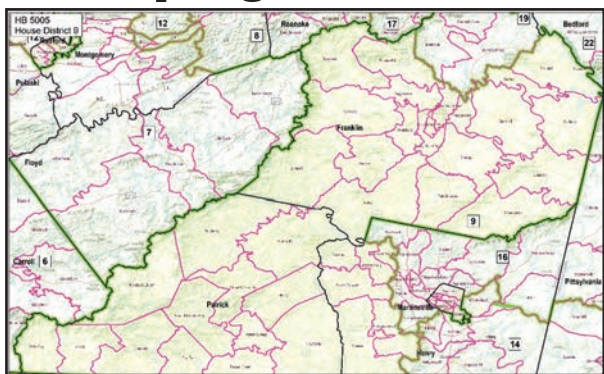


## The role of the census and reversion in reshaping Southside



**There was no 10th District in Southside Virginia after the Republican-controlled 2011 redistricting for the Virginia House of Delegates. Source: Division of Legislative Services - Current District Maps, 9th District.**

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

While the newly formed Virginia Redistricting Commission is awaiting the release of the 2020 Census data to redraw congressional and General Assembly district boundaries, many residents are concerned about the ability of the board to draw the lines fairly.

During a March 30 meeting, the commission heard from approximately 18 citizens across the state with most speakers asking for one thing: equality.

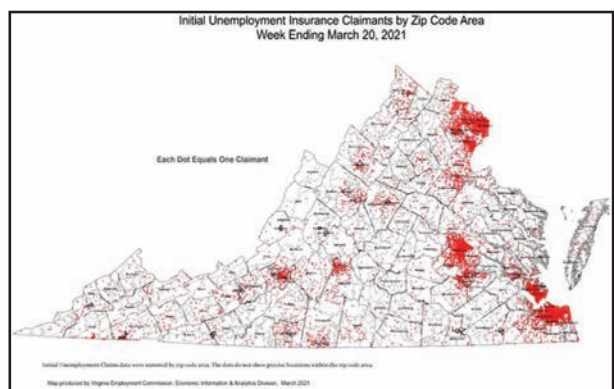
Ankit Jain, a volunteer with OneVirginia2021, asked the civilian members of the commission to serve as a check against the legis-

lators who serve alongside them.

"I don't think you should assume good faith from the politician members because we do have members on this commission, who are politicians and have participated in gerrymandering of the state," Jain said. "You all represent every Virginian who just wants fair maps, who wants to be choosing their politician and not the other way around. Be willing to speak out in case they push you towards an incumbent-protection gerrymander because I do think that is a risk that we are facing."

The commission consists of 16 total members

See **Southside**, page 5



## Unemployment claims trend downwards towards pre-pandemic levels

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

The latest number of initial unemployment claims filed in Virginia were 60 percent lower than when pandemic employment impacts first began to be felt a year earlier in March 2020, according to the latest numbers from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending March 20, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 17,560. The latest claims figure was an increase of 2,035 claimants from the previous week. This brought the total number of claims filed since the March 21, 2020 filing week to 1,525,925, compared to the 477,600 average filed during the previous three economic recessions since 1990.

Conversely to the rest of the Commonwealth, Henry and Patrick counties had a slight bump in initial claims filed during the week. Henry County finished the week with 46 initial claims compared to 38 claims in the week prior. Patrick County had 26 initial claims compared to 15 claims in the previous week. The City of Martinsville was the only lo-

cality of the three with a decrease in initial claims. The city had 75 initial claims filed in the week which was two less than were filed last week.

Statewide, continued weeks claimed totaled 58,233, which was a 2.9 percent decrease from the previous week, but 36,605 higher than the 21,628 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims that had a self-reported industry were in the accommodation/food service, administrative and waste services, retail trade, and healthcare/social assistance industries. The continued claims total consists mainly of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of continued claims in Henry County dropped from 370 claims to 361 claims. Martinsville also had a decrease in continued claims, finishing the week with 186 claims compared to 194 claims last week. Patrick County was the only locality of the three to have an increase in continued claims. The county finished the week with 98 continued

See **Claims**, page 2

## Investigation of 2013 case remains active

**Debbie Hall**  
*dhall@theenterprise.net*

A fresh set of eyes sifting through old evidence may be a key in solving the 2013 deaths of Ricky Eugene Dodson and Vicky Harbour Purdy, according to Franklin County Sheriff's Lt. J.P. Nolen.

Holly Willoughby, a former Roanoke detective now serving with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, has been assigned to the case, Nolen said.

She will bring a "fresh set of eyes" and help "to move forward with this" case, he added.

Franklin County Commonwealth's Attorney A.J. Dudley also assigned one of his assistants "to work strictly on this case," Nolen said.

See **Investigation**, page 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**More than seven years after the 2013 deaths of Ricky Dodson (left) and Vicky Purdy, the investigation remains active, with a new investigator assigned to the case.**

## Changing prescription drug landscape forces local pharmacy to shutter



**Niki Goad (left) and Joanie McPeak, pharmacy technician at Starling Pharmacy, conduct inventory.**

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

With a heavy heart, the owner of Starling Pharmacy has announced the historic establishment will be closing its doors effective April 13.

Niki Goad, owner of the pharmacy which sits at 1312 Memorial Boulevard, said the decision weighed on her tremendously.

"This has been the hardest thing that I've ever done because it is like you are losing your family. My customers are my family,"

See **Pharmacy**, page 8

## High-end brandy operation to use local apples

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

The apples of Henry and Patrick counties could soon be found in the form of brandy sold at Smith River Spirits, a new retail operation in Ridgeway.

A special use permit was approved for the corporation by the Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals at its March 24 meeting.

The corporation was created to distill brandy in October 2019 by Kevin Nelson, Wes Mills, and Alan Black, county attorney in Patrick.

"What we are offering is a high-quality brandy," Nelson said. "We're not making bootleg or anything like that. Most of our products are going to places like Primland and other restaurants, bars, and establishments."

Nelson said the new retail portion of the distillery will be a 10'x10' area that is bonded outside of the building.

"The retail location is a Virginia ABC store. It's a government store," Nelson said. "It has a government number just like every other ABC store. We will only be selling three products. We're not looking for high volume. We're just looking for a loca-



**Kevin Nelson (left to right), Alan Black and Wes Mills discuss Smith River Spirits, a new retail operation in Ridgeway.**

tion in the area where people come off the river."

Nelson said his license only allows for the creation of up to 5,000 gallons a year, which encompasses all three products. The distillery offers two flavors, called Apple Black after Black.

With two distinct apple colors on the label, "the red is like an old fashioned, traditional apple brandy" made from "a combination of three apples, the main apple being a gold rush apple," Nelson said. "The green label is

Alan's selection of apples we can get now that just make an amazing product."

Nelson said the brandy is 85-proof. "We make an extremely high-end alcohol," Nelson said. "It's very low production based on the efforts and the products. We are just taking what mother nature put into the product and converting that, then doing the distillation."

See **Brandy**, page 6

## Virginia to ease some COVID-19 restrictions as cases surge in several states

**Taylor Boyd**  
*Contributing writer*

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests several states, including New York, Michigan, Connecticut, and New Jersey, are experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases.

But this trend is "not the case in our district. We're doing pretty good," said Nancy Bell, public information officer of the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD).

Dr. Kerry Gateley, director of the West Piedmont Health District, also noted "we are not seeing a spike in cases, just a leveling off in the decline

in cases, and this has been going on since January."

Some of Virginia's COVID-19 mitigation strategies were eased on April 1, a decision that Gov. Ralph Northam said was influenced by a combination of higher vaccination numbers and a lower-case count.

Easing the mitigation measures was to begin in the "places where there is the least risk for spread, like outdoor venues," he said.

Noting the COVID-19 numbers have improved dramatically since Virginia's peak in January, Northam said "our seven-day average of cases is around 1,400 a day. So, the message is there's still

a lot of virus out in our communities. That number has hit a plateau, and we're watching that very closely, but there's still a vast improvement over where we were just six weeks ago."

Northam said the state's percent-positively is "around 5.6 percent, down from 17 percent in early January," and the state is seeing fewer hospitalizations, need for ICU visits, and less need for ventilators than the state has seen since last October.

Virginia is not simply throwing the doors open with the new strategies, Northam said, but rather the new strategies "are measured changes. We

still have a strict gathering limit, a universal mask mandate, and capacity restrictions both indoors and outdoors."

See **Restrictions**, page 7

**Visit**  
**http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com**  
**for updates**





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Saturday, April 3

Miles in Martinsville will host 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. More information is available at [www.milesinmartinsville.com](http://www.milesinmartinsville.com).

First Baptist Church Martinsville will hold a community-wide Egg Hunt beginning at 10 a.m. The egg hunt will begin in two locations: 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 and experience the stations. 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.

## Monday, April 5

The deadline to sign up for Smith River T-ball is April 5. The sport is open to all children 3-7 years old. Registration fees are \$45 after April 1. Practices begin after April 19. Games begin May 13 and end June 25. All games will take place at the Smith River Sports Complex on weeknights. For more information, call (276) 638-5200 ext. 3. Register online at [www.smithrivertball.com](http://www.smithrivertball.com).

