

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, December 9, 2023

(USPS-6)

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P&HCC celebrates the official opening of MET II with a 50 percent enrollment increase



Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) welcomed visitors at last week's grand opening of the new MET II.



A group of visitors toured the new areas of MET II.

Staff Reports

Local and state representatives, as well as those from various organizations and agencies, gathered on November 30 to celebrate the grand opening of the MET II lab at Patrick & Henry Community College, which currently boasts 165 students.

"The grand opening has been years in the making," Dr. Greg Hodges, presi-

dent of P&HCC, said at the event.

"In 2017, we opened Building I of our Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex. We call it 'The Met,' which is 50,000 square feet dedicated to what we at P&HCC call the J-O-B Degree.

"MET I is dedicated to the career and education pathways such as mechatronics, robotics, CAD, industrial main-

tenance, industrial engineering and electronics, and the Racing College of Virginia," Hodges said.

With the grand opening, "we add an additional 22,000 square feet of space to MET II, which allows us to triple our welding capacity and expand both virtual and robotic welding to produce employees with skill sets that are in high demand in our service region," he said.

"The local economic payoff is already underway, as we are able to begin instruction in this new facility back in February while renovations were being finalized," Hodges said. "We now have 165 students currently enrolled in this new building, representing a 50 percent enrollment increase in just a few weeks, with an additional 71 students on the

(See P&HCC p. 2)

Piedmont Arts' Tree Lighting, traditional holiday fare



The Christmas Tree featured in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden was created by artist Ian Hogg. The tree was first lit during a ceremony on November 30. It will remain lighted nightly through New Year's Day.



Dr. Mervyn King will turn 90 years old on Thursday, December 14.

"I'm just an old man enjoying doing what I'm doing"

By Taylor Boyd

Those are the words of Dr. Mervyn King when describing his life in Martinsville as he prepares to turn 90 years old on Thursday, December 14.

King first came to Martinsville in January 1964 to serve as a doctor at the old hospital where the Virginia Museum of Natural History currently is.

"I was the first anesthesiologist they had here. At that time anesthesiologists were pretty rare and there was only about seven of us outside of the University of

(See Dr. Mervyn King p. 2)

County fair in growth stage, for now

By Taylor Boyd

The third annual Henry County Fair did not break even this year according to reports, but it is still gaining ground and is expected to continue growing.

Roger Adams, director of the county's Parks and Recreation department, estimated the cost to hold the fair this year was \$85,500. The income from the event was \$77,570.

"This year, we were ahead of last year in attendance and income until the (effects of a) hurricane hit Saturday, and we did not open," Adams said.

He explained that "Saturday is by far our busiest day. We tried to open it for like two hours, and then it was just more rain. We just had to close for the day."

Even without Saturday's visitors added to the total, Adams said about 4,500 people attended the event.

In 2022, the estimated cost was \$97,000 with an income of \$99,000, Adams said, and an estimated 8,000 people attended that four-day event.

Adams said the county contributes \$30,000 in revenue to offer the fair.

Although some say they are paying twice to get into the fair, with the ticket cost and tax dollars being used to fund the event, Adams said this isn't really accurate.

"The majority of the expenses are paid for with sponsorship, gate sales, and we get a percentage of the ride sales," he said.

"It only costs \$5 to get into the fair, and for \$5 you get a concert, you get two ground shows, and you get the animal exhibit," Adams said. "Of course, you buy a ride wristband if you want to ride rides."

The county, he added, also believes the fair will eventually pay for itself.

Adams said he has been told by those who have experience with similar events that it takes about 10 years "to really establish your fair and brand and so people know about your fair and return each year, and we hope to continue growing our fair each year in the future."

WWII vet turns 100

By Taylor Boyd

A Martinsville area World War II veteran will celebrate his centennial birthday on Tuesday, December 12.

Like many other American men, Cpl. Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine's military career began following December 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

At the time, Stine was attending Lebanon Valley College in Anville, Pennsylvania, where he was studying Chemistry.

Unlike other soldiers who fought the war with tanks, ships, and guns, Stine's weapon was a weather balloon.

Wendy Embree, Stine's daughter, said her father went to the local armory to find programs that would allow him to stay in school while in the service.

"They were pushing the pre-meteorology program because they really needed weather people. Apparently, because the war had just stepped up, they needed some weather people, so they were kind of pushing this program. The way I understand it is that was the one they needed the most, so that's what he got into," she said.

Embree said her father liked to tell that story because it was such a tense time.

"He knew his draft notice was coming up, and if he was drafted, he probably wouldn't have a choice of what he was going to do and might have to fight and shoot people and things like that," she said.

Embree said Stine got into the program at the last minute. When he received the telegram stating he was accepted, Stine went to the armory where there were



World War II veteran Cpl. Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine will turn 100 years old on December 12.

lines of men signing up for the military.

"Because of his telegram that said he had been accepted into this program, he could skip the line and go to the front of the line, and do everything he had to do because they were in such a hurry for them to get on the train that night," she said. "He didn't have to wait

(See WWII Vet p. 3)



Cpl. Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine.

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P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)



Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), said the new facility will help with marketing and economic development efforts.



DeWitt House, senior program officer with the Harvest Foundation, addressed those gathered at the grand opening.



Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, was in Martinsville-Henry County to celebrate the grand opening at P&HCC.

processing list to begin very shortly.”

The success, he said, “is the direct result of one thing: Partnerships.”

Hodges explained that the grand opening of MET II would not have been possible “without the confidence and investments” in P&HCC from its local, state, and federal partners.

“With a total price tag of just shy of \$6 million, MET II is opening today because our partners ensured that the vision became a reality for a state-of-the-art facility that provides students with skills and competencies, they need to acquire good paying, high demand jobs in the communities” served by the college, Hodges said, and extended “deep appreciation” to those partners.

At the federal level, P&HCC “received \$458,000 from the Public Works Program of the Economic Development Administration for purchase of this state-of-the-art equipment” used in the new lab, Hodges said.

On a regional and state level, Hodges said P&HCC received \$600,000 from the Tobacco Commission in renovation funds, and an additional \$224,000 in equipment.

Locally, the P&HCC Board invested \$1.1 million in local funds, “and finally, and most critically, we want to acknowledge and extend our deep, deep gratitude to the Harvest Foundation, which invested \$3.45 million in total project funds,” he said, adding several members of the foundation and its board also were among those attending the ceremony.

Hodges extended his “deep gratitude to the team” at the college, “who have worked so hard to ensure that this facility is, indeed, best in class.”

Go VA Region 3 provided funds to add another instructor, Hodges said, and also noted the P&HCC Board has partnered with the college throughout

the process.

The grand opening represents 40 percent of the space allocation in MET II, Hodges said. The remaining 60 percent of the building was separated by a door behind the podium.

It represents 30,000 square feet of the building “for which we are now raising funds which will expand current programming and create new programming in areas like precision machining, engine repair, heavy equipment operation, and simulation,” Hodges said.

The renovated space once complete will also create an additional flexible space to accommodate the workforce needs of new businesses and the expansion of current regional employers, he said.

“As with all renovations for our two MET buildings, every square foot will be dedicated to good-paying jobs here in our community,” he added and introduced Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

Heath said the grand opening “truly is a great day” for the college, but also for the community “as it relates to the community’s overall economic development efforts.

“In today’s economic development world, competition is greater than ever. Communities are investing in sites and buildings, housing, and all manner of place-making to make themselves stand out in a very crowded field,” Heath said.

Workforce training “has always been a key component to any community’s economic development and marketing plan. Especially in today’s tightening labor market, workforce training is first and foremost in the minds of companies and site selection consultants alike,” Heath said, adding that P&HCC “has long been a key team member of



A group of visitors toured the new areas of MET II.

the Martinsville-Henry County EDC’s efforts, and today’s announcement only further adds to their importance.”

The EDC, Heath said, “has been bringing clients to MET I for a number of years, and it has added a lot to our economic development success over the past number of years. Now, with MET II’s expansion, Patrick & Henry’s already world-class welding program will only enhance the EDC’s training offerings even more.”

Heath added that “the EDC appreciates all of the hard work on behalf of our community, and we can’t wait to bring our clients from around the world to this world-class facility.”

Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, commended Hodges, the team at P&HCC, the partners “who played a key role in bringing this to life. We are in a competitive environment like we have never been before.”

The building, Doré said, “really exemplifies the kind of alignment and partnership that we are building across the entire system. I have been in manufacturing

facilities throughout the United States, and you have one of the finest facilities in the nation in terms of really being best in class. Everything you do here is best in class and we want to keep that momentum going.”

Doré said, “This building and this team exemplifies this notion of getting to yes. Partnerships with industry and alignment will become more and more important to the economic development of the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

He again thanked Hodges and his team “for the kind of alignment that we need across our whole system.”

DeWitt House, senior program officer with the Harvest Foundation, said that P&HCC “is one of the best-kept secrets in our community.”

However, that is changing, he said, adding that the Harvest Foundation’s investment “is what we look at as just one investment in a series of great investments in this community, and what Dr. Hodges and the folks” at P&HCC “are doing to move the workforce forward. We’re looking forward to being partners for a long time to come.”

Dr. Mervyn King

(cont. from page 1)

Virginia, and you could get a job offer every day. I loved it here, and it’s been a great place” to live, he said.

During his tenure, King brought epidurals to the area from Mississippi.

“Those women loved those epidurals” when they were delivering babies, “especially about 3 o’clock in the morning,” he said with a chuckle.

King also helped set up the first intensive care room and the first recovery room in Martinsville.

At the old hospital, which he believes was built in 1955, he said there was a Tuberculosis (TB) Ward, which had windows that would open out on the side.

“We covered those windows in and enclosed them, and that was our first intensive care unit,” he said. “It worked well.”

