

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY FOR 130 YEARS

Friday, April 3, 2020 • MARTINSVILLEBULLETIN.COM • Martinsville, Virginia \$1.50

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

HCPS: Every day changes

By Kim Barto Meeks
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Henry County teachers are using creative ways to reach students as they adjust to new ways of working during the extended school closures, district leaders said.

"We continue to do what we do, but we continue to do it differently," said schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer in an update to the Henry County

School Board on Thursday. "We have asked every teacher to find a means of communicating with every student. I am so proud of our team and what they've been doing instructionally."

Much of the monthly board meeting focused on how the school system is preparing for the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations, from the possibility of summer school to potential budget changes.

The meeting setup reflected social

distancing precautions by limiting the number of people in the room and seating board members and staff farther apart. School staff who had a part on the agenda rotated in and out when it was their turn to give a presentation.

In her instructional update, Strayer described how teachers are using tools like video chats and virtual field trips with students while school buildings are closed. The district's commitment to technology has helped ease the

transition to remote learning, she said. All students in grades 3 through 11 already had school-issued devices to use at home through the 1:1 iPad initiative, and "we've sent devices home with 12th-graders," she said.

Students who do not have internet access at home can take advantage of free wi-fi hotspots, such as the parking lots of certain schools and the Henry County

SEE **SCHOOLS** | A5

There is sanitizer but does it work?

During a public health emergency expiration dates on sanitizer don't seem to matter to customers at Martinsville store.

By Bill Wyatt
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There is no shortage of hand sanitizer in Martinsville.

Manufacturers Liquidation Center at the Patrick Henry Mall is selling bottles by the six-pack for \$9, and they are flying off the shelves. There is only one problem — the stock appears to have an expiration date of May 2013.

"I don't know nothing about it," owner Lonnie Tatum said. "It looks okay to me."

Tatum said he thought he may have gotten some of the expired product from

SEE **SANITIZER** | A6



BILL WYATT/MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

Lonnie Tatum at MLC is selling "emergency packs" complete with toilet paper, expired hand sanitizer, and wipes.

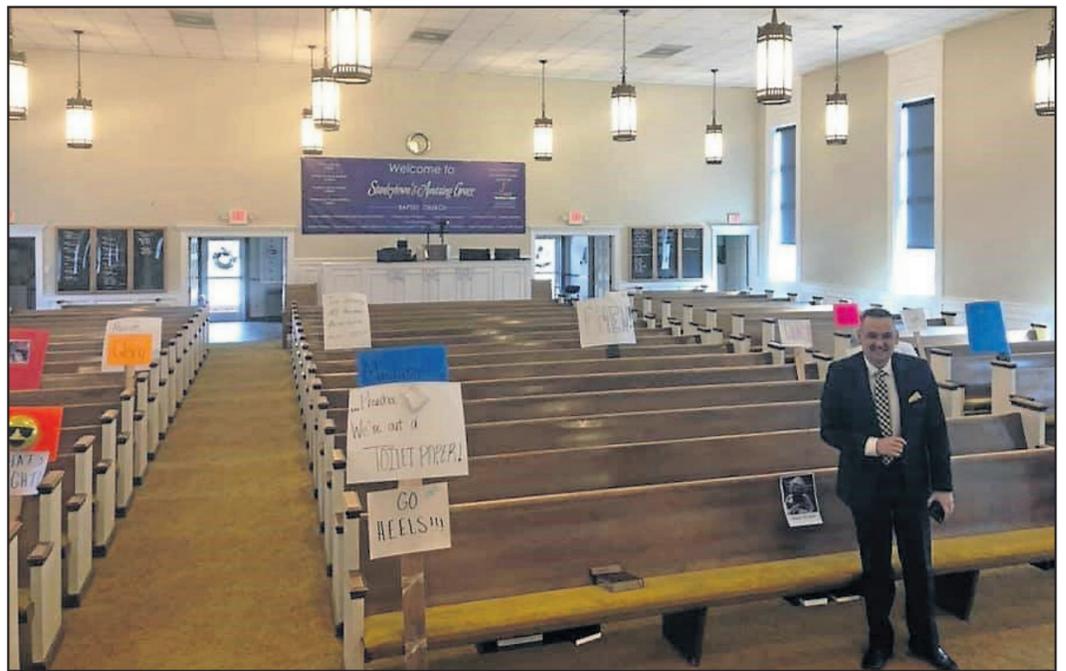


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pastor Greg Hodges is conducting the services of Stanleystown Amazing Grace Baptist Church over Facebook Live.