## Thursday, April 8

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is sponsoring a blood drive event at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Schedule an appointment by calling/texting John Phillips at (276) 806-5022 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## Saturday, April 10

The Charity League of Martinsville/Henry County will hold its first ever Charity League Spring Bargain Fair, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 242 Franklin St, Martinsville. Visit <https://fb.me/e/2ajePpkP5> for more information.

## Ongoing

Spencer-Penn Centre will be holding a variety of events throughout the month.

On Mondays and Thursdays, the centre will have an open computer lab from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The lab can be used on other days on an appointment basis.

The centre will be hosting a virtual story time on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., on its Facebook group: Spencer-Penn Storytime Goes Virtual. Access the stories each week and craft. Supplies for each week may be picked up at the centre and will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

The Charles & Rose Hylton Library will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m., until 8 p.m. Library cards are available for free.

Yoga will be held on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., with Sheila. A session is \$8 or \$40 for a series of six sessions. Students are asked to bring their own yoga mat and props if possible. RSVP for class due to the limited class size by calling (276) 957-5757.

# Broadband company gives PHCC \$10,000 for training needs

With a \$10,000 donation, Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC) intends to increase the community’s access to career training and workforce readiness.

This week, the company announced it would provide the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation with a one-time \$10,000 donation. The college will use the funds to create customized workforce training programs that can meet the community’s needs for training.

“Local employers need a well-trained workforce; area citizens need training that can help them qualify for jobs. So, we constantly work with employers to create custom training opportunities to meet these needs,” said Rhonda Hodges PHCC’s Vice President of Workforce, Economic, and Community Development. “The donation will really go a long way in helping us develop these turn-key, customized workforce programs.”

PHCC plans to utilize this funding to increase its capacity to customize training programs for new, expanding, and existing industries in partnership with the Martinsville Henry County Economic Develop-

ment Corp. (EDC).

College and community officials describe these custom training opportunities as a critical piece to economic development in the region.

“The Martinsville-Henry County EDC is excited for Mid-Atlantic Broadband’s (MBC) generous support of Patrick Henry Community Colleges’ (PHCC) workforce training initiatives. PHCC’s customized training programs and MBC’s robust fiber network are instrumental for existing and new companies alike and are key tools employed by EDC’s recruiting efforts on behalf of our community,” said Larry Ryder, chairman of the EDC’s Board of Directors.

In a letter to the college, Tad Deriso, MBC president and CEO, described PHCC as the region’s primary provider of workforce training and said he was grateful for the college’s “leadership in higher education and workforce development for our region.”

“We look forward to continued collaboration and hearing about the impact of the MBC’s investment in PHCC,” said Deriso.

CROSSWORD

		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						

CLUES ACROSS

1. Most favorables

7. 23rd Greek letter

10. Rated higher

12. Immature herring

13. Malignant skin neoplasm

14. Orange-red spinel

15. Hunted beings

16. Be obedient to

17. Excavate with a shovel

18. = to 100 cauris

19. Lose hold of

21. Highest card

22. Western Union message

27. The "Show Me" state

28. Early photo process

33. A public promotion

34. A group of statues

36. A single thing

37. Ireland

38. A raised speaking platform

39. Leavened bread

40. Farm animal shelter

41. Oral pollo vaccine

44. Chinese fine silk silver

45. Chocolate-colored acidic pulp pod

48. \_\_\_\_ off

49. Haglographa

50. Manuscripts, abbr.

51. Over the sea

CLUES DOWN

1. Stare impertinently

2. Address a deity

3. Converts hide into leather

4. Matrimonial response

5. 13th Hebrew letter

6. Dentist's organization

7. Fleahy fungus caps

8. Kill violently

9. License & passport

10. Refereed

11. Arbor framework

12. Luxuriant dark brown fur

14. Group purchasing protest

17. Insecticide

18. An island group of the S Pacific

20. A wooden hole plug

23. A purine base found in DNA and RNA

24. Spanish park

25. Atomic #18

26. Married woman

29. And, Latin

30. Cantonese dialect

31. Causing physical hurt

32. Short trips or tasks

35. Small craving

36. Paddled

38. Leuciscus leuciscus'

40. Parting phrases: good-\_\_\_\_

41. Figure skater Yuka

42. Opera song

43. Create social or emotional ties

44. Opposite of LTM

45. Icahn's airline

46. Air Reserve base (abbr.)

47. Russian manned space station

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES -

### Mar 21/Apr 20

Now may be a great time to reevaluate your finances, Aries. Investments could be the right path for now, but you may want to seek some professional advice.

## TAURUS -

### Apr 21/May 21

A message from a business partner could bring welcome news, Taurus. This might be the break you are waiting for at this juncture in your life. Career changes could be in store.

## GEMINI -

### May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, expect to engage in a very interesting conversation this week. This person has not crossed your path in a while, and the reconnection sparks new goals.

## CANCER -

### Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, frustrations could arise that make you want to vent some anger. Channel your energy into something productive, such as a kickboxing class.

## LEO -

### Jul 23/Aug 23

Obstacles at work or home interfere with your ability to work efficiently, Leo. Even though tasks may take you a little longer, don't throw in the towel just yet.

## VIRGO -

### Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, do your best to lighten the atmosphere around the house this week. Encourage others to kick up their heels and keep the focus on fun and fun alone.

## LIBRA -

### Sept 23/Oct 23

Avoid any drama or chaos that may surround you this week, Libra. Others may seem on edge, but you can remain calm. Quarantine yourself at home and the storm will blow over.

## SCORPIO -

### Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, even though a few setbacks come your way, your financial situation still looks very promising this week. Figure out how to capitalize on

this favorable position.

## SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You are usually laid back and calm, Sagittarius. However, when something goes against your beliefs this week you are ready to stand up for morals or concerns.

## CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

This may not be a good week to travel, Capricorn. Look over your itinerary again and try to reconfigure them so you can travel later on instead.

## AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, trust your gut instinct about big financial moves regardless of any advice you're getting from others. You'll likely see that now isn't the time for spending.

## PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

A bumpy start to the week that has you questioning several choices will smooth out, Pisces. The weekend will be very productive.

# Investigation

from page 1

Dodson and Purdy, both 53 and of the Bassett area of Henry County, were last seen alive by family on Oct. 4, 2013.

Polly Dodson and Frances Hylton, Dodson's mother and sister, have said they believe the two planned to spend the weekend together.

Purdy's remains were found Oct. 6, 2013, inside a burned vehicle on Philpott Road, near the Franklin County/Henry County line. She suffered a gunshot wound to the head, according to authorities.

Dodson's remains were found in the Henry area of Franklin County on Dec. 5, 2013. Authorities have declined to provide information about the manner of death.

So far, there have been no arrests in the case, but the investigation remains active, Nolen said.

"A lot of the people" who may be involved or have information about the deaths lived in Henry County, Nolen said. "One issue we're having right now is some of the witnesses have moved out of the area. The witnesses we had at that time have even moved out of Henry County."

Some witnesses also have been uncooperative, Nolen said. "We feel like we know what may have occurred," Nolen said, but declined to

provide specifics in the active investigation.

"We are doing everything we can" to get closure for the families and resolve the case, he said. "We believe having fresh eyes on it" will help. "We haven't given up."

Because the two were found in Franklin County, authorities there are tasked with the investigation.

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry said his office assists as needed.

Anyone with information in the case is encouraged to call the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at (540) 483-3000 or in Henry County, (276) 638-8751.

# Claims

from page 1

claims, increasing by two claims in the week ending March 13.

Nationwide, in the week ending March 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 684,000, a decrease of 97,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 11,000 from 770,000 to 781,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 656,789 in the week ending March 20, a decrease of 100,412 (or -13.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 2,920,162

initial claims in the comparable week in 2020. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (-56,347) was the largest decrease among states. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (-46,445) was the second largest decrease. California's preliminary weekly change (-13,464) was the third largest decrease. Florida's preliminary weekly change (-6,448) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+12,707) was the largest increase.

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

# Voting Rights Act of Virginia approved

Gov. Ralph Northam approved the landmark Voting Rights Act of Virginia, providing comprehensive protections against voter suppression, discrimination, or intimidation.

He made minor technical amendments to Senate Bill 1395 and House Bill 1890, which prohibit any state or local policy from denying or restricting the right to vote of any Virginian simply because of their race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

Virginia is the first state in the nation to enact its own version of a voting rights act.

“At a time when voting rights

are under attack across our country, Virginia is expanding access to the ballot box, not restricting it,” said Northam. “With the Voting Rights Act of Virginia, our Commonwealth is creating a model for how states can provide comprehensive voter protections that strengthen democracy and the integrity of our elections. I am proud to support this historic legislation, and I urge Congress to follow Virginia’s example.”

Much like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act proposed at the federal level, the Virginia law will restore and build on provisions of the since-gutted 1965 federal Voting

Rights Act. In June 2013, the United States Supreme Court struck down the requirement that several counties and nine states with a history of racial discrimination—including Virginia—seek pre-clearance before making voting changes. Since that time, dozens of states have considered and passed new laws that restrict voting rights.