When he moved to the new hospital, King said he had the operating room, recovery room, and the intensive care unit lined up in a row.

King practiced in Martinsville-Henry County for 29 years before he retired in 1993.

He worked for the hospital for four years before he set up his own company,

MRK Associates and Inc.

“We provided anesthesia for everything that went on in the hospitals,” he said. “All types of anesthesia, deliveries, everything night and day we covered. All the anesthesia, it was no other anesthesiologist for many years, and nobody really practiced anesthesia until I retired.”

King and his wife, Virginia King, also helped create the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society.

“We had some meetings there, and there were some discussions there about the possibility of tearing the courthouse down, and we absolutely did not want that to happen,” he said.

To help protect the courthouse from demolition, King said the group sought grants to help restore the building.

“I had about \$180,000, part of it was Harvest Foundation, and part of it was a federal grant. So, we started on it,” he said and recalled that “it was supposed to cost \$1 million to stabilize and \$1 million to restore. We got the whole thing done with money left over.”

Currently, the Kings are very active in the Historical Society and the current 13,000-square-foot expansion at

the back of the courthouse.

King’s private collections will also be housed in the annex and will become the property of the Historical Society.

“We’ll have some of the most outstanding collections available in the country. We’ve been collecting things for about 56 years, and I was a picker long before they had pickers on the internet,” he said.

His collections include Native American artifacts, guns, and older toys.

King said he wants the local museums to work together considering tourism is the second largest income in Virginia.

“The more we got to see, the farther they’ll come,” he said. “The farther they come, the longer they’ll stay, and the longer they stay, the more money they spend. So, that’s what we’re looking for.”

Throughout his time in Martinsville,

King said he’s enjoyed the area because there are a lot of things to do, including many walking trails, canoeing trails, and areas to hike.

“People in town don’t think there’s much to do here, but when I talk to people from out of town, they were highly impressed at how many things there were to do in Martinsville-Henry County,” he said. “I really think Martinsville has a lot of potential, and I want to help with it as long as I’m around and kicking.”

To help celebrate Mervyn King’s special day, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is encouraging residents to mail a card acknowledging his milestone birthday to King, 29A Jones Street, Martinsville, VA 24122. For birthday greetings via call or text, King can be reached at (276) 732-4231.

‘Tis the Season to Stay Safe

Do you know how to be #WinterReady? As winter settles in and we celebrate the holiday season, FEMA Region 3 is joining in on the spirit of fellowship and care by urging individuals and communities to prioritize your winter weather safety and preparedness.

The festive season brings joy and celebration, but it also comes with unique challenges, especially in colder climates. From navigating icy sidewalks to preparing for winter storms, here are some essential and practical tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday season:

Create a Winter Emergency Kit: Assemble a kit containing essential supplies, including blankets, non-perishable food, water, medications, and a flashlight for your home. Keep essential supplies in your car as well, including food and water, a shovel, windshield scraper, blankets, tow chains, reflectors, and other supplies, in case you become stranded.

1. Develop an Emergency Plan: Establish a clear and concise communications plan with your loved ones so you know how to get in touch in an emergency. Before a winter storm or drop in temperatures, check in on your neighbors and friends, especially older adults or others who may have unique needs, to help them prepare.

2. Stay Informed: Keep abreast of local weather forecasts and official alerts. Stay informed about any advisories, watches, or warnings issued by authorities. This information is critical for making timely and informed decisions during severe weather events.

3. Protect Your Home: Winterize your home by insulating pipes, sealing drafts, and checking heating systems. Home heating is

the second leading cause of home fires, and winter is when most home fires happen, so ensure that heating sources are in good working condition. Taking these precautions can prevent damage and ensure a warm and safe living environment.

4. Practice Safe Driving: If travel is necessary during adverse weather conditions, drive cautiously. It takes longer to slow down and stop on icy roads, so increase your following distance from 3-4 seconds to 5-6 seconds. Keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle and be aware of road conditions.

As you’re preparing this winter, follow along with FEMA’s #WinterReady campaign and FEMA Region 3 on X, LinkedIn, and Nextdoor, as we share more preparedness tips and resources.

We also invite you to join us for a free family-friendly holiday-themed webinar on Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. This webinar will be focused on sharing winter, holiday, and home fire safety tips, to help foster a safer and healthier environment for everyone. This fireside virtual event will intertwine the joy and peace of the holidays with safety and preparation.

Register at https://fema.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FrF39P4BQC-U_grGp0W6LA#/registration for the one of a kind “A Partridge and a Prepared Me” webinar. Once registered, you will receive an email with a link and passcode to join.

Everyone is welcome to join, especially kids who would like to speak with a firefighter about home safety and hear a preparedness spin on a classic holiday tale. For more information, visit FEMA.gov.

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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.)

Events

Friday, December 8

Health Sciences Career Fair at Patrick & Henry Community College, Frith Exhibit Hall, Room 129, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre. The Country Boys will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 pm with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 CASH donation. Concessions, including our ever-popular Spencer Penn hotdogs, will be sold.

Saturday, December 9

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale that is open to the public in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring your Christmas list and head to the basement to see all the goodies the elves left behind! We have books for entertaining; decorating; DIY crafts for adults & children; coffee table books; fiction; romance; Religious & Spiritual; too many to list! ALL paperback books are .50¢ & ALL hardback books are \$1, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds go back into the library system. The next sale is Feb. 3.

Dinner, crafts, hot cocoa, and a movie, plus photos with Santa, Spencer Penn Centre. Pre-registration is required. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

WWII Vet

(cont. from page 1)

in any lines, he just skipped all the lines and signed up very quickly and got on that train and left."

Stine completed the program at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

Stine said he enjoyed studying meteorology, especially the math and science involved in it.

"It was very good. I enjoyed it," he said.

"It was complicated because it was an accelerated program, and they had to have classes eight hours a day and then study halls at night. So, it was like all day and all night you were learning," Embree said.

After completing the program, Stine was preparing to go to China to predict the weather for the invasion of Japan.

"They were preparing for the invasion of Japan. So, they were going to go

to China to predict the weather so that they could pick the right day to bomb," Embree said.

The class before Stine's went to China, and his didn't have to go, she said.

"They were standing ready to go, but then the war ended, I mean they dropped the bomb, and they didn't have to invade Japan," she said.

Stine also was in one of the first groups to change from using manual equipment to observe the changes in weather to using electronic equipment.

Embree said the manual part involved sending up balloons and then using a telescope to observe what the balloons were doing.

"Then they started putting the electronic instrument on the balloon, and then the electronic instrument would do the work for you instead of you having to do the telescope. What he used to

Yoga in the Galleries, 10:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts, instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. This class is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. The instructor should be paid directly, cash only event.

Tuesdays in December (5, 12, 19, and 26)

Senior Studio, 1 p.m., Piedmont Arts. 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 for members; \$5 for non-members.

Ongoing

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.

TOPS FIELDALE VA 0626 meets each Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Rangeley Ruritan Building on 134 Calloway Drive, Fieldale, VA. New members are welcome. For more information, call Patti at (276) 358-0489.

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, 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.

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 p.m. 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.

say was it made it a lot easier," she said, chuckling.

Following the war and his discharge on February 2, 1946, Stine worked as a civilian for the Army and went around the county helping to set up weather stations.

"Those weather stations were just fun, and I enjoyed it. I got real good at being in that situation, and I just enjoyed being in it," Stine said.

While doing this, Stine was in several interesting places, including the South Caicos Islands, Sarasota, Florida, and New York City.

"They were in interesting places. The one he likes to talk about is when he went to South Caicos, which is now a big resort with condominiums, but back then it was just a town," Embree said. "It was a very fun experience. He got to enjoy some nice resort areas because it

seemed like the weather stations were in places like that."

Embree added that Stine also used this experience to see different parts of the county.

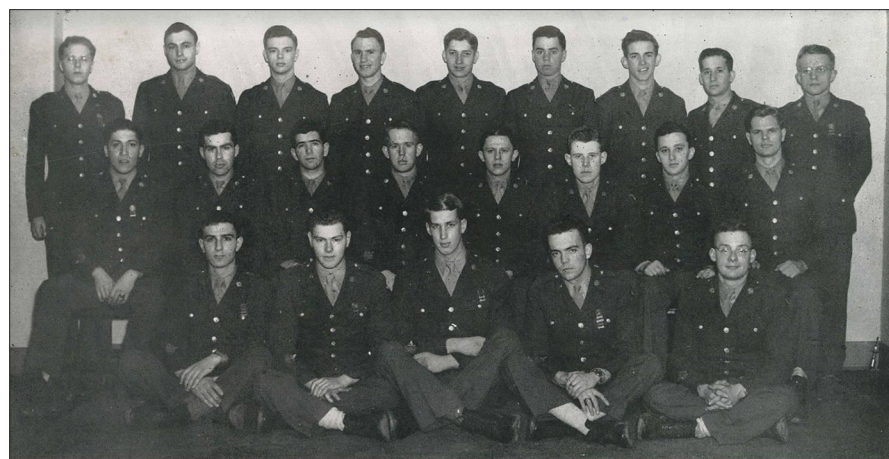
Stine went back to college to continue his education by using the G.I. Bill. He received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Syracuse University.

Stine eventually moved to Martinsville, where he worked as a research chemist for Dupont.

"I enjoyed it all this time, the chemistry. I did pretty good with it, doing the chemical things that needed to be done," he said.

Following 25 years with the company, he retired in 1986.

"Then he went back to work for another 20 years. So, he didn't really retire until he was 85 years old," Embree said.



Flight Fourteen, Class of 1944 at Hamilton College. Stine is fifth from the left on the top row.



