

# Dental care is provided 120+

The Virginia Dental Association (VDAF) and the Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center, in conjunction with members of the dental residency program at Johnston Memorial Hospital (JMH), provided free dental extractions to 122 patients during the latest Abingdon Mini-MOM (Mission of Mercy) event, held March 24-26.

Through a partnership with Dr. Michael McCracken, Dr. Scott Miller and Mission Dental Virginia, the Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center provides a variety of services, including preventive and restorative care. Dental care is typically offered to the uninsured on a sliding scale, targeting low-income community members in need throughout Southwest Virginia. However, all care provided at the Mini-MOM event was free to patients.

The VDAF provides free dental care through various direct service programs, including the Mission of Mercy (MOM) mobile dental projects, Donated Dental Services (DDS), and Give Kids a Smile!. The MOM program was created in 2000 by Dr. Terry Dickinson, former executive director of the Virginia Dental Association. Since its inception, the program has provided \$48.3 million worth of free dental care to more than 69,000 Virginia patients. The VDAF's participation in the Mini-MOM clinics is supported by the Virginia Dept. of Health, Gwathmey Memorial Trust, Dominion Energy Charitable

Foundation, DentaQuest, Delta Dental of Virginia, and the Oral Health Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Over the two and a half-day event, 122 Southwest Virginia patients received a total of 526 free dental extractions, exams and oral cancer screenings. Several alveoplasties were also performed. The total value of care provided by dental residents, as well as volunteer dentists, was \$120,182. Numbered dentists assisted in the project, including dentists, dental residents and dental students, dental hygienists and dental hygiene students, dental assistants and dental assisting students, and general volunteers.

"The VDAF is very grateful for the collaboration of all our generous partners," said Tara Quinn, executive director of the Virginia Dental Association Foundation. "This and future mini-MOM events will help to reduce health disparities by providing needed dental care while also helping to create a pipeline for future dentists to practice in Southwest Virginia."

"This event would not have been as successful if not for a collaborative effort between our residency, local dentists, WCC dental hygiene students, and MECC dental assistant students. We also appreciate the support of the folks at the Virginia Health Care Foundation, United Healthcare, JMH and especially the VDAF for all they do for our local communities," Miller.

## Special Ed Advisory group to meet

A Special Education Advisory Council meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, in the conference room of the Smyth County School Board, 121 Bagley Circle, Suite 300, Marion.

The function of the advisory council is to:

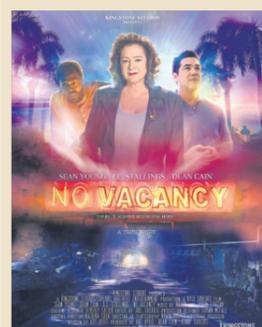
- Advise the local school division of needs or concerns in the education of children with disabilities;
- Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;
- Submit recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division

superintendent for transmission to the local school board;

- Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
- Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
- Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan.

Time will be set aside during the meeting to hear and discuss public comments.

SC School System



### Want to see it?

No Vacancy will be released to more than 800 theaters nationwide on May 9, including Legacy Theaters in Bristol, Va. Tickets are available now via <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/No-Vacancy>.



In this movie scene, reporter Brandi Michaels interviews the Lake County school board.

## Actor

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Finally, in 2019, Fisher's career reached the point where he was acting full-time.

His growing success coincided with a move back to Virginia to the small community of Hot Springs, where he and his wife, a classical pianist, live.

With technology, Fisher said, he can live in Hot Springs, tape an audition and submit it. If that's successful, he'll do a callback by Zoom.

"Technology has opened up a lot of avenues," Fisher said.

The work can be 24/7, he explained. On a recent Monday night, he was sitting at home watching football, when he learned he'd been picked for a commercial for Ohio's lottery. He had to be in Ohio the following day.

"It's a lifestyle," Fisher said.

His persistence and commitment to that lifestyle have paid off. This year, his acting will be on display in four releases.

### No Vacancy

Fisher is particularly excited about No Vacancy, a Christian film that will be released to more than 800 movie theaters on May 9.

As a man of faith, Fisher said that he gives priority to Christian films. "It's absolutely important to me," he said.

A Kingstone Studios/

Saylors Bros. production, No Vacancy is based on a true story. The movie tells that story through the eyes of "a jaded reporter... demoted to a rural news station.... Her cynicism is slowly transformed when she befriends a recovering addict as she works a news story about a church struggling to purchase a motel for homeless families."

No Vacancy stars Sean Young (Blade Runner, Dune), Dean Cain (Superman, God's Not Dead) and T.C. Stallings (War Room, Courageous).

The movie was filmed last September in Leesburg, Florida, which is the home of First Baptist Leesburg, a church that has been the subject of multiple documentaries and is celebrated for its model for community impact.

First Baptist Leesburg made the decision to help the needy in its community rather than build a new church. In 2008, the church worked to convert a motel into shelter. Today, The Samaritan Inn is reported to stay full every night.

Fisher said that No Vacancy offers a great story and message of hope. He plays the assistant city manager. While his character is discouraging to the pastor, Fisher is happy to say he's not the bad guy.

No Vacancy will be shown at Legacy Theaters in Bristol, Va. Tickets are available now via <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/No-Vacancy>.

### Other 2022 Releases



Pastor Cliff speaks out despite a hostile crowd at a city commission meeting in this movie scene.

Also, this year, Fisher appears in The Road to Galena, a movie that presents the story of "one man's quiet desperation giving way to fulfillment; a story that motivates us to travel our own roads toward a more meaningful life."

Fisher plays Brian Carlin, who starts out as the main character's mentor and then is supervised by the man. A release date for this production is still to be determined.

Also to be released this year is the TV show "Empires of Excess," which will appear on the History Channel. Fisher takes on the role of Mr. Strousse.

Pan American: Vol. I, which is still in post-production, is expected to be released this year. A film summary says, "Clandestine efforts within the so-called intelligence community precipitate the third World War."

### For Aspiring Actors

For anyone who is con-

sidering a career as an actor, Fisher said, "Go for what you want.... Live your dream for sure."

However, he cautioned that they should go into the work prepared. Fisher noted that he had to let a couple opportunities go by because he wasn't ready for them. "Make sure you're prepared," he advised.

After more than 20 years, the 46-year-old Fisher said, "I'm still pursuing my dream.... I'm still working to get to the next level."

His goal is to win a reoccurring TV show role.

### Hometown Fan

Fisher hopes to return to Marion this summer, especially to visit his mom, Sally Campbell Repass, who he talks to every night. Fisher also has four siblings.

Though he's lived on the West Coast and in big cities, he declared with ease, "I love Marion and Smyth County."

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