

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, March 20, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Blake Jennings, senior director of development and facilities for Biscuitville, discussed plans to relocate the restaurant to allow for less congestion on the streets. A public hearing on the proposal will be held at Tuesday's meeting of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Collinsville Biscuitville to relocate

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

It's not uncommon to see a massive line of cars spilling out of Biscuitville's parking lot onto Virginia Avenue during the morning commute, but that sight could be a thing of the past with the franchise planning to relocate operations to a lot closer to the U.S. 220 bypass.

The new location, in the former Aloha Wok space across from Bryant's Radio in Collinsville, would offer more space for customers to assemble, and pending final approval of a rezoning request, more parking as well.

The Henry County Planning Commission unani-

mously approved an application to rezone approximately 0.59-acres from suburban residential to commercial during a March 10 meeting.

The applicant requested the rezoning for additional parking in conjunction with a future Biscuitville restaurant to be located at 3424 Virginia Avenue.

"We've been operating in Collinsville since 1975. It was one of our first Biscuitvilles and it's time for a new home," said Blake Jennings, senior director of development and facilities for eatery. "We've had some issues with stacking. You've probably seen our cars. They back out

See **Biscuitville**, page 5



PHOTO BY JASMINE THOMPSON

The Bengal's Community Garden is a project at Bassett High School in partnership with the Community Storehouse.

Students combine agricultural education with community service

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Students at Bassett High School soon will have the opportunity to share the fruits of their labors with the community through a new project called The Bengal's Community Garden.

The school is partnering with the Community Storehouse, which means that not only will the students learn about agriculture and horticulture, but they also may make a difference to families in need.

Jasmine Thompson, horticulture instructor at the school, said food insecurity has only increased during the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created many hardships for people in our community, having the resources to put food on the table is one,"

Thompson said. "A community giving garden is created to grow and distribute fresh produce to food banks and community shelters. You can typically find these types of gardens at schools, churches, and even back yards. Having a project such as The Bengal's Community Garden is important because it not only teaches our students the importance of giving back to the community, but it helps combat the hunger issues in our area."

After recognizing the growing need, Thompson said the school applied to the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom for a grant which is funding the new garden.

While Thompson is leading the effort, most of the work will be completed

See **Students**, page 4

Search for new PHCC president begins

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Glenn DuBois, chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, joined the Patrick Henry Community College Board during a March 15 meeting to discuss the next steps in finding the school's new president after the announcement of Dr. Angeline Godwin's retirement earlier in the year.

"I can certainly say that we can't replace Angeline, but we can certainly find somebody worthy to succeed her," DuBois said.

Godwin is slated to depart the post in June, but DuBois expressed doubts that the position will be filled at that time.

"We will not have this job done

by June. That's when Angeline is leaving," DuBois said. "I'm confident we will have somebody on board, or named, by early summer and probably on board by September. In that very short period, I will have to appoint an interim president."

DuBois said the first step in the process involved surveying the PHCC community.

"Asking the college community to articulate the priorities that they see moving forward, in the next 3-5 years," DuBois said. "What are the initiatives that we have in place or that we are working on that we must maintain or continue? The reason that we do this upfront is we want to try and get it down to those priorities and find the right

leader out there that has the skill set to help us achieve those articulated priorities."

After completing the survey, the results were used to form a national advertisement for the position, according to DuBois. The position is currently posted on the Virginia Community Colleges website with a salary range of \$144,449 - \$177,704.

Among the priorities listed for the position are "prioritizing teaching, learning and student success at the forefront, and identifying and focusing on the needs of the local K-12 schools in the area and providing opportunities for partnerships. In addition, the next president will

See **PHCC**, page 7

Slate of public hearings set for Tuesday

Debbie Hall
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Several public hearings will be held when the Henry County Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesday, March 23, in the Summerlin Boardroom, located in the Henry County Administration Building.

The hearings are set for the 6 p.m. meeting, and include:

* A proposed ordinance regarding a Cooperative Marketing Agreement between the Martinsville Speedway and WynnBet, a Virginia sports betting permit holder. Any marketing activities as part of the marketing agreement must be conducted in compliance with the existing zoning and other site plan authorizations permitted for the Martinsville Speedway site.

* A proposed Community Development Block Grant application to restore the Historic Fieldale Recreation

Center. A public hearing is required as part of the application process. If funded, the grant will provide up to \$1,000,000 toward renovating the center.

* A proposed amendment to the FY '20-'21 School Budget and Total County Budget to consider appropriating \$8,037,505 the school board received in Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds. School officials have indicated the funds will be used for essential instructional and maintenance supplies, personnel costs, and school facilities upgrades.

* A resolution to authorize issuing General Obligation Refunding Bond. Last month, the supervisors heard a presentation about the opportunity to issue a Virginia Public School Authority (VSPA) General Obligation bond

to refund the existing lease revenue bonds issued by the Industrial Development Authority to finance Meadow View Elementary School. The refinancing has the potential to save approximately \$1,000,000 over the life of the borrowing.

* A proposal to relocate Mountain View (#405) voting precinct. The Henry County Electoral Board proposed moving the precinct from the VFW Building on Old Chatham Road to the Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church on the same road. General Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn will attend the meeting to provide additional information.

* A rezoning application from Scott Frye/Stimmel Associates on 0.59-acre of property located at 3446 Virginia Ave., in the Collinsville District. The applicant is requesting the rezoning from Suburban Residential District

See **Hearings**, page 2

Gubernatorial hopeful campaigns in Stuart

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Sergio de la Peña, a gubernatorial hopeful, campaigned in Stuart at a Mar. 9 meeting of the Patrick County Republican Committee.

De La Peña, who has never held political office before, said he was inspired to run to protect the American Dream.

"Virginia is the appraisal of the American experiment that has provided the greatest good for the world in the history of humanity. That's no exaggeration, that's what Virginia is all about. Virginia is the birthplace of the American Dream, and that's the dream that I've lived," he said.

De la Peña was born in Mexico in a house with dirt floors and no running water. He legally immigrated to the United States when he was five years

old with his mother and his brothers.

"My father was already here. He was working as a farmer, as a farm worker, and as a cowboy," he said.

When he was 10 years old, de la Peña started picking cotton.

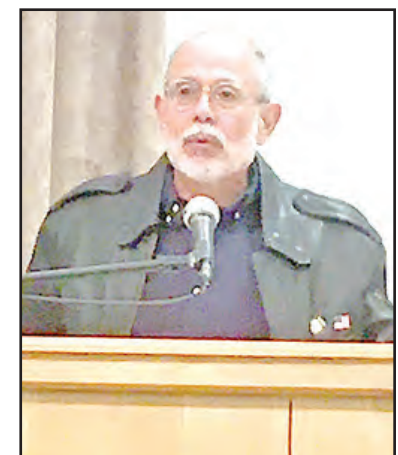
"Between the time I started picking cotton and the time I joined the Army, I had 20 different part-time jobs, and that included working at a lumber yard, working as a welder, working on a drilling rig exploring for uranium. So, I know what it is to get dirty and have to do the work that it takes to put the daily bread on the table, or at least help my mom and my dad do that," he said.

De la Peña joined the Army and completed Rangers School before serving for 30 years. He started his military career stationed in Germany during the Cold War.

"Our position was to defend against

a Soviet attack of Western Europe that also included the possibility of nuclear

See **Campaigns**, page 5



Sergio de la Peña campaigned in Stuart on March 9.

Rothrock remembered for good nature, contributions to the disabled community

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

In the face of adversity, many men would call it quits, but when life's circumstances sought to break Jim Rothrock's spirit, he picked up the gauntlet and accepted the challenge.

Jim Rothrock died March 8, but his smile and charming demeanor will remain with his family and friends for significantly longer.

"The thing I'm going to miss most about him is his smile, his pretty eyes and his laugh," said his wife, Jane Rothrock. "He made everybody laugh, he smiled, and he was just the sweetest guy. That was his personality."

Jim Rothrock, 72, was born in Martinsville in 1948. His father, Tom, passed away while he was still young, leaving his mother, Ruth, to raise six children by herself.

Two years later, Jim Rothrock experienced another life changing event. He be-

came paralyzed after suffering a spinal cord injury while sledding.

Not one to let that slow him down, Jim Rothrock began treatment at the Woodrow Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) to learn how to care for himself in a wheelchair.

See **Rothrock**, page 8



Jim and Jane Rothrock during a beach trip.

Visit
<http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com>
for updates



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 20

Piedmont Arts will open the studio from noon to 3 p.m. for students to work in acrylic, oil or colored pencil with artist Karen Despot and fellow students. Bring your own supplies. Social distancing and masks are required at all in-person classes. The event is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advanced registration required. Register at PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632.3221.

