



Declaration to honor former governor sparks hope, draws ire

Staff Reports

A declaration by Gov. Ralph Northam gives local Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) officials hope and has candidates seeking the 9th District House of Delegates seat in agreement.

Northam declared June 29 was Patrick Henry Day to recognize the former governor's contributions as a founding father.

"The fact that we are glorifying slave owners says a lot about where we are as a society in 2021," said Bridgette Craighead, the Democrat on the November ballot.

"I feel like making a day for Patrick Henry is a slap in the face to a lot of people of color. Instead of glorifying slave owners, let's glorify people that have taken steps to make America and Virginia more inclusive. Not divided apart," she said.

Wren Williams, a Republican, also was critical of the declaration, but for different reasons.

Williams said the sentiment among Democrats was that Henry "should be

stripped of all accolades and removed from" any form of "prestigious distinction. Is it (declaration) a make-up call? Who is it that this (declaration) is trying to appease? It certainly didn't help" the Democratic majority "and it completely ticked off the right."

The declaration may or may not have an impact on the name change at PHCC.

The local PHCC board was invited to submit recommendations for a name change after the Virginia State Board of Community Colleges in May rejected the local college board's recommendation to add a hyphen between Patrick-Henry, denoting it was named for the counties it serves rather than a historical figure.

But Northam's declaration may mean the local board submits another recommendation,

"The governor's declaration came out" on Tuesday, Janet Copenhaver, chairman of the Patrick Henry Community College Board, said Wednesday. "I don't know if the local board

See **Declaration**, page 2

Uptown Martinsville gets a unique style with new floral boutique

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Unique Styles & Designs, LLC, finally is officially open for business following a June 28 ribbon cutting ceremony at the new floral boutique in Uptown Martinsville.

The new store will be operating out of the former Draper & Ferrell Clothiers building on 42 E. Church Street.

Shatera Robertson, owner of the business, said she has been doing event designing in the community for about five years, even expanding services into Roanoke and Greensboro, N.C.

"Last year during the pandemic, I went back to attend floral design school in Greensboro which became an asset to my pre-existing business," she said. "I learned how to do bouquets, large wedding spreads and things



Unique Styles and Design, LLC, celebrated the opening of its new storefront in Uptown Martinsville with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 28.

of that nature."

Robertson said her floral design is unique compared to traditional arrangements.

"I've got a more modern style to doing florals so I just decided to open up my own place where I could provide those modern styling services to the community,"

she said.

A Martinsville native, Robertson said she knew the perfect spot for her new operation.

"It's where I'm from, where I grew up," she said. "It's a small place, I know a lot of people here

See **Floral Boutique**, page 5

Yeatts Restored celebrates with ribbon cutting

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

A new project, Yeatts Restored, is officially on the way to its new life after a ribbon cutting ceremony at the property on 6620 A.L. Philpott Highway.

The project is the latest venture by Legacy Industries which plans to rehab the former Yeatts Nursery, develop the on-site house for Airbnb rentals and renovate the inside of Milestone Mercantile, which will remain in operation.

Caleb Knighten, co-founder of Legacy Industries, said his family home is nearby the property and he had his eye on the lot for a while.

"I've ridden by here hundreds of times and the property was on the market for a long, long time," Knighten said. "I saw there were 'for sale' signs out here so I kind of knew that they wanted to sell. Just in conversation one day, they found out we were buying properties and businesses and we made it happen from there."

Knighten said Yeatts Restored is



Yeatts Restored held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 29.

"technically not a business yet" but rather a name for multiple smaller projects that will take place at the site.

"Our plans are to bring back the nursery business. It's going to take some time, maybe months or even a year or two to bring that part of the operation back," Knighten said. "So Yeatts Restored is the name of the entire project. We will be rehabbing the retail store here, the antique shop (Milestone Mercantile). We are rehabbing the house right now. It

is lovingly called 'Granny's House.' Our plan is to rehab it and put Airbnb there."

According to Knighten, the Airbnb will be themed around "outdoor living" with its very own pond, which will be stocked with fish for guests to catch.

"We are going to have a hammock village outside, so they will have a place to relax outside," he added.

Knighten said he is hoping to

See **Yeatts Restored**, page 8

Legislators called to return for special session

Gov. Ralph Northam issued a proclamation calling the members of the General Assembly into special session on Monday, August 2. A special session is necessary to fill judicial vacancies and allocate more than \$4.3 billion in federal relief funding.

"With more Virginians getting vaccinated every day, we are turning the corner and building back stronger," said Northam. "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, we have a unique opportunity to fund public schools, support small businesses, achieve universal broadband access, and make generational investments in our shared future. I look forward to working with legislators to get it done."

Earlier this summer, Governor Northam and legislative leaders issued a joint statement outlining their shared priorities for this federal funding:

Public health. Upgrade long-underfunded state and local public health services, boost affordable housing, and help Virginians with the cost of utilities.

Small businesses. Fully fund the Rebuild Virginia economic recovery program, invest in Virginia Tourism's work to recruit visitors back

to the Commonwealth, and help the Department of Housing and Community Development support Virginia's main streets, small towns, and industrial revitalization.

Workers. Fund the Unemployment Trust Fund to support workers who lose their jobs and avoid increased costs on Virginia businesses, increase support for the Virginia Employment Commission—historically one of the lowest-funded unemployment systems in the country—to continue upgrading its computer systems and hire necessary staff.

Public schools. Modernize public school buildings across Virginia by rehabilitating and upgrading existing facilities, improving air quality and HVAC systems, and improving safety.

Broadband. Accelerate a 10-year plan to ensure universal broadband access within the next 18 months.

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law in March, directing \$350 billion in economic recovery funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. All Republican members of Congress voted against the law, including those representing Virginia.

Personal story parlayed into recent novel



Nancy Naigle, a bestselling author, said her latest book, "The Shell Collector," displays a Christian world-view that is not apparent in her other works.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Nancy Naigle, a USA bestselling author and recent immigrant to Patrick County, published her most recent novel, "The Shell Collector", on May 11.

The novel is set on a fictional town called Whelk's Island off the coast of North Carolina, Naigle said.

"It's a story about a woman who has lost her husband, and she and her children are trying to get back up on their feet and they happen along a woman, who is an older widow named Maeve, who lives on Whelk's Island and grew up there," she added.

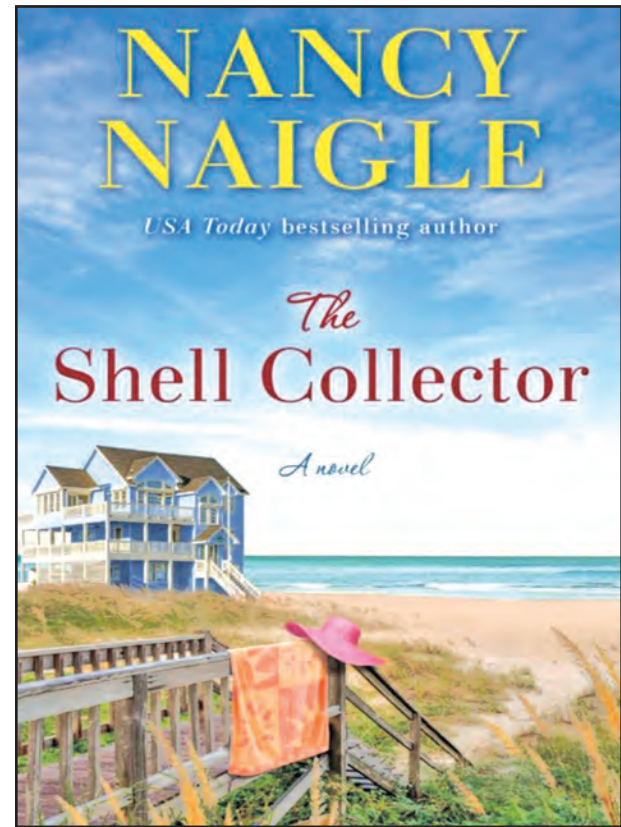
Naigle said the two women become close friends and kind of rescue each another.

