even know our neighbors anymore, and we distrust people who don't look like us or think like us. This podcast shares stories that connect people in our community through storytelling so we can understand each other and won't have to fear our neighbors.

Students not only interview teachers at their school, but have spoken to a newspaper reporter, a police officer, and even the city's mayor.

Episodes released so far include one on interesting hobbies, another about people who have lived



through important historical events, and one on people in public service.

Students conduct the interviews, edit each episode, and even designed the logo and created the music for the podcast.

Most recently, students interviewed School Resource

Officer Alfredo Huerta for an episode about public service. The episode also features Martinsville Mayor LC Jones.

Listen to 'Knowing Your Neighbors' on Spotify at <https://spotify/46KP8fG>, and learn more about the podcast at https://bit.ly/MMS_KnowingYourNeighbors.

A Message From Sheriff Wayne Davis

As your Sheriff, my priorities will always be for the safety and security of our citizens and the removal of drug dealers from this community.

I ask for your vote because I want to continue working hard for you to make Henry County the best place to live, work and raise your family.

To accomplish this I need your support, your prayers and your vote on November 7th.



- ★ Sheriff Wayne Davis has faithfully served the citizens of Henry County for the past 23 years.
- ★ Sheriff Davis is the *only* certified law enforcement professional in the Henry County Sheriff's election.
- ★ Sheriff Davis placed a School Resource Officer in every Henry County Public School.
- ★ He brought the D.A.R.E. program back to Henry County Schools.
- ★ Pledges to bring the Henry County Sheriff's Office to the forefront of technology to better fight crime.
- ★ He has served in patrol, investigations, SWAT, and every level of supervision and leadership.
- ★ Sheriff Davis is certified by the Virginia Sheriff's Institute. Only 29 Sheriffs in Virginia have ever achieved this certification.



Paid For and Authorized by D. Wayne Davis Jr. for Sheriff