Friday, March 26

The Ronald McDonald House and B-99.9 will host a Donation Day event in the radio station parking lot at 10899 Virginia Avenue from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Stop by to donate, win prizes and listen to music.

Saturday, April 3

Miles in Martinsville will be holding the Martinsville Half Marathon and 5K beginning at 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. respectively. Both races start and finish in front of the Virginia Museum of Natural History, adjacent to the Martinsville Henry County Family YMCA. Participants may pick up their packets with race bibs at the Martinsville YMCA at 3 Starling Avenue, on Friday, April 2, from noon until 6 p.m., and on race day at the Martinsville YMCA, from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Deadline for registration is midnight on March 31, 2021. Due to COVID protocols, no in-person paper registrations will be accepted on Friday, April 2 or Saturday, April 3. Details and online registration is available at www.milesinmartinsville.com.

First Baptist Church Martinsville is hosting a community-wide Egg Hunt beginning at 10 a.m. The egg hunt will feature two events -- one for younger children and one for older children. Age ranges for the hunts will be 2-4 years old and 5-10 years old. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. Stations will be in the church parking lot for a reading of the Easter story, socially distanced photos with the Easter Bunny, and goody bags containing an Easter craft

for the children to take home.

Sunday, April 11

A Barn Quilt Class with instructor Lauren Byron from 1 to 5 p.m. Space will be limited due to social distancing. All supplies are provided. Pricing is based on size: 12"x36" exterior \$70; 24"x24" exterior \$60; 36"x36" exterior \$80. Monograms or specialty designs may incur an extra charge.

Saturday, April 17

Painting with Genie at 1 p.m. Cost is \$20/members and \$25/non-members. All supplies provided. Masks and social distancing will be required. Class size is limited.

Pig Cookin' Competition and Pig Patty Bingo will be held, with plenty of BBQ for sale, along with our Pig Patty Bingo Raffle. Pre-order by calling or coming by the Centre. Tubs available for \$8 each and available for pick-up afternoons on April 17 and April 24. Live footage of the competition will be available on the Spencer-Penn Facebook page.

Ongoing

Spencer Penn Community Centre open Computer Labs are held Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and other times by appointment. High speed internet access is available. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Virtual Story Time is held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Facebook group: Spencer-Penn Storytime Goes Virtual. Supplies for each week may be picked up at the Centre and will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Charles & Rose Hylton Library is open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sign up for a library card today. No charge. Masks and social distancing is required.

Yoga is held on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. for yoga with Sheila. Cost is \$8/session or \$40/series of 6. Students are asked to bring their own yoga mat and props if possible.

Contact the Centre for more details at (276) 957-5757 or email spencerpenn04@gmail.com.

Hearings

from page 1

S-R to Commercial District B-1, to accommodate an adjacent parking lot in conjunction with the planned Biscuitville restaurant to be developed on Virginia Ave.

* A rezoning application from Donna T. Mellott for located at 3090 Mt Olivet Road, in the Iriswood District. Mellott is requesting the rezoning of approximately 12-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R, with plans to remove the old house from the property and replace it with a manufactured home.

* A rezoning application from Christina N. Porter for property located at 263 George Hairston Road, in the Blackberry District. Porter is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5.6-acres from Rural Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1, with plans to keep chickens, which is only allowed on agricultural zoned property.

The board also will meet at 3 p.m. to:

*Consider a proclamation declaring March 28 – April 3, 2021 as Boys & Girls Club Week.

*Consider a proclamation recognizing National Library Week.

*Hear a report from Treasurer Scott Grindstaff on Delinquent Tax Collection Efforts.

*Hear an update from Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

* Consider a resolution regarding a Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and the Pretrial Services Act, which would allow Halifax County to potentially use grant funds to expand and provide the services in Henry County. Halifax/Pittsylvania Court Services currently provides pretrial services and local probation to Halifax County, Pittsylvania County, and the City of Danville, with Halifax County serving as fiscal agent.

* Consider meeting in closed session to discuss: appointees to the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services, and West Piedmont Planning District Commission; pending legal matters; the acquisition/disposal of real estate, and as-yet unan-

HOROSCOPES

ARIES -

Mar 21/Apr 20

Don't shy away from the issues that keep cropping up this week, Aries. They may cause a few headaches, but they also are making the days much more exciting.

TAURUS -

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, many people like to live by the mantra "don't judge a book by its cover," but many times appearances matter. Don't regret picking out a nice outfit or a trendy restaurant.

GEMINI -

May 22/June 21

Change may take you in unexpected directions this week, Gemini. The good news is that things are finally turning around for you. Enjoy this exciting time.

CANCER -

June 22/July 22

Cancer, you may be drawn to people who appeal to your analytical side this week. You could be interested in some intellectual debate and need a worthy sparring partner.

LEO -

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, if you see a chance to get ahead this week, jump on it. No matter what is involved or how inconvenient, you do not want to let this opportunity pass you by.

VIRGO -

Aug 24/Sept 22

There is much more clarity in your life this week, Virgo. It's almost as if a veil has been lifted or if your eyeglasses prescription has been fine-tuned.

LIBRA -

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, there might be a lot of activity going around you over the course of the week. Whether it's good or bad, you won't be directly involved in any of it.

SCORPIO -

Oct 24/Nov 22

Exercise caution when sharing your secrets, Scorpio. Make sure others can be tight-lipped, as some people cannot resist passing on a little gossip here and there.

SAGITTARIUS -

Nov 23/Dec 21

There is great harmony in your life right now and it's due mostly to the fact that you are working together with people both at home and at work. Keep up the collaborations.

CAPRICORN -

Dec 22/Jan 20

Listen to people around you to get a fresh perspective on various components of life that you share. People may have good ideas and be willing to share their advice.

AQUARIUS -

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, if you have been trying to become better acquainted with someone in your personal life or even at the office, pay attention to their body language. It can say a lot.

PISCES -

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, trust your heart this week and be honest with how you feel about situations. Not every decision has to be based on analysis. Trust your gut.

Local residents earn degree from WGU

Two local residents have earned a degree from Western Governors University (WGU).

* Desiree Gilbert, of Bassett, received a Bachelor of Science, Nursing.

* Renee Kendrick, of Spencer, received a Master of Science, Nursing - Education (BSN to MSN).

WGU has recognized 14,146 undergraduate and 15,640 graduate degree recipients, who have completed their degrees since July 2, 2020. Their areas of study in-

clude business, K-12 education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was 2 years, 3 months, while the average time to degree for graduate programs was 1 year, 4 months. The average age for those who graduated is 37 years old.

The online, nonprofit university has graduated over 218,000 students from across the country since its inception in 1997.

New app unveiled, content now viewable in one convenient place

Henry County Enterprise has recently launched a new app to make catching up on your news easier than ever! The app offers local, state, and national news categories, and readers can also sort their content by state, by newspaper, or by county. With content being posted throughout the week, it's simple to stay in-the-know and up-to-date with your community.

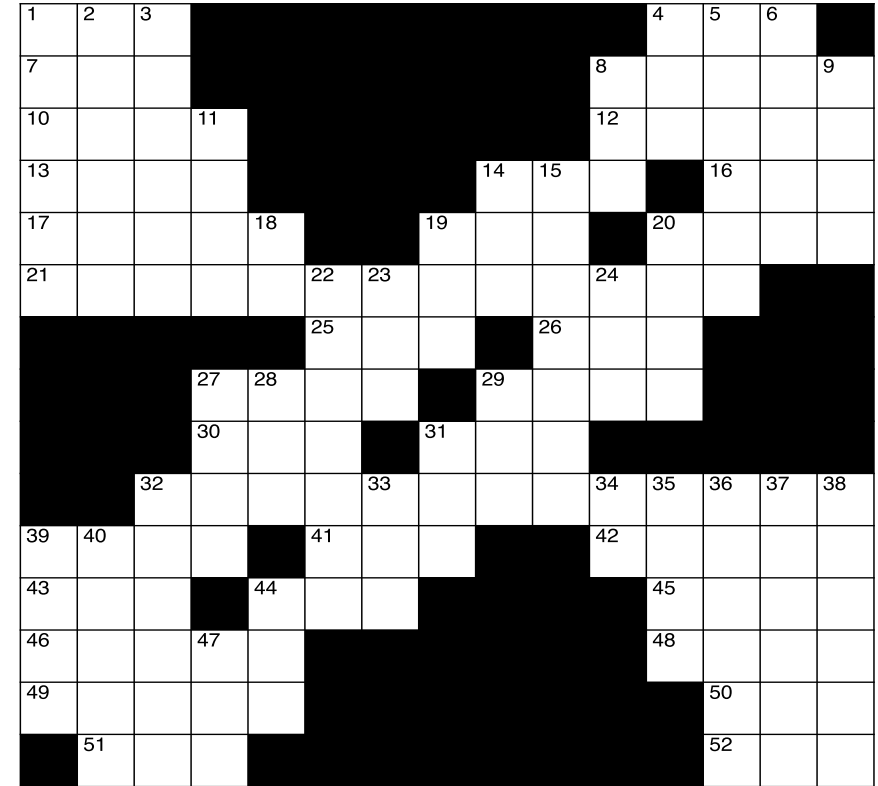
Henry County Enterprise is owned by Virginia Media Inc., a subsidiary of Mountain Media LLC, which also owns The Enterprise, Fincastle Herald, New Castle Record, the Vinton Messenger, Salem Times-Register, News Messenger, and Radford News Journal. Mountain Media also publishes several newspapers in West Virginia: the Mountain Messenger, Poca-

hontas Times, Clay County Free Press, and Parsons Advocate. All of these papers are now available through just one app.