"Maeve is kind of the story because the legend that people keep finding these mysterious shells along the shore, and they seem to land right in people's hands at the right time. So that's kind of Maeve's gift is to create these inscribed shells," she said.

Naigle, who is also the author of the Adams Grove novels and the Seasoned Southern Sleuths, said this novel is special to her.

"I lost my husband in 2014 to a short battle with cancer, and this was a story

See **"The Shell Collector"**, page 2



Nancy Naigle's 32nd book, "The Shell Collector," is available at Barnes & Noble, Target, and Amazon.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 7

An Introduction to Archery workshop will be held at the Jack Dalton Picnic Shelter from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The workshop will provide basic knowledge of archery including archery equipment, shooting, and safety. Class is limited to eight participants. Cost of admission is \$10.

Friday, July 9

A canoe day will be held at Beaver Creek Reservoir beginning at 10 a.m. Instruction will be provided for beginners. All canoe rentals will be free during the instructional period. For more information call

Henry County Parks & Recreation at (276) 634-4640.

'Fido's Finds will be holding a "blazing hot" Big Basement Summer Sale from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday, July 10th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 119 East Main Street UpTown Martinsville. Thousands of items on sale including Christmas in July. All proceeds support the Martinsville- Henry County SPCA. For more information call 276-656-1101.

Saturday, July 10

The Brenda Riggins Memorial Blood Drive

is scheduled from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Stanleytown Elementary School. Appointments can be scheduled online through the Red Cross website.

Monday, July 12

Unlock your child's brilliance at the world's premier destination for STEM education. Guided by an elite 4-H tech STEM team, they will have fun and advance their skills fast with Scratch Coding and Java. This camp is for kids ages 8-12. The camp will take place from 9 a.m. until noon on July 12-15 at the Henry County Administration Building. The cost for the camp is \$20.

Friday, July 16

Movie in the Park will be held at Jack Dalton Park this summer. Music and games will start at 7:30 p.m. and the movie will start at 9 p.m. Admission is free. Drinks and refreshments will be available for purchase. The movie on July 16 will be Trolls World Tour.

Saturday, July 17

The public is invited to participate in the Smith River Trout Unlimited (SRTU) Chapter introduction to fly fishing for adults and youth. This is a free entry-level flyfishing presentation for adults and youth interested in

learning about or getting started in the sport. The event will take place from 10 a.m. until noon at the Waid Park picnic shelter number #1 at 701 Waid Park Road in Rocky Mount. Participants are asked to dress according to weather temperatures. Ice cold bottled water will be provided. Sign up early, the workshop is limited to 10 persons. Please contact Jeff Deering at jdeer76@yahoo.com or Eric Tichay at erictichay@yahoo.com.

Ongoing

The Spencer-Penn Centre will be hosting a yoga class on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., throughout the month of June with instructor Sheila Hubbard. The class is

\$8 per session or \$40 for a series of six classes. Students are asked to bring their own yoga mat and props if possible.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness is celebrating Men's Health Month and reminding men that one great step toward good health is regular health exams and routine preventive care. If you are putting these off due to lack of insurance, the coalition offers "no contact application assistance for Virginia's free or low cost MEDICAID plans for Virginians under 65, who meet income requirements. For questions or to apply, call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509.

Registration now open for competitive fair exhibit

The Competitive Exhibit registrations are now open for the Henry County Fair, presented by VisitMartinsville.

The exhibit is sponsored by Bryant Radio Supply.

The exhibit will include a variety of categories, among them fresh fruits and vegetables, canned fruits, canned vegetables and meats, pickles and relishes, bread, candy, pies, flowers and plants, quilts, crocheting, knitting, textiles and children's artwork.

Fair ribbons and prizes will be awarded to winners.

"These contests are a staple feature of many county fairs across the country and will give people in our region the opportunity to showcase their agricultural, homemaking and crafts skills,"

said Roger Adams, director of Parks and Recreation for Henry County and the Henry County Fair.

A packet with the rules, categories and registration forms, may be download from the fair website or picked up at the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office.

The Henry County Fair will be held September 22 - 25 on the grounds at Martinsville Speedway, and will lead into the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 race at Martinsville Speedway on September 25.

Anyone seeking more information about the fair may contact the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office at (276) 634-4640 or visit the fair website at www.henrycountyfair.com.

Repairs to prompt periodic trail closures

The Fieldale Trail and River Access will be closed periodically over the next four to eight weeks as contractors work to repair several sections of the storm damaged trail. Users are asked to avoid using the trail

and river access on the days that they are closed.

For the most up to date repair/closure information, call Henry County Parks and Recreation at (276) 634-4640.

Declaration

from page 1

members have had time to absorb it."

The local board doesn't meet again until July 19, Copenhaver said, and added the board has not yet discussed the issue.

She added that PHCC "is named after the two counties, and we know it was named after the two counties and not a person. "We can only hope" the college will at least be able to retain the P and the H.

"It would be cheaper to transition," she said.

Regardless of the name, "it doesn't change who we are inside or what Patrick Henry stands for," Copenhaver said. "One can only hope" it will carry some weight.

Williams, who also a member of the PHCC board, estimated rebranding the college would cost more than \$1 million, and the state is "not even going to give us a dime to do it, but they're going to come out a month later to celebrate him (Henry)?"

He said he would support a renewed effort to maintain PHCC's current name.

Craighead said the state board is showing "that they are compassionate on how their black constituents feel. To name a college or university that everybody goes to after a slave owner makes it awkward for people of color. For me, having an institution named after a slave owner makes me not want to go there. Big kudos to those that wanted to change it and make everyone feel welcome."

In the future, she said "I think everybody should do a little more research on how these institutions are named after and realize that the past still hurts. I know that people might not have liked the name change but think about how people feel going into the institution knowing the history behind it. It's not fair for those people either."

Williams marvels that no one thought to raise the issue before the declaration was made.

"Wouldn't you think that someone might have mentioned, 'hey, there's some kind of controversy about renaming this community college,'" Williams said. "Is that how disjointed our government is that nobody thought to run this by" Northam.

"I think that (the proclamation) is really backwards," Craighead said. "We are going the wrong way. I feel like whoever made that decision should have done a little bit more research before declaring a day after a slave owner."

Williams said "the hypocrisy is so overwhelming. You can't even point to it and ask him (Northam) to reconcile this. It's impossible for him to do that, and that's what's so frustrating and that's what people on the right are so tired of."