The Voting Rights Act of Virginia prohibits discrimination in elections administration, requires local election officials to get feedback or pre-approval for voting changes, and allows individuals to sue in cases of voter suppression. It requires localities seek public comment

or pre-approval from the Office of the Attorney General on any proposed voting changes, and empowers voters and/or the Attorney General to sue in cases of voter suppression. Civil penalties awarded as a result of voting discrimination will go towards a newly-established Voter Education and Outreach Fund.

Additionally, it prohibits at-large local elections if they dilute the voting power of racial minorities. It also ensures accessibility by requiring local election officials provide voting materials in foreign languages, as needed. The Governor’s minor technical amendments clarify that certain provisions apply

to all localities not just “covered jurisdiction(s).”

Northam also building on the Commonwealth’s efforts to ensure all Virginians had equitable access to the ballot box during the COVID-19 pandemic by approving House Bill 1888 and Senate Bill 1245, which require localities to establish drop off locations for the return of absentee ballots, include prepaid return postage on absentee ballots, and allow voters to fix mistakes they may have made on their absentee ballot envelopes. These bills also ensure Virginians who are blind or vision impaired have the tools needed to cast a vote.

# Accelerated legalization of marijuana proposed

Accelerated legalization of marijuana proposed

Gov. Ralph Northam has proposed moving up the legalization of simple possession of marijuana to July 1, nearly three years sooner than previously planned. The Governor also announced he is proposing changes that advance public health protections, set clear expectations for labor protections in the cannabis industry, and begin to seal criminal records immediately.

The changes come in the form of amendments to Senate Bill 1406 and House Bill 2312, which legalize the adult-use of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

“Our Commonwealth is committed to legalizing marijuana in an equitable way,” said Northam. “Virginia will become the 15th state to legalize mari-

juana—and these changes will ensure we do it with a focus on public safety, public health, and social justice. I am grateful to the advocates and legislators for their dedicated work on this important issue, and I look forward to this legislation passing next month.”

A report of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) issued in November 2020 found that Black Virginians were more than three times as likely to be arrested for simple possession of marijuana. Data from Virginia courts show that trend has continued since the simple possession of marijuana was “decriminalized,” punishable with a \$25 civil fine, on July 1, 2020. Northam said this fact drove his proposal to advance legalization by three years, and that

he remains committed to working with legislators and advocates to repair past harm.

He proposed several legislative changes, including two budget amendments. The first change immediately funds a public awareness campaign on the health and safety risks of marijuana. The other measure funds training to help law enforcement officers recognize and prevent drugged driving. These amendments also include explicit language directing ongoing support for public health education.

Northam’s amendments authorize the new Cannabis Control Authority to revoke a company’s business license if they interfere with union organizing efforts, fail to pay prevailing wage as defined by the United States Department of Labor, or classify more than 10 per-

cent of employees as independent contractors.

His amendments allow adults to legally possess up to one ounce of cannabis, without intent to distribute, beginning July 1. These amendments would maintain current public safety measures that prohibit smoking while driving, smoking while driving a school bus, and possession on school grounds, for example. Northam noted that these are not “new crimes,” but rather the continuation of common-sense policies to protect children, drivers, pedestrians, and others.

Northam’s amendments also allow for expungement and sealing of criminal records on marijuana to begin as soon as state agencies are able to do so and simplify the criteria for when records can be sealed. The General Assembly passed

broader legislation to implement comprehensive expungement reform beginning in 2025. This generational change requires extensive updates to state agency computer systems and processes, which were made possible by funding in the Governor’s introduced budget. In the coming months, Northam will continue to work hand in hand with legislators to make Virginia’s criminal justice system more equitable, including through efforts to resentence individuals previously convicted for marijuana offenses.

Northam’s changes will allow households to grow up to four plants beginning on July 1. The amendments would require the plants to be labeled with identification information, out of sight from public view, and out of range of individuals un-

der the age of 21.

“I’m pleased with the improvements the Governor has proposed,” said Delegate Lamont Bagby, Chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. “We are doing everything possible to repair and redress the harm done to communities of color most impacted by marijuana criminalization—the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus stands in support of the Governor’s amendments because justice must not be delayed.”

“Virginia’s communities of color deserve equity—and that means taking action now to end the disproportionate fines, arrests, and convictions of marijuana offenses,” said Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax. “I am proud of the work to improve this bill for all of the people we serve, and I look forward to this legislation becoming law.”

# Death penalty abolished in Virginia

Last week, Gov. Ralph Northam signed legislation abolishing the death penalty, making Virginia the 23rd state, and the first in South, to stop executions.

Senate Bill 1165 and House Bill 2263 prohibit the use of capital punishment for any violation of Virginia law.

Northam signed the death penalty repeal into law during a ceremony outside the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Virginia. Before the bill signing, he toured the facility’s execution chamber, where 102 people have been executed since its opening in 1991. The most recent execution in Virginia was carried out in 2017.

“Over our 400-year history, Virginia has executed more people than any other state,” said Northam. “The death penalty system is fundamentally flawed—it is inequitable, ineffective, and it has no place in this Commonwealth or this country. Virginia has come within days of executing innocent people, and Black defendants have been disproportionately sentenced to death. Abolishing this inhumane practice is the moral thing to do. This is a truly historic day for Virginia, and I am deeply grateful to those who have fought tirelessly and for generations to put an end to capital punishment in our Commonwealth.”

Virginia has executed over 1,300

people in its history, more than any other state.

Studies have shown that a defendant is more than three times as likely to be sentenced to death if the victim of a crime is White, than if the victim is Black. In the twentieth century, 296 of the 377 defendants that Virginia executed for murder were Black. Of the 113 individuals who have been executed in Virginia since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, 52 were Black.

The legislation signed by Northam converts the sentences of the two individuals currently on death row in Virginia to life in prison without parole.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Gov. Ralph Northam signed legislation abolishing the death penalty during a ceremony outside the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Va.**

# Grandparents charged after child reported lost

Teresa Hill and Robert Underwood were charged with felony child neglect in connection with an alleged March 26 incident, according to Martinsville authorities.

Officers from the Martinsville Police Department responded around 8 a.m. that day to Roy St. to a report of a lost 5-year-old child.

Residents on Roy Street located the child outside,

barefoot and in her pajamas, authorities said in a release. The residents reported they had never seen the child in the neighborhood.

After several hours of searching the area, the Mar-

tinsville Police Department and the Child Protective Services Unit from the Department of Social Services located the child’s family.

Hill and Underwood were identified as the child’s

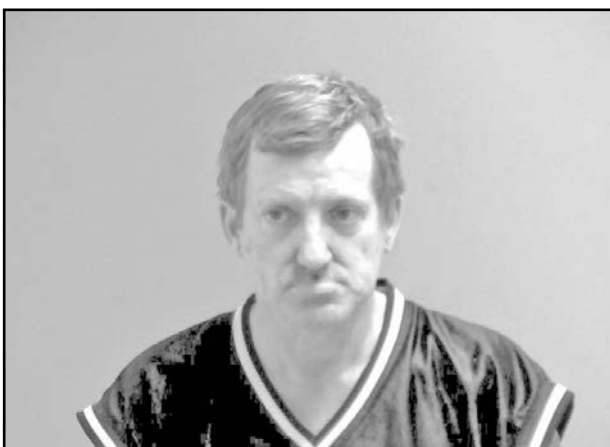
grandparents to the child, the release stated.

Hill is being held with no bond. Underwood received a \$3,000 secured bond.

Both were processed at the Martinsville City Jail.



Teresa Hill



Robert Underwood

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# OPINION

## Regarding focus groups

Dear playwright,  
Thank you so much for submitting your wonderful adaptation! Our theatre simply cannot wait to showcase this fantastic take on such a classic work!

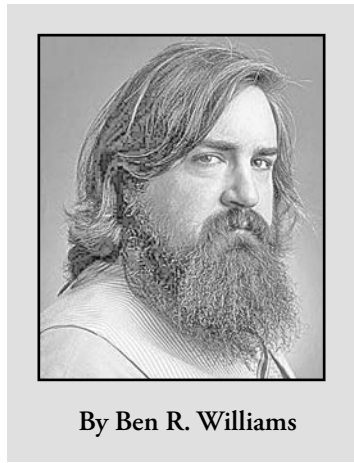
However, we've had some controversy with some of our recent productions, and we've decided that it's time to make a few changes as a theatre company. While the purpose of art is to challenge, we feel that there are obviously limits. We don't want to make our patrons uncomfortable.

With that in mind, we recently assembled a focus group to vet our scripts, and the 47 members of the group found a few issues

with your piece that they would like you to address before we move forward with a production.

First things first, the tone of your piece is problematic. You probably didn't intend this, but there's a certain horrific tone that runs throughout the script. Several of the members of the focus group picked up on this, and we just feel that the world is scary enough right now. People aren't going to want to come to the theatre to experience MORE horror.

In that same vein, do we really need the supernatural elements? This enters into some troubling territory, especially considering that several members of our focus



By Ben R. Williams

group have strong religious beliefs. I think you can easily convey the intended message while keeping the play grounded in realism.

