

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, January 9, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Dr. Barry Dorsey

Dorsey was exactly what community needed

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Dr. Barry Dorsey wasn't a native of Martinsville-Henry County, but as the saying goes, he got here as soon as he could. Dorsey, who was the founding executive director of the New College Institute (NCI), died Jan. 4. He was 78. Dr. Leanna Blevins, also a former executive director, was

the first employee at NCI, and began there in 2004. Dorsey started in his position in January 2006. "He and I worked, just the two of us for a while, and he was always really goal oriented," Blevins said. "He very much believed in what we were doing to establish this new college. Every day, he made sure

See Dorsey, page 7

Local residents among thousands to attend mid-week protest

President Donald Trump supporters held a protest Wednesday, forcing Congress to pause a ceremonial event affirming President-elect Joe Biden's November election win. An altercation occurred between protestors and U.S. Capitol police after some breached a barricade and entered the

U.S. Capitol building while the Senate was in lock-down. Some protestors, including at least one from Martinsville-Henry County, were among those to be pepper sprayed during the event. A city-wide curfew was ordered from 6 p.m. on Jan. 6 until 7 a.m. on Jan. 7 due to the unrest.



An unidentified man was among those pepper sprayed at a mid-week protest in Washington, D.C.



Ray Reynolds, of Collinsville, was with other media representatives when he was pepper sprayed Wednesday. Reynolds, a vocal Trump supporter, said he covered the event as a photojournalist to gather material for the final chapter in his upcoming book. It marked his 77th event in 15 states.



A crowd of Trump supporters thronged the Capitol.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Adams, Buchanan to continue leading board

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Both Jim Adams and Debra Buchanan said they are ready to tackle the laundry list of challenges in their respective roles on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Adams, of the Blackberry District, and Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, were reelected to their respective posts of chairman and vice-chairman at a Jan. 4 re-organizational meeting.

Although Adams has served as chairman for the past five years, he said he does not anticipate 2021 will resemble years past.

"There always seems to be something a little bit different. Regardless of the year, there's always different things in front of you," Adams said.

Buchanan, who has served as vice-chairman from 2002 to 2006 and 2017 to the present, said "every day can be different. It never gets repetitious, sometimes just more challenging."

Adams' priorities include continued support of the community during the pandemic.

"In general, our goal would be to have a reversal of what we saw in 2020, and return to

whatever normal would be," he said. "We need to continue what we need to do to get ahead of the spread of COVID-19."

In addition to the over-reaching pandemic, the two also will focus on infrastructure and economic development.

"A lot of 2021 will be about doing what it takes to finish up" projects like the new jail, Adams said. "We expect most of that work to be done in 2021 to finish by 2022. Well ahead of it (jail) opening, we will be looking for additional positions for the sheriff's department."

The county's Southern Connector project also is in view, according to Adams, who said he expects a decision on that project, but "funding will not be local. It's a tremendous project and right now those funding sources have not been identified from the federal level or the state level."

The county also is working to generate additional local revenue through job creation.

"We have lots, not only in the Patriot Centre, but at Commonwealth Crossing," Adams said. "Certainly, we'd like to see new clients there. I think the business environ-

ment is starting to get strong again. I think in 2021, we will see some new business which means job opportunities and a better lifestyle for folks so they can afford things that are part of their life goals."

Buchanan echoed those sentiments.

"I'm optimistic about economic development. I see good things happening in 2021, with job creation and retention," she said. "We want to make sure that we have a skilled and trained workforce. We also need to continue to support our existing small businesses."

Education is another priority. "We are continuing to support education in whatever way we can. We have a good working relationship with the county school system," Adams said. "We'd like to see a strengthening of coverage of broadband in all homes. Broadband is a goal. We are going to have to see some help from the state and federal level to help accomplish that."

If the City of Martinsville continues to move forward with its plan to revert to a town status, reversion is an

See Board, page 7

Collinsville eatery meets challenges of changing with the times

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Sweetcakes Bakery-Cafe is planning on expanding their customer base by unveiling a food truck this coming spring, according to the owner Jennifer DeLong.

Formerly known as Cakes with Personality & Café Delight, Sweetcakes in 2015 began to offer customers more options besides desserts by adding coffee and lunch fare to their menu.

Six years later, DeLong said she is eyeing another opportunity to shake things up.

"We've got something pretty cool coming up in the springtime," DeLong said. "It's been a passion for me. I was determined to make my store versatile, so we are going to do a vintage food truck."

Until the food truck makes its maiden voyage, DeLong is keeping some secrets close to the vest, including the theme, but she said the food

See Challenges, page 8



Jennifer DeLong, owner of Sweetcakes Bakery-Cafe on King's Mountain Road in Collinsville.



Sweetcakes offers a variety of caffeinated beverages.

Big Chair stands on Deep Roots

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

While visitors to the City of Martinsville may be awed by the Big Chair longtime residents know the landmark has 'Deep Roots' in the community.

The new Big Chair was recently installed in city's Furniture Heritage Plaza to replace the original chair, crafted by Bassett Furniture Industries to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The original chair "toured all over their stores in the U.S." Sarah Hodges, director of tourism, said.

After the tour, the chair was placed uptown, but "unfortunately, the chair wasn't designed for long term outdoor life and was removed" for in-depth maintenance, she added.

To make the landmark better suited for outdoor life, the new chair is made of metal and powder coated with a wood finish "allowing it to sustain the elements for years to come," Hodges said.

The new attraction is a replica of the original Grove Park Mission style chair. It stands 21-feet, 3-inches tall, and weighs 4,400 pounds. It took approximately 519-hours to craft, she said.

"A lot of the coordination was handled by PAC Custom Woodworking & CNC Routing, the local company that built the chair,"

See Chair, page 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Danny Turner, a member of Martinsville City Council, tries out the Big Chair after it was recently installed in the city's Furniture Heritage Plaza. The Grove Park Mission style chair is more than 21-feet tall and weighs 4,400 pounds.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday, January 11

The Martinsville City School Board will have its regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building. A copy of the agenda is available at <https://go.boarddocs.com/va/martinsville/Board.nsf/Public>

Wednesday, January 13

Henry County Planning Commission will hold public hearings starting at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building. Input will be sought on the possible rezoning of property from applicants: Pugazhenth Selvaraj, West Leasing LLC, and Howard D. Tate. Comments must be submitted by 9 a.m. on Jan. 13 via email at publichearing@co.henry.va.us or by calling (276) 634-4699. Comments will not be taken at the meeting and attendance will be limited to 25

individuals.

Thursday, January 14

The Martinsville City School Board will hold a special virtual meeting with the Virginia School Boards Association from 2 to 6 p.m., for governance training.

Thursday, January 21

Piedmont Arts: Piedmont Arts will host the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' VMFA on the Road: An Art Mobile for the 21st Century on Jan. 21-23. The state-the-art mobile museum and education studio's inaugural exhibition will include photography, paintings, printmaking, as well as other mediums. Contact: (276) 632-3221; 215 Starling Avenue Martinsville.

PHCC will hold a training session on microaggressions with Bryan Price,

an Outreach and Engagement Specialist at the UVA Cancer Center. The free session will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and streamed over PHCC Live Online. Pre-registration required through ph.augusoft.net or by calling 276-656-0260.

Monday, January 25

The Martinsville City School Board will hold a public hearing regarding the FY22 School Budget at 6 p.m., at the Martinsville Municipal Building. A copy of the agenda can be found at <https://go.boarddocs.com/va/martinsville/Board.nsf/Public>.

Tuesday, January 26

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting in the Summerlin Meeting Room at the Henry County Administra-

tion Building beginning at 3 p.m.

Ongoing

The MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact application assistance for Virginia's free or low-cost Medicaid plans (Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care (birth to 64-years-old). Applications completed by phone (no contact). Call or text Ann Walker (276) 732-0509 for more information.

Danville Community College: The TRiO EOC (Educational Opportunity Centers) is a federally funded grant program to assist high school seniors and adults attending college. Free assistance ranges from selecting a career path and potential college to applying for financial aid and scholarships. Call or email (276) 694-8778 or eoc@danville.edu for appointment.

HOROSCOPES

January 10-16
ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Be aware of the impact words can have, Aries. You may think what you're saying is innocuous, but it really can do harm without intent. Be conscious of what you're saying.

TAURUS - Apr 21/ May 21

You don't want to disappoint people who rely on you, Taurus. But remain conscious of what you can and cannot offer other people. Find the

right balance.