"The Shell Collector"

from page 1

that my cousin had shared with me before I had lost my husband," she said. "There was a friend of our family who lived on the Outer Banks and would walk up and down the beach all the time. She was walking the beach with something kind of heavy on her heart and she picked up a shell in the surf. When she reached down to pick it up, it had a scripture written in it.

Naigle said she "thought that was just the neatest story, and it wasn't even only that one shell. About a year later, she'd been walking along the beach and found another shell upon a dune, and over a six-or-seven-year period, she'd found several shells and nobody else ever found any. So, she kind of giggled when she talked about them and said they were special shells from the angels by the sea."

After she lost her husband, Naigle said she could have used a bucket or so of those shells to get through that first year.

"So, the story about a woman who created those kinds of messages in shells just kind of started coming to me," she said.

It wasn't until a couple of years ago that Naigle said that she felt strong enough to write the story about grief and dealing with those kinds of changes in your life.

"But The Shell Collector just kind of came to me, and hung on me, and so I was really excited to finally get the story out to the world," she said, and added that The Shell Collector is more inspirational than her other works.

"All my other stories are small town love stories, and most of them are very clean reads. This one is too, but this one, I think, has a lot more faith forward in the story. The Christian world-view is definitely right there at your hands, which is something that I haven't really displayed as much in my previous writings," she said.

"I think it's just a very special story that will hopefully bring some hope and reminders of unlikely friends that could be right there in front of you to help you get through the next phase of your life," Naigle added.

Her seventh Hallmark Movie, Sand Dollar Cove, will premiere on the Hallmark channel on June 26, and three more of her books are scheduled to be released in 2022.

The Shell Collector is available at Barnes & Noble, Target, and Amazon. For more information on Naigle and her books, visit www.nancynaigle.com.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Absence of difficulty
- Preserve a dead body
- Gratitude
- The act of coming together again
- More cushy
- Visionaries
- Fish-eating bird
- Indicates near
- NY Mets legend Tommie
- Icelandic poems
- Pop
- Hammer is one
- Senses of self-esteem
- Trigraph
- Not around
- Electronic data processing
- Driver's licenses and
- passports
- Snake-like fishes
- Military flyers
- Raincoats
- Type of community
- Feature of worm's anatomy
- In the center
- Laid back
- Jewelled headdress
- In slow tempo
- Falls
- Saying things again
- Periods in history
- Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN
- Body part
- Mimics
- Expel or eject
- Sea eagle
- Subdivision of cenosespecies
- Dialect of Chinese
- Mr. T's character on "The A-Team"
- Consumed
- Chinese dynasty
- NFL great Randy
- Ireland
- Palm trees
- Fungal disease
- Willis and Jerry are two
- Affirmative!
- Potato state
- "The First State"
- A way to develop
- Associations
- Woman (French)
- Sunscreen rating
- Brew
- Mosque prayer leader
- Indigo bush
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Jr.'s father
- Scad genus
- Morning
- Length of a straight line (abbr.)
- Double curve
- Small thin bunch
- Worn by exposure to the weather
- Mars crater
- Humanities
- Of the ears
- "To the ___ degree"
- Residue
- It keeps you cool

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

Martinsville man died from multiple gunshot wounds during Sunday incident at apartment complex

Charles Brandon Coleman, 31, of Martinsville, was pronounced dead at the scene of a shooting incident Sunday, according to a release from the Martinsville Police Department.

Officers responded to a shots fired call around 8:32

p.m. on June 27 at 1446 West Fayette Street (Maplewood Apartments).

Upon arrival, officers found Coleman behind one of the apartment buildings, the release stated.

Coleman suffered multiple gunshot wounds, according to

the release. He was unresponsive and pronounced dead at the scene.

His remains were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke to collect evidence and to determine the official cause of death.

Preliminary reports and evi-

dence indicate that Coleman was involved in a verbal argument with black man, according to the release.

The verbal altercation turned into a physical fight, during which a handgun was produced, and shots were fired, the release stated.

Several investigators are continuing to gather evidence and track down leads received from the public. Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to contact Lt. Sandy Hines at (276) 403-5301 or Crimestoppers at (276) 632-7463.

DRBA calls for a new conversation about outdoor recreation safety

For more than 19 years, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has presented the astounding sights and sounds of nature and stewardship of the unique and beautiful natural resources of our watershed by both providing and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities.

Anyone who has ever joined an outing with DRBA on a river or trail knows that the safety of our guests is the number one priority. DRBA also works closely with municipalities and partners throughout the region to ensure the safety of those enjoying our natural resources by providing paddle and hiking safety training, directional signage on bridges that cross waterways, informational signage along trails and at river access points, and the reconstruction

of infrastructure that poses potential threats to users. DRBA's work related to outdoor recreational safety is an ever present goal within the organization, and every year DRBA has initiated and achieved new projects that help safeguard our citizens and visitors.

The recent tragic event on the Dan River highlights that there is still work to be done. To that end, DRBA is inviting its municipal, tourism, outfitters and corporate partners to join a renewed conversation about outdoor recreational safety.

"Every year, thousands of people safely enjoy our outdoor recreational assets because of the collaborative efforts of the organizations and municipalities in our region," said Tiffany Haworth, DRBA's executive director. "But one tragedy is

too many. People and organizations from every corner of the Dan River Basin are reaching out to us and sharing new ideas related to outdoor recreational safety. We want those voices to be heard."

DRBA is gathering these ideas and invites its regional partners to convene for a new conversation about outdoor recreational safety.

"No one knows the rivers and trails in our region better than DRBA," said Robin Yount, Director of the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) in Rockingham County, N.C. "We have partnered with DRBA on almost all of our projects related to safety and outdoor recreation. The TDA will definitely be joining this conversation and is committed to working with DRBA to improve the outreach, and enhance the message,

of outdoor recreational safety."

All of the municipalities in Rockingham County, N.C. and the fifteen other counties that comprise the Dan River Basin are invited to join in this conversation about enhanced outdoor safety.

"DRBA is the expert when it comes to outdoor recreational assets and protecting the environment," said Cindy Adams, Tourism Director for the City of Eden. "We have worked with DRBA on many projects and we are committed to joining this conversation to ensure we are doing all we can to keep people safe while visiting and enjoying all of the outdoor amenities we have in the City of Eden."

In addition, corporations and other organizations who value and are dedicated to outdoor recreation are invited to join

the conversation.

"Like the rest of the Eden and Rockingham community, we are saddened by the tragic event that took place last week on the Dan River. We certainly want to participate in a community discussion on recreation and safety in and around the river," said Davis Montgomery, Duke Energy district manager.

Representatives from all municipalities, businesses, outfitters and organizations in the Dan River Basin region who are interested in joining this conversation, contact the Dan River Basin Association, drba.nc@danriver.org or (336) 627-6270.

To learn more about how to stay safe outdoors, visit DRBA's website: <https://www.danriver.org/our-watershed/trails-and-river-info/trails-river-safety> or view

a short webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qen4W7pPuLQ>

The mission of the Dan River Basin Association is to promote and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin through education, recreation, and stewardship. DRBA works to fulfill that mission by building river accesses and trails, educating people of all ages about protecting our natural resources, and protecting our water resources through water quality monitoring, cleanups and master planning. The Dan River basin is 3,300 square miles including sixteen counties throughout Virginia and North Carolina.