"I believe it is important to be able to access regional news in a user-friendly way," said Publisher Michael Showell. "Our app makes it easy for everyone to know what is going on both in their community and across the state. Community news is important in every city, and to have it all accessible in one place is vital."

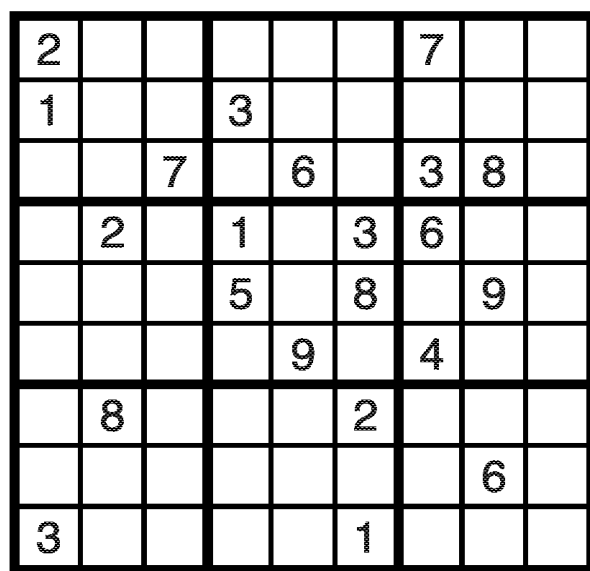
To download the app, simply visit www.mountainmessenger.com on your phone's browser. A pop-up will appear at the bottom of the screen with a link to instructions to download the free app. Follow our step-by-step guide for full installation information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- "Be back later"
 - Hoover's office
 - Brew
 - Philo and Reglis are two ("Star Wars")
 - Actress Remini
 - Moghul emperor
 - Alaskan glacier
 - Constrictor
 - Prohibit
 - Ancient Brittonic tribe
 - Chinese pastry
 - Razorbill is of this genus
 - Beloved holiday decoration
 - Dutch football club
 - Aggressive dog
 - Small piece of glass
 - "South Park" creator
 - Leisure activity
 - Someone's story
 - Record-setting swimmer
 - Hillside
 - Unit of measurement
 - Famous for its potatoes
 - Insect secretion
 - Gate in Marrakesh
 - Cain and
 - A set of moral principles
 - Repair
 - Two-terminal semiconductor device
 - Strongly alkaline solution
 - Former CIA (abbr.)
 - Satellite laser ranging
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Sea
 - Cleans things
 - More skinny
 - Supervises flying
 - Talk rapidly and excitedly
 - Intestinal
 - Don't know when yet
 - Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - Chinese and Vietnamese ethnic group
 - Wild cattle genus
 - Rock formation
 - Makes up
 - Resembles a pouch
 - Having an aerial quality
 - Windpipe
 - Million barrels per day
 - Bitterly regret
 - Soft creamy white cheese
 - Renamed when EU was incorporated
 - ' death do us part
 - Sound unit
 - Men proud of their masculinity
 - Clergy member's vestment
 - Hello
 - Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 - Marks
 - Derived from benzene
 - Low-melting alloy
 - Lost blood
 - Quantitative relation
 - Academic degree
 - Many subconsciouses

SUDOKU

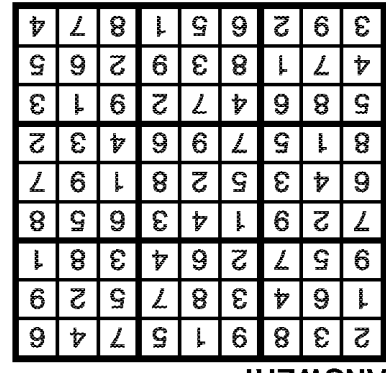


Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!



ANSWER:

Input sought on Appalachian Power's request to recover transmission costs

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is offering time for members of the public to give oral comments by telephone on a request by Appalachian Power Company (APCo) to increase a rate adjustment clause that covers transmission costs.

Appalachian Power is proposing to increase its Transmission Rate Adjustment Clause (T-RAC) from \$225.1 million to \$337.7 million, an increase of \$112.6 million effective in July 2021. For the average res-

idential customer using 1,000 kWh per month, this request represents an increase of \$11.52 per month.

Through the T-RAC, APCo collects its costs for new and existing transmission facilities and related services that APCo receives from a regional transmission organization called PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. The rates PJM charges APCo and its other members are set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. APCo collects these

charges from customers as part of the cost of providing electric service.

The SCC has scheduled a public witness session to begin at 10 a.m. on April 26, 2021, to consider the T-RAC application. Public witnesses intending to provide oral testimony must pre-register with the SCC by 5 p.m. on April 21, 2021. Witnesses will be called by SCC staff on April 26 in the order in which they registered. Testimony will be limited to five minutes per caller. The hearing

will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Those who wish to provide oral testimony may pre-register in one of three ways:

*Completing a public witness form for case number PUR-2021-00018 on the SCC's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting

*E-mailing the same form (PDF version on the same website as above) to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov

*Calling the SCC at

804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and providing their name and the phone number you wish the Commission to call to reach you during the hearing.

A public evidentiary hearing will follow the public witness hearing either in the SCC's second floor courtroom in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in Richmond or by electronic means to receive testimony and evidence from the company, any respon-

dents, and the SCC staff.

For those who prefer, there also is an opportunity to provide comments in writing on the TRAC application. Written comments may be submitted through the SCC's website by April 19, 2021, at scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Simply go to the SCC website, select "Cases" and then "Submit Public Comments," and scroll down to case number PUR-2021-00018. Then click SUBMIT COMMENTS.

Martinsville Middle School teacher selected for spring webinar series

Kevan Keane, teacher at Martinsville Middle School, is one of only 120 teachers selected for a National History Day (NHD) spring professional development program. This course focuses on using online Library of Congress resources to develop and support historical arguments and is a feature of NHD's membership in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium.

The teachers chosen for this honor represent NHD's 58 affiliates across the country and around the world, and the National History Day program in Virginia selected Keane. NHD affiliates include

all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and international school programs in China, South Asia, and South Korea.

"The skills and strategies Keane is developing through this series will benefit his students over the course of their academic and professional careers," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "As a Library of Congress TPS Consortium member, NHD is incredibly fortunate to be able to offer this opportunity for teachers, especially now as teachers and students continue to address challenges of non-

traditional learning settings required by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

"We meet once per month, participate in discussion boards, practice different methods of primary source analysis, and during the webinars, we can see how the students are doing it," said Keane. "It is my first time participating as I had never heard of the program before this year. Some of the biggest takeaways I can implement are contextualizing primary sources, how geography, location, and context in various sources of communication can show the success or failure of a message (i.e., Prohibition). I worked with fellow teachers

through this experience. With this course and the "Teaching History Online" course that preceded it has been eye-opening in that it has allowed me to come together with other educators to better our craft together."

For several months, Keane works with his peers around the country and National History Day staff to build knowledge for teaching with online Library of Congress resources. Upon completion of the series, he will have demonstrated the ability to share with his students' key strategies for researching, supporting, and presenting historical arguments bolstered by these primary sources.

"Mr. Keane is a new teacher to our division this school year and has done excellent work with our students," said Martinsville Middle School Principal Cynthia Tarpley. "We are elated that Mr. Keane was chosen to participate in a national webinar series engaging students from around the world. Our staff is very proud of Mr. Keane and his accomplishments."

"I am very proud of Mr. Keane's historical work," said MCPS Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley. "Kevan is a very dedicated professional with great insight. He will make great contributions to historical scholarship."

Northam signs 80 bills into law



Gov. Ralph Northam signed 80 new pieces of legislation into law, including measures to protect homeowners from foreclosure, shift municipal elections from May to November, provide financial aid to students regardless of immigration status, and repeal women's health restrictions on the health insurance exchange in Virginia.