GEMINI - May 22/ Jun 21

Spend some time alone this week to sort things out in your head before you react to a situation that has been on your mind, Gemini. Don't let others affect your state of mind.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, someone draws a proverbial line in the sand and challenges you to take action. This can be a conflict for you, especially

if you're not yet ready to make a move.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, a steep climb is before you, but with patience and perseverance, you will eventually reach the summit. Once you do, you will enjoy an extreme sense of accomplishment.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Try not to nitpick your actions, Virgo. Once you make a decision, stand by your choice and defend it. Typically your gut and your mind do not steer

you in the wrong direction.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

You may need to put rational on the side and be a little reckless in the days ahead, Libra. This may cause some temporary disarray, but take a chance.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/ Nov 22

You may think you have the perfect plan laid out, Scorpio. However, double- or even triple-check all of your data. Doing so will provide reassurance.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, what you expect to happen this week may turn out to be the opposite of what actually happens. Be prepared for any scenario to come your way.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Emotions may cloud your judgment, Capricorn. Try to look at a situation clearly so you can weigh-in in an impartial manner so you have no regrets.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/ Feb 18

Sometimes the best things that happen to you can occur in the most unlikely of places, Aquarius. Always keep your eyes open and ready for surprises.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Don't fret if you don't think the same way as another group of people, Pisces. This week you will more fully develop your perspective

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

January 10
Rod Stewart, Singer (76)
January 11
Mary J. Blige, Singer (50)
January 12
Rob Zombie, Singer (56)
January 13

Patrick Dempsey, Actor (55)
January 14
Lil Cool J, Rapper (53)
January 15
Drew Brees, Athlete (42)
January 16
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Actor (41)

Helpline available to help with anxiety

Anyone experiencing anxiety or stress related to COVID-19 may call or text VA COPEs, a free and confidential COVID-19 response warmline, at 877-

349-6428, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 5 to 9 p.m. Spanish speakers are available.

Volunteers, donations needed for center

The Martinsville Henry County Warming Center needs your help. The center cannot open without dedicated volunteers who will make hot meals and deliver them, provide transportation to and from the center, check in the guests at intake, and stay overnight.

Centers from Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols are being followed, and the groups are typically

small.

Donations of Styrofoam cups, breakfast items, syrup, orange juice, creamer, toilet paper, paper towels, coffee, disinfectant spray and ketchup also are needed.

Donated items may be dropped off at the First Baptist Church of Martinsville, located at 23 Starling Avenue, Martinsville.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | 14 | | | | 15 | | | |
| 16 | | | | | 17 | | 18 | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | 21 | | | | 22 | | | |
| | | | | 23 | | 24 | | | | 25 | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | 30 | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | 32 | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | |
| | | | | 39 | 40 | 41 | | 42 | 43 | | | | |
| | | 44 | 45 | | | | 46 | | | | | | |
| | 47 | | | | | | 48 | | | | | | |
| 49 | | | | | 50 | | | 51 | | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | 58 | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | | | |
| 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | | 64 | | | |

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Homestead
 - More (Spanish)
 - Type of notification
 - Approves
 - Mandela's party
 - "Mom" actress Faris
 - Predatory insects
 - Where honey goes
 - Canadian flyers
 - Of an earlier time
 - Indigenous people of Australia
 - Organize
 - All over
 - Made it through
 - Between-meals food
 - A quantity upon which an operation is performed
 - German mythological god
 - "Heavy" type of rock
- CLUES DOWN**
- Grave
 - Alright
 - Sharp tooth
 - Bird genus
 - Important
 - One who studies carefully
 - Not very big
 - Astronomy unit
 - A way to open up
 - Trap
 - Handle of a knife
 - Indicates one from a part of W. Africa
 - Lucky number
 - Doctor of Education
 - Legendary Cubs broadcaster
 - Female parent
 - Mimic
 - Connects to the rim
 - Small constellation
 - Indicates near
 - Consumed
 - Criticize
 - Shock therapy
 - Type of cigarette
 - The fashionable elite
 - Shed tears
 - Arm or branch of a bone
 - Quell anger
 - Where rock and rollers play
 - "The Alchemist" author Coelho
 - Choppers
 - Lacks brightness
 - Port in Yemen
 - Brood of pheasant
 - Approves food
 - A type of sign
- music**
- Pharmacy chain Duane
 - First responders
 - Mysterious
 - Leisurely stroll
 - Most naughty
 - Plant tissue
 - Small fish
 - Men's fashion accessory
 - Planet
 - Destroy
 - Location in Norse mythology
 - One who is deliberately cruel
 - Romeo, car
 - Of the ear
 - Former name of Tokyo
 - Male children
 - French/Belgian river
 - Tide

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | | 8 | 4 | | |
| | | | 7 | | | | 6 | 3 |
| | 3 | | | | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | | 5 | | 8 | 2 | |
| | | | 9 | | | | 3 | 5 |
| | | 2 | | | | | 4 | |
| | 4 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | 8 | | | 1 | | |
| | | 8 | | | | 9 | | 6 |

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 |

ANSWER:

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Emergency SNAP allotments to be released January 16

Virginia's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will again release emergency allotments of benefits to eligible households this month. Benefits will be automatically loaded to recipients' Electronic Benefits

Transfer (EBT) cards on Saturday, January 16.

The emergency allotments raise existing SNAP households' monthly allotment to the maximum allowable based on household size as follows:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs

Maximum Monthly Allotments October 1, 2019 TO September 30, 2021

Maximum SNAP Allotments for 48 States and D.C.

| Household Size | 48 States and DC |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | \$204 |
| 2 | \$374 |
| 3 | \$535 |
| 4 | \$680 |
| 5 | \$807 |
| 6 | \$969 |
| 7 | \$1,071 |
| 8 | \$1,224 |
| Each additional person | \$153 |

SNAP participants with questions related to their benefits are encouraged to contact their local department of social services or visit CommonHelp at commonhelp.virginia.gov to access account information.



Strategies to overcome seasonal affective disorder

Winter can be an awe-inspiring time of year. Snow-covered landscapes and opportunities to enjoy sports like skiing and snowboarding make winter a favorite time of year for nature enthusiasts and athletes.

As fun as winter can be, many people struggle with the transition from warm weather and long, sunny days to cold weather and reduced hours of sunlight. Sometimes mistaken or misidentified as the "winter blues," this phenomenon is known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD.

What is seasonal affective disorder?

According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, SAD is a type of depression. The NIH notes that a person must meet full criteria for major depression coinciding with specific seasons for at least two years to be diagnosed with SAD. The American Psychiatric Association says symptoms of SAD can be distressing and overwhelming and even interfere with daily functioning.

The APA notes that SAD has been linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain that's prompted by shorter daylight hours and less sunlight in winter. As the seasons change, a shift in a person's biological internal clock or circadian rhythm can lead to them being out of step with their normal routines. That can contribute to various symptoms, including:

- Feeling sad or depressed
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed
- Changes in appetite, usually eating more and craving carbohydrates
- Loss of energy or increased fatigue despite increased sleep hours

• Increase in purposeless physical activity or slowed movements or speech that may be noticed by others

- Feeling worthless or guilty
- Difficulty thinking, concentrating, or making decisions
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Overcoming SAD
The weather can't be changed, but people can speak with their physicians about the following strategies to overcome SAD.

• Light therapy: According to the APA, light therapy involves sitting in front of a light therapy box that emits a very bright light. In the winter, patients typically sit in front of the box for 20 minutes each morning, and they may see some improvements within one to two weeks of beginning treatment. Light therapy is usually continued throughout the winter.

• Medication: The APA notes that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs, are a type of antidepressant that are sometimes prescribed to treat SAD.

• Spending time outdoors: People with SAD who don't typically spend much time outdoors when the temperatures dip may notice their symptoms improve if they make a concerted effort to spend time outdoors in winter.

• Rearrange rooms in the home: The APA notes that rearranging rooms and furniture in a home or office to allow more natural light in during the daytime can help improve symptoms of SAD.

SAD is a legitimate concern for millions of people across the globe. Working with a physician to overcome SAD can help people successfully transition to days with fewer hours of sunlight.

Unemployment rates continue to decline

Unemployment rates in Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville are continuing to decline, according to the most recent data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

The unemployment rate in Henry County decreased from 7.3 percent in October to 6.1 percent in November, data showed. The number of jobless was 1,426, which is nearly double the total of the same time frame last year, data suggested.

In the City of Martinsville, the unemployment rate fell to 9.5 percent in November, which

represented a nearly two percent drop for the locality from October. Of the city's total 5,599 civilian workforce, 534 are unemployed.