To learn more about DRBA's impact and programs that protect and conserve our natural resources, visit danriver.org.

Gas prices to remain highest since 2014 for 4th of July weekend

Rising gas prices have become the theme for the 2021 summer travel season. According to GasBuddy, many drivers will see prices remain above the \$3 per gallon mark in time for the upcoming holiday weekend. Even with some relief from a recent small drop in prices, the national average price of gas on July 4 is still expected to be \$3.11 per gallon, some 43 percent, or 93 cents more than last year's Covid-induced price of \$2.18.

According to GasBuddy's annual summer travel survey in May, 46 percent of Americans' plans this summer were affected by high gas prices, which had been rising steadily until recently. Prior to the upcoming holiday weekend, Americans saw gas prices spike in early March, and again in mid-May due to increasing demand and the Colonial Pipeline shutdown.

Exacerbating the price spike is the cyber-attack on the Colonial Pipeline just weeks

ahead of the busy travel season. The pipeline delivers 45 percent of the gasoline supply to the Southeast and was shut down for six days causing massive panic and fuel shortages.

"The numbers are clear: people are itching to travel as the nation recovers from Covid-19 but are frustrated with some of the highest holiday weekend gas prices in quite some time," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Gas prices have been increasing

for months due to the continued rise in gasoline demand as a myriad of destinations reopen ahead of the summer driving season. The Colonial Pipeline shutdown only highlighted how much more reliant consumers have become on gasoline since the pandemic hit. Drivers don't need to worry too much though, as there is an end in sight. Prices should ease up ahead of the holiday, mainly in areas where the pipeline challenges were most severe. Be warned that a

rebound may happen as we approach midsummer, should gasoline demand rise to near-record levels."

Forty-six percent surveyed say that high gas prices are directly impacting their travel plans compared to only 4 percent saying so in 2020.

Determined to get out on the road this summer at almost double the rate of last year, Americans' number one priority is avoiding high travel costs over pandemic concerns. And,

as most will be traveling by car, that includes saving money on gas.

"Highlighting how important the rising price of fuel has again become, the Pay with GasBuddy program saw intense interest during gas shortages last week," said De Haan, "We expect that trend to continue as people hit the road during Memorial Day weekend. More than ever, we're looking for reliable, convenient, and cost-effective ways to fill up."

Medicaid dental benefit for adults begins July 1

An estimated 750,000 more Virginians will have access to dental providers and services due to a new adult Medicaid benefit beginning July 1.

Lawmakers approved the funding in last year's General Assembly.

The Virginia Dental Association is encouraging Medicaid members to learn more about coverage and find dentists at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services' website. Resources are available in English and Spanish.

"The new adult Medicaid benefit is an important step for connecting underserved Virginians with critical preventative, restorative and surgical dental care," said Dr. Frank Iuorno, Jr., president of the Virginia Dental Association. "Expanding access to oral health-care is important for all Virginians. No person should have to go weeks or months in pain waiting for treatment.

We've been working to educate our member dentists about how to participate and look forward to providing quality care to new patients this year."

Virginia currently offers a comprehensive dental coverage benefit to children under 20 and pregnant women.

The new coverage includes preventative and diagnostic treat-

ment, such as X-rays and exams, and oral surgery and prosthodontics, which includes items like dentures.

"Oral health is health," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM. "We know that the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted all areas of health, including oral/dental health. With this new benefit, Virginians will be able to receive

the care they so rightly deserve. I am grateful to the dental community, the Virginia Dental Association, the General Assembly, and the Department for Medical Assistance Services for all of their work to make this happen. Together, we can make Virginia the healthiest state in the nation."

Since 2000, the Virginia Dental Association Foundation

(VDAF) has worked to increase accessibility to dental care through its Mission of Mercy (MOM) clinics. The clinics address oral health needs in underserved communities and areas throughout Virginia by providing free dental care. VDAF programs serve an average of about 6,500 individuals annually.

"Helping more people in Virginia access dental services is espe-

cially important this year with national reports pointing to the pandemic's negative impact on oral health," added Iuorno.

A Health Policy Institute survey released in March revealed that more than 70 percent of dentists nationwide saw an increase of patients experiencing teeth grinding and clenching, conditions often associated with stress. The

survey also found that just more than 60 percent of dentists reported an increase in other stress-related dental conditions, including chipped and cracked teeth and TMD (temporomandibular joint disorder) symptoms such as headaches and jaw pain.

In another survey last fall, more than a quarter of dentists reported increases in cavities and periodontal disease.



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OPINION

The Cadillac analogy

Back in 2001 when I was 16 years old, I bought my first car.

My favorite toy when I was a little kid was my beloved Ghostbusters Ecto-1, the 1959 Cadillac ambulance that the team used on their ghostbusting adventures. I credit and/or blame that car with instilling a love for old Cadillacs in my malleable brain, and I knew I wanted my first car to be an old Cadillac.

I saw the car while riding somewhere with my mom: a 1968 Cadillac Sedan Deville, a 20-foot beast powered by a gas-guzzling, stump-pulling 472 cubic inch V8. To paraphrase "The Big Lebowski," it was bright blue with some brown rust coloration. The car was parked in front of a house, a "FOR SALE" sign resting on the windshield. I wasn't certain, but I thought it might just be within my extremely pathetic price range.

My mom stopped at the house and I knocked on the front door. An old man came out and I told him I was interested in the Cadillac. I didn't have my license quite yet, I explained, but

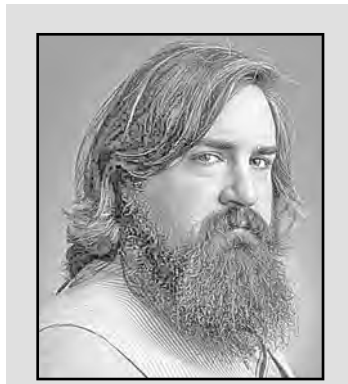
I was wondering if he could take me for a test drive.

The old man said that would be just fine and he showed me how to start the car. He popped the hood, sprayed about half a can of starter fluid into the air intake, pumped the gas pedal once, waited about ten seconds, and then turned the key. The engine belched to life, and I became ever more certain that this car was going to be within my price range.

We took the land yacht for a test drive and despite the seat spring that was venturing northward, I fell in love. I had to have the car. When the test drive concluded, I summoned up all my haggling abilities and we started talking price.

The old man informed me that he was hoping to get \$750 for the car. I countered with \$550, my reasoning being that all I had was \$550. He considered this, squinting at the car and then squinting at me, and finally he stuck out his hand. He'd sell me the Cadillac for \$550.

And then the old man said something to me that I've never



By Ben R. Williams

forgotten.

"There's a black guy up the street who's been trying to buy this car off me at \$750 for a year," he said, "but I'd rather sell it to you."

I'd like to think that if this situation happened to me today, I'd tell the old man that I'd changed my mind and I was going to have to pass on the car. Of course, 16-year-old me didn't do that; 16-year-old me just awkwardly gave him the money.

That moment obviously wasn't the first time I'd witnessed racism in action, but it was the first time I felt like I'd been party to racism.