The Lord's work in mysterious ways

Churches try to plan their services even as the rules make it more difficult. So they pray in their cars, over social media and even using the Zoom platform. And they aren't giving up the holy ghost.

By Holly Kozelsky
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Churches around the area are praying and pouring over the governor's latest proclamation on limitations against public gathering to figure out how they can continue to hold the alternative worship services many have implemented in recent weeks.

Executive Order 55, issued on Monday by Gov. Ralph Northam, requires people to stay at home except for certain permitted destinations, including work, medical offices, grocery stores and places of worship. However, no more than 10 people can be together at a time, inside or outside.

Some area churches had adapted to earlier restrictions through holding "drive-in" services, in which

MORE ON COVID-19

Law enforcement won't be stopping you to check what you are doing. **A3**

Virginia Corrections Department eyeing vacant prison to house COVID-19 inmates. **A6**

World case count passes 100,000 and more measures in place. **A8**

For the latest updates on canceled events, visit www.martinsvillebulletin.com.

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WEATHER

Plan on a beautiful day with plenty of sun.

69 HIGH 36 LOW

For detailed weather information, see Page A2

Henry County employment claims spike.

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INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW

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"Barry was the smiling face that our members could count on each and every day."
Marisa Womack, Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge



Positions are available with employers in Patrick and Henry Counties.

Visit www.newcollegeinstitute.org/internships to find a position that matches the educational experience you need.

Most positions are paid but not all, so don't delay.

CONTACT: Ryan Orton
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STEM-H OPPORTUNITIES

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MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

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Wednesday, July 22, 2020 • MARTINSVILLEBULLETIN.COM • Martinsville, Virginia \$1.50

Patrick to test drive hybrid



Piedmont Community Services Mental Health Case Manager Andre Kidd tells the Patrick County School Board that returning to school under COVID-19 health measures “five days a week is asking too much for kids who live with mental illness. They don’t understand.”

The Patrick County School Board voted during a special meeting to start the year with their announced model but review it after a month.

By Holly Kozelsky
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During a 3-hour meeting peppered with comments from the audience, the Patrick County Schools board on Tuesday voted to give their AABB hybrid attendance plan for reopening schools a month before reconsidering.

Shannon Harrell, Amy Walker, Walter Scott and Ryan Lawson voted to go through with the board’s stated model — students would attend school two days a week and learn remotely the other three days — up through the Thursday after Labor Day.

On Sept. 10, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the board will analyze how the school



“This is a moving target that we as a school system are trying to do the best we can to get our students in in a safe manner.”

— Dean Gilbert, Patrick County superintendent

year has gone so far in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. If everything has gone well, they



Stuart Elementary School Vice Principal Michelle Adams (left) and Principal Sandra Clement return to their seats after telling the Patrick County School Board that teachers are afraid to return to crowded schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEE HYBRID | A6

Henry County’s COVID-19 cases pass 400 milestone

Martinsville and Henry County continue to see high rates of cases and a spike in hospitalizations.

Staff report

More than 400 residents of Henry County now have been infected by the novel coronavirus, with more than 1 out of every 10 requiring hospitalization.

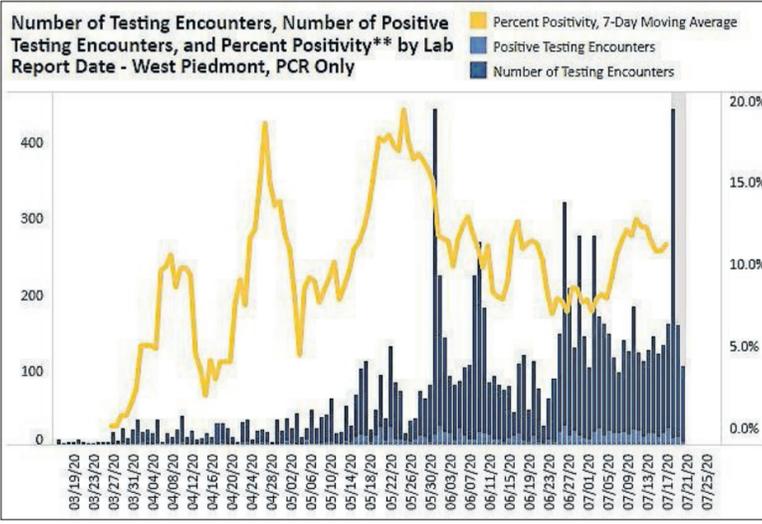
These latest figures, released Tuesday morning by the Virginia Department of Health, showed 410 cases in Henry Coun-

ty after 17 new cases in the county, dating back to Friday, were announced by the West Piedmont Health District.