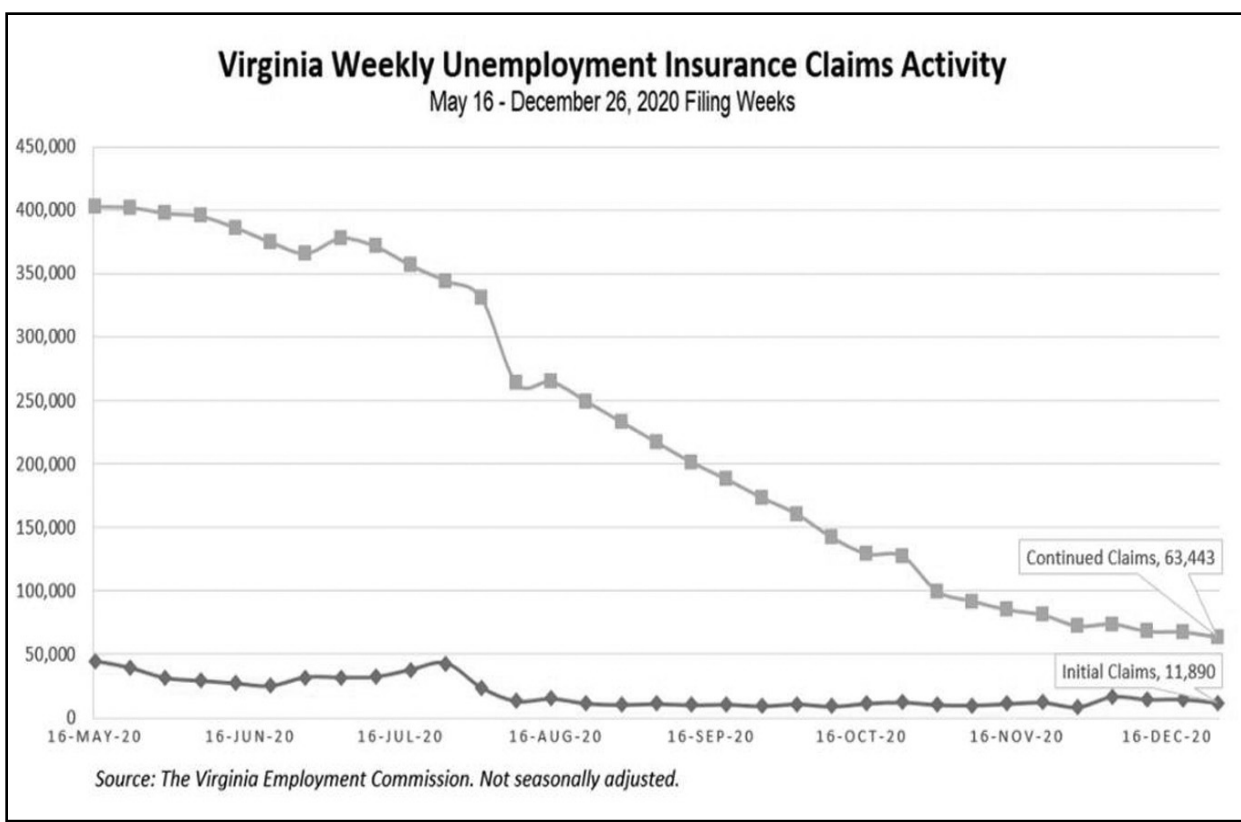
Patrick County also experienced a decline in the unemployment rate, with of 4.8 percent in November. This was a drop of 1.1 percent from October. The locality is 1.7 percent away from matching the unemployment rate of November 2019.

The VEC data also indicated the number of continued claims filed during the December 26 filing week dipped below 65,000 and to its lowest level since early May.

For the same week, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 11,890. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 2,750 claimants from the previous week and fell to its lowest level in over a month.

In the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 63,443, which was a 6.0 percent decrease from the previous week, but 44,346 higher than the 19,097 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims were in the accommodation/food service, health care, administrative support, and retail trade industries. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationwide, in the week ending December 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 787,000, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 3,000 from 803,000 to 806,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 841,111 in the week ending December 26, a decrease of 31,736 (or -3.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 312,524 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019. Looking at preliminary data, half of states reported increases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. New York's preliminary weekly change (+9,247) was the largest increase among states. California's preliminary weekly change (+8,961) was the second largest increase. Kentucky's preliminary weekly change (+4,144) was the third largest increase. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+3,326) was the fourth largest increase.



The chart above shows the Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity for filing weeks between May 16 and December 26, 2020.

Family Day to be held virtually

Piedmont Arts will host its first Virtual Family Day on Saturday, January 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Facebook Live.

Led by Education Coordinator Sarah Short,

the online-only event will feature story time, drawing and an easy craft with items you can find around your house (paper, drawing utensils, scissors and toilet paper rolls), and

a performance of the musical, The Little Red Hen, by Virginia Repertory Theatre.

Virtual Family Day is appropriate for pre-K to third grade. It is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust.

To participate, follow the link at PiedmontArts.org or visit Facebook.com/PiedmontArtsMartinsville.

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net

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- \$13.00 - Fresh Avocado, served w/ crab meat salad
- \$13.00 - Chicken & shrimp in mild chipotle pepper sauce w/ fettucine pasta
- \$14.00 - 8oz Prime Rib w/ roasted potatoes and onions. Served with Marsala sauce

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Friday and Saturday - Dinner

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OPINION

2020's final insult

The following story is true. I realize that as you read it, you may find that hard to believe because this is the story of one of the dumbest things that has ever happened to me. But just remember: if I were making this story up, I would probably give myself at least one cool one-liner.

As I've mentioned in this space before, my hobby is collecting pinball machines, and after more than three years in the hobby I've gotten pretty decent at repairing them. I always keep an eye out online for good deals on machines that need a little TLC, and on the Saturday after Christmas, I spotted one on the Facebook Marketplace: a 1981 Flash Gordon machine priced to move.

I used to have a Flash Gordon machine, but I sold it to a friend of mine about a year ago so I could buy another machine I'd had on my list. I'd missed ol' Flash Gordon and his brutal, soul-crushing difficulty curve, so I was really excited to see another one pop up.

The machine in question was located in Mount Airy, NC — just one hour from me — and it was in pretty rough shape. Fortunately, the asking price was well below its value, and I'd already repaired one Flash Gordon from the ground-up and knew what went into it, so I immediately messaged the guy. I told him I'd pay him a little more than he was offering (I didn't want to rip him off, even though he probably never would have known) and I'd pick it up that day.

He told me it was mine if I wanted it, but I couldn't pick it up until Monday. Just call him at 8 a.m. on Monday morning, he said, and he'd give me his address.

On Sunday evening, I sent him a text message to make sure we were still on for Monday morning. He said we were, then added, "first buyer here can have it."

This is what is known as a Red Flag.

I asked him how many other buyers I was competing against.

Just one, he said; apparently he was afraid that I would change my mind after seeing it, so he wanted to have another buyer lined up to prepare for that eventuality. He told me again to call him at 8 a.m. and he would give me his address.

In retrospect, I should have just told him I wasn't interested, thanked him for his time, and forgotten about it. But on the other hand, I wanted that Flash Gordon. I would simply drive to Mount Airy early so that when I called him for his address at 8 a.m., I would only be a couple minutes from his house. It's Mayberry, for crying out loud; it never took that long for Andy to get from Floyd's Barbershop to Emmett's Fix-It.

On Monday morning, my pinball moving buddy Mike came over and we left the house about 6:45 a.m. We were in Mount Airy when the pinball seller accidentally called me at 7:45 a.m. I called him back, got the address, and drove straight to his house. Sure enough, we had beaten the other potential buyer. Flash Gordon was all mine.

The seller stepped out of his enormous, downright palatial home to greet us. He was on the phone with the other potential buyer.

"Yeah, the other guy's here," he said. "You can come on over and check it out since you drove all the way from Greensboro, though. See you shortly."

"He doesn't need to come over, I'm planning on buying it," I said.

"I don't think you are," the seller said. "It's not going to fit in your car."

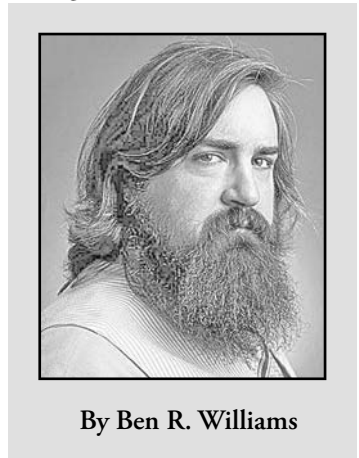
"Oh, it will," I said. "I've moved a bunch of pinball machines in this car."