Part of me thought the guy was a sucker for selling me the car instead of the unnamed guy

up the street; he lost out on \$200. He also clearly loved the car and wanted it to go to a good home, and considering the fact that \$550 represented my entire life savings at the time, I can guarantee that I was not the better option when it came to making sure the Cadillac got the TLC it needed.

I know I've evolved as a person since I was 16, and I hope I'm a better person in another 20 years than I am now, but I've never considered myself a racist. I was taught from an early age that everyone is equal regardless of race, creed, or color, and it was a lesson I took to heart.

Still, I had found myself in a situation where I had received a unique benefit over a person of color based solely on the fact that I was white. If I hadn't been white, the old man wouldn't have sold me that car at a \$200 discount. He might not have even opened the front door when I came knocking.

I share this story for a reason. Right now, there's a new boogeyman in the news. Its name is Critical Race Theory.

There are a whole lot of people up in arms over CRT. They say that it's designed to make white people feel guilty for being white, or that it states that all white people are racist.

That simply isn't true. The basic idea behind CRT is that institutions themselves can be racist even if the individuals within the institution are not necessarily racist. It states that white people can benefit from systems they didn't create in ways that people of color cannot.

As my above story illustrates, I understand that this can be an uncomfortable idea for a lot of folks, especially people who feel like they haven't been given any advantages in life. I understand that it can be painful to examine the opportunities we've received and realize those privileges were based not on who we are, but who we aren't. It ain't fun.

But I think CRT is an important concept to examine. I think it's important to understand that certain systems need to be re-evaluated to make sure they're equitable for everyone. CRT isn't something to be afraid of; it's a response to the thing we should be afraid of.

What bothers me about my Cadillac story isn't that I received a privilege, no matter how small, because of my race. What bothers me is that I don't know how many times in my life I've received similar privileges without even realizing it. At least the old man with the Cadillac was honest about it.

Google, EcoHealth Alliance, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

As the investigation into COVID-19's origins continues, attention has fallen on the role of EcoHealth Alliance. This nonprofit organization has received federal grant dollars from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and it in turn funded research on bat coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Republican leaders on the Energy and Commerce Committee, including myself, have requested more information from EcoHealth Alliance that may shed light on COVID-19's origins. Unfortunately, its director, Dr. Peter Daszak, has not been cooperative. He has instead been vocal in trying to shift attention away from the Wuhan lab and the possibility that a leak from the facility may have caused

the pandemic.

The NIH is not the only financial supporter of EcoHealth Alliance. Google.org, the charitable organization of the famed tech giant, has also apparently funded work by Dr. Daszak's team, according to the National Pulse.

Among the products aided in part by Google.org funding are a 2010 study on bat flaviviruses, a 2014 study on spillover of henipaviruses found in pteropid fruit bats and microbats to humans, and a 2018 paper titled "Serologic and Behavioral Risk Survey of Workers with Wildlife Contact in China."

During a recent hearing of the Subcommittee on Health, I took the opportunity to ask one of the witnesses, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Chief Health Officer at Google, about the links between Google and EcoHealth Alliance and any communications

between them during the past three years. She said she would work with my office to get the information we requested.

I hope Google follows through on this commitment. EcoHealth Alliance's unresponsiveness adds to the difficulty of investigating the coronavirus' origins, but understanding as much as we can is vital if we are to prevent a similar pandemic in the future.

Inflation: The Alarm Bells Are Ringing

President Biden was the Vice President in the Obama Administration, and he has filled his own Administration with former Obama officials, but his time in office may be characterized by one problem that afflicted an earlier Democrat Administration.

During Jimmy Carter's presidency, Americans had to cope with rampant inflation combined with stagnant economic

growth. The "stagflation" of the 1970s meant rising costs of living amid limited prospects for jobs and higher wages. It was a period of hardship for American families. The tool used to eventually tame inflation, higher interest rates, imposed its own costs, underscoring the need to avoid higher inflation in the first place.

A return to high inflation would exact a hidden tax on American consumers, requiring them to pay more for the same amount of essential goods and services. Avoiding this outcome should be a top economic goal, but alarm bells are ringing. While none of the signs indicate a return to the hyperinflation of the Carter era, key economic measurements do show higher inflation than our country has seen for some time.

Core personal consumption expenditures, a price measurement that excludes food and energy,

rose 3.4 percent in May from a year previous, the biggest increase since 1992.

The consumer price index, a measurement of a basket of goods and services including food and energy, rose in May by 5 percent from a year before, the largest increase since August 2008.

Gasoline prices in particular have seen a spike, up by 56.2 percent compared to a year ago. This increase may be in part attributed to policies from the Biden Administration, such as the cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline, that have spooked the energy market.

One of the principal culprits behind the current rise in inflation may be the spending spree of President Biden and Democrats in Congress. You don't have to take my word for it; Lawrence Summers, a Democrat who held high-profile

economic roles under Presidents Clinton and Obama, warned about the possibility of inflation in the Washington Post and cited "excessive stimulus driven by political considerations."

Inflation decreases the value of a worker's paycheck, stresses the budgets of families, and creates uncertainty for small businesses. Just because we have not seen significant inflation for a while does not mean we cannot see it again. President Biden cannot discount the risk of inflation his policies create, especially as the economy recovers from the disruptions of COVID-19. The consequences are simply too great.

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

Unemployment rate drops to 4.5 percent in May

Virginia's unemployment rate dropped 0.2-percentage point to 4.5 percent in May, which is 4.0 percentage points below the rate from one year ago, according to Gov. Ralph Northam. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate of 5.8 percent.

"More people are working in Virginia and our recovery is outpacing the rest of the country," said Northam. "This week, we reached the 70 percent vaccination benchmark, and we did it two weeks ahead of the nationwide July 4 target. In the weeks and months ahead, we will remain focused on helping the communities that COVID-19 hit hardest and making sure all Virginians have the resources they need to thrive."

Virginia had the third lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, along with Kentucky, among the Southeast states. The

only states with lower unemployment were Alabama and Georgia.

"Virginia's unemployment rate continues to drop and more people are returning to the workforce—two important indications about the strength of our economy," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "It's vitally important that every Virginian does their civic duty and gets vaccinated so we can maintain this positive momentum."

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 3,500 jobs in May. The labor force increased by 4,042 to 4,229,852, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 8,061. The number of employed residents rose by 12,103 to 4,040,585. In May 2021, Virginia saw over-the-year job gains of 7.0 percent.

"With over 4.2 million Virginians fully vaccinated, we are reaching what looks like the final stages of this pandemic," said

Chief Workforce Development Advisor Megan Healy. "Our Administration is committed to helping Virginians return to work and make sure that they have the skills and support they need to thrive in the post-pandemic job market."

The private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 256,900 jobs, while employment in the public sector lost 1,600 jobs in May. Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, nine of the 11 major industry divisions experienced employment gains. The largest over-the-year job increase occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 104,600 jobs, or 45.7 percent. The next largest over-the-year job increase occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities, up 59,800 jobs, or 10.0 percent. Education and health services experienced the third largest over-the-year job increase of 31,500 jobs, or 6.3 percent.

Closing set for holiday

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, Henry County and PSA offices will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, July 2, and remain closed on Monday, July 5. Convenience centers for garbage disposal and recycling will be open as usual.

www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

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Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

Floral Boutique from page 1

and I just want to give back to that community a little bit with what I can offer.”

