



President of the South Hill Bread Box Dana Debaets thanks Brianne Latimore for raising \$1,700 in the effort to fight hunger.

## HOMELESS: 'I want everyone to have a home for Christmas'

FROM PAGE ONE

mark on fighting hunger by donating funds to the South Hill Bread Box to help feed the homeless in Southside Virginia.

Latimore-Harper said that her daughter came up with the idea of donating a drawing for each donation made and giving the funds she raised to the Bread Box; also, each box contained one of her drawings.

Through Facebook,

flyers and word of mouth advertising the business Bri's Picture Stand was born.

Brianne had a goal of raising \$700, but instead, she raised \$1,700.

Latimore's grandmother, Patricia Harper-Tunley of Lunenburg, said she is humbled and grateful for the efforts and the compassion of her granddaughter to help others.

"Brianne's concern for others at such a young

age is not only refreshing and also is attributed to her parents for raising such a wonderful young lady," Harper-Tunley said.

"I look forward to seeing what she will do as she gets older and makes her mark on the world."

Throughout all of her fundraising efforts and even when her parents asked her what she wanted for Christmas, Brianne said, "I want everyone to have a home for Christmas."

## ANTS: VDACS working with landowners

FROM PAGE ONE

being born near mounds," Fimon said.

The red imported fire ants live in mounds; the mound is usually noticed prior to seeing the ant itself. The mound appearance is typically large and dome shaped. The average size of a mound is 10 to 24 inches in diameter and 6 to 18 inches in height. However, mounds may be larger in clay soils, reaching 2 to 3 feet in height. The ants will feed on any plant or animal material, dead or alive.

Because these ants are becoming such a problem, the VDACS is working with landowners to assist with mound treatment to help curtail the spread.

According to the VDACS, fire ant mounds are typically found in warm, sunny locations such as landscape beds,

lawns, trees and shrubs, along sidewalk cracks and against buildings. If disturbed, these ants are generally aggressive and can inflict painful stings.

In 1989, the first fire ant infestation was detected in the commonwealth. To date, all fire ant infestations appear to have been introduced into Virginia on nursery stock or other plant products from infest-

ed areas or by natural spread from nearby infested areas.

If you believe you have located a red imported fire ant mound, contact VDACS at (434) 808-2090. VDACS will determine if the mound is fire ants and will treat the mound for free. Please do not disturb the mound as this will cause the ants to move and make a new mound.

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## UPGRADES: West facility could be closed

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The town contracted with B & B Consultants to complete a preliminary engineering report on the town's wastewater treatment facilities and the options available for the town. During this study it was identified that the town has a significant issue with rainwater getting into the sewer system.

According to Newton, as part of the consent order the town was given time to study the inflow and infiltration issue in the infrastructure that feeds into the west treatment facility by conducting smoke testing.

"Smoke testing is the process of using a fan and non-toxic smoke to find openings in a sewer system," Newton said. "And the majority of the smoke testing has been completed on the west part of the town's infrastructure."

Newton said many minor issues were found.

Currently plans are to rebuild 300 plus feet of sewer line on W. 7th Street between Mecklenburg Avenue and Tidewater Avenue beginning the middle of January, weather permitting, with another 300 plus feet of sewer line is planned to be replaced on Lunenburg Avenue between W. 8th Street and W. 9th Street.

Newton said all of the work is planned to be completed by town forces with the assistance of contractors if needed.

"Both of these projects will also include the replacement of some older manhole structures," he said. "Once these repairs are made, further monitoring will continue to identify any other large sources of water entering the system."

Starting in 2021 Newton said the inflow at the West and East

treatment facilities will be monitored to verify reductions in storm water in the sewer system.

"Once it has been determined that the rainwater in the system has been decreased, the town will look at the options of closing the West facility and pumping that waste to the East facility for treatment or to make upgrades to the West facility," Newton said.

Newton has said the East facility does have the capacity to handle the town's entire wastewater treatment needs.

According to the minutes of Victoria's August 11 Town Council meeting, the cost will be between \$3.1 million and \$3.5 million. Newton is working to get grants to help offset the cost of the project.

One grant has been finalized with the federal government.

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filled with gratitude and joy  
for all the blessings we've  
been so fortunate to receive.  
Family, friends, neighbors  
and customers like you  
remind us of what's  
important at Christmastime  
and all year: kindness,  
goodwill, faith, trust and  
generosity. Thank you for  
lighting up our year with  
your visits. With gratitude in  
our hearts, we wish each and  
every one of you a magical,  
merry Christmas and a  
New Year that brings  
all the best to you and yours.

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