"These new measures will support working Virginians, boost civic engagement, and help us continue building a stronger, more inclusive Commonwealth," said Northam. "I am grateful to the General Assembly for their hard work on these important issues, and I am proud to sign these bills into law."

The new laws signed by Northam include:

House Bill 2123, which makes any student eligible for state financial aid if they are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. This law will take effect August 1, 2022.

House Bill 2165 allows "heirs property" owners to claim property and provides additional time to pay delinquent taxes.

House Bill 2175 strengthens protections for homeowners facing foreclosure.

House Bill 2013 prohibits school boards from suing families to collect

debts on unpaid school meals.

Senate Bill 1290 codifies Northam's ConserveVirginia program, a data-driven Geographical Information Systems model to prioritize potential conservation areas across the Commonwealth. House Bill 1896 removes the prohibition on abortion coverage in any qualified health insurance plan offered through the Virginia state-based exchange.

House Bill 2042 allows localities to exceed requirements in tree replacement and conservation efforts, including in development projects.

Senate Bill 1157 shifts all municipal elections from May to November, starting in 2022.

House Bill 1940, directs the Virginia Department of Education to establish guidelines that permit middle and high school students to attend a civic or political event and receive an excused absence.

House Bill 2110 builds on the work started by the Virginia State Crime Commission to collect and study pretrial data across Virginia, including bail, conviction, and sentencing information.

House Bill 2250 prohibit the testing of cosmetics on animals and the selling of cosmetics that have been tested on animals beginning in 2022.

Vaccine offered to enrolled veterans of all ages

The Salem VA Health Care System has opened scheduling of COVID-19 vaccines to veterans of all ages effective immediately.

The two-shot series Moderna vaccination will be given at the Salem VA Medical Center, and the single-dose Janssen vaccination will be available at Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Tazewell, Lynchburg, Danville, Wytheville, and Staunton.

"The Salem VA Health Care System is excited to be able to open vaccination appointments for all of our enrolled Veteran population," said Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, Chief of Pharmacy at the Salem VA Medi-

cal Center. "Individuals are encouraged to reach out to their primary care teams or call our vaccination hotline between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule their appointments."

Thompson also said that Veterans who received the first of a two-dose vaccination at a community hospital must get their second dose at the same location; he also encourages Veterans who have been fully vaccinated at community hospitals to bring their vaccination card with them to their next VA appointment so their medical records can be updated.

To schedule an appointment, call (540) 982-2463 and choose Option 2.

Hospital eases visitor restrictions

Sovah Health is transitioning from an orange limited visitor restriction to yellow limited visitor restriction, which will allow most patients to have one visitor or support person per day.

The transition has been implemented and is effective immediately.

The decision to transition was made as current projections continue to indicate a lower-than-expected volume of COVID-19 in the region and after careful review of state and federal guidance.

Visitors are still not allowed for high-risk patients, including those being cared for in the behavioral health unit, patients who are in isolation, immunocompromised, or those under observation or test positive for COVID-19.

Some exceptions may apply for those receiving end-of-life care or are deemed a clinical necessity.

"Our hospital's top priority is safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our patients, providers, employees and community," said Alan Larson, Market President, Sovah Health and CEO. "We continue to monitor closely the prevalence of

the virus in our community as we adapt our operations to safely care for and support our patients, and we feel confident that it is safe to begin allowing limited visitors again at this time."

As part of the updated visitor restrictions, patients are now limited to one well visitor per day during certain visitation hours. Visitation hours are 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to noon, and again from 5 to 8 p.m. Only one visitor will be allowed during each time block. For example, a patient may have one visitor in the morning and a different visitor in the evening, however visitors will not be allowed to switch out during each

time block. All visitors must be 18 years of age or older. They also will be screened upon entry and are required to provide their own mask and wear a visitor security pass sticker while in the facility. Visitors who do not pass the screening at entry will be asked to reschedule their visit until they are symptom-free.

Sovah Health continues to screen everyone who enters the facility for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, per CDC guidelines. For additional updates on how the hospital is working to maintain a safe and supportive environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit SovahHealth.com.

CASA volunteer training set

The Franklin County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is recruiting volunteers to serve as advocates for children in the community.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life, educational backgrounds, and professional careers. Those interested are trained community volunteers, appointed by a judge to speak up for children who are involved in judicial proceedings related to abuse, neglect, or children in need of supervision or services.

Applicants for this program must be 21 years of age, communicate effectively both orally and in writing, and be able to interact with people of various educational and ethnic backgrounds. Applicants must pass state and federal background checks.

Those entering the training program will receive 40 hours of training related to their volunteer duties and two additional 2-hours of court observation.

After being sworn-in CASAs are mentored by an experienced volunteer for their first two cases. CASA volunteers should be able to commit to 5-10 hours a month, after training, and be able to appear in court for hearings.

The role of a CASA volunteer is child advocacy. Information is collected and compiled in a report including case and family history, current family conditions, concerns, and recommendations to ensure children remain safe and have permanent homes. CASAs also act as guardian ad litem, the child's attorney, monitor each case for compliance

with the court's orders, and report findings to the court. All CASAs are mandated reporters of abuse and neglect.

A virtual information session will be held March 24 at 6 p.m., and training begins April 8 and will be held virtually. For more information on CASA, visit www.southernvacac.org or call (540) 484-5566.

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OPINION

Disney+, Dumbo, and outrage exhaustion

I recently got a request to write a column about the latest outrage: the streaming service Disney+ has removed several movies from their Kids Profiles, including Peter Pan and Dumbo.

People are predictably up in arms about this, largely because they seem to think the movies have been completely removed from the streaming service, which is not the case. The movies are simply unavailable on user profiles set up for children. Adults can still watch the movies, and they'll now come with a content advisory. Adults can also choose to show their kids the movies. And kids, being pretty smart, can probably circumvent the restriction anyway.

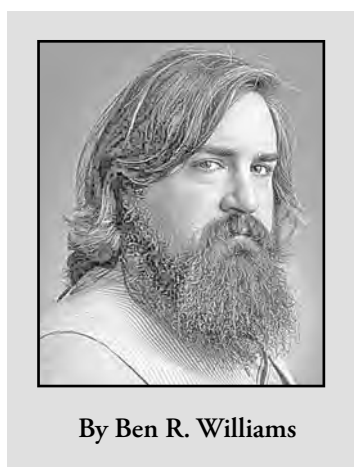
Why these particular movies? Well, Peter Pan includes the song "What Made the Red Man Red?" which, viewed through the lens of the 21st century, is a staggeringly racist scene that's usually cut when the movie is shown in syndication.

Dumbo, meanwhile, features not only the wildly racist crow characters (their leader is named

"Jim Crow," for crying out loud), but also the "roustabouts" song, which features the only black human characters in the movie singing about how they never learned to read or write and "slave until we're almost dead." Not to mention the extended sequence in which Dumbo gets drunk and sees visions of nightmarish pink elephants, which actually takes up more screen time than the part where Dumbo learns to fly, which is ostensibly the point of the movie.

Anyway, people are upset and making a big deal over this because no one understands what's actually happening, and God forbid people take five seconds to read an article and understand the full story because then they wouldn't get to be angry anymore.

It's all getting pretty tiring, isn't it? In the last few weeks, I've written about Gina Carano, Mr. Potato Head, Dr. Seuss, and now this. Every week, there's a new hot-button "cancel culture" issue in the news, and every week, people work themselves into a



By Ben R. Williams

high dudgeon because they don't have the full story and don't care to know it.

I'm not relishing the idea of writing the same basic column every week for the next four years, so instead, I've come up with a brilliant idea. Since every one of these outrages is basically the same, I've written a generic column that you can clip out of the paper and stick on your fridge. Read it once a week, and I guarantee it will remain relevant for years to come. I hope you enjoy!

Generic cancel culture outrage column

Boy, did you hear the latest? It seems that (media entity/corporation/public figure) is in hot water because (a press release was misconstrued by the media/a politician has no actual platform beyond keeping the base angry/they realized it's no longer profitable to be openly racist, only quietly and subtly racist).

I did some research into this issue, however, and it turns out that (the media intentionally misconstrued this issue because it generates clicks on social media/the aforementioned politician is trying to distract everyone from the fact that they openly hate their constituents and vote against their interests/the thing being "cancelled" is obvi-

ously racist to everyone who doesn't keep a dog-eared copy of "The Turner Diaries" on their nightstand).

People are plenty upset, because as we all know, (there is no room for nuance in 21st century American discourse/ditto/thats all I've got).