According to Robertson, she didn't always know that she wanted to get into event designing.

“About 14 years ago after I had my first daughter, I had a party for her at a gallery here in Martinsville,” Robertson said. “I had a very, very large birthday party where we had caricatures and things running around. It was just something different and I got a lot of positive feedback from it.”

After this experience, Robertson went on to organize other large birthday gatherings for her family and friends.

From there, she eventually started her business Unique Styles & Designs, LLC, which operated mostly online.

“I have a website and people would contact me from there,” she said. “From there, I would send out a questionnaire and set up a consultation. I would meet them in places convenient for them. Wherever they wanted the event to take place, I'd get to work, and they'd

basically show up at the appropriate time. I'd have everything ready for them.”

Robertson said she provides her services for weddings, birthday parties, baby showers, memorial services, anniversary parties and corporate events.

The business offers a variety of packages, according to Robertson.

“It's based upon your budget,” she said. “So, if you want to spend small, you can spend small, but if you want to go over the top then we can go over the top.”

With the ribbon cutting ceremony out of the way, Robertson said she is most excited about getting people into the new store.

“When we first came here, the nice wooden area was already here from the store's time as Draper and Ferrell,” said Robertson. “With it formerly being a men's suit place, the store was kind of manly. There was a red carpet, and the walls were blue. When I came in, I had a vision. I wanted it to be bright and I wanted it to be white with some black

and gold. I wanted that luxury feel, so that's what I went for.”

With the help of her husband and friends, Robertson redid the floors, painted the walls, renovated the bathroom and installed a new chandelier which is themed to look like a flower. In addition to the new storefront, Robertson said she will also offer delivery on her floral arrangements.

Check out some of Robertson's work at: <https://www.uniquestylesanddesigns.com/>.



The interior of the former Draper & Ferrell Clothiers store after it was remodeled to serve as the new storefront for Unique Styles & Designs, LLC.

New DMV related laws now in effect

Several bills pertaining to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) passed by the 2021 General Assembly and signed by Gov. Ralph Northam are now in effect.

Motorists are now required to change lanes when passing a bicyclist if the lane of travel is not wide enough to accommodate three feet in distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle.

Before, motorists were not required to move into the other lane when passing a bicyclist to ensure at least three feet of distance between the bicyclist and the overtaking vehicle.

In addition to bicy-

cles, the new provision also applies to people riding on an electric personal assistive mobility device, moped, animal or animal-drawn vehicle.

“This law increases safety for bicyclists by providing more space between them and much larger vehicles when motorists pass on our roadways,” said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. “We all share our roads, and we all share the responsibility to look out for each other.”

The new law also removes restrictions on bicyclists riding two abreast. This provision applies to people riding

on an electric personal assistive mobility devices or motorized skateboards or scooters.

Other new laws include:

*Expansion of voluntary disability indicator on vehicle registrations, which allows vehicle owners whose vehicle is regularly occupied by a person who has a communication impairment, such as autism, to voluntarily indicate so on their vehicle registration.

Currently, this indicator only applies to vehicle owners who have a disability. This indication on the registration alerts law enforcement officers there may be someone in the vehicle with a communication impairment

before approaching a stopped vehicle.

*Removal of issuance fees for active members and retirees of the Virginia National Guard

Two separate bills remove the fee for the issuance of a special license plate for retired and active members of the Virginia National Guard. Patroned by Del. Wendell Walker, House Bill 1796 removes the issuance fee for the retired National Guard license plate for retired members of the Virginia National Guard. House Bill 2261, patroned by Del. Scott Wyatt, removes the issuance fee for one set of National Guard plates for those currently serving in

the Virginia National Guard.

*Special license plates for recipients of military decorations allows persons who are recipients of certain military medals in honor of their service beyond the normal call of duty to obtain special license plates corresponding to their medal from the DMV upon showing proof they are the recipient of such a medal. In addition, the bill establishes a uniform fee structure for the cost of special license plates for recipients of a military decoration based on the order of precedence of such military decoration as determined by the federal Department of Defense or other rel-

evant federal agency. Un-remarried surviving spouses also can obtain the plates with proof their spouse was a recipient of one of these medals.

*Ducks Unlimited license plate becomes revenue sharing, changes the current Ducks Unlimited license plate to a revenue-sharing special license plate. Currently, holders of this license plate pay a \$10 annual fee. This bill increases the annual fee to \$25. As a revenue-sharing plate, \$15 of the \$25 fee will be transferred to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to support its wetlands and waterfowl habitat programs in Virginia.

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STEM camps for girls to begin

Patrick Henry Community College and Verizon are preparing the next generation for a future filled with opportunities. We are offering a free program to engage middle school girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Through the program, girls will get hands-on, immersive learning of design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality and social entrepreneurship.

There is no cost for students.

For rising 6-8th grade girls.

Program will be hybrid (will take place in-person & virtual).

Lunch and transportation will be provided over the summer.

Participating students will have access to a tablet for the duration of the program.

July 12-30

PHCC Patrick County Site
212 Wood Brothers

Drive, Stuart, VA 24171

* PHCC Dalton IDEA Center 26 Fayette Street Martinsville, VA 24112

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (in-person) and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (virtual)

The program starts over the summer, plus one Saturday a month throughout the school year.

Pre-registration required. Call (276) 656-5461 for information.

VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING CAMP FOR GIRLS

FREE year-long STEM program for girls in grades 6-8.

This course starts with a 3-week summer camp followed by a monthly session on Saturdays.

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
& Friday from 9:00-4:00 pm (virtual)

July 12-30

PHCC Patrick County or
PHCC IDEA Center, Martinsville

Students will learn design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality and social entrepreneurship

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
areed@patrickhenry.edu
276-656-5461

PHCC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth "Libby" Holland Gower

Elizabeth "Libby" Holland Gower, 97, of Martinsville passed away Sunday, June 27, 2021. She was born July 6, 1923, in Henry County to Aubrey Johnson Holland and Annie Minter Holland.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Hocutt Gower, Sr.; her brother, Julian H. Holland; grandson, Matthew W. Wade.

Libby is survived by her daughter, Debra G. Wade (Doogie); sons, Edward H. Gower, Jr. (Sheri) and Ron H. Gower; grandchildren, Ed McGee, Thad Wade, and Dustin Gower; her best buddy, Shirley Cochran.

Libby graduated from Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing in Roanoke in 1946. She worked as an industrial registered nurse for American and Hooker Furniture Companies and later retired



from Hooker. She was a member of Axton Baptist Church. She was a 70-year member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She loved being outdoors and being with her family and friends.

The family extends a special thank you to Libby's caregiver, Jean Tarpley, and the staff at Mulberry Creek Nursing and Rehab Center.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 2, 2021, at Roselawn Burial Park, and will be officiated by Pastor Billy Smith.

Memorials may be made to the Matt Wade Foundation, P.O. Box 4624, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Richard Lee Boyce Jr.

Richard Lee Boyce Jr., 30, of Bassett, Virginia passed away on June 22, 2021, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital from a motorcycle accident. He was born in Rocky Mount, Virginia to Richard Lee Boyce, Sr. and Amy Newman Nunley. He had worked as a lineman doing satellite communications. He loved playing with his children, motorcycle riding, was happy, joyous and loved joking around and having fun.

