



## DOGS ON DUTY

*Roanoke retrievers are changing lives.*

**B**Y THE TIME JAKE JONES WAS 11 YEARS old, he had spoken very little and had seizures daily. Then Bodie moved in, and life for the boy with cerebral palsy changed. He began to speak more than he ever had, making such progress that he no longer needed speech therapy. Even the daily seizures stopped. It seemed miraculous. Bodie, a golden retriever, had been trained by Saint Francis Service Dogs of Roanoke.

Bodie recently retired, and Jake, now 18, is working with another dog from the nonprofit that raises and trains service dogs to assist

abilities and temperament in residential, retail and public spaces, and training them in special services. The professional training program costs up to \$25,000 for each dog, but through fundraising and community support, service dogs are free of charge to qualified individuals in need of assistance. Dogs that aren't in permanent placements are taken on visits to schools, as well as health care and rehabilitation facilities.

Old adages wouldn't be old adages if there weren't some truth to them. Jake Jones certainly would agree. Dogs really can be man's best friend. *SaintFrancisDogs.org* —By Ann Yungmeyer

children and adults with disabilities, including veterans with combat-related injuries and issues. Carol Willoughby, co-founder of the organization, says Bodie's is one of the organization's most inspiring stories.

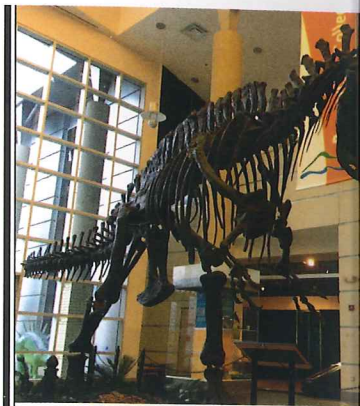
Established in 1996 and accredited by Assistance Dogs International, Saint Francis places 10 to 15 canine companions per year with those needing assistance in communities within a three-hour drive of Roanoke. The dogs perform simple tasks like retrieving the phone and opening doors. And dogs like Bodie are trained in seizure alert. Equally important are the security and companionship that they provide.

Training and outreach programs involve more than 400 volunteers a year. And the good will goes two ways in some cases. In addition to community volunteers,

the organization involves prison inmates early in the dogs' two-year training regimen, which starts when they are eight weeks old, teaching them basic obedience and socialization. Expert trainers then take over, testing their

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## MONSTER ON THE MOVE

### *Dinosaurs on display in Martinsville*

**DINOSAURS HAVE ARRIVED** in South But that's good news for *homo sapiens* to make the *Tyrannosaurus*-sized dinosaur the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Thanks to the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, folks can get their fix closer to home at two dinosaur exhibits through August 25.

Visitors to the museum often say "I want more dinosaur displays," says marketing and PR manager for the museum delivered. The exhibits came in part thanks to loans from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

"Dinosaurs" features life-size skeletons of the 40-foot-long *Acrocanthosaurus* and a 12-foot-long meat-eater *Deinonychus*. "Dinosaur Discovery" houses the real dinosaur fossils, including a *Stegosaurus* shoulder blade and Diplodocid thigh bones. The interactive "Dinosaur Discovery" also includes a walk-through exhibit loaded with fossils, murals and costumes.

Admission for adults is \$5, \$3 for ages 3-18, and \$4 for students over age 18. And the animatronic *Triceratops* "Dinosaur Discovery" past exhibit, is back and ready to delight fans. *VMNH.net* —By Jennifer Johnson

## MAKING WAVES Surf park soon to set up shop in Hanover.

**IF YOU BUILD IT**, they will surf. At least that's what Walter Bennett has planned with Point Break Surf Park in Hanover County. "I've been a surf rat since I could walk," says the 43-year-old, who lives in Hanover but is originally from the considerably less landlocked town of

Windsor (and has a surf fable barrel shapes in the water) along the way. The pool will feature eight takeoff points which, according to Bennett's calculations, means 160 people can each catch 12 waves per hour. The smaller, 75-meter long pool will be more first-timer-friendly, with instructors on hand to