"Including one of the biggest ones ever made," my friend Mike added.

The seller looked unconvinced, but he told me I could go ahead and back my vehicle up to his basement door and we would go inside and check out Flash Gordon.

Once in the basement, I looked

over the machine, quickly assessed what was wrong with it and what was right with it, and reached into



By Ben R. Williams

my wallet. I handed the seller a small wad of cash.

"I'll take it," I said.

And then, a remarkable and baffling thing happened:

The seller did not take my money.

"Hang onto that," he said. "Let's wait until the other guy can see it."

Now folks, I have bought a number of things off of the Facebook Marketplace, and I've sold my fair share, too. And as a seller, there has never once been a time that I've listed something for sale, had a buyer offer me more than I was asking, had the buyer show up to my house at the agreed-upon time and attempt to press a wad of cash into my hand, and replied, "No thanks, let's wait until we can get an opinion from this other guy who's coming who offered me less money. Perhaps he will have some bold new ideas worth considering."

Within a minute or so, the other buyer arrived. He explained that he was creating a game room in his home and he wanted a pinball machine. I don't think he particularly invested in this specific machine, but I guess the price was right.

To be clear, I have no hard feelings against this other buyer. I probably would have done what he did if I were in his shoes. But it was clear to me that he didn't have much experience with pinball machine repair, and this machine was

going to be a basket case to deal with.

He told the seller he wanted to buy the machine.

There was a long pause. The four of us stood in the basement in silence, waiting for the seller to render his verdict. It was an awkward situation, but I figured the seller would explain to the other guy that I simply got there first; as he had told me in his text the night before, "first buyer here can have it."

This is not what happened.

"Well fellas," the seller said, "I'm sorry about this. What do ya'll want to do?"

For a seller to put this decision on the two potential buyers is a bit like inviting a bunch of people to a dinner party and then, once they arrive, asking them what's on the menu.

I indicated I wanted to buy the pinball machine. The other guy who also wanted to buy the pinball machine felt the same way.

"Reckon it might come down to a coin toss," the seller said. "Either of ya'll have a coin?"

It was at this point that I could almost hear the basement door open and then slam shut as common sense put on its hat and overcoat and strolled out the door.

"Listen," I said to the seller, "do you have the keys to this machine?"

He handed me the keys and I attempted to open the back box, which is the "head" of a pinball machine. The lock was rusted shut.

"Well," I said to the other buyer, "I was going to show you the boards so you could see what you're getting into it, but the lock is busted."

I turned to the seller. "Have you ever replaced the batteries on the MPU board?"

The seller was unaware that pinball machines have batteries.

"Well," I said to the other buyer, "the batteries have probably never been changed and they've leaked all over the MPU, which is what controls the game logic. I can tell because the machine isn't saving high scores or settings, and there

might be more damage than that. You're looking at about \$200 plus shipping for a new Alltek Ultimate MPU. Next, the playfield is shot. The main reason I want to buy this one is because I've got a buddy who has a spare playfield I can replace it with. Also, none of these drop targets or pop bumper caps are original. That's just the stuff I can see. By the time you're done replacing everything that needs fixing on this machine, you're looking at spending about five times the asking price just on parts. And that's if you fix it yourself. If you hire a pinball tech, they're going to charge \$100 just to come to your house and about \$60-\$75 an hour after that, and a playfield swap takes a long time. I only want to buy this machine because I do my own repair work. I'm not trying to talk you out of this, I just want you to know what you're getting into."

There was a long silence. The other buyer indicated he was still interested.

We flipped a coin.

I lost.

As Mike and I wordlessly walked out the door, I heard the seller yell after me.

"Hey, wait!" he said, "we gotta make sure this guy has money!"

I did not stop.

Mike and I got in the car and, in what I consider a rather remarkable display of restraint, I did not run over the seller's mailbox.

There is no grand final punchline here, so you might be wondering why I have chosen to relate this long-winded story. You see, in the introduction to his 1976 novel "Slapstick," Kurt Vonnegut said that in his opinion, all great works of literature are written with an audience of one in mind. In his case, he wrote "Slapstick" for his beloved late sister.

I too have written this column with an audience of one in mind, and thankfully, I didn't delete his number from my phone. As soon as this column is posted online, I'm going to text it to him. Possibly at 6:45 a.m.

Hope you enjoyed your column, buddy!

Operation Warp Speed: A Success Story of 2020

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

The year 2020 was a difficult one, but as the year draws to a close, I want to highlight something about the year that went right.

Operation Warp Speed accomplished what had been considered nearly impossible: the development, manufacture, and distribution of a safe and effective

vaccine to combat COVID-19.

President Trump announced Operation Warp Speed in May. His Administration recognized that meeting the challenge posed by the coronavirus pandemic would require the investment of Federal Government resources, partnership between the public, private, and scientific sectors, and cutting red tape that would

impede delivery of a safe and effective vaccine.

This effort was supported by almost \$10 billion in funding included in the CARES Act passed by Congress with my support.

The project focused on six vaccine candidates. Seven months after Operation Warp Speed was launched and less than one year after COVID-19 began spreading widely around the globe, two vaccine candidates were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use.

On December 11, the FDA approved for emergency use the first vaccine created by Pfizer. After clinical trials including over 43,000 participants, the vaccine was found to be 95 percent effective.

A vaccine developed by Moderna was subsequently approved for emergency use on December 18. Thirty thousand people participated in its clinical trials, and its efficacy rate is 94.5 percent.

These vaccines are the fastest ever produced for a novel pathogen. In fact, the average development timeline for a vaccine is eight to twelve years. Operation

Warp Speed reduced the time needed by maximizing the number of participants in Phase 3 trials and manufacturing vaccine doses while waiting for the FDA's emergency use authorization order.

While bureaucratic hurdles were lowered, the vaccine development process did not skimp on safety.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over health matters, I was briefed repeatedly throughout the process or involved in hearings featuring public health officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the FDA, as well as the vaccine manufacturers. I am confident that they maintained high safety standards as they pursued a vaccine.

While the vaccines were under development, the Trump Administration planned ahead for their delivery and administration to Americans. It purchased millions of doses of the prospective vaccines and made agreements with pharmacies that would be able to vaccinate people.

While enough vaccine doses will be manufactured to cover most of the population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the priorities for vaccination while supplies remain limited. It suggested health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities be first in line, followed by older adults and frontline essential workers, all groups with a higher susceptibility to the coronavirus than other parts of the population.

The vaccines are broadly safe, but caution is appropriate for people with allergic reactions and certain other conditions. The CDC recommends that you talk to your doctor if you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies to determine if a COVID vaccine is a safe decision for you. Further, if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID vaccine, the CDC recommends not getting that vaccine.

I also believe that vaccinations should not be mandatory. This would be true particularly for people who object to taking it due to their religious principles or

as a matter of conscience. I also reject the idea of individuals being required to carry around a vaccination certificate, which is too close to the identification papers of highly restricted societies for my comfort.

Operation Warp Speed is just one component of the Federal Government's efforts to combat the coronavirus. Other therapeutics and treatments have also been developed at a rapid pace and are also being deployed as the pandemic still inflicts widespread sickness.

The United States has long excelled at scientific innovation, but even among our country's long list of achievements, from the light bulb to the first manned landing on the Moon, Operation Warp Speed stands out — for its scale, speed, safety, and ultimately lives saved. Amid all the bad news of 2020, this accomplishment is one worth praising.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, contact my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS

Look to the future, remember the past

I think the greatest danger the church faces today is losing its memory and respect for the absolute authority of the Bible. When we lose our church traditions, we are not only in danger of losing our faith, but a key pillar of civilization. Words like tolerance and political correctness usually takes us away from truth. The very stability of our social order comes from our moral values. I could have never imagined, in my lifetime, that the church could have embraced relativism and changed so much.

Let's not deny that Christianity is God's plan and other religions like Islam, Buddhism and Judaism are not the

Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must never lose our memory and become so politically correct and fearful that we deny Christ as the only way to heaven. Even some pastors tell their youth to keep an open mind as we aren't sure which way is right. In Christianity there are absolutes that will not change with 21st Century culture. We must not lose our community of memory that keeps us anchored to eternity. Truth always offends some people, but it is still truth. I talk and interview many pastors and I discover they cannot teach what they do not believe.