In addition to his parents he is survived by; wife, Chastedy R. Boyce; step-mother Amber Boyce; step-dad, Shannon Nunley; daughters, ShyAnn Marie Ring and Elizabeth Sage Boyce; son, Richard Lee "Trey" Boyce, III; sister, Mary Katherine-Ann Spencer; mother and father-in-law, Kenny and Wendy Keen; nieces, Ava Marie Spencer and Amy Jo-Lee Spencer; grandparents,

Grannie Apple Mary Hurd, Joel and Ersie Hurd, Paul Newman (Joanie), and Kathleen and Carson Boyce; great-grandparents, Dewey Pleasant Newman, Ethel Newman, Linda Fields and Walter Pruitt; sisters-in-law, Rebecca (Brad) Dehart, Megan Keen (Francisco Salgado); brothers-in-law, Tyson (Lori) Pruitt, Brandon (Stephanie) Keen, Cameron Keen; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins; special cousin, Brettly Gage (Kimberly) Newman; and his dog, "Slinkman" of 11 years.

The funeral was held June 29, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service. Interment was at Henry Memorial Park.

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

USDA extends foreclosure moratorium through July

The U.S. Department of Agriculture extended the moratorium on foreclosures from properties financed by USDA Single-Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed loans through July 31.

These actions will bring relief to hundreds-of-thousands of residents in rural America who have housing loans through USDA.

"The United States is recovering from a nationwide housing affordability crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. To support this recovery, USDA is taking this important action today to extend relief to the hundreds-of-thousands of individuals and families holding USDA Single-Family Housing loans," USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson said.

"Actions like the one we're announcing today are part of President Biden's strategy to get Americans vaccinated and the economy back on track. Together, these coordinated actions will enable more homeowners with federally-backed mortgages to remain in their homes and build equity for years to come as we transition back to a functional housing market."

Beyond July 31, the USDA will continue

to support homeowners experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic by making loss mitigation options available to help keep them in their homes.

Homeowners and renters may visit www.consumerfinance.gov/housing for up-to-date information on their relief options, protections, and key deadlines from USDA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

COVID-19 has had a lasting impact on rural America. Families have lost their homes, students have resorted to unconventional solutions to access school-work online, the need for food assistance has grown, and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations has been limited. The American Rescue Plan Act implements funding that invests in the people of rural America now and beyond the July 31 moratorium extension. It provides:

\$100 million through September 2022 in rental assistance for very-low-income tenants.

\$39 million through September 2023 to help refinance direct loans

under the Single-Family Housing Loan Program and the Single-Family Housing Repair Loan program.

\$500 million in Community Facilities Program funds to help rural hospitals and local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines and food assistance.

In addition to programs facilitated by USDA, the American Rescue Plan Act provides significant investments into rural communities by expanding internet connectivity. It also establishes a homeowner assistance fund to assist struggling homeowners with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities and other housing-related costs.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov

SCC issues reminder to prepare for summer activities by reviewing insurance coverage

Although the arrival of summer means sun, fun and travel for many, it also can mean increased risks. Among other things, these risks can include stolen luggage and other belongings; collisions on busy highways; illness while away from home; backyard pool and grilling mishaps, or misadventures on boats, jet skis, recreational vehicles (RVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance

reminds Virginians to make sure their summer to-do list includes checking with their insurance agent or company to ensure they have the appropriate insurance coverage in the event of an illness, theft or mishap.

"Whether you are traveling, boating, hosting a summer cookout or installing an underground pool, don't let a lack of insurance coverage ruin your summer fun and put a strain on your wallet," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White. "Anticipate summer hazards now and minimize their financial damage by ensuring your insurance coverage is adequate and up-to-date."

Keep your home, vehicles, belongings and personal information safe, especially when away on vacation. Know how much your auto and homeowners insurance will

cover if someone steals your belongings from your vehicle, home or yard. If you plan on hosting an event at your home (such as a yard sale or neighborhood cookout), know what type of insurance you need if a guest is injured or if there's property damage. Know, too, your insurance coverages if severe summer weather damages your home and vehicles while you're away. Also, understand any deductibles or coverage limits that may apply.

Whether you are at home or away this summer, update your home inventory. This will help to ensure your homeowners or renters policy provides enough coverage for your belongings. It can also help facilitate the claims process if damage or theft occurs. Separate coverage may be needed for high-cost items such as jewelry, art or electronics. The

National Association of Insurance Commissioners' free smartphone app - myHome Scr.APP. book - makes creating a home inventory quick and easy. This app is available through iTunes and Google Play.

In the event of hurricanes or prolonged heavy rains, keep in mind that homeowners, renters and commercial insurance policies issued in Virginia typically do not provide coverage for damage to your home and belongings due to floods, surface water or storm surges. However, the federal government does sell insurance covering direct flood and flood-related damage to homeowners, renters and businesses in eligible communities through its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period for a new flood insurance policy to

take effect. To learn more about this program, contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-800-427-4661 or visit floodsmart.gov. Some private insurers offer flood policies, so check with your insurance agent about the availability of a private flood insurance policy. In either case, ask whether your flood policy provides coverage for your personal property.

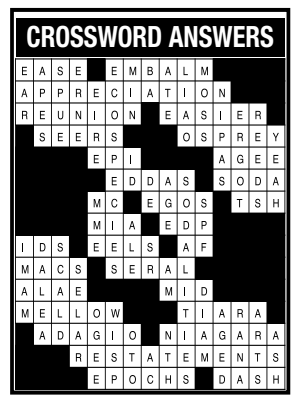
If you are planning a summer trip, become familiar with your health insurance coverage in case you are injured or get sick and require medical treatment in an urgent care facility or hospital while traveling out-of-state or abroad. Bring health insurance information with you on your trip, such as identification cards and contact details for all family members.

If you're driving a long distance for vacation or to visit friends and family,

make sure your auto insurance policy meets your specific needs before you leave. Check your liability limits to ensure adequate protection against personal injury or property damage arising from an accident while travelling. Keep your insurance company's contact information and a copy of your insurance card with you when you drive and know what to do if an accident occurs.

If you plan on boating or jet skiing, exploring with RVs or ATVs, or hosting a yard sale or pool party, ask your insurance company or agent if you are adequately covered.

For information about a variety of insurance-related topics, contact the Virginia Bureau of Insurance in Richmond at (804) 371-9741 or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or visit its website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance.



SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

In Remembrance

Henry County Enterprise publishes obituaries for free

Let us help honor your loved one by placing their obituary in our paper and on our website for free. We are here to help in time of need. Our only requirement is that obituaries are submitted by a funeral home or service. A photo also may be included.

Ask your funeral director to email obituaries/photo@theenterprise.net.

Herring calls for passage of Equity Act

Attorney General Mark R. Herring joined a coalition of 25 attorneys general in calling on the U.S. Senate to pass legislation that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Herring and his colleagues have sent a letter to Senate leadership urging the passage of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which would strengthen federal legal protections for LGBTQ Americans by clarifying and modernizing federal civil rights law and would prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in employment, education, federally-funded programs, housing, public accommodations, credit and jury service. The attorneys general argue that updates to the nation's civil rights laws are long overdue.