Next, there's an undercurrent

of unusual sexuality that runs through the script, particularly between your villain and several of the female characters. This needs to be excised completely. For one thing, your script does NOT pass the Bechdel Test, and this undercurrent only makes it worse. Two, children may be in the audience, and we feel strongly that all pieces of art should be completely safe for even the youngest child (the runaway success of our all-audiences adaptation of A Clockwork Orange should be all the evidence you need).

Speaking of which, the level of violence in this piece needs to be toned down considerably. Why does there need to be so much blood? Of particular concern is the scene where a character —

ostensibly an ally to the protagonist — decapitates three women! This is absurdly problematic and all the blood and gore needs to be removed entirely.

I realize this next suggestion may seem extreme, but just bear with me: do we really NEED the villain? I think there's a wonderful, life-affirming story buried somewhere in this play, and frankly, all your antagonist does is get in the way. Excise him completely and you'll have a much better script.

To summarize: we're going to need you to remove the horror elements, the supernatural elements, the sexuality, the violence, and the villain. Once you do all that, I think this production of Bram Stoker's Dracula is going to be a runaway success!

# Reality check for the Democrat agenda

**Morgan Griffith**  
*9th District U.S. Rep.*

A week of hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee was supposed to build momentum for the Democrat agenda. But testimony offered at the hearings by witnesses, whether those called by the majority or with backgrounds in liberal causes, should serve as a reality check to the grand progressive schemes being advocated.

The first hearing on March 22 convened the full committee to look at H.R. 1848, the LIFT America Act, the committee Democrats' bill on infrastructure. This bill would potentially be a piece of the sprawling \$3 trillion package President Biden wants to assemble.

Looking at the text of H.R. 1848 and reading the signals from the Biden Administration, it appears that infrastructure will be used to justify spending on the liberal wish list and enacting parts of radical plans such as the Green New Deal.

In energy policy, H.R. 1848 would mean lavishing subsidies

on other fuel sources that lack the reliability or capacity to serve our energy needs, increasing counterproductive regulations, and raising energy costs on Americans.

Although a former U.S. Secretary of Energy under President Obama and a witness called by the Democrat majority on H.R. 1848, Dr. Ernest Moniz was willing to provide a check on this vision. When I had the chance to question Dr. Moniz, I asked him about the importance of permitting carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS) technology to reduce carbon emissions.

Dr. Moniz expressed his belief that CCUS would remain important going forward, and "what we need is at the Federal and at the State levels, ways of streamlining, not short cutting, but streamlining the permission process."

His views on this matter contradict the emerging Democrat consensus that sees no future role for fossil fuels and prefers regulating our way out of environmental challenges, rather than relying on American innovation and technology.

It was important to hear this message from someone like Dr. Moniz, with his stature in energy policy and previous service in the Obama Administration.

Similarly, at a Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing two days later on March 24 about February's Texas blackouts, we heard from a witness who had spent his life in environmental activism but warned of overreliance on renewable fuels.

Michael Shellenberger is the founder and president of the advocacy organization Environmental Progress. Past causes he has championed include saving California redwoods and improving conditions for workers in Nike's Asian factories.

He offered testimony on the Texas blackouts during a period of extreme cold. Analyzing the performance of the major various fuel types during the event, he found that the performance of all dropped somewhat. Nuclear energy, however, did best, and wind the worst.

One of the lessons to be drawn from the blackout is the preservation of baseload power. Coal and

nuclear primarily serve this purpose, but intermittent sources such as wind and solar cannot. The latter fuel sources also do not offer adequate energy density to power everything we expect the electrical grid to support.

Mr. Shellenberger's testimony should caution Democrats as they pin their energy hopes on wind and solar. Depending only on renewables jeopardizes electrical grid reliability with potentially disastrous consequences.

A final word of warning for the Democrat agenda came later that day from a witness at a Subcommittee on Energy hearing on the majority's CLEAN Future Act (a Green New Deal cousin), which sets the economy on a path to decarbonization by at least 50 percent in 2030 and completely by 2050.

I noted the lessons from the earlier hearing on the Texas blackouts about the need for grid resilience. One of the witnesses called by the Democrats, energy consultant Alison Silverstein, mentioned in her testimony that an energy policy based around renewables would require the mas-

sive expansion of the continent's high-voltage electric grid. That means more high-voltage lines crisscrossing the country, and the costs of building those lines will be paid by you, the consumer, through higher rates.

I asked Ms. Silverstein if such a project would take "twenty to thirty years at a minimum," and she replied, "Yes."

Taken together, the answers from these witnesses should be taken by Democrats as a significant reality check on their agenda. The transformative change in energy policy they seek would take decades and yet fail to meet the power needs of our society.

Instead, we can pursue practical energy policies rooted in innovation that solve environmental challenges while supporting economic growth. Choosing such a course would be heeding the lessons of this series of hearings.

For 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](mailto:morgangriffith.house.gov).

# Legislation to create G3 initiative signed Monday

Gov. Ralph Northam on Monday signed legislation creating a tuition free community college program for low- and middle-income students.

The "Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back" initiative, or "G3" program, makes tuition-free community college available to low- and middle-income students

who pursue jobs in high-demand fields. The G3 program includes \$36 million to cover tuition, fees, and books and provide wrap-around support for eligible students at the Commonwealth's two-year public institutions.

Northam signed House Bill 2204 and Senate Bill 1405, during a ceremony

at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. The identical bills which establish and fund the G3 program passed in the House and Senate with broad bipartisan support.

"Building an equitable and inclusive economy is more important than ever as we emerge from this pandemic," said Northam. "The G3 program will connect thousands of Virginians with the skills, training, and resources they need to secure jobs in high-demand fields and support themselves and their families—all without being forced to shoulder mountains of student debt. Tuition-free community college was one of the key issues I ran on during my campaign for governor, and I am thrilled to be delivering on that promise."

The Governor's tuition-free community college initiative targets key industries, including health care, information technology and computer science, manufacturing and skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education. On average, students in

these high-demand degree programs increase their wages by 60 percent upon program completion and double their individual state tax contributions.

"Many Virginians are struggling to secure good jobs and support their families despite the Commonwealth's continuing recovery," said Chief Workforce Development Advisor Megan Healy. "The G3 program is a powerful tool to address the skills gap we are seeing in key industries and help businesses find the right talent to fill job openings, expanding both our workforce and our economy."

The G3 program is one of the first in the nation to provide wraparound financial assistance to help students at the lowest income levels with expenses such as food, transportation, and child care. Students who qualify for a full federal Pell grant and enroll full-time will receive student-support incentive grants on a semester basis. These grants will be in an amount up to \$900 per semester and up to \$450 per summer term. Participat-

ing institutions will receive a performance payment for every eligible student receiving a student-support incentive grant that successfully completes 30 credit hours, and an additional performance payment when the student earns an associate degree.

"With increased financial stress due to the pandemic, we are seeing more middle- and low-income Virginians delay looking for new job opportunities," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. "The G3 program provides critical funding to ensure students are equipped to complete the training that will enable them enter and excel in high-need fields."

Initial eligibility for the G3 program is determined through the submission of applications for federal and state student financial aid, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. To address pandemic-related declines in FAFSA completion rates, Governor Northam recently announced a statewide effort to offer free, one-on-one FAFSA advising. From March 22 through June 30,

2021, Virginia students and families can go to [virginia-can.org/fafa](http://virginia-can.org/fafa) to schedule a virtual meeting with a FAFSA advisor.

To prepare for the G3 program, Northam announced a collaborative effort in 2018 to transform workforce programs offered through the Virginia Community College System. This model equips students with skills training on day one and provides continual pathways for working adults to obtain additional credentials throughout their career.

"The Governor's G3 initiative will make earning the necessary skills to fully participate in our 21st century economy affordable for more Virginians," said Glenn Dubois, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System. "Virginia's 23 community colleges are ready to help students prepare for and succeed in the high-demand jobs of today and tomorrow."

For more information about how to enroll in the G3 program, contact Patrick Henry Community College or a community college of your choice.

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# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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**Michael Showell, *Publisher***

**Debbie Hall, *Editor***

**dhall@theenterprise.net**

**(276) 694-3101**

**Brandon Martin, *Reporter***

**newsreporter@theenterprise.net**

**Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager***

**advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com**

**(540) 230-1129**

**Liz Moonbury, *Advertising Specialist***

**advertising@theenterprise.net**

**(276) 694-3101**

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## Senior to play football at Ferrum next year

Magna Vista senior Shawn Hairston on Wednesday signed a letter of intent to play football at Ferrum College. Pictured at the signing are (First row) Teressia Hairston, grandmother; Renado Hairston, father; MVHS senior Shawn Hairston, Renea Hairston, mother; Vera Spencer, grandmother. (Second row) Madison Hairston, sister and Ronald Spencer, grandfather. (Third row) MVHS AD John Gibbs, Coach Hugo Hughes, Head Coach Joe Favero, Coach Drew Lowery, MVHS principal Charles Byrd.





# Martinsville Speedway to host limited fans

As NASCAR returns to the fierce half-mile short track at Martinsville Speedway, the track will host a limited, reduced number of fans throughout the first-ever three race weekend of night races on April 8-10. Martinsville Speedway will host the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 200 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race on Thursday, April 8, the Cook Out 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race on Friday, April 9 at 8:00 p.m. and

the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 NASCAR Cup Series race on Saturday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The reduced capacity for the 2021 spring event weekend is due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and continues in accordance with enhanced safety protocols and procedures to provide a safe environment for fans, competitors, employees and industry personnel.