The district, which recently stopped offering daily updates and demographics of those infected, now also has reduced the days from the weekend when it counts/reports cases.

Spokesperson Nancy Bell said that’s a “matter of capacity. [Department staff] no longer open new cases on weekends because case management is so cumbersome.”

She provided the list of 36 confirmed



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SEE 400 | A6 Here is the pattern of testing for COVID-19 in the West Piedmont Health District.

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny, humid, with a chance of thunderstorms in the evening.
For detailed weather information, see Page A2

91 HIGH | 68 LOW



How reliable is drive-up virus testing?
Page A3



Look for this special feature in the Friday, July 24th Martinsville Bulletin as we focus on ways to enjoy our beautiful state as we vacation at or near home. Articles will be centric to areas in southern and central Virginia and available outdoor activities.

EDITORIAL:
LET'S KEEP
KILLER
DOGS OUT
OF YARDS
» LOCAL



NASCAR:
TRACKS
LIKE MARTINSVILLE
GETTING A NEW
LOOK — EMPTY
» SPORTS

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

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Sunday, May 3, 2020 • MARTINSVILLEBULLETIN.COM • Martinsville, Virginia \$2

Priest aims canon at bishop

The ongoing dispute between Father Mark White of Martinsville and Bishop of Richmond Barry Knestout will be decided by a Catholic court.

By Bill Wyatt
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The boiling dispute between a Martinsville priest and a Richmond bishop could wind up spilling over the doorstep of the Vatican in Rome. That is the intention of Michael Podhajsky, the canon lawyer retained by Father Mark White to defend against the efforts of Richmond Bishop Barry Knestout to re-

move White as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsville and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Rocky Mount. Knestout issued a decree effective April 13, the day after Easter Sunday, removing White and declaring the priest had "persistently disregarded" repeated instructions "to desist from his scurrilous and public, published attacks on His

SEE **CANON** | A7



Richmond Bishop Barry Knestout appears unexpectedly at Rocky Mount parish and celebrates Mass with Father Mark White live online where he talks about an "old wound."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The parents are schooled at home



Students staying at home has left some parents in Martinsville and Henry County learning how to be homeschool teachers.

By Holly Kozelsky | holly.kozelsky@martinsvillebulletin.com

Our COVID-closed schools have shifted learning from the classroom to the bedroom — or the kitchen or dining room or family room. The 3,900 students in Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties were unleashed with guidance and connectivity to complete their schools year at home, which is not something anyone expected and few were prepared to address. Many parents these days report challenges in guiding their kids' learning from home, but some of them experienced in homeschooling say it's not as hard as it seems.

Until now homeschooling has been an optional learning process — some states making it easier for families — that has served 1.77 million students nationwide, based on estimates by the U.S. Department of Education. In Virginia, that number is estimated at about 43,500. In 2016 the Virginia Department of Education said there were a couple of hundred in local school divisions. Each family that chose that option had curriculum and schedule that fit those students' needs. Now parents are learning how best to schedule helping their children, which

has to fit around the adults' work schedules, too. One parent, Latisha Wray, even built a classroom for her family of six children. And she, like many parents, has become a student of the process. The school divisions provided guidance and the requirements. Students received packets of work from their teachers to complete at home. They meet virtually with their classes over internet video-meeting services such as Zoom. They also work with programs and lessons on school iPads and devices.

SEE **SCHOOL** | A8

MORE ON THE VIRUS

» A new hospitalization of COVID-19 case in Martinsville. **A3**

» For a full list cancellations and closings visit www.martinsvillebulletin.com.



Above: Brothers (from left) Jaxon, Mason and Rowan Calloway do their schoolwork around the dining room table. Right: Brothers (from left) Aiden, Jaxon, Rowan and Mason set up school one day in a fort. Their mother, Whitney Calloway, starts their lessons with the materials sent by their teachers, and adds other projects to them.

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WEATHER

84 HIGH | 55 LOW
Mostly sunny, mild with some clouds tonight.
For detailed weather information, see Page A2

Sovah-Martinsville treating one of two cases in city as case count continues to rise.
Page A3



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