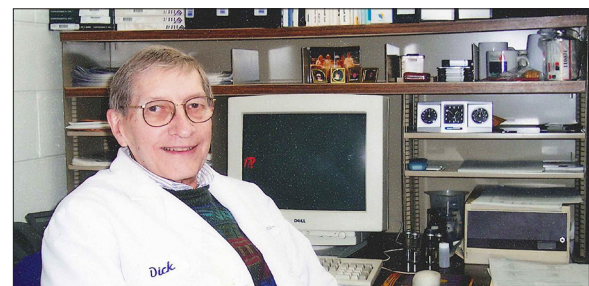
Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine was a young chemist at Syracuse University, where he was a PhD graduate student.



Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine and his brother John.



Cpl. Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine in uniform.



Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine when he was a Senior Research Chemist.



World War II veteran Cpl. Cawley Richard "Dick" Stine with a flag he received from U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith on Veterans Day 2020.

VDOE launches new online licensure system

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has launched its Virginia Licensure Online system (VALO) to help modernize the teacher licensure process and make the application and renewal experience more user-friendly for prospective and current teachers.

"Every Virginia child deserves a high-quality licensed teacher in their classrooms," Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons said. "When I

arrived at the Department earlier this year, I heard from superintendents and educators that the licensing process was not serving them well. We have focused on improving the experience Virginia's teachers and aspiring educators have when applying to obtain their teaching license. This new licensing system is a solid step forward in making it easier for qualified individuals to apply for a teaching license and will help reinforce to Virginia's teachers

that we value the work they do with students every day."

Bringing current technology such as smart prompting and enhanced communication tools to the user experience, VALO is designed to assist applicants as they move through the licensure process. VALO will make it easier for prospective teachers to submit complete and accurate applications, keep track of their application status, and timely correct any needed infor-

mation in their application. VALO is designed to provide applicants with a modern technological user experience that is common across professions.

The new VALO system is now online for all new and initial applicants for Virginia teacher licensure. Potential teachers can access the new system at the Licensing Services section of the VDOE website. Renewals for current licensed teachers will begin in VALO later in the school year.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OPINION

Regarding the Martians

My fellow Americans, My name is Thomas Ford, and I'm the United States Secretary of Commerce. I was chosen to come before you today to present you with some incredible news.

Since February of 2021, NASA's Perseverance, the latest of its Mars rovers, has been exploring the surface of the red planet. One month ago today, it made a discovery: a previously unknown cave concealed within a crater on the planet's surface.

The Perseverance descended into this cave, and what it found was awe-inspiring: a sprawling underground city, populated by ten million intelligent bipedal lifeforms.

Ladies and gentlemen, the question of our age has been answered: we are not alone in the universe.

These Martians are possessed of three legs and four arms, yet they walk upright as we do. They are only about three feet tall, and based on preliminary studies, we believe them to have a level of intelligence similar to our own. However, their civilization has not advanced to the same degree as ours; they appear to be in the Martian equivalent of the Iron Age.

My friends, the significance of this discovery and the import of this moment are so obvious as to go without saying, but I will nonetheless state the thought that I know is on all of our minds:

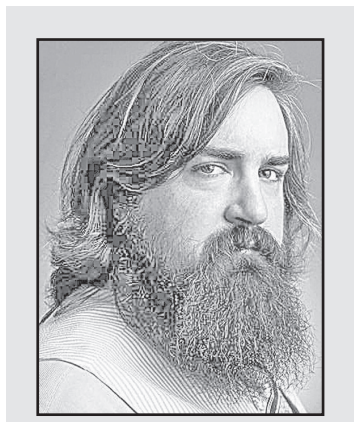
This is going to be an absolute boon for American manufacturing.

Just think about it: after seeing the Millennial generation work themselves half to death with little to show for it, Gen Z has decided to engage in "quiet quitting," doing the bare minimum at work since overachieving won't improve their station and they'll never be able to afford to buy a house or retire no matter what they do.

Even in China, there's been a sudden rise in "tang ping," translating roughly to "lying flat," which means taking a more laid-back attitude toward life and not attempting to overachieve since it's proven time and again that overworking is rewarded with more work.

However, we're working with a blank slate when it comes to these Martians. They haven't lived through multiple recessions. They don't know what a 401k is. They don't even know the value of a dollar!

Let's face it: we're in the midst of a crisis here on planet Earth. We're simply running out of lifeforms to exploit. These Martians are a gift from the cosmos, a bunch of outer space hayseeds that we can dump on Earth like slack-



By Ben R. Williams

jawed rubes tumbling from the back of an intergalactic turnip truck.

And folks, it just gets better. Given their short stature, the Martians will be able to do all the same work that children do, like harvesting cocoa for Mars (the candy company, not the aforementioned celestial body) or making shoes for Nike.

Now, I do understand that there are ethical concerns here. Specifically, is it ethical to ask major corporations to invest in the rocket ships necessary to bring the Martians back to Earth when it could take weeks or even months for them to see a return on their investment?

Thankfully, we don't have to wade into that particular moral quandary. I recently spoke with Elon Musk, and he said that he's happy to lend NASA the use of his SpaceX rockets in exchange for \$69 and 420 Martian employees.

Once the Martians have been brought to Earth, there is so much we will be able to learn from them. Do they need to sleep, or can they work 24 hour shifts? Do they have any downtime after reproducing or can they come straight back to the factory? Can they service an industrial lathe while it's still running? The mind boggles at the possibilities.

The best part is, the Martians are going to be thrilled to come to Earth. From what we can tell based on art etched onto the walls of the Martian city, Mars was once a green planet filled with flora and fauna; unfortunately, the ancient Martians used up all their resources and destroyed the planet's ability to support life, forcing the survivors to retreat into their miserable underground lair.

Heh, what a bunch of dopes.

Energy and Inflation

As December begins, Virginians have begun to experience cold winter weather once again. Lows so far have reached the teens in some areas and that means it's time to crank up the heat in our homes to stay warm.

Unfortunately, for many, turning on the heat comes with extra costs these days. Due to energy policies enacted in the Obama years and continued during the Biden Administration, the cost of energy has been driven up. These increased energy costs have in turn been one of the major contributors to the high inflation we've experienced in the past few years.

Republican members of the U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee recently analyzed Consumer Price Index and Consumer Expenditure Survey data and announced that, due to inflation, the typical American household must now spend an additional \$11,434 annually in order to have the same standard of living as they had in January of 2021.

This is unacceptable! How many Americans have an extra \$11,000 to spend the same items they normally buy?

Americans all around the country are feeling the burn from inflation.

According to an October AP/NORC poll, 69% say their household expenses have risen over the last year, but only 23% have seen their income increase during the same period.

And it makes sense why Americans are feeling this way. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), since President Biden took office, the consumer price index (cost of goods and services) is up 17.1% percent, meanwhile average hourly earnings are only up 13.6%.

Now Americans head into another season of high costs.

In early November, the U.S. Energy Information Administration released their winter fuel outlook for the 2023-24 season. And as predicted, things aren't looking good.

According to the agency, southern states are projected to see their electricity bills increase by 2%, the cost of propane increase by 6%, and the price of heating oil increase by 8%. (Natural gas prices, thankfully, are projected to decrease by 15%.)

That's not all, if winter is just 10% colder than predicted, these prices skyrocket.

With everyone's margins already so thin, these increases will be painful for many.

But wait, there's more. It was just announced that Virginia customers of Appalachia Power will see yet another cost increase. Virginia state regulators have just approved a rate hike of about 10%,



Morgan Griffith

Representative

or around \$16 a month, which will take effect on January 29th. This is after the average Appalachian customer saw their monthly bill increase by \$35 between July 2022 and July 2023.

Then there are gas prices. The Biden Administration is trying to tell Americans that the price of gas is in a good place. A recent tweet from President Biden reads, "Folks, no matter where you're headed this holiday season, you'll be heading there for less. Gas prices are down \$1.70 from their peak..."

Unfortunately, these talking points don't hold much water.

I'm sure many people remember how low gas prices were before President Biden took office. The national average in January 2021 was \$2.39 per gallon. In some parts of the Ninth District, it was as low as \$1.99 per gallon.

Gas prices being down \$1.70 from their national peak of over \$5 in June of 2022 is nothing to write home about! In November, the Ninth District experienced gas prices of around \$3.20 per gallon - that's more than a \$1 more per gallon than before Biden took office.

Just another increased expense many can't afford.

As I mentioned in a recent Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing, Americans of lower income will be hit the hardest this winter.

Folks in the Ninth District, and around the country, may be faced with the decision of heating their homes, affording their medications, and/or feeding their children.

Additionally, some folks may turn to alternate unsafe ways to heat their home, like a kerosene heater, which can turn deadly. This is an avoidable tragedy if we are able to find ways to keep energy prices down.