“With the increase in limited fan capacity for entertainment

venues across the Commonwealth of Virginia, we will be ready to welcome back more race fans for a safe, exciting race experience at Martinsville Speedway,” said Martinsville President Clay Campbell. “We look forward to hearing more of our loyal race fans cheer on the action for our first-ever three race weekend of night races on April 8-10.”

As a result of the seating capacity limitations, many guests have had their grandstand seats

relocated. In addition to encouraging distancing throughout the venue, all guests will be screened before entering the facility at staggered entry times and will be required to wear face coverings. Multiple hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the operating areas and entrances and a “clean team” of staff, clearly identified for guests, will be cleaning or disinfecting at all times.

To learn more about the

spring NASCAR event weekend at Martinsville Speedway and its safety protocols, visit [martinsvillespeedway.com/](http://martinsvillespeedway.com/) return.

NASCAR race tickets are available for purchase today via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at [martinsvillespeedway.com](http://martinsvillespeedway.com). Fans can view the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series schedules and purchase tickets at [nascar.com/tickets](http://nascar.com/tickets).

# DRBA to hike at Knight-Brown Nature Preserve

The Dan River Basin Association’s (DRBA) April 3 First Saturday Outing will be a 3-mile hike over rolling terrain at Knight-Brown Nature Preserve near Belews Lake in Rockingham County, N.C.

Hikers gathering at 9:30 a.m. at the trailhead, 221 Waterfield Lane, Stokesdale, N.C., will be met by coordinator Will Truslow, a DRBA board member and an avid hiker.

Truslow also is a board member of Piedmont Land Conservancy, which owns and developed the 180-acre property. Numerous volunteers have donated their time and energy building the trails, which are part of the Rockingham County Pathways Plan.

According to the conservancy, the preserve “showcases a wooded valley, two gently rippling streams, many different types of ferns, spring wildflowers and the rare eastern leatherwood shrub.”

On this early spring walk,

trees will be beginning to leaf out, and some of the wildflowers may grace the forest floor.

“This preserve has the feeling of being in the mountains. There is a beautiful stream, called Mountain Creek, which runs down the middle and flows into Belews Creek,” Truslow said. “There are lots of mature beech, hickory and oak trees, along with many ferns and spring flowers.”

In addition to its walking trails, the preserve has an informational kiosk at the trailhead, picnic tables, and several benches along the trails. The property is in the watershed of Belews Lake, which provides cooling for Duke Energy’s largest coal-fired power plant and is used for recreational boating and fishing. Below the lake, Belews Creek joins the Dan River.

Land for the Knight-Brown Nature Preserve was donated by Cecilia Brown, who inherited the property from her

partner, Paul Knight. Brown, who lives in Santa Barbara, California, fulfilled Knight’s wish that development would not take place on the beautiful acreage near his former home in Stokesdale.

Participants in the outing should dress in layers of synthetic fabric, wear hiking boots, and bring walking stick, lunch and water. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver.

For safety, and to comply with state guidelines, participants are required to wear a facemask that covers nose and mouth and adhere to social distancing guidelines throughout the hike.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge. For membership and other information about DRBA, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

For more information about the trip, call Truslow at 336-547-1903, or email [truslow@hotmail.com](mailto:truslow@hotmail.com)



**Knight-Brown Nature Preserve** PHOTO BY PIEDMONT LAND CONSERVANCY

## Southside

from page 1

with half of the members being legislators. The eight members are Dels. Delores McQuinn, D-Richmond; Marcus Simon, D-Falls Church; Les Adams, R-Chatham; and Margaret Ransone, R-Westmoreland. The commission also includes State Sens. Mamie Locke, D-Hampton; George Barker, D-Fairfax; Ryan McDougle, R-Hanover; and Steve Newman, R-Lynchburg.

During a December 2020 panel discussion with the Virginia Press Association, Barker indicated some electoral changes for the southern parts of Virginia based on preliminary data.

“Northern Virginia is the only area of the state that will pick up much of anything at all,” Barker said. “Historically, Northern Virginia in 1940 had 1.5 Senate seats. This year, we will be up to 12 probably.”

Barker said the Fredericksburg area has also shown some growth as well.

“Northern Virginia will basically pick up two House seats, and either three-quarters or four-fifths of a Senate seat,” Barker added. “No other area, besides a tiny area in Fredericksburg, will pick up anything. The losses are all along the Southern border of Virginia. All the way from Hampton Roads to Southwest Virginia.”

Barker said the losses in Hampton Roads, Southside and Southwest Virginia will be proportional to the gains in Northern Virginia.

If the preliminary numbers are correct, this could lead to fewer representatives in Henry and Patrick counties.

During the 2011 redistricting process, the area lost representation in the 10th district.

Ward Armstrong, serving as the Minority Leader for the Democrats at the time, had his seat redrawn into non-existence by the Republican-controlled House of Delegates.

The territory within his district was split between adjacent House districts, and a new 10th District was created far away in Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick counties to accommodate population growth in the Northern Virginia suburbs.

Of the legislators serving on the redistricting commission, only Adams represents communities in the Southside. This gives the area a voice directly on the commission. As the delegate of the 16th district, about 45 percent of Adam’s district is made up of portions of Henry County and the entire City of Martinsville, according to data by the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP).

Henry County is represented by two additional delegates in the 9th and 14th districts, one state senator and two congressmen in the 9th and 5th districts, for a total of six representatives in one county. The number could be seen as problematic compared to current population trends.

A 2019 American Community Survey found that all three of the delegate districts in Henry County were below the “ideal” population. The 16th district is below its ideal population by 9,973 people. The 14th district is below ideal population by 7,816 people and the 9th district is below the ideal population by 5,819 people.

Additionally, the 9th and 5th congressional dis-

tricts are also the farthest away from ideal population standards, with the 9th district lacking 66,550 people to meet the ideal measure and the 5th district missing the mark by 40,995.

According to VPAP, “when congressional and state legislative boundaries are redrawn this year, areas below the ideal population will lose representation (and political power), while those above stand to gain.”

This could have adverse effects on the political power of minority communities in the area, according to advocates.

Based on figures from the 2010 Census, almost a third of the population in the 16th District is a race or ethnicity other than Caucasian. The 14th District is approximately 40 percent minority. Almost 13 percent of the 9th District is the same.

If parts of the 16th District in Henry County are redrawn to be part of the 14th District, the political power of minorities in the districts to sway elections would increase. If the lines include more of the 16th district into the 9th district, the political power of minorities in

Henry County would be decreased.

Phillip Thompson, executive director of the national black non-partisan redistricting organization, said he hopes the commission will help solve gerrymandering issues which impacted minority communities.

“Our primary concern in redistricting deals with minority communities,” he said. “We know the African American community is well represented on this body. We are also concerned with other minorities such as Asian Americans and the Hispanic community. We want to make sure the districts in Virginia are aligned to represent all of the communities and all of the people in Virginia.”

Until the census data is officially released, it is unknown how the new boundaries will affect minority communities throughout the state. However, the census isn’t the only thing that could affect local election districts.

During his most recent re-election bid, Martinsville City Council Member Chad Martin said he

will be ensuring a city reversion does not affect the political power of minority communities in Martinsville.

“That’s not the case at all because Martinsville would still have the same jurisdiction lines,” Martin said at the time. “If the county decided to try to cut it up, then that would go to the General Assembly and they would make sure it wouldn’t happen. Those fears need to be dispelled.”

While reversion won’t impact the jurisdictional lines, the addition of the African American population of Martinsville would impact the demographic makeup of Henry County. Based on 2019 population estimates by the Census Bureau, African Americans make up 47.5 percent of Martinsville and 22.6 percent of Henry County. By combining the localities, the African American population of Henry County would increase to 28 percent after reversion.

Martinsville proposes reverting with the condition that “the Henry County Board of Supervisors should redraw Henry County’s election districts to encompass the territory within Martinsville, and a special election should be held to elect supervisors from the new districts. To provide representation for the residents of the Town of Martinsville, the area of the town should be divided among the smallest number of election districts that can be drawn in accordance with applicable requirements of state and federal law.”

Without mentioning a specific number, the county supports reversion as long as “the Henry County Board of Supervisors shall determine, in its sole discretion, how to reapportion election districts to provide representation to Martinsville’s residents, limited only by applicable federal and state constitutional and statutory law.”

Which “applicable” laws will take precedence have yet to be determined. Among normal considerations are ensuring equal populations between the districts; ensuring minority representation; ensuring the contiguity of the districts; ensuring political boundaries are kept; and ensuring the districts remain compact.



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# First cases of COVID-19 variants reported in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced the first cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.427 and B.1.429 in samples that were collected between December 2020 and February 2021 from Virginia residents.

The B.1.427 and B.1.429 variants, which first emerged in California in the summer of 2020, are associated with increased person-to-person transmission of COVID-19. Cur-

rently, there is no evidence that infections with these variants cause more severe disease. These two variants were only recently added to CDC's Variant of Concern list.

The Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) confirmed the cases using next-generation sequencing analysis, which provides a genetic blueprint of the virus that causes COVID-19. With

the identification of these new variant cases, Virginia now has identified a total of 14 cases of the B.1.427 variant, nine cases of the B.1.429 variant, 26 cases of the B.1.351 variant (first identified in South Africa) and 127 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant (first identified in the United Kingdom). With the combined state and national surveillance efforts, it is likely that additional cases with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern will be identified.

Viruses change all the time, and VDH expects to see new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus as disease spreads. As our public health officials closely monitor the emergence of these SARS-CoV-2 variants in our Commonwealth, it is critical that all Virginians comply now with mitigation measures. Public health recommendations for stopping the spread of COVID-19 will work for all COVID-19 variants. This

means wearing masks correctly, staying at least six feet from others, avoiding crowds, washing hands often, getting vaccinated for COVID-19 when it is your turn, and staying home if you are infected with COVID-19 or if you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

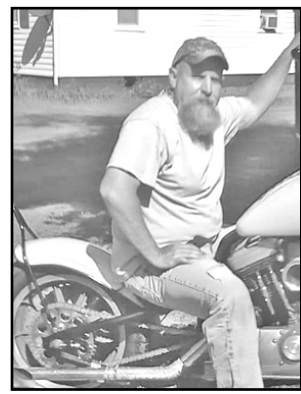
For more information about COVID-19 variants, visit the VDH Variants website and the CDC COVID-19 Variants website.

## OBITUARIES

### Gregory Thomas “Smiley” Clark

Gregory Thomas “Smiley” Clark, 51, of Bassett, Virginia passed away Monday, March 29, 2021, at his home. He was born August 23, 1969, in Martinsville, Virginia to Douglas and Deborah Lawless Clark. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church and loved Jesus first. He loved his mama with all his heart and soul. He also loved animals, Harley Davidson motorcycles and his family and friends. He never met a stranger.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Kimberly Clark; brother, Tony Clark (Amy); and several nieces and



nephews, Cassadie Peters (Justin), Cameron Meeks, Lauren Clark, and Braxton Crouch.

The funeral was Friday, April 2, 2021, at noon at Wright Funeral Service Chapel, with Pastor Dan Schelling officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Burial was in Fair Haven Memorial Park.

Special thanks to Pastor Dan Schelling for all his

love and support.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

### Jack Ramie Lewis, Jr.

Jack Ramie Lewis, Jr. of Smith Mountain Lake passed away March 27, 2021.

Born October 12, 1940, the son of Jack R. Lewis and Evelyn Hickman Lewis in Martinsville, VA. A devoted husband, father and brother, he is survived by his wife of 55 years, Katherine King Lewis; their two sons Garland Robert Lewis of Buchanan, VA and John Charles Lewis and wife Jennifer of Charlotte, NC; four grandchildren and two sisters, Linda Lewis Caldwell and Brenda Lewis Martin.

Jack was a graduate of Martinsville High School in 1959, he went on to earned degrees of: Bachelor of Science. Middle Tennessee State University, Master of Science, University of Wisconsin Stout and Doctor of Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Jack was the first Principal of Giles County Vocational School and retired as Director of Vocational Education at Danville Public Schools in 1997. He is a past President of the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Ed-



ucation Administration and presented at the National Association for Career and Technical Education Conference. He was most recently on the Alumni Board for Middle Tennessee State University.

Never one to sit still, after his retirement from education Jack founded and ran the Crafters Mall and Mini Storage in Chatham, VA. Later selling the business and retiring with Katherine to Smith Mountain Lake where he enjoyed his time fishing and avidly following the sports teams of his Alma Matter, MTSU.

Graveside services were held on April 1, 2021 at Roselawn Burial Park in Martinsville, Va., and officiated by Rev. Eric Cone. In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made to Scruggs Fire and Rescue 2130 Bluewater Drive, Moneta, VA 24121.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

### Christopher Alan Ramsey

Christopher Alan Ramsey, 54, of Spencer passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

He was born January 5, 1967 to Noel Chester and Barbara Smith Ramsey.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife Cheryl Renee Ramsey; sons, Dustan, Logan (Jacqueline) and Jordan Ramsey (Elizabeth Milam); sister Robin Ramsey; brother David Chester Ramsey; grandchildren, Aiden, Riley and Mason Ramsey.

Christopher whose nickname was “chicken man,” was a good old country boy who loved people and looked after his elderly neighbors. He was



well-known for his jolly laugh and giving big bear hugs. He loved the outdoors and working with his hands. He enjoyed farming, fishing, raising chickens, gardening and canning the wild game he harvested. He also loved spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, 2021. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

### Richard “Todd” Coggin

Richard “Todd” Coggin, 56, of Ridgeway, Va. passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2021. He was born in Albermarle, N.C. February 9, 1965 to William Albert “Bill” Coggin and Judy Shue Coggin.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife Kimberly Swain Coggin; son Steven Alexander Coggin, maternal grandmother Mamie Whitley.

Todd was preceded in death by his brother, Doug Coggin; maternal grandfather Rayvone Shue; paternal grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Coggin.

Todd served in the U.S. Navy and worked at Prillaman and Pace for 25 years. He was presently employed in



food services with the Henry County School System where he enjoyed seeing all of the young children. Todd loved his family and working outdoors.

The funeral service was held on March 30, 2021 at Trinity Friends Church with the Rev. Ron Hill officiating.

Interment was in Roselawn Burial Park

with full military honors.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Friends Church, 5 Summit St., Martinsville, VA 24112.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

### Dolores “Dodie” Wackerline Bach

Dolores “Dodie” Wackerline Bach, 91, of Martinsville, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at the Haven of Rest in Ridgeway. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Martinsville and was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Henry Bach, Sr.

A very special thank you to Karen Hicks and all staff at Haven of Rest and to Mountain Valley Hospice.

Memorials may be made to First Unit-



ed Methodist Church Music Fund, P.O. Box 4383, Martinsville, VA 24112, SPCA or The Charity League, P. O. Box 3172, Martinsville, VA 24112

A graveside service was held on March 31, 2021 at Oakwood Cemetery in Martinsville.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences

online, visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## Brandy

from page 1

Black described his signature brandy as “the drink that you’ve never had before” or “you had to pay big bucks to get it.”

Eventually, Nelson said distillery plans to add tastings as an on-site option. Currently, the distillery has a peddler’s license, which allows for the delivery of its product to customers.

According to Nelson, the venue won’t be a gathering place for clientele.

“Due to the product that we make, if a customer came in for a tasting, then we couldn’t serve them more than three ounces in a 24-hour period,” Nelson said. “We’re not doing a venue for live music or anything like that. It’s to drive up, purchase

and exit the property.”

Along with the brandy, Nelson said 6,000 tanker loads of wine are transported across the country from Washington.

“They are real nice, finished wines,” he said. “I distill the wine and we actually age that in charred oak barrels for a year or two and possibly longer.”

Nelson said winemaking is a hobby he has shared with Black for more than 20 years. Due to the ability to buy wine cheaper than making it, Nelson said the vineyards have been “torn up” and replaced with apple orchards.

“We’ve planted two apple orchards on different properties in Patrick County, and we started two in Henry

County where we will eventually be growing our own apples,” Nelson said. “Presently, we are getting apples out of Woolwine and Winchester, Va.”

A final hearing on the special use permit will be heard by the Board of Supervisors during its April meeting.

The BZA also approved a special use permit to allow Donald Wayne Davis, Jr., to operate a gunsmith service out of his home.

Davis said the Class B Home Occupation will allow him to sell and install accessories.

With the local permit, Davis now will pursue a federal firearms license.

“I’ve been in touch with the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) already and I’m prepared to submit that application as soon as this process is complete,” Davis said.

He added that his plans for the establishment will be limited.

“I have no plans to do any reloading at all,” Davis said. “It’s just general repair and modification. It would be on a small-scale basis for people I know. I won’t be advertising. There will be no signage. I’m just trying to take the lawful path forward so I can do this.”

In his application, Davis listed the services he plans to provide, including “repairs, restorations, refinishing, modifications, installation of accessories, etc., related to firearms” and the sale of equipment and accessories.

The third special use permit approved was in an amended case by Mitchell Kendall. The approval will allow Kendall to use track

lights at the Mountain Valley RC track in Martinsville.

Lee Clark, director of Planning, Zoning and Inspections, said Kendall was previously granted a special use permit to operate a remote/audio controlled race track but with a condition that “no outside lights will be added at this time.” The permit included a provision that allowed for lights in the future.

Complaints were later

filed that Kendall added six lights to the track on the property. He then applied on June 24, 2020 to amend the lighting condition, but the permit was denied.

The board approved the special use permit to allow for lighting over the parking lot and track only. Clark said the lighting over the parking lot was needed for safety reasons. Additionally, the track lights must be powered down at 10 p.m.



The Smith River Spirits distillery will use apples from Henry and Patrick counties to make brandy.



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# Applications open for virtual camp

High school students interested in natural resources are invited to attend the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources, a new virtual camp sponsored by Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VAS-WCD).