One church generation may survive religious tolerance and political correct-

ness. For decades I subscribed to most religious magazines along with some secular ones. I have been frightened by the soft sell Christians are encouraged to emerge as a new church with no absolutes and memories. The second generation, poisoned by a sinful culture, may have little memory of the Gospel and the atoning death of Christ. It's our understanding of the Bible that gives us a sense of who we are and bridges the generations. Wealth, technology, pleasures, and change can destroy a society if God is omitted.

By Dr. Clyde Dupin

OBITUARIES

Fred Thomas Martin Jr.

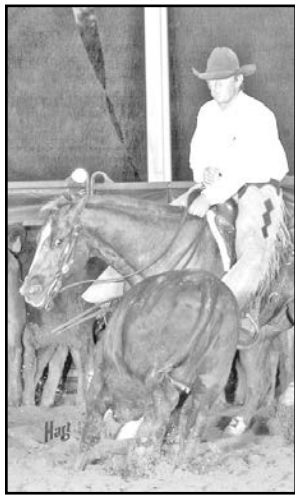
Fred Thomas Martin Jr., better known as Freddie, died unexpectedly on December 30, 2020 at the age of 66. He was a lifelong resident of Martinsville, Virginia.

Freddie is survived by his mother; Lawanda McGuire Martin; his children, Fred Thomas Martin III (Katherine) and Tanya Michelle Martin; his sister, Theresa Martin Wright (Kent); brother, Timothy Dean Martin and Jeffrey Porter; his uncle Horace Martin; and his beloved dog, Lil' Bit. He was predeceased by his father, Fred Thomas Martin Sr.

Freddie was born in Martinsville, Virginia on August 24, 1954 to Fred and Lawanda Martin. He was a graduate of Laurel Park High School and received his associate's degree from Patrick Henry Community College. He dedicated his life to the family business of Fred Martin Associates. Freddie was a deeply spiritual man and lifelong member of McCabe Memorial Baptist Church.

Freddie was a true cowboy at heart. A man of unquestioned loyalty and a consummate gentleman to everyone he met. A tremendous father that embodied pure selfless love for his children and family.

Born a natural horseman, Freddie's first steps were climbing onto the back of a horse. By his father's side he took to riding and training horses and helped the family grow Martin Stables. Through the 1960's into the 1970's he learned farming and equine skills from his father Fred Sr., which were passed down to him through his father and Freddie's beloved grandfather, Tom Martin. He competed in several equine events both nationally and locally, where he was Virginia's 4-H Western Pleasure Horse Champion in 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1974. He was a proud lifetime member of American



Quarter Horse Association and National Cutting Horse Association.

Freddie would continue to accomplish equine success throughout his life. His children naturally shared his love of horses. He did everything within his power to ensure a distinctively wonderful childhood. He enjoyed nothing more than traveling across the county with his children and their horses to compete at the national level.

He was right by his father's side when the family business expanded into furniture manufacturing and sales. Freddie was a gifted welder and was instrumental to the furniture industry. From designing and welding furniture to inventing paint finishes adopted by national companies, his talent and creativity was truly unique. Through the success of the family business, he focused his efforts on the continued growth, and later revitalization of Martinsville.

Freddie was a wonderful son, brother, friend, and extraordinary father. Freddie truly aspired to make everyone around him happy. He was selfless in every sense of the word. Always there to lend a hand. He loved bringing people together and making them laugh. His smile was infectious. His friends, family, and all who knew him will deeply miss him.

A private funeral service was held January 6 at the Roselawn Cemetery in Martinsville. The Rev. Lewis Harris officiated. Donations may be offered to McCabe Memorial Baptist Church at 107 Clearview Dr. Martinsville, VA 24112. A celebration of Freddie's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckees-tonemartinsville.com.

Mr. William Lee Smith

Mr. William Lee Smith, age 80 of Martinsville, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2021 at Carilion Memorial Hospital in Roanoke. He was born in Meadows of Dan on July 27, 1940 to the late Burton Smith and Elizabeth Williams Smith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Kevin Lee Smith. Mr. Smith had retired from DuPont with over 35 years of service. He had been a courier for Carter Bank and was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Randall White of Bassett; three grandchildren, Justin Prillaman, Terrell



Craddock and wife, Lauren, Sarah Shelton and husband, Dustin; three great grandchildren, Ethan Hughes, Brooklyn Craddock, Alec Shelton; one brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Kathy Smith of Danville; his two fur babies, Bear and Midnight; and his special neighbors, Rex and Connie Clifton.

A memorial service will be held at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Martinsville SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy, Martinsville, VA 24112. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Medarine Jones Scales

Medarine Jones Scales, 79, of 129 Archer Road Ridgeway, Virginia was born June 19, 1941 to the late James and Vada Hylton Jones. Medarine was a very beautiful feisty woman who caught the eye of her charming late husband Lafartane Scales. She was also a warm-loving wife and mother. She was always concerned for the well-being of her family. She was a faithful member of May Missionary Baptist Church serving many years as secretary of the Sunday School and a member of the Senior Choir. She was a former employee of Sara Lee Inc., for over 25 years and Bassett Walker until they closed. She ventured out and went to Patrick Henry Community College receiving a two-year degree in Word-processing. She was very involved with school activities of her children that she volunteered in the school system serving as secretary and treasury of PTO at Ridgeway Elementary School. Her favorite past time was watching Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, The Price is Right and Lee Williams videos. We can't forget her love for Pepsi and Cheetos.



She was preceded in death by one sister, Annie Hess and two brothers, Douglas Jones and Everette Jones.

She leaves to forever cherish her memory, three children, Jacqueline Scales Powell of Martinsville, VA, Laura Scales of Ridgeway, VA, and Scotty Scales of Ridgeway, VA, one son-in-law, Lewis Powell and one goddaughter, Ronda Brown Rotten. Also surviving are two brothers, Hozer Penn (Willie Mae) of Ridgeway, VA and Royal Jones of Martinsville, VA, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two special sons, Keith Fontaine and Steve Spencer and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

To Isaiah, Arrianna, and London for your special love shown to her with your hugs and kisses, watching TV with her, recording her stories, singing, and giving her favorite treats.

A graveside service was held Thursday, January 7, 2021 at Mayo Missionary Baptist Church, Ridgeway, Virginia. Wright Funeral Service served the family.

Agency cautions against mishandling dry ice used for shipping, storing COVID-19 vaccines

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs, a leader in enhancing public safety, is cautioning first responders, health care professionals, and citizens in the Commonwealth about the dangers of improper storage and disposal of dry ice, which has surged in use to transport COVID-19 vaccines that require storage at ultra-low temperatures.

Dry ice is a solid form of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Dry ice weighs just about twice as much as regular ice. Dry ice goes from a solid to a gas (sublimates) as it warms, releasing carbon dioxide.

According to a white paper on dry ice response issued by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazardous

Materials Committee, the primary health hazard occurs when dry ice returns to its gaseous carbon dioxide state at -78°C. The gas quickly expands and displaces oxygen inside enclosed spaces such as in transport compartments, small buildings, and walk-in coolers.

"We're noticing a number of groups who are coming into contact with dry ice with the mass distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, who may not be aware of the risks that dry ice may impose. For example, dry ice at room temperature, could "off-gas" a high level of CO₂ in a confined space. This is a hazard," said VDFP Executive Director Michael Reilly. "First responders who are trained in hazardous materials response

are aware of the proper handling, storage, and disposal of dry ice. We remain partners in response and prevention. We also want to stress the importance of risk mitigation during such an unprecedented time."

If carbon dioxide gas is released while in transport or in storage, hazards can include an increased potential for an explosion due to pressure building within tightly sealed containers with no pressure relief device, unconsciousness due to displaced oxygen, and frostbite or burns if contact with cryogenic liquid or solid pieces of dry ice occurs.

The VDFP encourages groups such as health care professionals and medical facility employees who are administer-

ing COVID-19 vaccines to call on first responders when carbon dioxide exposures arise.

"Our concern is about how Virginians should properly interact with the volumes of dry ice that the vaccines are packed with. There should be no eating, drinking, or smoking wherever the dry ice is handled, stored, and disposed," said Virginia State Fire Marshal Garrett Dyer. "If an accident involving carbon dioxide occurs, such as a spillage, there are also environmental impacts to consider. This is why proper disposal of volumes of dry ice by a trained professional is important."

To Safety Interact with Dry Ice

☒ Protect Your Skin – Contact with unprotected skin will cause

severe thermal injury equivalent to full thickness burns. Tight fitting cryogenic gloves are required when handling dry ice and offers the most protection. Where the skin is injured due to exposure to dry ice, the contact area will need to be warmed to avoid tearing off skin.