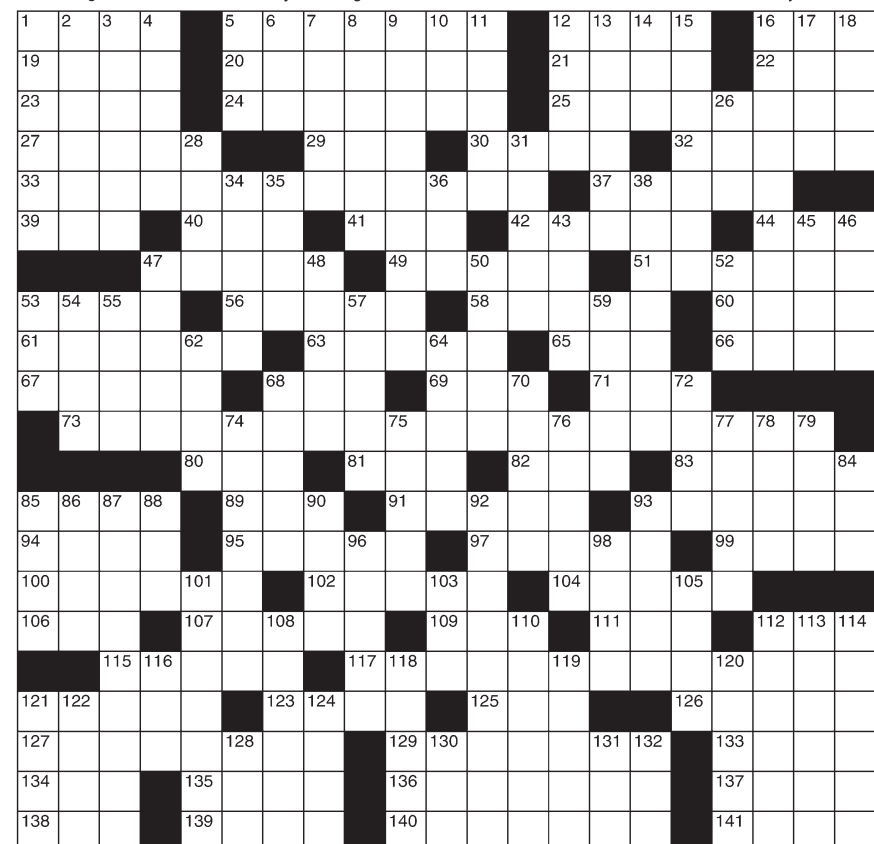
It's time to get real about the inflation and the impact it is still having on Americans. We must work together to cut spending and enact commonsense energy and economic policies that will benefit everyone's pocketbook.

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

Super Crossword

A TO Z REPEATEDLY

- ACROSS 1 Dubya or JFK 5 Horse riders 12 Bandleader Lawrence 16 NBA's Erving, familiarly 19 Totally alter 20 Visibly sulky 21 Pack of yaks 22 Coastal inlet 23 Monumental 24 Of very hilly regions 25 Liveliness 27 Betray by snitching 29 Possible answer to "Who is?" 30 Scottish refusals 32 Lupe of "Mexican Spitfire" 33 With 73- and 117-Across, notable fact about this puzzle's solution 37 Antigen-attacking lymphocyte 39 Abbr. ending a math proof 40 Suffix with form 42 Deer relative 43 Surgical tool 44 Put a levy on 47 Smidge 49 Des Moines native 51 Cry to a lifesaver 53 Move in spasms 56 "American Pie" actor — William Scott 58 Visibly awed 60 Tailless cat 61 Pop's Grande 63 The Beatles' "Eleanor —" 65 Gibson liquor 66 1847 Herman Melville novel 67 Big name in utility knives 68 Atty.'s title 69 18-wheeler 71 Div. of hoops game 73 See 33-Across 80 Mine, in Italy 81 ROY G. — 82 Albuquerque-to-Denver dir. 83 Chef's hat 85 Travel by foot 89 Cable inits. for old films 91 Reverend Jackson 93 Tweak 94 Ending for book 95 "E!" (nickname of a drug lord) 97 Drink heartily 99 Acorn trees 100 "Incredible!" 102 D-Max pickup maker 104 Tips, as a hat 106 Wd. often ending in "-ly" 107 Rho-tau link 109 Western treaty inits. 111 U.S. spy gp. 112 Former Pan Am rival 115 Decide you will 117 See 33-Across 121 Part of a ship's hull 123 Cartoon hits 125 Cool, man 126 Some Native Americans 127 Getting a laugh out 129 Cool guy on "Happy Days" 133 Years, in Italy 134 Traffic snarl 135 Lawn digger 136 Popular place for a piercing 137 Give a test to 138 Log splitter 139 — Out of My League 140 Basic nature 141 "That's clear" DOWN 1 Trig. for calc. e.g. 2 Put new concrete on 3 Revised copy 4 Cholesterol-lowering drug 5 Funny Carrey 6 Artist Yoko 7 "Be quiet!" 8 Univ. about 50 miles west of Topeka 9 Coating with glossy varnish 10 Yang partner 11 Office scribe 12 Interlaced 13 Is 14 Third bk. of the Bible 15 Roguish behavior 16 Group of precision marchers 17 Ceremony 18 "Run This Town" rapper 26 Toon frame 28 Laugh syllable from a Stooze 31 Plant — (claim some territory, maybe) 34 Writer Mario Vargas — 35 Mitigate 36 "King Kong" studio 38 Solidifies 43 "Seminar," for "Marines," e.g.: Abbr. 45 River in Italy 46 "Kisses and hugs" symbol 47 Glide in a rink 48 Glaring 50 "That's the — goes" 52 Med. insurer 53 NFL's Jaguars, on scoreboards 54 The "E" of 39-Across 55 Well-off 57 Muslim face veil 59 Arouse 62 Linguist Chomsky 64 Mark over a short vowel 68 Pliocene, e.g. 70 Big name in infomercial knives 72 Eligible for Soc. Sec. 74 Class for an Eng. major 75 Little jewel 76 Sam of golf 77 Judo halls 78 Blue hue 79 Walrus tooth 84 Aliens, briefly 85 Tot's glassful 86 Yank who wore #13 87 Small amount, as of sales 88 Jazz saxophonist Dave 90 Injure greatly 92 People crushing things 93 Stick on 96 Biblical song 98 Points of convergence 101 Prizes highly 103 Animals: Suffix 105 Kismet 108 Wolf down 110 Suppress 112 Pre-lift-off expression 113 Hot dog 114 Judicial inquest 116 Book divs. 118 Lauder of cosmetics 119 Cereal utensil 120 Basra citizen 121 Mexico's — California 122 Huge-screen film format 124 In-favor votes 128 "Stupid me!" 130 Partakes of 131 "Grimm" ailer 132 Wye follower



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Exploding Potatoes and Other Precautionary Tales

By Holly Kozelsky

Finally, I have faced one of the grave dangers and extreme emergencies my mother has always warned me about.

Faced, overcame and survived.

It was a potato explosion.

After half a century of potato-explosion speculation, it was rather anti-climactic, but still satisfying to experience.

In the morning before work, I was baking potatoes in the toaster-oven as a step toward making that evening's supper preparation faster. About half an hour in, I heard a sound as if something had fallen out of a cabinet.

I looked over, and saw that one of the potatoes had its skin burst, and its white insides were sitting to the side of it.

The core of the white was still solid and uncooked; only the edges of the white had become somewhat mushy. I put the white back into the skin as much as possible, wrapped it in tin foil and put it back in the oven to continue baking, and thought of my mother and her warnings.

The mythical exploding potato paled in comparison to the dangers of an exploding pressure cooker. According to legend, an exploding potato could destroy the entire oven and could hurt you, if you had been standing beside it at the time of explosion, but an exploding pressure cooker could blow up the whole house plus kill you if you were in the kitchen when it happened.

Whenever Mom would use the pressure cooker, she would first call my sister and me into the kitchen and talk about pressure cookers in an impressive lecture which seamlessly combined science and old wives' tales. We were shown our potential impending cause of death and warned to remain at the extremes of the other end of the house, or to play outside, until supper was ready.

It just did not seem logical to me: Sure, the roasts she cooked in the pressure cooker were delicious, but not worth risking our lives and home for.

She warned of other frightening dangers, too. There was the man in the van who would pull over and offer us candy.



The mythical exploding potato.

We must never, ever accept candy from that man, because he would use it as an opportunity to snatch us up. I spent my early years vigilantly watching traffic, looking for a man I imagined being in his 40s, with scruffy brown hair, wearing a checked shirt, and driving a white van; sometimes I imagined the van with some lettering, sometimes it was plain.

Then there was the dirty old man on the street who would pinch our butts if we got too close. I was ever on the lookout for what I imagined as a man with scruffy grey hair, wearing tweed pants, a button-up shirt and a vest, shuffling with a limp, and of course, he had smudges of dirt his clothing and skin.

Falling into swimming pools or other bodies of water would cause us to die or to become brain damaged. Taking a shower or bath when it was raining would get us electrocuted.

Then, added to my mother's list of dangers, were other terrors we learned about through pop culture and society. Top on that list was quicksand. In the children's television shows of the 1970s, characters were always sinking deep in quicksand to their possible demise. I always imagined a bottomless suctioning quicksand pit waiting around the corner of any woodland trail, which was terrifying, considering how much time we spent playing in the woods.

Of all the fabled dangers to have faced and survived, I'm glad it was the exploding potato. It wasn't as bad as it had been made out to be.

And I'm still scared of pressure cookers, dirty old men and showers during a storm.

Five Teachers of the Year named in Martinsville

Five teachers were among the Teachers of the Year in the Martinsville school division. Each was selected by their colleagues to represent their

school in recognition of their passion, dedication, and commitment to education.

The educators include:

Domica Ortiz, Clearview Early Learning Center; Jamie Earnest, Patrick Henry Elementary School; Melissa Alverson, Albert Harris

Elementary School; Robert Ashby, Martinsville Middle School and Aroa Thomas-Hairston, Martinsville High School.



Jamie Earnest



Robert Ashby



Melissa Alverson



Ms. Aroa Thomas-Hairston



Domica Ortiz



Pictured left to right: Debra Buchanan - Horsepasture District Supervisor, Doogie Wade and Tanya Martin - Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation, Avery Mills - One Hour Martinizing, Brad Hughes and Debra Wade - Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation.

Schools, others to help distribute coats

Coats collected during the 28th annual "Coats for Kids" Drive will be donated to community organizations and schools to keep children in need warm this season.

Horsepasture District Supervisor, Debra Parsons Buchanan, has spearheaded the drive for twenty-eight years. The Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation (MWW), a local non-profit organization has participated in the drive since 2013, and made their annual contribution of coats Wednesday at One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road

in Martinsville. Owned and operated by Avery Mills, One Hour Martinizing cleans each coat before they are distributed.

Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District Supervisor, in association with Avery Mills, Owner of One Hour Martinizing, and The MWW Foundation would like to thank everyone that donated to and supported the 2023 "Coats for Kids" drive, and we look forward to the "Coats for Kids" Drive beginning next September 2024 and working to help keep kids warm.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

What to Know Before Your Next Web Search

Most of us do it several times a day. We have a question, need a phone number or are looking for a website, so we open a search engine and type in our request. What happens next is becoming more and more dangerous.

To steer clear of impostor scams, a widely recommended precaution is to avoid clicking on links or dialing numbers provided in emails or texts. Instead, contact the company or agency using a verified website or phone number. Beware however that even web search results can be manipulated.

The easiest way that scammers do this is with advertising dollars. By paying to promote their fake websites that mimic legitimate sites, a criminal can jump to the top of your web search

results. Complicating matters, some app-based companies lack customer service numbers, so web searches only bring back malicious phone numbers.

This doesn't mean you can't trust web searches, just search carefully. Always look closely at the top results to make sure that they are what you are looking for before clicking. You may also want to avoid clicking on links that are advertisement or "sponsored." Not all promoted links are fake, but it's important to understand that promoted web ads are a tactic of scammers.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Axton man charged in August incident

The Henry County Sheriff's Office investigated the homicide of Antwain Royqwel-Garifield Hampton, 24, of Hampton Circle., Axton. The homicide occurred on August 11, at 7064 Axton Road, Axton.

Authorities investigating the death determined that an altercation ensued between Antwain Hampton and Akeem Laquan Clark. During the altercation, a firearm was allegedly produced, and Hampton was shot.

Warrants were issued for Akeem Laquan Clark, 33, of Axton, on charges of second-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm after having been convicted of a felony.

Since the incident occurred, the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the United States

Marshal Service have been working diligently to apprehend Clark. On November 20, the United States Marshals took Mr. Clark into custody in Cincinnati, Ohio, based on leads developed during the investigation.

He was taken into custody without incident, and is currently held at the Hamilton County Justice Center, awaiting extradition to Henry County.

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the



Akeem Laquan Clark

Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers 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.

Chapman named new Chief Marketing Officer

Susan Chapman was selected as the new Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at ValleyStar Credit Union, effective December 1.

Chapman brings an extensive breadth of experience and innovative leadership to the team. Her journey in the credit union industry has cultivated over 30 years of profound expertise across various domains including branch operations, accounting, training, sales and service, marketing, and data/business intelligence. Throughout her career, she has exhibited exemplary leadership skills across a spectrum of responsibilities encompassing market research, public relations, corporate communication, strategic partnerships, strategic planning, and budgeting.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, she and her teams have received prestigious accolades such as the Texas Credit Union League Marketing and Business Development Professional of the Year, Credit Union Best Practices Award for Sales and Service Incentive Program, and multiple CUES Golden Mirror and American Marketing Association Awards.

Notable among Chapman's achievements is her leadership in spearheading organizational initiatives, including the successful implementation of a sales and service culture and the development of a data-driven marketing strategy, resulting in an impressive 1700% Return on Marketing Investment (ROMI). Her adeptness in securing major sponsorship partnerships, notably with the Houston Zoo and Sugar Land Skeeters Baseball Team, and securing naming rights to The Smart Financial Centre, stands as a testament to her strategic prowess.

"ValleyStar is thrilled to welcome Susan



Susan Chapman

Chapman to this role," said Mike Warrell, ValleyStar CEO. "Her extensive experience and innovative approach to marketing and strategic partnerships align perfectly with our vision for growth and community engagement."

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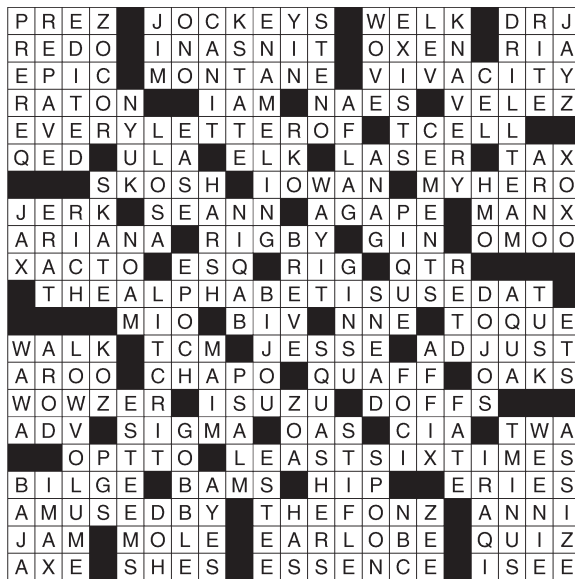
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Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net



ADVERTISE!

Gravelly retires after 32 years of service



Martinsville Police Officer Coretha Gravelly is retiring after 32-years of service.



Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher presented Gravelly with a crystal plaque to commemorate her 32-year career.



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones presented a proclamation to Gravelly on behalf of the city for her service to the community. (Photos courtesy of our partners at BTW21)

Foundation Donates \$50,000 to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals



The ValleyStar Rise Foundation, the philanthropic arm of ValleyStar Credit Union, announced a contribution of \$50,000 to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN).

The official presentation took place during ValleyStar's annual holiday party at the Administrative Campus in Rocky Mount, on December 2.

"We are delighted to support the Children's Miracle Network in their mission," said Rachael Williams, President of the ValleyStar RISE Foundation. "The ValleyStar Rise Foundation was created to empower communities, and this donation reflects our dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of those facing health challenges."

The ValleyStar Rise Foundation, established by ValleyStar Credit Union, is driven by a vision to empower communities through education and support. By inspiring those with resources to assist those in need, the foundation seeks to create a positive and enduring impact.

"CMN is profoundly grateful to the ValleyStar RISE Foundation for their commitment to our cause," said Macy Ware, Program Director at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. "This generous contribution will directly impact the lives of children and families who rely on our services. Together, we can continue providing essential medical care and support to those in need."

Children's Miracle Network -- is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improv-

ing the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North America. Each year, the 170 CMN hospitals provide the finest medical care, life-saving research, and preventative education to help millions of kids overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. Carilion Children's is proud to be the Children's Miracle Network Hospital for Southwest Virginia.

Headquartered in Martinsville, Virginia, the ValleyStar RISE Foundation was formed in 2019 and received its 501(C)(3) designation in January 2022. The foundation strives to bridge gaps in mental and physical health, and educational opportunities by providing funding as well as volunteer opportunities for ValleyStar Credit Union's team and board members to give their time and talent to support the communities served. For more information, visit valleystar.org.

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Give us your view:

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

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

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **December 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permit for the following case.

Case S-23-15 Lewis J. and Sandra R. Evans

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 10 RV sites. The property is approximately 4.2-acres, located at 355 Breckenridge Circle in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 22.3/87.

The applications for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

LEGAL

FOR PUBLIC NOTICE

Henry County, Virginia, in partnership with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the Bassett Community Center Inc., is seeking funding from the 2023 Community Development Block Grant program to study and plan for revitalization of the Bassett Community Center in Bassett, Virginia. This planning grant is being applied for through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Per the requirements of the grant, a public meeting must be held to discuss business revitalization, hazard mitigation plans, and feasibility analyses in the project area.

A Public Input Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m., in the Summerlin Board Room at the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, VA 24112. The public is encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Henry County, Virginia is required to disclose that future Planning Grant and Community Improvement Grant funding depends on completion of this public meeting.

Input may be provided prior to the meeting by emailing Kathleen McEvoy, kmcevoy@wppdc.org or by calling 276-628-3987.

Call 276-694-3101 or email
submissions@theenterprise.net
for more information.



Route 58 Business (AL Philpott Highway) and Route 930 (Dogwood Drive) Intersection Improvements Henry County

Find out about a project to reduce congestion at the intersection of Route 58 Business (AL Philpott Highway) and Route 930 (Dogwood Drive) in Henry County. Traffic from the nearby middle school backs up at this intersection particularly in the morning and afternoon.

The project entails adding a right turn lane on Route 930 onto westbound Route 58 Business and adding a right turn lane from westbound Route 58 Business onto Route 930. Entrances at the nearby gas station also will be modified.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Hayden Hill, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **December 22, 2023**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Hayden Hill at the phone numbers listed above.

State Project:0058-044-077, M501, P101, R201
Federal Project: NHPP-044-2(070) UPC: 119457
From: 0.024 mile west of intersection of Route 930
To: 0.071 mile east of intersection of Route 930

Arnold Named New Golf Coach at P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College announced that Jim Arnold was hired as its next head golf coach. Arnold is set to take over for James Draper, who led the Pats to the 2022 Region 10 Golf Championship and was awarded Coach of the Year.

"As the father of a former student-athlete at Patrick & Henry Community College, Jim understands the power of athletics on young men and women," said Brian Henderson, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletic Director. "As a former NCAA Division I student-athlete himself, he also understands the commitment that must be made by both the coach and student-athlete. We are thrilled to have

him take on this head-coaching position and trust he will lead the team to achieve in all aspects of their life at P&H."

Arnold is a Henry County native who graduated from Fieldale-Collinsville High School in 1989. While at F-C, he was a member of back-to-back State Championship golf teams, while adding a runner-up individual finish and was the Roanoke Times "Timesland Player of the Year" in 1988 when he claimed the State Individual Championship. Arnold also played on the golf team during his time at Elon College, making multiple All-Conference and All-District teams, as well as being the South Atlantic Conference Freshman of the Year in

1990. Additionally, he was named an NCAA Academic All-American in 1993 and voted the Scholar Athlete of the Year for the South Atlantic Conference the same year.