Anyway, I hope this column answered some questions. Join us next week when we'll address the cancellation of such treasured classics as (a toy that you assumed hadn't been manufactured since 1965/a book you've neither read nor heard of/Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph of the Will.")

~ By Ben R. Williams

Standing up for the Second Amendment

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

The freedoms guaranteed by the Second Amendment should not be considered less than the other freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights. Legislation to restrict rights such as free speech, freedom of the press, and due process during criminal proceedings would rightly raise an outcry.

The right to keep and bear arms should not be considered differently, and I will never vote to infringe your Second Amendment rights.

Notwithstanding the constitutional right to bear arms, the House Democrats put on the floor and passed in one week two bills, H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446, that would restrict your Second Amendment rights. There certainly has been an outcry; I have heard from many constituents of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District strongly in opposition to these bills.

First up was H.R. 8, which would expand background

checks to cover the private transfer of firearms between individuals. Were this bill to become law, violations could incur up to a year in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

It is difficult to see what H.R. 8 would accomplish beyond adding to the burdens of responsible gun owners. Under current law, firearms dealers must hold a Federal Firearm License and are required to run a background check on firearms purchasers in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Current federal law imposes other restrictions that make those placed upon gun owners by H.R. 8 unnecessary. Firearms cannot be sold to anyone prohibited from possessing a firearm or to anyone across state lines who lacks a firearms license. Nor can anyone provide a handgun to a juvenile except for limited purposes, and dealers cannot sell rifles or shotguns to individuals under 18 years of age.

With these actions already criminalized, the prohibitions

and penalties of H.R. 8 would fall upon much more mundane transactions. A person could not lend his or her firearm to a friend concerned about self-defense, for example, without a background check. Tracking firearm transfers under H.R. 8 would also set up the possibility of a national gun registry, something that greatly concerns gun owners.

An amendment offered by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) clarified that a gun owner concerned about harming him- or herself can transfer the firearm to a friend without a background check.

But stop and think about it: the fact that the amendment had to be offered at all is concerning, but to be offered by one of the most liberal Members of Congress shows how broadly this bill could affect private gun transfers and indeed your Second Amendment rights.

H.R. 1446 also imposes on gun owners by prolonging background checks through NICS. Current law requires the Federal

Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to complete such checks on anyone legally attempting to buy a gun through a federal firearms licensee within three days. With H.R. 1446, completing a check could potentially be put off indefinitely by the FBI due to inaction.

Delaying the completion of background checks or letting them be swallowed into a bureaucratic black hole would effectively deny Americans their Second Amendment rights, potentially with dangerous consequences if the firearm being purchased is for self-defense.

The case of New Jersey resident Carol Bowne, who sought a gun to protect herself but was killed by her ex-boyfriend in 2015 before the lengthy state permitting process was complete, indicates the damage that can result from protracted background checks.

For all the impositions placed upon gun owners by H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446, these measures would not have prevented high-profile tragic episodes of gun

violence we have seen in this country. Too often, these calamities resulted from a failure to adequately enforce current laws. Those failures should not deny law-abiding Americans their Second Amendment rights.

I strongly opposed H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 and cast my votes against them. Additionally, I have introduced this year my own bill, H.R. 225, to protect gun owners lawfully traveling through jurisdictions of the country with strict restrictions on firearms.

The Ninth District is home to many gun owners who buy, carry, and use their firearms for self-defense, hunting, recreation, and plenty more legitimate reasons. Congress should not be in the business of criminalizing constitutional rights, and as long as I am in the House, I will defend them.

For questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office (276) 525-1405, Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671 or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Students

from page 1

ed by the students themselves.

the school's horticulture program began in 2018 to expand educational opportunities for students in Henry County.

In total, the program has 92 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year, but only about half of that number are enrolled for the current semester.

Through the class, students will be exposed to a variety of gardening principles.

"Students have already learned how to build the raised beds out of lumber. Within the next few weeks, students will get their hands dirty even more. They will sow the seeds and take care of them as they grow," Thompson said. "They will learn the growing cycle of various vegetables, how and when to fertilize, how to treat plant diseases and how to harvest the crops. They will also learn, after the harvest, how to care for and proper handling procedures of the bounty."

All of these lessons will be taught from inside the three 4'x8' raised garden beds that the students completed on March 5. Thompson said she enlisted the help of two Future Farmers of America (FFA) officers — Lane Bailey, a junior, and Samantha Wall, a sophomore — and Summer Zuniga, a 10th grade horticulture student.

"Students started by outlining where they wanted the beds to be. Then, they put down a landscape cloth to aid in weed reduction," Thompson said. "Finally, they prepped the beds by putting in a mix of soil. It is

my hope that as the Bassett Horticulture program continues to grow, we can expand this project to include many more beds. We would like to be able to grow and donate as much as possible to give back to our community."

Thompson said the class helps educate students on the behind-the-scenes work to put food on the table.

"This is important for students to learn because as the years go by, the disconnect between the farm and the table grows wider," Thompson said. "If you ask someone where they got their corn, chances are their answer might be Kroger. It can be hard to realize where your food is coming from, especially as a student. This project aims to close the gap between the process from farm to table; not only with our students but community members."

Thompson said students will work in the garden at various times through the week. They will be responsible for planting the seeds, watering the garden daily, and performing routine checks on the crops for possible insect or disease issues.

When it's all said and done, students will hopefully have a bountiful harvest of lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, and corn.

"We are excited to see how many pounds we produce with this harvest," Thompson said. "We hope to expand this

project in the coming years. It is our goal to have a fall and spring harvest in the future."

This could provide a valuable resource for the Community Storehouse.

Travis Adkins, director of the Community Storehouse, "explained that they receive so many donations throughout the year which is amazing; however, little is fresh produce," Thompson said. "He said that it is like Christmas when people can come in and get fresh foods. We are so happy and excited to share our harvest with the community and have the students learn more about horticulture along the way."

The project is another way that some students have taken an active role in feeding the community.

"During FFA (Future Farmers of America) Week in February, we received a grant from the National FFA to create care packages for the local nursing home," Thompson said. "We were able to provide 50 care packages for nursing home residents at Stanleytown Rehabilitation. Each care package also received a written note by students wishing them well."

Given the impact of agriculture on society, Thompson said the study deserves more attention.

"We would be nowhere without this industry. It is important that horticulture is taught so that students realize why this industry is the backbone of

our society. Without the fruits and labors that this field provides, we would have a drastically altered existence," Thompson said. "There is a common misconception that agriculture is all 'plows and cows' where that simply is not the case."

Thompson said agricultural education is broken down into three sections: classroom instruction, FFA, and supervised agricultural experiences.

"The FFA is an organization that not only teaches students about agriculture, but prepares them for premier leadership, personal growth and career success," Thompson said. "Being enrolled in horticulture gives students the opportunity to learn career readiness skills for any career pathway before they leave the classroom."

Thompson said students compete locally, regionally, statewide, and nationally. Students also have an opportunity to win scholarships and meet with legislators.

"The horticulture program has only been at Bassett High School for three years," Thompson said. "I am so excited to grow this program on this side of the county by implementing the FFA Motto, 'Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve.'"

To track the students' progress in the garden, follow them on Facebook at Bassett High Horticulture or on Instagram at [bassett_ffa](https://www.instagram.com/bassett_ffa).

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyerprise.com

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

OBITUARIES

Mr. Garland Clark Childress, Jr.

Mr. Garland Clark "Junior" Childress, Jr., age 54 of Patrick Springs, passed away Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at his home. He was born in Roanoke on August 7, 1966, and was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Ann Kimball. He was a member of Concord Christian Church of Christ. He had been a truck driver for Nationwide Homes for 24 years where he went by the nickname of "Bull-rider."



rick Springs; a sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Steve Shupe of Hillsville; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Sunday, March 14, 2021 in Stella Christian Church Cemetery. Pastors Wayne Butler and Steve Hayes officiated.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, c/o Patty Hazelwood, Memorial Gift Chairman, 1988 Wayside Road, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Steve Douglas Belcher

Steve "Wiennie Man" Douglas Belcher, 65, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Low Gale Hospital. He was born February 3, 1956, in Martinsville, to the late Edward Hairston and Vergie "Jennie" Belcher Holland. He had worked for American Furniture. He loved basketball, "Steelers," "Lakers," spending time with family and friends, and sitting on the front porch.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Deborah Belcher.

He is survived by his sons, Steven Belcher and Edward Belcher; sisters, Ann Holland, Dorothy Easley, Carolyn Nevett, Angie Hairston and Stephanie Holland; brothers, Donnell Belcher, James Holland, Carl Hairston, Edward Hairston and John Holland; special friend, Carolyn Rumley and a host of nieces and nephews.