The academy will take place July 12-16. Each morning will feature live virtual presentations from natural resource professionals, with daily themes of aquatics, forestry, soils, or wildlife. Each afternoon, participants will complete field explorations on their own, as well as further exploring topics through videos and reading material.

“Since both Camp Woods & Wildlife and Youth Conservation

Camp were cancelled due to COVID-19, we wanted to offer an alternative way for teens to explore natural resource topics and careers,” said Bonnie Mahl of VASWCD.

“This camp has several unique twists you won’t find in most virtual camps,” Ellen Powell, of the VDOF, said.

The daily self-directed field studies – complete with instructions and materials for campers to use and keep – will connect campers with nature in their own backyards, local parks, or woods. In addition, small groups of campers will work together to showcase the natural resources of their region of the state, culminating in group presentations on Friday. The week will culminate with a natural resources competi-

tion modeled after the Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon program.

Current 9th-12th graders may apply for the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources at <https://forms.gle/9mRUyoaPRvFQY2N9>. Applications will be accepted through April 30.

Once notified of acceptance, campers will receive a schedule, Zoom link, and materials for completing their daily field studies. The coordinators want all Virginia high schoolers to feel this camp experience is available to them. The only cost for the week-long academy is \$25 to cover materials; however, financial aid is available. Contact Ellen Powell at [ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov) to discuss options.

# Free admission to VMNH now available to low-income families

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville announced that Hooker Furnishings is the museum’s latest corporate partner to support the national “Museum’s for All” initiative, a program which provides free or reduced admission to more than 500 museums throughout the United States for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders. Additionally, the sponsorship will underwrite the costs of providing a number of museum educational programs for students in underserved Virginia public schools.

Specifically, the partnership allows for the museum to waive all admission fees for visitors who present their EBT card at the VMNH box office now through April 2022 as part of the “Museum’s for All” initiative led by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Previously, EBT cardholders received reduced museum admission fees of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child.

Additionally, the partnership allows the museum to offer several museum-led educational programs free of charge for K-12 public school classes in underserved Vir-

ginia schools qualifying for free or reduced lunches. The programs are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Having the support of Hooker Furnishings helps tremendously as the museum continues to forge ahead with expanding its inclusivity initiatives and educational programming opportunities throughout Virginia and beyond,” said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. “This latest partnership is especially exciting, as it continues a long history of the company’s support of the museum that began over 25 years ago.”

EBT cardholders from any state wishing to take advantage of free VMNH admission must simply present their EBT card and accompanying identification at the museum box office upon arrival. More information about this program can be found at [www.vmnh.net/plan-your-visit](http://www.vmnh.net/plan-your-visit).

Virginia’s K-12 public school teachers wishing to take advantage of the cost-free educational programs offered through the support of Hooker Furnishings can contact the museum at [discover@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:discover@vmnh.virginia.gov) or visit [www.vmnh.net/education/distance-learning](http://www.vmnh.net/education/distance-learning) to learn more.

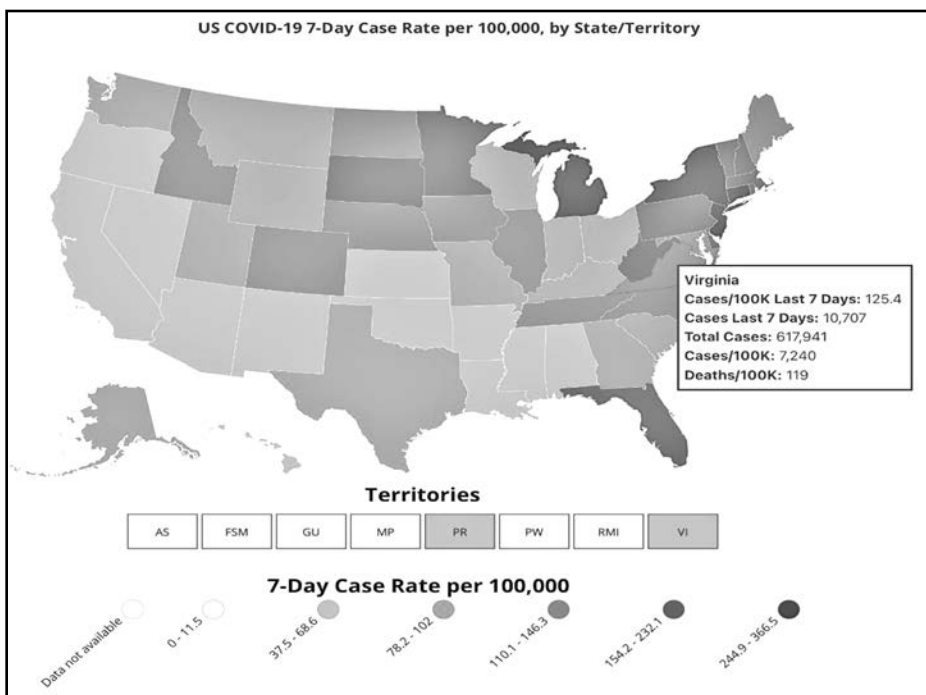
net/education/distance-learning to learn more.

“Hooker Furnishings is proud to continue a partnership with VMNH that began over 25 years ago,” said Jeremy R. Hoff, Chief Executive Officer. “This partnership is an integral part of our Environmental, Social and Governance (‘ESG’) efforts. We believe helping to educate the next generation is an important part of our environmental stewardship responsibilities and VMNH is the perfect vehicle to do that through its research and interpretation of our natural history. Additionally, helping to remove barriers to STEM-based educational opportunities to under-served populations is a critical step forward socially.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum is currently open to visitors Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed all other days. VMNH Distance Learning programs are offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and must be reserved in advance. To learn more about VMNH hours of operation and educational programming opportunities, visit [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net).

# Restrictions

from page 1



**Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that COVID-19 cases are trending upward in several states including New York, Michigan, Connecticut, and New Jersey.**

New restrictions will allow social gatherings of up to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors, Northam said.

“Entertainment venues will be able to operate at 30 percent of capacity, up to 500 people indoors. Outdoor venues can have up to 30 percent, but won’t have a numeric cap,” he said.

The number of spectators allowed for recreational sports increased to 100 indoors and 500 outdoors, while recreational sporting events, indoors and out, are limited to 30 percent of capacity.

“Graduation events outdoors will be capped at 5,000 people or 30 percent of capacity. Events indoors may have up to 500 people or 30 percent of capacity, whichever is less,” Northam said. “If you’re attending these events, and I hope that you can, you need to wear masks, and follow other guidelines and safety protocols.”

Virginia is eighth in the county in terms of vaccine

doses used, Northam said, and added “almost one in four Virginians have now received at least one dose of the vaccine. That’s more than 2 million Virginians, more than one million people are fully vaccinated. On many days, we’re doing around 60,000 or 70,000 doses.”

Some localities are moving into phase 1C of the vaccination plan, he said, and added “we expect that it’s only a matter of weeks before we can open it up to anyone who wants to be vaccinated.”

The vaccine offers widespread protection, according to Northam.

“The virus survives by infecting new people. The more people that get vaccinated, the fewer people the virus is able to infect. We all want to get back to normal, and the way to do that is to get vaccinated as soon as you can,” he said. “If we continue to be careful with wearing our masks in public, washing our hands, keeping our distance in public, and get-

ting vaccinated, I expect our case counts will keep going down.”

Northam said the federal government will also begin to increase the weekly allocations of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by five times the current amount. He said another potential vaccine, AstraZeneca, is currently undergoing trials to receive authorization in the United States. Studies have shown the vaccine is effective across all age groups.

Northam said the federal government will launch an extensive education campaign, that will include information about the safety of the vaccines, “that they work, and you will hear it from people you trust. From community leaders, neighbors, doctors, ministers, and lots of other folks.”

As of Tuesday, March 30 data from the Virginia Department of Health suggested there are 4,379 cases, with 312 hospitalizations, and 120 deaths in Henry County. In Patrick

County, 1,279 cases with 98 hospitalized, and 41 dead from the COVID-19 virus were reported. In the City of Martinsville, 1,552 cases were reported with 138 hospitalized, and 73 dead.

The data also suggested there are 617,941 cases in the state, with 26,367 hospitalized, and 10,242 dead from the COVID-19 virus.

Information from the CDC suggested there are 30,085,827 cases in the United States and 546,704 dead from coronavirus.

Data also suggests that as of March 30, 1,320,424 Virginians have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

For more tips on how to stay safe, visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov).

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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE • HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to receive comments on the Authority’s intent to obtain relief from the moratorium prohibiting municipal utilities from disconnecting services to residential customers for non-payment of bills or fees. The PSA has notified customers in arrears of the COVID-19 Relief Repayment Plan. The PSA has demonstrated that accounts receivable arrearages exceed 1% of the annual operating revenues. The written analysis is available for public inspection at the General Manager’s Office at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112. Attendees are required to wear a face mask or covering and to exercise social distancing. For more information, contact the PSA General Manager’s Office at 276-634-4601.



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Virginia's K-12 public school

teachers wishing to take advantage of the cost-free educational programs offered through the support of Hooker Furnishings can contact the museum at [discover@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:discover@vmnh.virginia.gov) or visit [www.vmnh.net/education/distance-learning](http://www.vmnh.net/education/distance-learning) to learn more.