After playing on multiple mini tours after graduation, Arnold was in the golf business for twelve years in various roles at multiple golf clubs. During his tenure in the golf industry, he also ran numerous golf camps/schools, taught individual golf lessons, and began a middle school golf program in Halifax County, Virginia, coaching the team for three years prior to moving back to Henry County in 2005.

"I would like to thank the search committee and Brian Henderson for

selecting me for this role and believing in my vision for not just the Patrick & Henry Community College Men's Golf program, but also the addition of a Women's Golf program, which will be a priority for me," said Arnold, adding, "I would also like to thank my family and friends for their unwavering support. My family has a special relationship with Patrick & Henry and I can't wait to help grow the program that Coach Draper has done such a fantastic job with the past few years."

Coach Arnold is actively recruiting student-athletes interested in joining the program beginning this Spring 2024. If interested, please visit www.phccsports.com for more information.

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Dec. 11-16:

12/11 5:30p Girls Basketball Winston-Salem Christian at Carlisle

7pm Boys Basketball George Washington at Bassett

7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Chatham

7pm Boys Basketball Chatham at Magna Vista

7pm Girls Basketball Dan River at Martinsville

7pm Boys Basketball Martinsville at Dan River

7pm Boys Basketball Winston-Salem Christian at Carlisle

12/12 7pm Girls Basketball Bassett at George Washington

7pm Girls Basketball Mecklenburg County at Martinsville

7pm Boys Basketball Martinsville at Mecklenburg County

12/13 5pm Wrestling Martinsville, Patrick County, Tunstall at Bassett

5pm Wrestling Magna Vista at George Washington

7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Tunstall

7pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at McMichael

7pm Boys Basketball Carlisle at Northside

12/15 5pm Swim & Dive Bassett at Halifax County

(Halifax YMCA)

5pm Swim & Dive Magna Vista vs multiple schools (at Martinsville YMCA)

5pm Swim & Dive Martinsville vs multiple schools (at Martinsville YMCA)

7pm Girls Basketball Bassett at Magna Vista

7pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at Bassett

7pm Girls Basketball Martinsville at Goerge Washington

7pm Boys Basketball George Washington at Martinsville

12/16 9am Indoor Track Bassett at Roanoke College

TBA Indoor Track Magna Vista at Liberty

1:30pm Girls Basketball George Washington at Carlisle

3:00pm Boys Basketball George Washington at Carlisle

Initial claims on par with 2019

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims declined in the latest filing week to 1,104, to remain slightly below typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to the most recent data from the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA).

For the filing week ending November 25, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia was 1,104, which was a decrease of 666 claimants from the previous week. Falling on a holiday week likely played a part in the large drop. Continued weeks claimed totaled 11,522, which was a decrease from the previous week but an increase of 57% from the 7,347 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (52 percent) of continued claims were from administrative and support and waste management (1,676), professional, scientific, and technical services (1,675), manufacturing (1,190), and health care and social assistance (1,031). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result

in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending November 25, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 218,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 209,000 to 211,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 198,843 in the week ending November 25, a decrease of 42,136 (or -17.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 199,323 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data covering Thanksgiving week, most U.S. states reported large decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. California's preliminary weekly change (-13,806) was the largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-6,017) was the second largest decrease. Oregon's preliminary weekly change (-2,959) was the third largest decrease. Florida's preliminary weekly change (-2,451) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 21st largest decrease (-627).



Tim, Amy, Justin, Samuel, Faith and Zachary Alderson, of A-Plus Farms in Pittsylvania County.

Pitts. Co. farm recognized for protecting natural resources

A-Plus Farms in Pittsylvania County was among nine farms to receive special recognition as grand winners of the 2023 Clean Water Farm Awards. The farms were selected because they demonstrated exceptional commitment to practices that protect the soil and water. The awards recognize farmers or farm owners doing exceptional work to protect soil and water resources. One winner is selected from each of Virginia's major river basins.

The Pittsylvania Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Tim Alderson and his farm for work on the Roanoke River.

The winning farm owners, producers or operators employ technologies and best management practices that improve water quality. Efforts include keeping livestock out of streams and rivers, planting cover crops, instituting rotational grazing and adding vegetative buffers along waterways.

Alderson and his family strive to implement conservation practices on their 210-acre farm in Pittsylvania County by improving surrounding water quality and spreading this information to other producers in the area. Mr. Alderson's first conservation cost-share project with the district in 2010 completed a total of four stream exclusion and grazing land management projects. To make the best use of grazing land for his 75 cow/calf pairs and three bulls, he uses rotational grazing and alternative watering facilities. He also routinely takes plant and tissue samples to ensure soil health for the best quality forage to feed his cattle. Components of the livestock exclusion projects include 12,035 feet of exclusion fencing, 11,277 feet of pipeline, 28.19 acres of buffer area, 15 troughs, two wells and two pumping plants. Mr. Alderson is currently installing more exclusion fencing, pipeline and troughs, and an additional 1.42 acres of forested riparian buffer will be added once his new stream exclusion project is complete.

Virginia's soil and water conservation districts offer farmers technical assistance and advice on new technologies and practices to help them stay on the cutting edge of conservation farming.

"District staff and the farmers they work with are dedicated to continually improving practices that enrich our natural resources," said Dr. Kendall Tyree, executive director of VASWCD. "We are proud of our partnerships with these farms, many dating back decades, and appreciate the opportunity to assist the agricultural community while expanding these mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance our land and waters."

Other areas with winning farms included Grayson, Culpeper, New Kent, Northampton, Tazewell, Loudon, Louisa, and Rockingham counties.

"These Grand Basin award winners, representing all regions of the Commonwealth of Virginia, are on the forefront of agricultural practices that protect one of our most precious resources: water quality," said DCR Director Matt Wells.

"We celebrate and appreciate these award recipients, who are truly dedicated to sustainable farming and serve as role models for others across the commonwealth," said Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. "Their commitment to improve the health of Virginia's river basins by implementing best management practices is inspiring, and future generations will benefit from their stewardship of the land and natural resources."

In partnership with Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation sponsors the Grand Basin Clean Water Farm Awards each year. Individual soil and water conservation districts select local Clean Water Farm Award winners in the state. Awards were presented Dec. 4 during the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting in Norfolk.

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Abortions increase in state since Roe overturned; Virginia border city remains a refuge

By Sahara Sriraman/Capital News Service

The twin Bristol cities share a name and a state line, but abortion accessibility changes just over a 1 mile span.

Abortion is illegal in Bristol, Tennessee, but down the road in Virginia, a clinic provides abortions. The Bristol Women's Health Clinic relocated to Virginia after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn an almost 50-year decision that protected a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

The number of abortions administered in Virginia has increased since Roe v. Wade was overturned in June 2022, according to analysis of data from the state health department and the Society of Family Planning.

"It was started because of the need," said the clinic's administrative director Karolina Ogorek. "It wasn't anything other than the fact that a mile and a half down the road the services we provide are illegal."

The majority of the clinic's patients are from out of state. All of the states that touch Virginia have completely banned or restricted abortion except Maryland, which drove travel to the last Southern state where access remains.

Reproductive choice also drove voters to the polls in Virginia and other states. Turnout was high in Virginia at almost 40%, though not as high as the last time in 2019 when all the Virginia General Assembly seats were on the ballot.

Kentucky and Ohio voters also signaled strong support for abortion access. Kentucky re-elected a Democratic governor whose opponent strongly opposed abortion, and Ohio voters supported a referendum to enshrine access in the state's constitution.

Virginia Democrats picked up a slim majority they will have for the next two

years. They delivered on their campaign promise and pre-filed an amendment to the state's constitution on Nov. 20 that would secure reproductive freedom and protection — but it has a long, procedural way to go.

For now, Virginia remains a refuge for women whose choice has been restricted in other states.

The 'hardship' of travel for medical help

Tennessee had a trigger law to ban abortion, meaning they had a law in place to completely ban abortion weeks after Roe was overturned. It slipped through a budget negotiation late at night.

That led to an influx of patients from Southern states. People visit the clinic from as far away as Louisiana, according to Ogorek.

"There is not a single person that ever thinks they are ever going to make this decision, until you have to," Ogorek said.

She wishes more people understood the hardship of such a journey.

"Not just for the women but for their entire family," Ogorek said. "It has such a big effect on more than just one person."

About 55% of women at Ogorek's clinic are at or below the poverty line, she said.

"The decision to terminate a pregnancy is not for everyone and we recognize and we support that," Ogorek said. "Unfortunately, people who are anti-choice will never support a choice."

She said that abortion restrictions are not a good idea because a 12 or 15-week restriction usually turns into an outright ban.

Protesters outside of Ogorek's work are nothing new. The office provides patient escorts and security to help women get into their clinic.

Other help offered

Anti-abortion protesters who gather

almost every day outside of Bristol Women's Health Clinic hope to connect women with other resources.

David Gerrells lives in Tennessee. He considers abortions a murder that goes against God's will. His church hopes to convince women that they are already a parent, and not to go through with the procedure.

"It makes us angry and sad and hurt for the ones that are lost — not just the babies but for the mothers, the fathers," Gerrells said.

His church, Christ Bible Church, and other groups, want to help through various ministries and organizations. They provide money, homes, support and community to women, according to Gerrells.

"We want these people to raise their own children, but we're very big on walking alongside them," Gerrells said. "But, more importantly, they need to understand what it is to walk with Christ."

Orville Fisher has spoken against abortion for about 15 years. He works with the international organization 40 Days for Life. An abortion ban would be positive for Virginia and its citizens, he said.

Fisher recommended the Pathways Pregnancy Resource Center just across the Tennessee border that helps pregnant women.