☒ Store in a well-ventilated area – Most health hazards occur during the sublimation process, when dry ice is warmed and converts from a solid directly to a gas. Dry ice will sublime (melt) at -78°C and begin "off-gassing" which will quickly displace the oxygen inside of confined areas.

For more information on dry ice safety, and patient management and hazard response, visit the VDFP website.

Civil Rights Center launched

The Office of Civil Rights in the Office of Attorney General was launched, according to a release from Attorney General Mark R. Herring.

The center is to expand, enhance, and centralize his ongoing work to protect Virginians from discrimination and to secure and expand the rights of all Virginians. The new designation of the Office of Civil Rights is the culmination of a multiyear plan to expand the authority and resources dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Virginians, and to place the protection of civil rights at the center of the mission of the Office of Attorney General.

Additionally, Herring is supporting legislation to make the Office of Civil Rights a permanent feature of the Office of Attorney General, ensuring that protection of Virginians' civil rights will always be a priority.

"During my time as attorney general we have dramatically shifted the

role and mission of the office to ensure that the protection and expansion of Virginians' rights is at the center of all we do," said Herring. "Over the last few years, we have added legal authority, resources, and incredible legal talent to our team, which now allows us to formally create the OAG's first Office of Civil Rights.

"The new Office of Civil Rights is an historic step in turning the page on a past when the Commonwealth, and even its attorney general, was too often a threat to civil rights, rather than a guardian and champion for Virginians' rights. In too many instances in the past, attorneys general fought to protect unjust and unconstitutional violations of Virginians rights, like going all the way to the Supreme Court to defend school segregation in Davis v. Prince Edward, a ban on interracial marriage in the Loving case, or unequal educational opportunities for women in the VMI case. But we have

shown Virginians a different vision of an attorney general who fights for their rights no matter who threatens them, and we have won time and again.

"The Office of Civil Rights will enhance our ability to protect Virginians from discrimination in housing, employment, and public life, as well as allow us to tackle new responsibilities, like 'pattern and practice' investigations that can root out and end unconstitutional policing and enforcing protections against discrimination for LGBTQ Virginians. And the Office of Civil Rights will be a natural home for additional civil rights initiatives we hope to launch in conjunction with the General Assembly, like more robust protection of voting rights, protections for the civil rights of Virginians with disability, and more tools to combat healthcare discrimination and ensure education equity," he said.

Under this new organization, the Office of Civil

Rights will grow to a staff of 13, including seven attorneys and six professional staff, including investigators, working to protect Virginians' civil rights and

put a stop to violations. When Attorney General Herring took office, the Division of Human Rights had just one attorney and three additional staff mem-

bers. The new Office of Civil Rights can be reached by phone at (804) 225-2292, or by email at CivilRights@oag.state.va.us.



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For a Glimpse at these, do an online search for "Catechisms."

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The Episcopal Catechism • The Heidelberg Catechism
The Westminster Catechisms

- Confessions of Faith, Source Manuscripts
- Protestant Catechisms: Questions about the Holy Bible answered by Scripture Versus only.
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Phone: (276) 694-0297 and internet: lindahalstead5@gmail.com

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Chair

from page 1

Hodges said. "The mission of VisitMartinsville, the destination marketing organization for Martinsville-Henry County, is to market our community to visitors. The chair was funded as part of a larger marketing plan and was fully funded by the tourism office's budget."

Like the original chair, the new one is tied to the tourism department's "Deep Roots" campaign, which seeks to highlight the area's history and attract more visitors to the city.

"As our area continues to grow and diversify, it is important to celebrate our history in manufacturing and those who helped build that legacy," Hodges said. "The Big Chair was a hit in the past with locals and tourists who came to Uptown Martinsville to see one of the largest chairs in America. With many local groups partnering to bring new development to our uptown district, the Big

Chair really couldn't have returned at a more perfect time."

The Deep Roots campaign has been ongoing for 12 years. It covers the area's manufacturing legacy in furniture and textiles as well as its motorsports, outdoor recreation and cultural heritage.

"Deep Roots gives a respectful nod to Martinsville's past, bringing relevance to the present by celebrating contributions, and providing a gift to the future with repurposed activities, facilities, and new economic development opportunities," Hodges added.

The chair compliments an array of other attractions that highlight the city's achievements in furniture manufacturing, including the plaza in which it is located. Other attractions are the 1939 Fresco "Manufacture of Furniture" by William Carnelli, in the Bassett Post Office, the Bassett World Head-

quarters and the HGTV Design Studio.

The chair also signifies some of the community's furniture brands like Bassett Furniture, Bassett Mirror Company, Hooker Furniture and Shenandoah Furniture.

The concept of manufacturing also ties into other community initiatives, according to Hodges.

"The newly formed Uptown revitalization group, MartinsvilleUP, has identified a transformation strategy built on promoting Martinsville as a space for 'Makers,' she said. "In support of that mission, we are hoping the big chair shows our communities commitment to continuing the legacy of handmade goods and skilled craftspeople into our future."

Now that the chair is situated in the plaza, the tourism department office will shift gears to focus on other ways to enhance the experience of the city.

"VisitMartinsville is committed to creating a resident and visitor focused active lifestyle destination and will continue to improve and expand on existing and new experiences," Hodges said, and noted three different ways that the office looks to foster these experiences.

The first is to make the city "an active-lifestyle destination with a vibrant uptown core." Hodges said that includes marketing the city as "an active outdoor recreation destination." The final piece of the puzzle will be transitioning the city into "a dynamic gathering place for small group activities."

Those involved with the "Big Chair" project in 2020 were: Anstey Hodge, Bassett Furniture Industries, the City of Martinsville, Guy M. Turner Crane Services, PAC Custom Woodworking & CNC Routing, and Solid Stone Fabric.

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **January 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

Citizens wishing to submit public comments on these cases should email publichearing@co.henry.va.us or call 276-634-4699 no later than January 13, 2021 at 9 a.m. to enter comments intended for the Planning Commission meeting. Comments intended for the Board of Supervisors meeting must be received by January 26, 2021 at 9 a.m. All comments received will be read during the public hearing on each date at 6:00 p.m. Because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, **NO public comments will be taken during the meetings and attendance will be limited to 25. Participants for specific cases may be asked to leave the meeting after their specific case is heard.** For more information, contact the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection at 276-634-4620.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-21-01 Pugazhenth Selvaraj
The property is located at 20 Water Plant Rd in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 62.4/151. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.65-acres from Government and Special Use District G-S to Limited Industrial District 1-2. The applicant intends to use the existing building for research, development, and assembly operations in the renewable energy industry.

Case R-21-02 West Leasing, LLC
The property is located on the east side of Gallagher Rd in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 43.9/99A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 10-acres from Commercial District B-1 to Limited Industrial District 1-2. The applicant intends to construct a new warehouse on the property to be used for food distribution.

Case R-21-03 Howard D. Tate
The property is located at 3660 Old Leaksville Rd, in the north east corner of the intersection of Morehead Ave. and Old Leaksville Rd, in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 73.7(3A)/1,2. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant intends to construct a new convenience store on the property. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

PET OF THE WEEK



Caramel is a six-year-old female domestic shorthair available at the SPCA. She is friendly and has a distinct motor-like purr. There is a \$20 adoption fee for cats and kittens.

Warner sworn in for third term

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, was sworn into office for his third term in a socially distant ceremony by Vice President Mike Pence on Sunday the first day of the 117th Congress.

Warner, a former Virginia

Governor, was first elected to the United States Senate in 2008; he was re-elected in 2014 and 2020. He is ranked 32nd in seniority in the 100-member legislative body.

A successful business leader and co-founder of the cel-

lular giant Nextel, Warner, will continue to serve on the Senate's Banking, Budget, Finance, Rules and Intelligence committees.

"I am honored that Virginians decided to send me back to work for them in the Sen-

ate. In the 117th Congress, I will keep working to expand economic opportunity, lower healthcare costs, and combat the ongoing health and economic crisis plaguing our country," said Warner. "As a business leader, governor, and

during my two terms in the U.S. Senate, I have always been willing to work across the aisle to improve the lives of Virginians and Americans. We have more work to do, and I am prepared to get to it."

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Final rule increases opportunities for SNAP participants to gain employment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a final rule to enhance employment and training opportunities for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants.