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## Pharmacy

from page 1

she said.

Goad bought the business from Edgar Cliborne after his business partner, Burgess Hamlet, passed away in 1994.

"Edgar sold the business to Niki in 2006 and he retired," said Joanie McPeak, a pharmacy technician at Starling since 1987. "The store was originally on Starling Avenue in the 1930s and Burgess bought it from Luther Blair and moved it here (Memorial Boulevard) in 1965."

According to McPeak, the business boomed in Martinsville's heyday.

"We had Dupont, we had Tultex, we had all of the factories like Bassett and Hooker," she said. "We were their main supplier for their first aid needs and things like that. We also were their Workers Compensation pharmacy."

Over the years, McPeak said she built a relationship with the clientele.

"We are their moms, their aunts, their best friends, their therapists. Our people come in and they talk to us about stuff. We probably know more about them than anybody else," McPeak said. "When people find out they have terminal problems, they come here and talk to us because they couldn't sit there and discuss it with their doctor in the office."

As opposed to larger pharmacies, McPeak said Starling offered a friendlier environment.

"You're not a number. We know you," she said. "We know their cars. We deliver and that's not something you are going to find with the big chain stores."

McPeak said she took the job when she was just

a teenager.

"I fell in love with it," she said. "I fell in love with the fact that our patients were like family. I was very, very shy and they had to tell me to talk to people because I just could not do it. Slowly, but surely, they became like your family and it was like a safe zone."

While McPeak found a family at Starling, Goad pursued a career as a pharmacist.

"I wanted to be able to help people without being a physician. I wanted to have a family and I wanted to be able to be a mom too. I wanted to be there for my kids," Goad said. "Pharmacy allows you to do that."

Over the years, the family at Starling Pharmacy grew to two full-time employees (Goad and McPeak), and four part-time staff.

"We had a good business, but with NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) and all of the jobs going overseas, that all started to slowly go down," McPeak said. "Dupont closed, and then a lot of things went to mail order."

McPeak said the pharmacy experienced a decrease in 2004 strictly because prescription drugs were being mailed.

"People are getting things through their insurance companies through the mail," McPeak added. "They are only calling us if their mail was late, and they didn't receive their stuff. They would only ask for a 10-day supply."

The cost effectiveness of mail order helped syphon business, Goad said.

"Mail order is much cheaper. You can get a

90-day supply for probably a third of what you are going to pay at the pharmacy," she said.

"It's not their (the customer's) fault that it was more economical for them to do mail order," McPeak said. "You have to make those hard choices. We would order a bottle of 100 and sell them 10 pills. If they were the only person getting that medication, then it would eventually go out of date and we would have to throw it away. That in turn, causes a loss."

According to Goad, that was only one of the hardships facing independent pharmacies.

Community pharmacies suffered a hard hit when Medicare Part D took effect on January 1, 2006. Medicare Part D introduced the concept of preferred pharmacies. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid define a "preferred pharmacy" as one that offers covered drugs to plan members at lower out-of-pocket costs than what the member would pay at a non-preferred network pharmacy. Some examples of preferred pharmacies include Walgreens, CVS and Walmart.

Some larger pharmacies own insurance companies and use discounts to encourage customers to shop at their stores, McPeak said.

"It's unfair that they look at you the customer and say, 'if you come to my store, you'll get the products for free, but if you go over to that little drug store around the road, then you're going to be paying 100 percent,'" McPeak said.

Goad said the outlook for independent pharmacies looks bleak.

"It's only going to get worse. The big chains are buying out the insurance companies. Patients are being forced to go to" large competitors "to get their medicine for free or stick with the little guy and pay a copay." Goad said. "It seems unfair. These larger stores can get their products at a lower cost because they buy in bulk because they are nationwide. We can't do that."

Along with offering cheaper prices at national chains, Medicare Part D also brought about direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees.

"Meaning a drug that the Medicare/Medicaid payment system, they can look and see what they paid you a year and a half ago," McPeak said. "They can say, I think we pay them too much for that. Let's take that money back."

McPeak said that in 2019 alone, Medicare clawed back \$9.1 billion from pharmacies across America.

"It's little things that might just be \$0.32 but it adds up quickly," she said. "On our reimbursement sheets that we get from the insurance companies, we balance out what we think we should have gotten and what they are actually paying us. They do take fees. One time, we got a negative \$23, but on our sheet, it was \$2,300 that we were supposed to be getting paid. It was a whole year of remuneration fees that they were taking back."

Tracking the fees for each customer is also overbearing on smaller pharmacies, according to McPeak.

With only two employees, "you've got your pharmacist and your tech. We don't have time to sit and go through every chain of everything to try and track back the DIR fees," she said, adding that more responsibility was shifted towards the pharmacies.

"Saying it is a pharmacy's responsibility to make sure that a patient takes their pill every

single day and gets it refilled every 30-days is ridiculous," McPeak said. "Are you going to have some pharmacy calling you every day and asking you if you've taken your pills yet? That's one of the problems with the DIR fees."

Additionally, Goad said that deregulation of drug prices placed a financial strain on Starling.

"In December, Eliquis which most people use as a blood thinner, was \$459 a bottle for a 30-day supply," she said. "By the time we purchased it in January, it had went up to \$485 just in a 30-day period. When the insurance pays us for that, we might get \$465 so we are not making anything."

McPeak said the deregulation was multifaceted.

"A Nystatin cream used to cost us \$3.82 for a tube. Then when deregulation happened, the next time we went to order it was \$105," she said. "You had insurance companies already set up to pay an average wholesale price, and they are not going to fix that in the calendar year. So, we were getting reimbursement rates much lower now than the drugs were actually costing us. That's still a huge problem today."

Local factors also played a role in the decision to close the pharmacy, according to McPeak, who cited the costs of utilities and local business fees. Plus, "the DEA license went up again this year."

Goad said the local business license fees are calculated as a percentage of gross sales.

"It costs \$2,000-3,000 to get your business license in the city," she said, and added that eventually, the changes piled up.

"We are having to make this decision because of all of the changes the pharmacies are going through," she said of closing the pharmacy. "It's things that we've tried to fix. It's like you put a Band Aid on it, and then it breaks loose again."

"We hate doing this,"

McPeak said, and added the pharmacy reached out to legislators, but received no help.

"There have been several bills proposed in the last three year to make it more transparent and make it where that can't happen anymore, but so far nothing has been done. There is nothing we can do," she said. "We feel like (our representatives) don't listen to us. I can't tell you how many times we have written."

McPeak said the pair writes once every 1- to 2-years, but to no avail.

"Nothing is ever addressed," she said. "We get a response saying, 'thank you for taking the time to write to us and we will look into this,' but nothing is ever done."

McPeak said she doubts rural pharmacies have much clout in Washington D.C., comparatively.

"Insurance companies have lobbyists, drug companies have lobbyists," she said. "Who are they (the representatives) going to go with?"

Left with no other option, Goad said the doors of Starling Pharmacy will be closing on April 13 and all files will be transferred to Walgreens.

Goad is planning on taking a position at Walgreens in Stuart, while McPeak seeks other opportunities.

"I currently teach piano and beginner violin at Dan Smith Music in Collinsville," McPeak said. "I'm going to try and get my student base up for a bit. I've been here for 34 years. I'm going to primarily teach but if something else opens up, I'm gladly willing to pursue other ventures but as of now, I'm just going to find joy in that."

Customers of Starling Pharmacy received a letter dated March 30 formally announcing the decision to close the pharmacy. For the next two weeks, both past and present customers are invited to come by the pharmacy one last time, or by calling (276) 632-6222 or (276) 632-5060.



Larry Joines and Paul T. Kennedy, Jr. presented a plaque and gift to Wesley Wirt (center) for his dedicated and faithful service of 26 years as the caretaker of the Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren Cemetery. Wesley officially retired on March 15, 2021.

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# Bassett Funeral Service

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3655-3665 Fairystone Park Highway  
Bassett, VA 24055  
**(276) 629-1770**  
[www.bassettfuneralservice.com](http://www.bassettfuneralservice.com)

# HUGE AUCTION!

## HUGE 2-Day ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

**Friday, April 9 @ 6:00pm**  
**(Doors open at 4:00pm)**  
**Saturday, April 10 @ 10:00am**  
**(Doors open at 8:00am)**

**HORSEPASTURE VOL. FIRE DEPT. (RT. 58)**  
**17815 A. L. PHILPOTT HWY., RIDGEWAY, VA**  
**GUNS, GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY, KNIVES, COINS & CURRENCY, CAST IRON COLLECTION, NAME BRAND HANDBAGS, ROYAL DOULTON COLLECTION, FURNITURE, CROCKS & JUGS, RICHARD PETTY (RARE ITEMS), COMPOUND BOWS & ARROWS, RED MILL COLLECTION**  
**TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!**

**For listing & pictures visit: [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com)**

**WILLIAMS AUCTION CO., LLC**  
**VAAL #3261 276-6441**

From Martinsville: Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles. Horsepasture Fire Dept is on the left at corner of 58W and Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road). WATCH FOR SIGNS