The memorial service will be private. Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Wanzo Demond Clack

Wanzo Demond Clack, 49, of Martinsville, passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at his home. He was born January 31, 1972 in Martinsville to the late James Morris Clack and Phyllis Jean Spencer Clack. He had been employed by Bo-jangles for nine years and Hanes Brands for six months. He attended Magna Vista High School and Crossover Fellowship. He enjoyed sports, and spending time with family and friends, especially his son.

Wanzo is survived by his son, Cameron Barbour; sisters, Catina King (Christo-

pher) and Stacey Clack; brothers, James M. Pritchett and Marcus M. Pritchett (Lynn); niece, Mykeria Pritchett; and nephews, Jahmir Pritchett, Jbreyon Pritchett and Christoff King.

The Memorial Service was held Thursday, March 18, 2021 at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with Bishop Lorenzo Hall officiating.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Thelma Goff Edwards

Thelma Goff Edwards, 76, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, March 13, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born December 26, 1944, to the late Dick and Joyce Miller Goff.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband John "Jack" Carter Edwards.

She is survived by sons, Jim Edwards, John Edwards, Jeff Edwards, Sean Edwards, and Chad Edwards; sister, Christy Bridges; brother,



John Goff; and grandchildren, Darian Edwards, Mariah Edwards, and Dylan Edwards.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with the Rev. Neil Pressley officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Salvation Army to hold fundraiser to honor COVID-19 victims



Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Salvation Army will be selling memorial crosses throughout the month of April for loved ones lost to the coronavirus pandemic.

Family members or friends can purchase the 18-inch coroplast crosses for \$20, beginning April 1.

Bradly Mumford, corps officer for the Salvation Army in Martinsville, said the idea serves two purposes.

"We want to put the crosses in our front yard at

the Salvation Army so everyone can visually see the impact the virus has had on the community," he said. "We are also hoping that it serves as a reminder of why it's so important to follow the recommended guidelines of washing your hands and socially distancing."

Mumford said each cross will display the victim's name and date of death.

"People will be able to walk through them like a maze," Mumford said. "We think it is a really good way to honor our lost loved ones and

it helps donate to a good cause."

Mumford said the proceeds will go directly to the emergency relief programs offered by the Salvation Army.

"Over the last year, a lot of the people that have been helped are those directly impacted by COVID-19," he said. "This money will do the same thing. It'll help continue to raise awareness, so people remain vigilant, but it'll also directly fund relief for those who most need it in our community."

Mumford said crosses

can be purchased for loved ones who died of other reasons besides COVID-19 as well.

"This will also serve as our response to Easter as well," Mumford said. "The crosses will be displayed throughout the month and once April is over, we will return the crosses to the family members for them to keep."

To date, Mumford said 100 crosses have been manufactured.

Mumford said inquiries about the crosses are currently being accepted. To find out more, call (276) 638-7259.

Downward unemployment trends in Virginia continue

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The number of local initial and continued unemployment claims largely continued to drop during the filing week ending March 6, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

After weeks of remaining steady at 52 initial unemployment claims, the number dropped by two in Henry County. Martinsville and Patrick County also saw decreases of four claims each. The total number of initial claims during the week was 45 in Martinsville and 18 in Patrick County.

The figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 13,736. The latest claims figure was an

increase of 1,581 claimants from the previous week.

The VEC announced that the number of continued claims filed during the March 6 filing week decreased by 1,729 claims from the previous filing week.

Henry County had a decrease of seven continued claims during the period, finishing the week with 360 total claims.

Patrick County also had a decrease in continued claims, falling from 105 to 97 claims.

Martinsville was the only locality of the three that had an increase during the period. The city had an increase from 198 continued claims to 210.

Statewide, continued weeks claimed totaled 62,269, which was a 2.7 percent decrease from the previous week, but 39,555 higher than the 22,714 continued

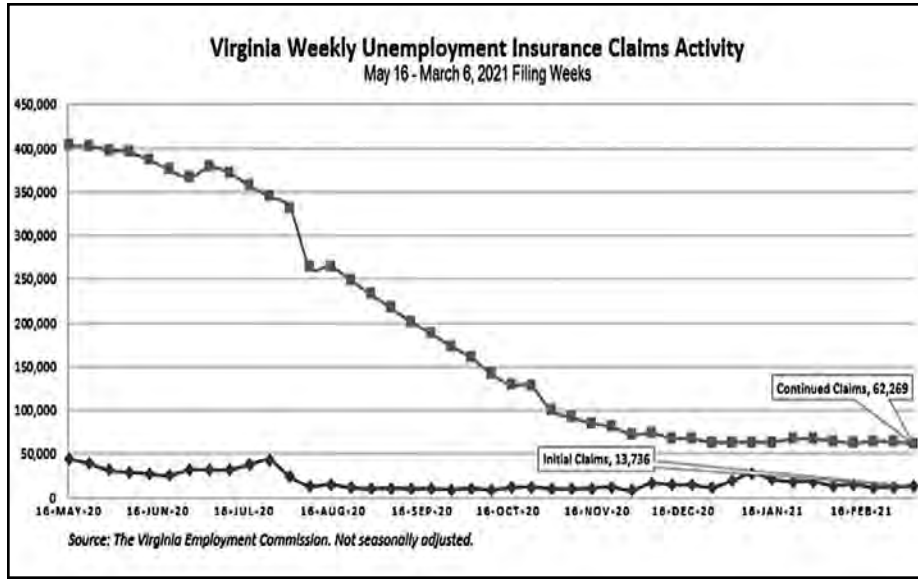
claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims that had a self-reported industry were in the accommodation/food service, retail trade, administrative and waste services, and healthcare/social assistance industries. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationwide, in the week ending March 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 712,000, a decrease of 42,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 9,000 from 745,000 to 754,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 709,458 in the week ending March 6, a decrease

of 47,170 (or -6.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 200,382 initial claims in the comparable week in 2020. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted ba-

sis. New York's preliminary weekly change (-12,968) was the largest decrease among states. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-11,014) was the second largest decrease. Mississippi's preliminary weekly

change (-10,937) was the third largest decrease. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (-6,487) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+7,450) was the second largest increase.



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Virginia bans the sale of newly animal tested cosmetics

Cruelty Free International, the leading organization working to end animal testing for cosmetics around the world, applauds Governor Ralph

Northam for signing the Virginia Humane Cosmetics Act into law. Virginia will join California, Nevada, and Illinois in ending the sale of newly

animal-tested cosmetics.

The new law will prohibit the sale of any cosmetic product that has been tested on animals after January 1, 2022.

The new cruelty free cosmetics law mirrors what has become a state model born out through concerted efforts by Cruelty Free International and the US cosmetics trade body, the Personal Care Products Council. These efforts are also helping to shape federal legislation of the same name.

Virginia legislators have been at the forefront of federal legislation too. In 2013, Virginia Congressman Jim Moran introduced the first federal Hu-

mane Cosmetics Act and his successor, Congressman Don Beyer, championed the legislation with support across Congress and across party lines.

Monica Engebretson, Cruelty Free International's Head of Public Affairs for North America, said, "we are delighted that Virginia has continued to be a national leader in ending animal testing for cosmetics. This is a significant step not just for Virginia but for the entire US as history has shown that state activity leads to changes at the federal level. This new law will help push the US to finally pass the federal Humane Cosmetics Act."

This is the second time in recent years that the Virginia legislature has taken action to restrict animal testing in favor of humane alternatives. In 2018, a bill by Sen. Boyko was signed into law that prohibits state testing facilities from performing animal tests on cosmetics and household products when there is an appropriate test method available. The new law strengthens this prohibition with respect to cosmetics products, barring manufacturers from selling cosmetics if they involve new animal tests, even if those tests were performed outside the state.

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PHCC from page 1

identify opportunities outside of traditional sources of tuition, fees, and state and local support to meet the needs of PHCC students and advance its mission and build upon the college's legacy of success in assisting the community to overcome economic downsizing and recovery. Lastly, the president will foster relationships with the area organizations to continue to provide free college access to local students."

DuBois said the Commonwealth is seen as "a very desirable state for community college executives" which generates a large volume of applicants.

While applications are still being accepted, DuBois said a search committee will be formed to narrow down candidates. Dr. Tommy Wright, president of Southwest Virginia Community College, will serve as chairman of the committee, and Marcia Conston, president of Tidewater Community College, will serve as vice-chairman. Additionally, three members of the PHCC board will serve on the committee, along with seven other individuals from member colleges of VCCS.

The three PHCC board members chosen to participate in the search are Janet Copenhaver, chairman; Wayne Moore and Barry Helmstutler.

"It is this committee that I will look to, to help try to help get down to a smaller group," DuBois said. "We will probably generate north of 70 applications. The committee members will look at each application and try to decide, really on the basis of written work submitted, on who they would like to bring in for a confidential, round one interview."