SNAP participants have exclusive access to training and support services to help them enter or move up in the workforce through state SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs. The final rule makes a wide range of enhancements to these services to empower more SNAP participants to gain the skills, training, or work experience they need to move forward and into work.

“USDA has a long-standing commitment to increasing opportunities for SNAP participants to move towards and into employment. This rule continues USDA’s efforts to connect more SNAP households with the dignity and hope that work provides,” said USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps.

In March, USDA published the proposed rule, “Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.” The rule published today finalizes many of those changes—improving E&T pro-

grams by ensuring that states use evidence-based strategies to help participants get the skills local employers need most, by requiring the use of case management services for E&T participants, and by allowing E&T funds to be used for subsidized employment and apprenticeships.

The recent final rule underscores USDA’s commitment to improving SNAP E&T programs, in partnership with states. Each year, USDA provides more than \$100 million for states to operate their E&T programs. In addition, if a state invests its own money or outside funding to improve its

SNAP E&T programs, the federal government will reimburse the state for 50 percent of those funds. Beyond funding, USDA efforts to support SNAP E&T include:

Hosting the first ever SNAP E&T National Forum. The virtual, three-day conference took place Oct. 13-15 and connected more than 1,500 partners from across the country to share and learn best practices to promote and boost employment among SNAP households through state E&T programs.

Operating SNAP to Skills, which provides states and their partners with coaching and inten-

sive technical support on how to build strong E&T programs. This year, seven states – Oregon, Colorado, Louisiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island – joined the 22 other states that have participated in SNAP to Skills since the program was launched in 2015.

Providing training, such as the SNAP E&T State Institutes and Learning Academies, to develop expertise in administering SNAP E&T among individuals, partner organizations, and state agencies across the country.

Issuing more than \$6.7 million in SNAP E&T National Partnership

Grants in 2020 to help four national nonprofit organizations expand program capacity and develop networks of third-party partners to serve SNAP participants.

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

Dorsey

from page 1

he did a little something to make sure that would happen.”

As a result of those ambitions and his quiet, reserved demeanor, Dorsey accomplished the unthinkable.

“The legislation to establish New College Institute passed in 2006 and it officially became a state agency on July 1, 2006. We were supposed to open our doors the following year,” Blevins said.

But Dorsey “insisted that we could start classes in 2006. As soon as it passed, he worked every single day so that we could open our doors and start with classes and we did that” in the fall of 2006, Blevins said. “That’s a pretty amazing feat.”

Part of the process of establishing the college was finding the space to house the institute. In his search, Dorsey met Dr. Mervyn King and his wife, Virginia King.

“He was adamant about it being in the uptown area,” Virginia King said. “We had recently purchased the Shumate Jessie building and we showed that to him. Fortunately, he was able to visualize how a historic building can be converted into classrooms and offices. From that point on, we worked with him for some other restorations and rehabilitations for the college. He became a friend along the way.”

Dorsey “was an extraordinary person, a great thinker, and a

very thoughtful person,” said Dr. Angeline Godwin, president of Patrick Henry Community College. “He was really a people person, but he was also an intellectual. We served on some initiatives together and he was very good in the beginning to give me an orientation when I was new to the community which I thought was quite good. I will remember his love for learning. He dedicated his entire life to learning and teaching.”

He also is remembered for his ability to inspire.

“He loved graduation and he loved writing speeches, then giving those speeches to inspire and motivate degree holders,” Blevins said. “He really wanted the graduates to take their education seriously and (understand) the difference they could make in our community. He spent a lot of time crafting words to inspire them.”

A champion of the arts, Dorsey “worked tirelessly for what he believed in, and he believed the arts built communities,” said Heidi Pinkston, executive director of Piedmont Arts. “He supported the arts and art education, not through just Piedmont Arts but through NCI and Theaterworks. He brought organizations together and he fostered collaborations. You could say that he was the ultimate bridge builder.”

Pinkston said her relationship with Dorsey spanned about 10 years, with Dorsey serving on the Board of Directors at Piedmont Arts on three separate occasions, including his current board seat.

“He was also the recipient of the 2020 Clyde Hooker Award,” Pinkston said, and added Dorsey volunteered “countless hours ensuring that Piedmont Arts and other organizations had the financial and community support necessary to carry out their mission.”

His fundraising prowess was legendary, according to Pinkston.

“He was fearless in asking people for donations and contributions for what he believed in, and he always encouraged me to do the same. Be fearless and don’t be afraid to ask for what you need,” she said.

That also was an attribute that Virginia King admired, first witnessed during her time on the Board of Directors of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, where Dorsey served two terms.

“One thing that was very helpful for the historical society was him helping us get sponsors,” she said. “He said he enjoyed asking people for money, which was the opposite of me, but we were glad to have someone on the board willing to do that.”

Dorsey’s knack for fundraising also was targeted to helping those most in need.

“I had the opportunity of working with him on the Board of Directors for the United Way,” said Dale Wagoner, deputy county administrator. “Everything he did, he did it with passion and with concern for the community. That’s probably the most commendable part, his dedication and love for this community. He went above and beyond to help our community grow. He will be missed.”

“We are grateful for Barry Dorsey’s tireless efforts as NCI’s founding executive director to support more people from diverse backgrounds to attend and succeed in college,” said Karen Jackson, NCI’s interim executive director. “We are committed to continuing his legacy and ensuring that NCI serves as Virginia’s premiere training and education hub for workforce training, certification, and degree programs.”

State Sen. William M. (Bill) Stanley, who serves as NCI’s board chairman, said Dorsey’s “steadfast commitment to create new educational opportunities strengthened our community and helped break the cycle of poverty in Southern Virginia. We are thankful for Mr. Dorsey’s critical contribution to put NCI on the path for success.”

Beyond his legacy in educa-

tion, community organizing, and volunteering, Dorsey also will be remembered for his personality.

“One thing that always stood out to me, and I say this with all due respect, he always had a little twinkle in his eye,” Henry County Administrator Tim Hall said. “He could tell a joke, but he also understood the difference in when it was time for work and when to be personable. A lot of folks don’t have that. They are all business, or they are all fun. He was good at both and he always had a way to put people at ease with a smile or one liner.”

Dorsey’s mark on Martinsville-Henry County will never be forgotten.

“He wasn’t originally one of ours, but he became immersed in the community and worked every day to make things better than he found them,” Hall said, and added the two initially met after Dorsey moved to the area from Shelby, N.C.

“We’re a small community and a lot of folks wear different hats. The teamwork that is required, and that is so good here, always involved education, both secondary education and higher education,” Hall said. “When Dr. Dorsey came, we were all excited about NCI. He seemed exactly what we needed at the time and I think in retrospect, he absolutely was.”

Board

from page 1

other issue the county may face in 2021.

“There’s many unknowns regarding reversion. We will thoroughly review and discuss every option,” Buchanan said, adding that the county has “worked hard to keep our taxes low. Even with the downturn in the economy, we didn’t raise taxes. We cut back where we had to, and we tightened our belt because it wasn’t fair to the citizens who were seeing the downturn in their paychecks. We also worked hard to put competitive packages together for economic development.”

Along with the associated financial concerns, Buchanan is concerned about annexation.

“I’ve never felt that annexation is fair,” she said. “It’s not fair to the citizens of Henry County at all. If we can work out an agreement that the citizens of Henry County can work with, then we can move forward. We don’t need to take a step back. We don’t need to be spending so much time on reversion when we’ve got other important things” that must be addressed.

After their reelection, Adams said each board member not only serves “with a glad heart, but they do serve with the utmost integrity. You all come prepared for the meetings. You may not always see everything equal, but you are defending your reasons for that with purpose and with some background. For that, you all are to be applauded for the service that you render.”

“I work with a good group of people,” Buchanan said of her colleagues on the board. “Any one of you could serve as chairman or vice-chairman. As a vice-chairman, I can’t really accomplish any goal without the support of the rest of the board. I think we have one thing in common and that is putting Henry County forward and representing our people. I think we’ve done that, and I think we will continue to do that.”

Adams has been on the board since 2002. He also held the chairman post in 2008, 2012, and 2013.

Buchanan has served on the board since 1996. In addition to her time as vice-chairman, she also served four years as chairman -- in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Both said they remain committed to serving residents.

“I enjoy the opportunity to lead but along with leading, I enjoy the opportunity to listen,” Adams said. “Whether it be someone addressing the board from the public standpoint or other board members. I think the opportunity of being able to at least hear other perspectives is the one thing that I enjoy the most.”

“I enjoy working with people and getting positive results,” Buchanan said. “It’s truly an honor that the people that I serve with feel comfortable with appointing me again.”

Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, did not attend the meeting.

board:

Set their regular meeting dates for the year. Meetings will begin at 3 p.m., in the Summerlin Building on January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 21.

Adopted the board’s 2021 bylaws.

Set the annual planning session for Feb. 22 at 4 p.m., at the Emergency Services Training Center.

Renewed loan financing to the Henry County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for the Patriot Centre shell building.

Appropriated \$1,502,500 received from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for site improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC). The funds will be used to help with the cost of installing natural gas to the site.

Appropriated \$1,095,525 from the General Fund balance for capital items, and \$939,997 received as the county’s share of the fiscal year 2019 school division’s carryover funds, for the future purchase of an aerial fire apparatus.

Appropriated \$24,441 in grant funds from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services, and \$15,000 from the Harvest Foundation, to purchase medical and training equipment.



Jim Adams was reelected to serve as chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors in 2021.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Debra Buchanan was reelected to another term as vice-chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

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WEDDINGS

Herring issues alert in round of stimulus checks

Attorney General Mark R. Herring issued a consumer alert urging Virginians to be wary of scammers taking advantage of the coming \$600 federal relief payments to get personal or bank information to steal your money.

Scammers often use the issuance of payments from the government as an opportunity to try to take advantage of Virginians by using deceitful, high-pressure calls, emails, or texts that trick people into compromising their personal information or losing their money.

"This is a moment when we should all be coming together to support one another, but unfortunately we know that scammers and criminals often view payments like the \$600 economic assistance as an opportunity to line their own pockets," said Herring. "Just remember that no action should be required on

your part in order to receive the assistance. It should either be directly deposited into your bank account, or mailed directly to your house. If you get a call, email, text, or other communication asking for personal or bank account information, hang up, delete the message, and don't provide any information because it's probably a scam."

Herring is reminding all Virginians that if they receive an email, text or phone call about these stimulus checks from someone purporting to be with the government to not give them personal information. These phishing scams will likely ask for things like bank account information under the guise of direct depositing money from the stimulus package into your bank account. Also, remember that the government will not ask you to pay any money up front to get a stimulus check. So, if

someone asks you to pay something, it's a scam.

Below are some additional tips to avoid becoming a victim of a government imposter scam:

- * Don't give the caller any of your financial or other personal information – Never give out or confirm financial or other sensitive information, including your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number, unless you know exactly who you're dealing with. Scammers can use your information to commit identity theft. If you get a call about a debt that may be legitimate — but you think the collector may not be — contact the company to which the caller claims you owe money to inquire about the call.

- * Don't trust a name or number – Scammers use official-sounding names, titles, and organizations to make you trust them. To make the

call seem legitimate, scammers also use internet technology to disguise their area code or generate a fake name on caller ID. So even though it may look like they're calling locally or somewhere in the United States, they could be calling from anywhere in the world.

- * Never wire money or send cash or a pre-paid card – These transactions are just like sending someone cash! Once your money is gone, you can't trace it or get it back.

- * Join the National Do Not Call Registry and don't answer numbers you don't know – This won't stop scammers from calling but it should make you skeptical of calls you get from out of the blue. Most legitimate sales people generally honor the Do Not Call list. Scammers ignore it. Putting your number on the list helps to "screen" your calls for legitimacy and reduce the number of legitimate telemarketing

calls you get.

If you think you have been a victim of a scam, contact Herring's Consumer Protection Section:

- By phone: 1 (800) 552-9963
- By email: consumer@oag.state.va.us
- Online complaint form
- Online contact form

Additionally, economic assistance payments should be exempt from garnishment and seizure by debt collectors and creditors under a new law from Herring and Del. Hala Ayala, who proposed the new law after the initial round of \$1,200 assistance payments from the CARES Act were left vulnerable to seizure. If anyone believes their payment has been illegally garnished or seized, they should assert their rights and demand their money back, or call Herring's Consumer Protection Section for assistance.

Challenges

from page 1

truck will be a separate venture from the bakery.

"It's going to have its own identity. Its own name and everything," she said. "I saw one out of town that was similar to what I wanted to do but not exactly it. I told my daughter that I want to be able to (sell) other places besides just right here. I want to be able to move around. Most towns have things that feature food trucks, and I've got a real unique one coming up."

The Fieldale native sought her own bakery from a young age.

"I took home economics in school and it was always just me and my dad as a kid, so I did a lot of cooking at home," she said. "I worked for the people that owned Cakes with Personality since the late 70s. I worked in high school, washing dishes, and just watching."

"Eventually, I left there and went to work at Kroger's. A lady there taught me how to decorate cakes and some other stuff. Then when I turned 21, I went back to (Cakes with Personality) and asked them if they wanted to sell it. I bought it in 1988," she said.

Since taking over the bakery, DeLong hasn't been a stranger to making changes to business operations.

"I bought Cafe Delight back in the early 2000s," she said. "That's when we branched off and started doing coffees and smoothies. It was named Cakes with Personality & Cafe Delight for a long time."

That store was in its current location in Collinsville. DeLong eventually opened the first Sweetcakes in Martinsville with her daughter, to "generate lunch and do sandwiches. We had tried several attempts to offer sandwiches at the cake cafe and people just couldn't get past the drinks and cakes."

The same year Sweetcakes opened its doors, DeLong's father died.

"After I took some time off, I closed the (store) in Collinsville," she said. "The closing of the store in Collinsville was kind of an overnight decision. Help was really hard to find, and it could ruin the store with me not being there," DeLong said.

"When I started taking care of my father while he had cancer, that took first-priority over the store. We stayed there (in Martinsville) a good little while, but we bought this building and moved back to Collinsville because that's what we liked. People missed us being right in Collinsville and we liked it here because it is where we originated. We didn't ever really plan on leaving," she said.

So far, the changes have paid off, according to DeLong.

"It's been very successful. It's a more successful store then the cake shop ever was by itself," she said. "We get hundreds, hundreds and hundreds of customers."

DeLong said the overall best sales still come from the cafe portion of the business, adding that some lunch items

seem to catching on in popularity.

"The Big Boy sandwiches are for sure our best-selling sandwiches," she said. "We pile the meat up high on it. It's a really tall sandwich with double cheese, double meat, black pepper, lettuce, tomato between Texas toast, and it's priced well so people can afford it. We try to make things that are extraordinary so when people come back through Collinsville, they know where to get it. You can only get certain things here."

The tactic seems to have garnered a lot of statewide attention. She said the bakery has been featured in Virginia Living Magazine for the last four years.

"We were voted the best bakery in Southwest Virginia for three years in a row," DeLong said. "We were voted best local sandwich shop one year and we also got second place for coffee once."

DeLong credits the success of her business to her personal mantra of "all the time changing something." This mantra was especially beneficial once the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020.

"We were the first ones in town to put these (plexiglass barriers) up," she said. "I was such a fanatic when the pandemic first came about. I had my husband go to ACE Hardware and we bought it, put it up and we posted a picture on Facebook. We had over 200 comments and likes and it wasn't even four

days after that, Kroger had them up, Food Lion had them up. All these places had them up and then they were all sold out of plexiglass."

DeLong said she plans to keep the plexiglass even after the pandemic is over.

"They are probably going to stay up because I think it kind of protects the cashier from just about anything," she said. "It prevents people from reaching over into the cash register. It's a good thing."

The bakery also will maintain curbside service for customers that request it, as well.

"Also, the sanitation part," DeLong said. "Yeah, we sanitized and cleaned the tables and everything before, but now we go even beyond that. We go through every little bit like spraying the door handles, wiping down all the saltshakers, and things like that. Now, it's just a regiment that we are going to be doing and in the long run, it'll prevent diseases of all kinds. That part, I think, was a positive."

While the bakery wasn't immune from the economic effects of the virus, DeLong said that customers eventually rallied to support the business.

"It hit hard for the first two months, but we are mostly take-out. It hit places that are more sit-down than it did us," she said. "Our sales did go down initially, but not to the point of closing down or anything."

Even with limits on large gatherings, De-

Long said the holidays during the pandemic were also successful.

"Thanksgiving and Christmas were really good this year. There was no decline that I could tell," she said. "Normal ticket orders will have a lot on there because" customers were having parties. "This year, we had a lot of tickets, but they were

smaller items. We had more of them, though. People were having their own little things, so the money was pretty similar."

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, she hopes that is a trend that will continue.

To find out more, visit www.facebook.com/SWEETCAKESBAKERY2015JLND/.



Samples of menu options available at Sweetcakes.

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