The resource center was contacted multiple times and multiple ways, but they said they were unable to do an interview until next year.

Enshrining abortion into the state constitution

Del. Rodney Willett, D-Henrico, is "absolutely in favor of choice of" and access to abortion.

"Anecdotally, we also know women are flying into Virginia or driving long distances into the state to get these services," Willett said.

The option for medical services in

Virginia is fortunate, he said, although anything but convenient.

"For a lot of women, it's an absolute hurdle they can't clear because of the expense," Willett said.

They have to pay for transportation, take off time for work, and find someone to travel with them, he said.

Willett voiced concerns about the state losing doctors and women's health care providers if the 15-week restriction proposed by state Republicans went into effect.

"What you're seeing in other states where abortion is heavily restricted or outright banned, a lot of the states are also putting criminal penalties in place for the providers," he said.

Ogorek recalled how health care providers were "cautiously optimistic" before the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case that overturned Roe.

"After Roe fell, we were devastated," Ogorek said. "Clinics closed."

She shut down her Knoxville practice, which she said was "flourishing."

"I think what is sad is that, just we've lost a lot more lately than we won," Ogorek said. "That's the hard part."

Ogorek will keep her eyes on the General Assembly and continue to encourage people to vote.

"If they impose a 15-week ban, I will do whatever I have to do to keep us open for as long as we can stay open," Ogorek said. It's just not a question. Until that very last minute that somebody tells me I have to shut my doors, I won't."

VCU InSight journalist Brigette Kelly contributed to this report.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia. VCU InSight is the capstone broadcast news program.

Virginia's child mental health care shortage 'shocking and unconscionable,' physician says

By Hollyann Purvis/Capital News Service

As a teacher and mother to a child with autism, Elizabeth Callahan is all too familiar with flaws in the Virginia mental health care system.

"I see the longevity of it, and there's just so many holes," Callahan said.

Callahan's son was diagnosed by a developmental pediatrician at the onset of his symptoms, which included speech issues, she said. He went to occupational therapy for years until COVID-19 halted in-person visits.

Her child's therapist quit during the pandemic because "she said she would make more on unemployment," according to Callahan.

Callahan watches her students struggle to be seen by psychiatrists for diagnoses, she said. Though schools provide some resources for students, they cannot provide an official diagnosis.

"I just see it taking forever for families to get appointments," Callahan said. "It takes months."

There is a significant shortage of practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists, or CAPs, across the United States, according to data from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. These physicians specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and behavioral patterns that affect children. They complete medical school and have a three-year residency, according to the academy.

The AACAP data classified states into four groups: States with a sufficient supply of CAPs, a high shortage, a severe shortage, and no CAPs. Virginia is in a severe shortage with just 264 CAPs in the state as of 2019, the most recent data available.

That means on average there are 14 CAPs available per 100,000 children in Virginia, which is also the national average. The academy defines a "mostly sufficient supply" as more than 47 per 100,000 children. Nationwide, few counties meet that standard.

For example, the city of Richmond has 22 CAPs and almost 40,000 children under the age of 18. By the AACAP ranking, the city has 55 CAPs per 100,000 children — considered a sufficient supply.

Of the 133 localities in Virginia, it is one of nine localities that does. Eighty-five counties in the state have no CAP, per the AACAP data.

Children have been unable to receive timely mental health care because of the shortage, according to Callahan.

Virginia ranks No. 37 among states when it comes to accessing mental health services, according to the 2022 Mental Health America state rankings. There are nine measures in the ranking, which include adults and youth who did not receive treatment, could not afford treatment, and mental health workforce availability.

Why are there so few CAPs?



There is a lack of mental health care for children due to a system that is not "structured and designed with young people in mind," and because COVID-19 exacerbated workforce issues, according to Emily Moore, policy analyst with Voices for Virginia's Children.

People enter the field because they want to make change, she said.

"They're realizing that they are up against a system that is not designed to support people the way that they need to be supported," Moore said.

Voices for Virginia's Children is the state's only child and family policy and advocacy organization, according to Moore.

Moore encouraged families on long waitlists to look into nonprofit agencies in Virginia designed with mental health in mind, though they are not substitutes for treatment, according to Moore.

"Until we can truly transform the system rather than just patch it up and put Band-Aids on it, resilience is a part of our work," Moore said.

The state legislature needs to provide adequate funding for children's mental health care, Moore said.

Early mental health intervention should be prioritized and normalized to avoid mental health crises, according to Moore. The crisis system should not be the entry point to the mental health system, Moore said.

What is Virginia doing to fix it?

Mental health-related emergency room visits at the beginning and height of the pandemic went up, while physical-related visits went down, according to Dr. Bela Sood. Emergency room doctors and pediatricians were not prepared for the mental health emergencies they faced, she said.

Sood is lead CAP for the Virginia Mental Health Access Program, or VMAP. Sood oversees the work of all child psychiatrists involved in the program, she said.

VMAP is a statewide initiative that strives to give kids greater mental health access by teaching pediatricians to function like psychiatrists. Pediatricians are taught how to screen, diagnose, manage and treat mental health in children, according to Sood.

"It's amplifying the knowledge that we have as child psychiatrists into the world of general pediatrics," Sood said.

Sood tried to pitch programs like VMAP to the state since 2001, but said the program didn't receive funding until 2018. The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is the umbrella funding agency for programs like VMAP.

Her biggest concern with the shortage is the lack of therapists.

"Even as a practicing child psychiatrist, when I refer for therapy, I have no idea who's going to be treating the child I'm sending them, and what kind of treatment they're going to deliver," Sood said.

Virginia needs to design a platform that can be sustained through collaboration and shared resources, or else child health care will remain fragmented, according to Sood.

"As rich a country as the United States, the manner in which health care delivery is spun out into a place is shocking and unconscionable," Sood said.

Virginia needs to "ramp up" its ability to train therapists and saturate them across the state. This will help with the understaffing issue, according to Sood.

"Child mental health is one of those arenas where people are naturally collaborative," Sood said. "The collaboration really yields very good results."

Mitigating the CAP shortage

The Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, or RBHA, provided behavioral and primary medical services to over 5% of the population of Richmond in 2019, according to its website. The agency states that one-third of its clients cannot pay for vital services.

RBHA serves adults and children. It has attempted to mitigate a CAP shortage through telehealth options, increased caseload for staff and temporary staff hired from temp agencies, according to John Lindstrom, RBHA chief executive officer.

The RBHA has tried to "get pretty creative" with solutions, but cannot meet all the need, he said.

The community health agency has to occasionally "turn off the spigot" if they get overloaded in terms of capacity and certain service areas, Lindstrom said.

"Ideally we should not be running the vacancy rates that we run if we want to offer a robust set of services to anybody that needs them," Lindstrom said.

"That is really our goal."

The child and adolescent behavioral health staffing shortage is part of a nationwide health care staffing shortage, Lindstrom said. There are incredible pressures on the system.

The RBHA is focused on immediate problems they can address, such as hiring incentives, job retention and recruitment efforts.

Funding mental health

Another way to increase mental health access is to increase their services in schools, said Moore, with Voices for Virginia.

"Our young people are asking explicitly for more support in the school system and it really is both a matter of making it happen from a legislative standpoint and putting those laws and budget funding in place," Moore said.

The state budget appropriated \$2.5 million for integrated mental health services in schools during the last fiscal year. The amount was bumped to \$7.5 million this year after lawmakers passed the budget in September.

More than \$12 million was allocated for child psychiatry and children's crisis response services, to be divided throughout the state based on current services already offered. The funds can be used to hire or contract child psychiatrists to provide clinical services, or to train. Mental health advocates have said the budget makes "significant investments" in mental health services across the state.

Despite the recent urgency behind the issue, Virginia still doesn't have an adequate number of school psychologists or licensed professional counselors, Moore said.

"We're very lucky that there is now an urgency behind changing the system and also realizing at the same time that that doesn't mean tomorrow," Moore said. "I hate to have to ask families to be resilient. It's not fair. They shouldn't have to be resilient."

Families should continue to share stories with local leaders and lawmakers to illustrate the urgency behind needed changes, Moore said.

Callahan, who has taught for 15 years, does not know how things got this bad, but is ready for a solution.

"I eat, sleep and breathe this every day," Callahan said. "The year that we're in, how are we not having more resources readily available to families? Why is this taking months and months?"

VCU InSight journalist Daemon Hollinshed contributed to this report.

Video by Daemon Hollinshed/VCU InSight available at www.henrycounty-enterprise.net

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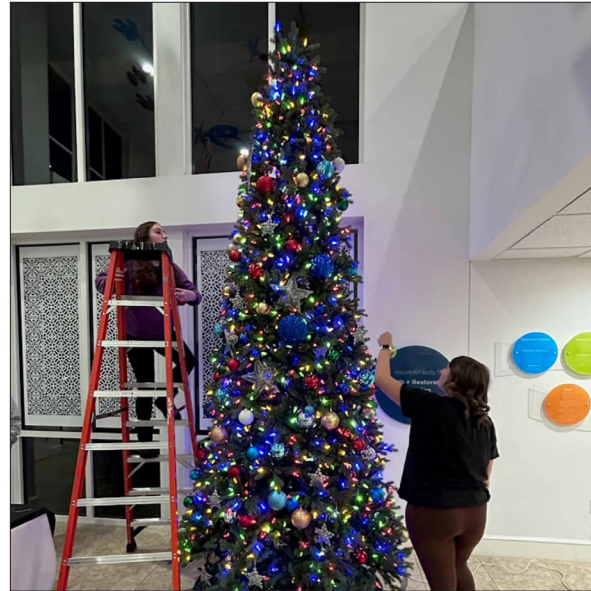
Events, festivities ring in the holiday season at Piedmont Arts



Gael Buck, the Storytelling Santa, chats with the children at the Art Garden during the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.