While there is no set number of applicants invited for the first round

of interviews, DuBois said the number is usually 10 to 12 applicants.

To help gauge competence in a few areas, DuBois said he likes to have the committee give the applicants "a little homework upfront" such as giving a presentation "on something that is important in our business."

DuBois said applicants will each interview separately with the search committee and then with himself and his staff.

"From there, our work is not done. We really want to get it down to a slate of finalists," DuBois said. "We will come to a consensus on who we would like to pursue. In the pursuit of finalists, we hire a firm to really dig deep and vet each of these candidates."

According to DuBois, approximately 95 percent of the applicants make it through the vetting process.

"We usually are very successful in getting a slate of finalists to the college campus," DuBois said. "Usually, it's three people. Sometimes it's four. It has been two, but it's never just been one. I want to give the college an opportunity to participate in the final choice."

Each finalist and their families will have an opportunity to visit the PHCC campus during this period. DuBois said his staff also takes time to recruit the spouses or significant others of applicants.

"We find out something about him or her and we put together a program of interest," DuBois said. "I think Angeline can tell you that her husband was interested in golf and car racing. While we were running her through the gauntlet of interviews, I think we showed off a golf course and maybe put him in a racing car."

After each candidate has an opportunity to meet with the local community, DuBois said he will meet with the PHCC board in closed session to solicit input on each of the applicants.

"Then I would make a decision on a contract offer," DuBois said.

While not the first priority of VCCS, DuBois said the system is "working hard to diversify our leadership ranks."

He added, "I think we have done a good job of increasing the number of women who have become presidents. We are doing a better job in minorities, but we are not at the playoffs. You (PHCC) have a lot of minority students. It's important for our faculty, our staff and our leaders to kind of look like the community that we are serving."

Godwin said of the selection process, "there is no finer, more professional or well-organized search than the Virginia Community College System presidential search."

While Godwin's involvement in the selection of the new president will be minimal, she encouraged the board to consider the impact of the future of the college on the entire community.

"We talk a lot around here about looking down the road and around the corner. This is an opportunity for you to do that," Godwin said. "Patrick Henry is a much more complex, much more sophisticated institution than its size would sometimes tell. Our college is embedded in equity and access. That is very much a priority, as it should be."

Applicants interested in applying for the position may visit <https://jobs.vccs.edu/postings/31798>.

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Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Maintenance Lead, REV (Reemploying Virginians) Coach, Building and Grounds Technician, MHC After 3 Instructor, MHC After 3 Program Leader, and Adjunct Faculty in Certified Professional Coder, Construction Trades, Nursing, NCCER Plumbing, Nurse Aide Primary Instructor, and Speech/Communication Studies. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Second arrest made in connection with February incident

Martinsville Police have arrested the second of two men in connection with a February 6 shooting.

Ombae Johnson Jr., 21, of Martinsville, was taken into custody on March 11, 2021 and charged with the following use of firearm in commission of a felony, malicious wounding, shoot into an occupied dwelling, and reckless handling of a firearm, according to a release from the city police department.

Johnson is being held without bond in the Martinsville City Jail in connection with the incident that occurred at the Valero on Brookdale Avenue, Martinsville, shortly before 2 a.m. on February 6.

At the time, individuals allegedly engaged in an argument which resulted in Deangelo M. Howard suffering a gunshot wound, authorities

have said. Howard was transported to the local emergency room and then to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Dasyne Akiese Hairston, 19, of Fourth Street Martinsville, on February 8 was arrested on charges of malicious wounding, shooting into an occupied building, reckless handling of a firearm and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, in connection with the incident.

The Martinsville Police Department continues to investigate this incident. More information will be released when it is available. Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to call Lt. Sandy Hines or Sgt Richard Ratcliffe at (276) 403-5300 or Martinsville/Henry County Crime Stoppers at 276-63-CRIME.



Ombae Johnson, Jr.

Apex Bail Bonds opens in Martinsville, Henry County

Apex Bail Bonds LLC, licensed in both Virginia and North Carolina, is expanding its reach week by week by opening its latest location at 1033 Liberty Street in Martinsville.

The company has quietly become the largest bail agency in the area, after first opening for business in Danville's River District in July of 2018.

In just two and a half years, Apex Bail Bonds has rapidly expanded its services by opening offices in Martinsville and Halifax Virginia and Wentworth, N.C. The company's flagship Danville office also serves cli-

ents at the Pittsylvania County Jail and Caswell County Jail in minutes.

Founder and President, Fred Shanks, IV stated, "When I founded Apex Bail Bonds in 2018, it was with the core belief that we would become the first bail bonds agency in the area to provide services to clients in every local jurisdiction, regardless of county or state. Today's announcement is a furtherance of that founding principle and is an effort to provide Martinsville bail bond clients and local law firms with a reputable brand name bondsman that they can

always count on in their time of need."

"We didn't get where we are today by putting dollars over sense; we provide compassionate service, the lowest rates allowed by law, financing to customers who need assistance, and zero hidden fees or interest costs. That's always been the Apex promise, and that compassionate and affordable service is now available in Martinsville and Henry County thanks to this new location," said Shanks.

Mersdesea Shelton-Millner, the recently widowed wife of

long-time Martinsville bail bondsman, the late Tony Millner, said "I'm so proud to have gotten to know Mr. Shanks and am ecstatic that Apex Bail Bonds is opening in Martinsville. Tony would be proud of the compassion, professionalism, and care that Apex Bail Bonds has been providing for years and my only wish is that he could be here to bless this opening."

"The late Tony Millner was an icon in the industry and was the greatest bail bondsman Martinsville has seen. The opportunity to carry his torch going forward is something that is

not lost on me, especially with the timing of his unfortunate passing just a few weeks ago. We want to provide the same encouragement to the youth in our community that he did. Apex Bail Bonds will make Tony proud," said Shanks.

Clients can reach Apex Bail Bonds by calling 276-252-8890 or stopping by 1033 Liberty St., Martinsville, VA to speak to a licensed bail bondsman in Martinsville and Henry County.

Additional expansion efforts by Apex Bail Bonds are underway with an announcement planned later this year.





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In addition to Henry County Enterprise, which covers Martinsville and Henry County, our other Virginia publications include: The Enterprise (which covers Patrick County/Stuart - including Meadows of Dan and other communities near the Blue Ridge Parkway); Salem Times Register; Fincastle Herald; New Castle Record; News Messenger; News Journal; Vinton Messenger. Our publications in West Virginia are: Pocahontas Times; Parsons Advocate; Calhoun Chronicle; Clay County Free Press; Shinnston News; Harrison County Journal, and our flagship paper, Mountain Messenger.

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County.

Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.

Virginia's Forgotten Founding Fathers

Jarred Marlowe
Contributing writer

There is one fact about Virginia that no one can deny: it is rich with history.

Much of our early history as a nation can trace its roots back to the Old Dominion state, and the amount of key people that came from Virginia is a bragging point we will always have. So many great historical people came from Virginia that many often get overlooked and their accomplishments get overshadowed when compared to the likes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. But these people, while overlooked by most, had an impact on our area that lasts to this day. Such is the case with Col. Abram Penn.

Abram (also known as Abraham) Penn was born in Caroline County, Va., in 1743. When he was a young child, his family moved to present day Amherst, which was then a part of Albemarle County. He married Ruth Stovall in 1767 and they moved south to then-Pittsylvania County, but what we now know today as Henry and Patrick counties. Here, Penn and his wife would settle down and have a large family consisting of 12 children.

Penn's first foray into the political realm came in the early 1770s when he

was appointed to serve on the Committee of Safety in Pittsylvania County, which at the time was created to enforce the trade embargo the colonies had against Great Britain. These committees often became the governing agency for colonial regions as the people began to distrust British government agents.

Penn would later serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing Patrick Henry County along with Del. Robert Hairston of the well-known Hairston family. (After breaking off from Pittsylvania County, Patrick Henry County existed until 1791 when Patrick County broke off and took the name Patrick, leaving the original land with the name Henry County.)

In the spring of 1774, Penn was tasked with serving under Col. Andrew Lewis in a series of conflicts that became known as Lord Dunmore's War. In this war, the British governor of Virginia declared war against Native American tribes settled in the Appalachian Mountains (present day Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio) after they captured and killed several people looking to settle in the wilderness. Penn assumed the rank of captain and commanded troops from the Virginia militia, helping to win a decisive battle at Point Pleasant, West Virginia that spelled the end



Abram Penn's home, "Poplar Grove," as it stands now.

of the conflict. The war ended in the fall of 1774, after which Penn returned home to Pittsylvania County.

