



SPORTS:
Hawkins retires as Liberty wrestling coach; cashless ticketing. **Pages 17-19, 22**

Warrenton Town Council passes budget after false starts

June 16 vote means employees will receive paychecks on time

By Colleen LaMay
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

After weeks of unproductive debates and one failed vote, the Warrenton Town Council voted 5-1 last week to pass a budget for fiscal year 2023, which begins July 1. Council members had barely two weeks to spare before the police and other essential town workers would have been expected to report to work without pay.

See **BUDGET**, page 6



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL
Warrenton Town Councilman Renard Carlos changed his vote on the 2023 budget from "no" to "yes."

Brandie Schaeffer is stepping down — on her own terms

Warrenton's town manager has served in role since 2018

By Coy Ferrell
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

After nearly four years at the helm of Warrenton's government, Town Manager Brandie Schaeffer has announced that she will step down next month. "I think that Warrenton needs to tackle the next challenges in front of it, and I need

See **SCHAEFFER**, page 14



Juneteenth on Main Street

Lillie Williams and the Chihamba Dance Troupe celebrated Juneteenth in Old Town Warrenton this weekend along with hundreds of visitors. See **page 4**.

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

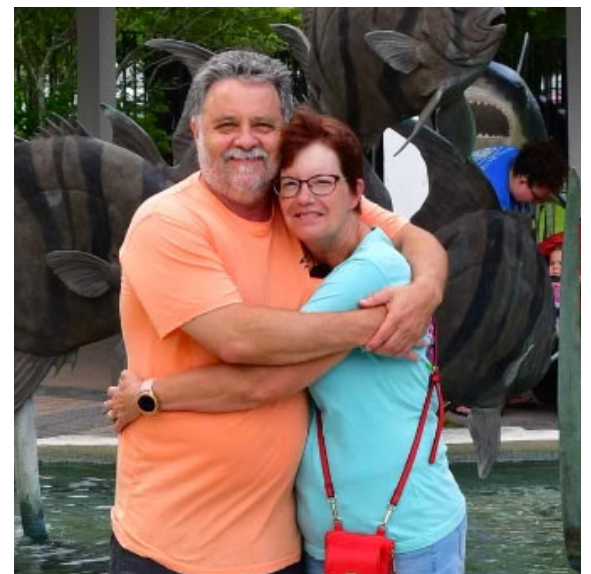
County will pay family \$5 million to settle claim in deputy-involved fatal crash

Special prosecutor appointed, but no charges yet for former deputy Brock Smith

By Coy Ferrell
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

The family of Mary and Brian Dangerfield has reached a \$5 million settlement with the county after the couple was killed in a Feb. 25 crash involving now-former Fauquier County Sheriff's Deputy Brock Smith. Smith was driving his police cruiser at 100 mph northbound on U.S. 17 near Goldvein with no emergency lights activated when he struck the Dangerfields' vehicle as the couple was pulling out of their neighborhood, according to Virginia State Police investigative documents. The speed limit on that stretch of U.S. 17 is 55 mph.

See **CRASH**, page 9



Mary and Brian Dangerfield were killed Feb. 25 after a police cruiser driven by a Fauquier County Sheriff's Office deputy struck their vehicle.

What time is it? It's Half Past Moon in Marshall. See **page 2**.



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Hundreds attend 2nd annual Juneteenth Festival on Saturday

Event on Warrenton's Main Street 'nothing but good vibes'

By Abby Zimmardi

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

Warm hugs and shared laughter overflowed from Main Street on Saturday as friends and families gathered for the second annual Fauquier County Juneteenth Festival. The festival had a reunion-like feel and featured more than 60 vendors. An activity-packed agenda attracted hundreds of people from Fauquier County and surrounding areas to celebrate.

A stage at Fifth Street featured the Chihamba African Dance Troupe, whose colorful caftans rippled to the sounds of African drum music.

At Courthouse Square, two hair braiders competed. Stylists worked for a couple of hours on volunteers while they were judged on their technique.

Barrie Newman, one of the founders of the Fauquier County Juneteenth Festival, said that he hoped people would leave the festival with a greater understanding of Black history in America and in the county, and he also wanted the event to serve as a safe space for the community.

"It [the festival] was great," Newman said. "Well-received, well-loved, nothing but good vibes and good feedback from what was going on."

Newman said that estimates placed attendance at about 1,500, higher than last year's inaugural celebration at Eva Walker Park. The mayors of Warrenton and Manassas, town council members and residents were enthusiastic, Newman said.

Juneteenth celebrates the long-sought freedom of enslaved people in the United States. President Joe Biden signed a bill last year that made it an official federal holiday; it was declared a state holiday in Virginia in 2020. June 19, 1865, marks the day that the news of Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached enslaved people in Texas.

Iris Massey, a Prince William County resident, attended the festival with her husband and two children, both of whom were eating popcorn – their favorite food vendor of the day. Massey wanted her children to learn about their enslaved ancestors' rich culture.

"I just hope that by coming here, I can share this with other people, and year after year, more and more people will come, and we'll all be able to celebrate and enjoy it together," Massey said.

There were 68 vendors in total, and they lined both sides of Main Street, selling cotton candy, soaps, books, clothing or bags. Local organizations such as the Fauquier County Democratic Party took the opportunity to reach out to attendees as well.

One of the vendors was Cynthia's African Jewels, where Cynthia and



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL
Amadi, 3, of Warrenton, wears a shirt honoring African American trailblazers.

John Leslie were selling earrings from Kenya. They displayed vibrant beaded earrings and earrings in the shape of Africa.

"We would like for people to see how creative African people and people of African descent are, and I think it's a great way to celebrate today, by really showing the artistry and allowing people to get a little taste of Africa," Cynthia Leslie said.

Nan Butler Roberts, one of the day's emcees, said that Warrenton "really showed up and showed out" for the festival: "I think it's just a day of unity, and a day of celebration, and a day that we can really all come together and be on the same page about something. There are so many things that are divisive in the country right now, and so I hope that this will give people an opportunity to come together and have something that's joyful, and something that can unify people as well."

Fauquier County NAACP, the American Historical Association, View Tree Masonic Lodge #142 and I.A.B. organized the event.

Reach Abby Zimmardi at azimmardi@fauquier.com



People react during Drew Tapscott's performance during the rap and spoken word contest.



Marvel's Black Panther makes an appearance.



Sheila Webster participates in the hair-braiding contest.



Jonathan, 4, of Fairfax, plays cornhole outside Studio Luxe Boutique.



Jackie Oduro (right), a Bealeton-based clothing designer, chats with customers at the Boutiqueafriques booth.