Students from the Teen Arts Council on standby to provide delicious hot chocolate and cookies to the folks gathered for the Christmas Tree Lighting.



Teen Arts Council volunteers blasted Christmas music while decorating the beautiful tree in the Piedmont Arts lobby.

Piedmont Arts has been bringing festive traditions to the community for years, and 2023 has been no exception.

Starting with Giving Tuesday, then decorating the museum with the Teen Arts Council (TAC), the Christmas Tree Lighting in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden, and culminating in the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Spectacular, Piedmont Arts is part of the Martinsville and Henry County holiday landscape.

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, the agency participated in Giving Tuesday. Touted as a “Global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world,” Piedmont Arts created multiple opportunities to give to both the museum and the community at large.

Monetary donations to the museum were accepted in the lobby. Sidewalk chalk was provided for participants to chalk inspirational messages about creativity and generosity on the sidewalks around the museum and around Martinsville. In addition, Piedmont Arts held a canned food drive for the food pantry at Patrick & Henry Community College.

Spirits were high as visitors came to the museum throughout the day, dropping off food for the food pantry and donating to the museum. The community’s support for Giving Tuesday provided the food pantry with much-needed essentials and raised more than \$5,000 for

Piedmont Arts.

Later that evening, the Teen Arts Council visited and decorated the museum’s Christmas tree and lobby. With decorations donated by Brad Draper of Draper Flowers and Gifts and handcrafted ornaments created by TAC students, the lobby was transformed into a winter wonderland in a matter of hours.

TAC’s mission is to get young people involved in the arts, to give them a safe place to express themselves, and to provide support for TAC members and Piedmont Arts.

TAC is open to students in grades 9 – 12, who attend a school in Martinsville-Henry County. The group meets monthly to build leadership and artistic skills, get behind-the-scenes experience at Piedmont Arts, and connect with other teens. Students who are interested in joining can e-mail Programs Coordinator Lauren Ellis at Lellis@PiedmontArts.org.

On Thursday, Nov. 30, Piedmont Arts turned its holiday spirit outward by inviting the community to the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Gravelly-Lester Arts Garden. With crafts for kids provided by TAC, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies, visits with Santa Claus, and entertainment by the First Baptist Church choir and Martinsville High School Jazz Band, this event was not one to be missed.

The event culminated in the lighting of the tree, designed by Ian Hogg. Just like the sculptures in the Art Garden, the Christmas tree is a work of art using more than



Between songs, Maestro David Stewart Wiley converses with the crowd assembled at MHS for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Spectacular.

3,000 lights. If you missed the initial lighting, the tree brightens the Art Garden nightly through New Year’s Day.

Finally, Piedmont Arts hosted the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra for their beloved Holiday Pops Spectacular! on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Martinsville High School Auditorium. The concert, led by Maestro David Stewart Wiley and with guest vocalist Emme Cannon, is a tradition unlike any other at Piedmont Arts. The orchestra played an epic two-hour concert with holiday classics that ranged from the sacred, to film scores, to joyful sing-

along songs, perfuming for an audience of more than 600 people.

The concert was also another opportunity for the community to give back to the community, with Altrusa setting up a canned food drive in the lobby and the Martinsville High School Jazz Band selling fruit and snacks to benefit the band.

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

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SPECTRUM MEDICAL



Prepare to honor the life, legacy of MLK

By Staff Reports

Although he's retired, the Rev. Tyler Millner intends to ensure the community remembers the life and sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with community events that will continue to inspire, expose and educate.

The King Center theme for the 2024 celebration is "It Starts with Me: Shifting the Cultural Climate Through The Study and Practice of Kingian Nonviolence," according to Millner, who discussed strategies he hopes will serve as a springboard for planning events that will honor King's life and legacy while teaching others about his message.

The MLK holiday is celebrated annually on the third Monday in January. King's birthday is January 15. Activities should encompass both of those dates and beyond, Millner said, adding that he hopes events planned during the celebration will also serve as a catalyst for renewed critical thinking while encouraging the community to be proactive in advancing the "Beloved Community" and "Black History" education.

Millner's reflection about the occasion, titled "Mountain of Despair, A Stone of Hope," includes a sampling of quotes engraved on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in the nation's capital. Among them are "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope" and "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness."

Quotes on the South Wall include "We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that," and "If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional."

"Cradled in the bowls of these quotations can be found sufficient motivation to observe the King Holiday from a moral and enlightenment stance," Millner said. "Knowing the blood, sweat, tears and lives lost leading up to erecting the Memorial should be a compliment to the moral constraint which should motivate us all—'black and white' and all ethnic groups and nationalities."

As a result of what the statute symbolizes and the strengthening of its foundation, Millner noted that because of the struggle

and bruising cost inflicted on many—celebrating the holiday can be an action of gratitude and appreciation.

He added the quotes also "motivate us to want to celebrate the holiday and not only by black people. All of humanity benefited from Dr. King's efforts and others who rallied to the cause back in the day.

"Observing the holiday can be a wonderful way to show our gratitude and appreciation," Millner said. "In speaking of motivation, how powerful it would be if we—persons, groups, colleges, and churches—could be 'A stone of Hope,'" Millner said.

There are five critical standards to being 'A stone of hope,' Millner said, adding that the first is "to resist pasteurizing the darkness and ugliness of our American History."

Two is to be "clear and perceptive of the present-day lies, misinformation, distortions and threat to our democratic principles and ideas; coupled with the fraud so-called leaders parade before us daily as if they are the current news of today that we desire to hear about," Millner said.

The third standard is the "values and moral constraints must be clear and central. There is no room for killing another human being, no one class of persons any better than another, and women are equal. There is no room in the Beloved Community for such inhumanity to humanity," he said.

The fourth is that "we all have both a right and responsibility to be actively engaged in assisting in the work required to usher in the Beloved Community. Love is the foundation," Millner said, adding that last is that "people of faith and African Americans should be a special burden if there is to be 'a Stone of Hope.' The words found in the Negro Anthem says it all. '...less our hearts drunk with the wine of world, forget Thee. True to our God, true to our native land,'" Millner said, and encouraged all to celebrate King's accomplishments.

"Let's be a stone of hope," said Millner, who also is co-founder of Community Learning Week and served as director for more than 20 years. A former executive vice president of Virginia Union University, Millner also served as a business and education consultant. He is the recently retired pastor of Morning Star Holy Church in Martinsville.



The open house is free to the public.

Open House for Victorian Christmas to be held Dec. 10

The Reynolds Homestead Victorian Christmas Open House is on Sunday, December 10, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Join the docents in Critz for a historic home tour, take in the period-accurate decor, visit with staff and volunteers

while enjoying light refreshments and music by our Christmas Quartet featuring Mary Jo & Charlie Leet, Ron Pendleton and Tommy Morse, and take home your very own handcrafted Victorian Christmas ornament.

SPCA discounts most adoption fees in Empty Shelters event

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA is joining organizations across the country to participate in Bissell Pet Foundation's Empty the Shelters Holiday Hope reduced-fee event, December 1-17.

Adoption fees for cats will be \$10

per adoption and adult dogs (10lbs. and over) will be \$50.

Adoption fees for puppies less than 4 months old are excluded.

The SPCA is located at 132 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA, or call (276) 638-PAWS (7297).

Roberts named to board

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced additional key administration and board appointments last week.

Cathy Roberts, Quality Assurance Manager, Capewell Aerial Systems in Meadows of Dan, was among those appointed to the A. L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership,

Board of Trustees, along with Tracy Fitzsimmons, PhD, of Winchester, President, Shenandoah University; John Gaskins of Charlottesville, CEO, Laser Thermal and Dr. Quentin R. Johnson of South Hill, President, Southside Virginia Community College.

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

KING HOLIDAY Monday, January 15

Celebrating King Holiday Black History 2024 Community Checklist



by Tyler C. Millner, Pastor, Community Education & Photojournalist



1. More Than Reciting "The Dream"

—It is important to see Dr. King as a towering symbol of complex action, hopes and dreams.

—He was truly multi-dimensional in both character and work.



2. Don't Pasteurize the Image

—Resist the temptation to reduce Dr. King to acceptable non-critical thoughts which makes no real demand of us.

—We are benefactors of the legacy of Dr. King—black and white.



3. The Dream

—Dr. King was more than a dreamer.

—He was a doer...risk taker, daring to follow the moral constraints of his convictions.



4. Appreciate the "Rightness of Fighting for Justice"

—In order for a community to seize the moment to honor Dr. King in a manner that will transform

—Appreciation and homage must be paid to the "rightness" of the struggle and fight for justice.



5. Recognizing the Collective Symbolism of Dr. King

—If our celebrating is to have a transforming quality

—There must be a wholesome and authentic expression of appreciation of the vast contributions of citizens of African descent to making America what it is.



6. Black Church as a Vehicle of Social Change

—The black church is unique in its power as a vehicle of social change and liberation.

—We must take the church to the marketplace and call the nation to faithfulness to her creed.



7. Interracial & Interfaith

—"The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich."



8. National Holiday Observance for All

It is important that the holiday honoring Dr. King be taken up with a passion... however, it should not be thought of as a black holiday.



9. Corporate Score Card

—The King holiday is an appropriate time for corporate America to account for its stewardship when it comes to the fight for racial and social justice...as well as economic empowerment for the many.



10. Faith and Africa

—Celebrating the King holiday should include a fresh reminder of our heritage "less in our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee..." Yes: Commit to be "true to our God...true to our Native Land."

Goal—is threefold—to expose/educate, inspire, and be a catalyst for renewed critical thinking, while encouraging the community to be proactive in advancing the "Beloved Community" and "Black History" education.

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