Penn was also very much involved in the American Revolution. He was appointed to the rank of captain in the Continental Army, leading a group of militia in 1779 and becoming the county militia executive in 1780. He led the militia on several expeditions

against colonists loyal to Britain, known as Tories, in southwest Virginia and in the Yadkin River valley in North Carolina. His men were also called to assist American General Nathaniel Greene in his efforts against Lord Cornwallis in March 1781. They joined forces with Greene after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and would stay with Greene for a short period of time. Penn would also be pres-



PHOTOS BY JARRED MARLOWE

The headstones for Col. Penn. The original riverstone marking is on the right.

ent at the siege, and eventual surrender, of Cornwallis' forces at Yorktown.

After the war, Penn returned home to spend the rest of his days in the peace and tranquility of his home Poplar Grove, located in Critz. He was instrumental in establishing and organizing the new Patrick County government when the county broke off from Henry County in 1791, administering the oaths of office to several county of-

ficials. Also, he and several of his sons served as Patrick County's first "gentleman justices," which was a group of men appointed by residents of the county to come together for a few days every month to sort out local affairs.

Abram Penn passed away in 1801 and was buried in his family cemetery on his farm which is located on Virginia 703, off of Abram Penn Highway.

Rothrock

from page 1

After his undergraduate studies at St. Andrew's Presbyterian College, Jim Rothrock returned to WWRC to train disabled people applying for jobs.

Having found his calling in life, Jim Rothrock pursued a graduate degree in Vocational Rehabilitation at Virginia Commonwealth University. That's when his life changed once more.

"Jim was in graduate school at VCU, and he was doing an internship," Jane Rothrock said. "The program he was supervising was a program for newly-hired rehabilitation counselors from the Mid-Atlantic. I was a new rehab counselor in Connecticut, and I went down to Woodrow Wilson for a 6-week, in-depth training program.

Jim was kind of our dorm daddy, our go-fer, he was a lecturer."

That was in the fall, 1977.

"After summoning all the southern charm he could, he invited Jane to join him and ... a romance began," according to his obituary. By January, the two were engaged, with an August wedding planned – the be-

ginning of their 43-year journey together.

Jim Rothrock eventually gained the post of Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, serving under five governors (Wilder, Warner, Kaine, McDonnell, and McAuliffe) while helping Virginians with disabilities exceed others' expectations of them during his 16 years on the job.

In his career and personal life, Jim Rothrock always left people with the same impression, according to Jane Rothrock.

"He just brightened up everyone's day. When he was in the room, he kind of took the air out of the room because everybody just stopped and listened to Jim," she said. "He was funny, he was charming, he was very sincere, he would help anybody at any time for any reason."

Jane Rothrock said her husband's personality was such that most people forgot he was confined to a wheelchair. "No one ever noticed his wheelchair at all," she said, and recalled their beach trips together. "He always loved to be at the beach," she said. "He loved going to Hold-

en Beach, N.C. Nothing was planned and we just kind of relaxed. He would tell funny stories from his youth and everybody loved it. When you were friends with Jim, you were friends for life."

While in the hospital, Jim Rothrock shared his love for the beach with everyone in the hospital, whether they wanted it or not, she said.

"He had recently been in the hospital for seven weeks. I walked down the hall very soon after he got in and these nurses were just shaking their heads outside of the door. I asked if something was wrong," Jane Rothrock said. "They said Mrs. Rothrock, you've got to tell your husband to keep the radio down. Jim had his phone on the Myrtle Beach 'Beach Music' station. He would blare that thing and sing songs as loud as he could. He did it all day. They would come and close the door, tell him to keep it down, but he loved beach music."

Jim Rothrock learned he had cancer shortly after a surgery related to pressure sores from his paralysis.

"He went in, the surgery was over, and the doctor

said 'Mr. Rothrock, does your stomach hurt? Your stomach looks kind of big,'" Jane Rothrock said. "Jim said 'well, I can't hold my gut in because I'm paralyzed. I'm just getting older and I'm getting a pot belly.'"

After performing some scans, the doctors noticed something wrong in his colon.

"So, they went in to take out a tumor in his colon and when they opened him up, they found that his whole cavity was full of tumors. He never felt the pain. The doctors didn't know how he was alive with so much cancer," Jane Rothrock said. "They closed him up and gave him 3-6 months. He died 10 days later" in their home.

"He went to sleep on Monday night and didn't wake up on Tuesday. He did it his way and didn't suffer," Jane Rothrock said.

At one point after the cancer diagnosis, their grandson, Henry, asked Jim Rothrock if he would be able to walk in heaven, Jane Rothrock said.

She said her husband replied, "That would be great. But if I don't, the wheelchair has been really good to me. I'm okay with it."

Appalachian Power Virtual Open House

Fieldale-Ridgeway Transmission Line Rebuild Project

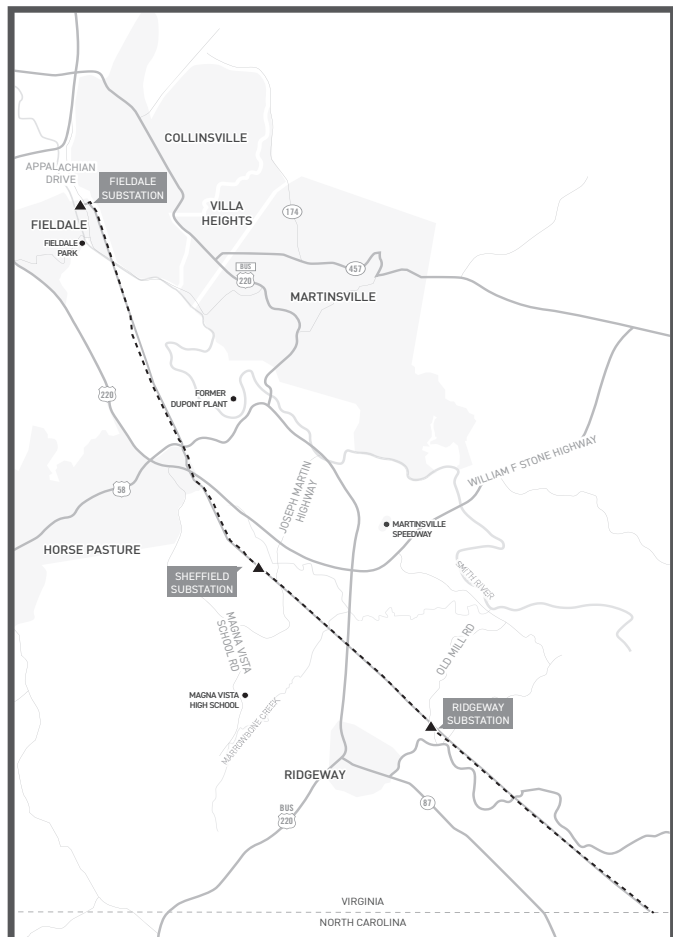
Appalachian Power officials plan to strengthen the transmission grid for customers in Henry County.

The Fieldale-Ridgeway Transmission Line Rebuild Project involves upgrading approximately 15 miles of transmission line in Henry County. Appalachian Power representatives plan to file an application this fall with the Virginia State Corporation Commission seeking approval for the project. If the project receives approval, we expect construction to start in fall 2023 and conclude summer 2025.

We are committed to keeping you informed about this project. We are also dedicated to keeping our customers and employees safe and healthy. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we invite you to a virtual open house to learn more and share your input.

Please visit [AppalachianPower.com/Fieldale-Ridgeway](https://www.appalachianpower.com/Fieldale-Ridgeway) to access detailed project information, view an interactive map, enter our virtual open house and submit comments to the project team on the "Contact Us" page. **Please share your feedback by Monday, April 19.**

FIELDALE-RIDGEWAY TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT



FIELDALE-RIDGEWAY TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT
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 *VISIT [APPALACHIANPOWER.COM/FIELDALE-RIDGEWAY](https://www.appalachianpower.com/Fieldale-Ridgeway) TO VIEW AN INTERACTIVE MAP

Black history art contest winners announced

Youngsters at the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge were recognized by U.S. Cellular as the winners of the 6th Annual Black History Month Art Competition

during a March 16 ceremony at the clubhouse on 311 East Church Street in Martinsville. Prizes for the competition were a \$500 gift card for first place, a \$200

gift card for second place and a \$150 gift card for third place. The winners were Aniyah Millner (1st Place), Zoriah Titus (2nd Place) and Maria Johnson (3rd Place).



Bertram Daniels (left), area sales manager for U.S. Cellular poses with the winners of the 6th Annual Black History Month Art Competition at the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge. Also pictured, from left to right, are competition winners Maria Johnson, Zoriah Titus and Aniyah Millner.