"No Virginian and no American should fear being discriminated against in any aspect of their lives because of who they love," said Herring. "Last year, Virginia passed historic LGBTQ protections and it is well past time that those same protections exist at the federal level. I will continue to join my colleagues in doing all we can to fight for and protect members of the LGBTQ community."

In June 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects employees who are fired for being gay or transgender. The court determined that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is discrimination on the basis of sex, which is prohibited by Title VII. In their letter today, Attorney General Herring and his colleagues point out that despite the court's decision, the absence of explicit federal prohibitions on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity leave many LGBTQ Americans vulnerable to experiencing discrimination in education, housing, credit, and health care. The coalition also points out that federal law does not currently prohibit sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in other areas, such as federally-funded programs and the jury system. As a result, individuals who do experience such discrimination are left without legal recourse.

The Equality Act addresses these gaps by clarifying that existing protections under federal civil rights law include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The changes will create and expand

protections for LGBTQ Americans facing discrimination in education, employment, housing, credit and public facilities. The legislation will also prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity, in sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibit discrimination in public accommodations and federal funding. In addition, the legislation expands the definition of public accommodations to expressly prohibit sex discrimination, such as denying services to people because they are pregnant or breastfeeding, or denying transgender individuals access to sex-specific restrooms corresponding to their gender identities. The legislation further clarifies that the U.S. attorney general may intervene in federal court actions alleging denial of equal protection of the laws based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In the letter, Herring and his colleagues highlight their interest in protecting their residents from unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. State attorneys general have authority to launch investigations, bring legal actions and enforce laws on behalf of their states, and the Equality Act would expand their civil rights enforcement toolkit. For instance, the legislation adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of groups protected under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act – both of which state attorneys general routinely enforce.

Herring and his colleagues state that the Equality Act is needed to create a national standard, expanding civil rights protections beyond the existing patchwork of state laws. While a number of states have amended their laws to expand protections for LGBTQ residents, Herring and the coalition argue the Equality Act is needed to fill the gap in the 27 states where LGBTQ Americans currently have no state-level protection against discrimination.

Herring was joined by the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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Ferrum College Ferrum College is seeking a skilled individual to fill the position of Academic IT Support Specialist. This position supports and maintains academic computer equipment including classroom and computer lab technologies and work one-on-one with our faculty to support them in the teaching and learning experience. The candidate will be responsible for hardware and software support for faculty computers as well as inventory management, equipment purchasing, and other special projects. Must have experience with hardware, software, and audio/visual repair, maintenance, and implementation. Must be proficient with both Mac and Windows operating systems. A bachelor's degree in an area of Information Technology, 2-5 years of experience, and experience working in an academic setting are strongly preferred. Please submit your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three (3) references to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088 or email to resumes@ferrum.edu. Review of applicants will begin immediately. The search will continue until the positions are filled. Background check required. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ferrum College Ferrum College is seeking applications for a Seasonal Tutoring Program Associate position in the Carter Center for Academic Success. This position is seasonal and works 12-16 hours per week during the Fall and Spring semesters (evening hours – 5-9 pm). The Tutoring Program Associate is responsible for many tasks within the tutoring program. These tasks include evening supervision of peer-

assisted learning (PAL) tutors in the Carter Center for Academic Success, data management and reporting, scheduling, communication with PAL tutors, training of PAL tutors, connecting students to appropriate resources, as well as anything else that may pertain to the tutoring program. The position requires a candidate who can comfortably converse with students, faculty, and staff and has experience working with academic support programs. The candidate for this position must be well organized and capable of working independently, as well as part of a team. Minimum Qualifications: B.A or B.S in education, special education or related degree, with two to three years of job-related experience. Experience interacting with college-level students and working knowledge of technological applications in learning and/or tutoring support. A candidate for this position should be detail-oriented, student-focused, and professional with strong written and oral communication. They should also display good customer service and be committed to enhancing the educational experiences of our students.

Interested candidates should submit an application, including resume and references, to the Human Resources Office. This information should be submitted electronically to resumes@ferrum.edu or mail to Ferrum College – Human Resources, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. A background check is required. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ferrum College Ferrum College is accepting applications for an Accounting Assistant. The Accounting Assistant performs a variety of accounting tasks to include general accounting and internal auditing functions and acts as backup for other Business Office staff. Primary responsibilities include: Prepare journal entries and post all entries to administrative software finance module. Reconcile various general ledger accounts, including cash accounts and other asset and liability accounts. Review accounts payable invoices and other requests for payment for accuracy and appropriate approval and assist with accounts payable check processing. Manage college purchasing card program. Perform testing of donor pledges to ensure only firm unconditional commitments are recorded. Post miscellaneous accounts receivable charges and generate statements when required. Reconcile vendor statements to invoices and payments posted on a monthly basis. Contact vendors and request invoices that have not been received. Notifies payees of unclaimed checks and completes Unclaimed Property Report for Commonwealth of Virginia and any other states as required. Maintain College fixed asset records. Audits petty cash funds. Assist with annual financial audit to include preparation of schedules.

Ferrum College Ferrum College is currently seeking an experienced plumber to install, maintain and repair sanitation units, water and gas supply lines, and associated fixtures and appliances for all buildings and facilities on campus. This position will also be required to design and inspect plumbing systems, perform diagnostics, and ensure they comply with regulatory codes. Applicant must be able to read and interpret blue prints and other drawings. Physical Requirements: Must be able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds. Position requires full range of body motion including reaching, stooping, kneeling, and climbing, working indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. Qualifications: Must have a minimum of 5 years similar experience with a certification in plumbing preferred. We offer competitive pay and excellent benefit package including health, dental, & life insurance, vacation/personal/sick/holiday paid time off, a 403(b) retirement plan and tuition waiver for employees, spouses and dependents. Interested candidates should submit a resume along with the names and telephone numbers of three references to resumes@ferrum.edu or mail to: Human Resources, Ferrum College P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088-9000. Background check required. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

PHCC Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Early Childhood Education Faculty, Nurse Aide/Practical Nursing Faculty, Upward Bound Assistant Coordinator, Financial Aid Assistant, Patrick County Enrollment and Student Success Specialist, Disability/Transfer Advisor, Educational Talent Search Advisor, Re-Employing Virginians (REV) Coach, Career Services Specialist, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in English, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing Adjunct Instructor, Patrick County Developmental Math, Psychology, and Speech/Communication Studies. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. _____ COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE § 8.01-316 MARTINSVILLE JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* XAVIER SPENCER The object of this suit is to: Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services seeks to terminate the residual parental rights of the unknown father, and mother Michelle Spencer, to the child born to them June 19, 2020 and named Xavier Spencer, all pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-283. Further, the Court shall consider granting a petition adjudicating said child as abused and neglected pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-283 and entering a dispositional Order on that date. It is ORDERED that the defendants, Michelle Spencer and unknown father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before AUGUST 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. JUNE 8, 2021

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Happy Fourth of July from the staff at the Henry County Enterprise!

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **July 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors. The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **July 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-21-09 Phillips Logistics / Eric J. Phillips
The property is located in the south side of A.L. Philpott Hwy, just east of Meadowbrook Ln. in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map numbers are 43.6(29)/10-18. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.33-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to construct a building on the property which will be used for offices and the maintenance of company vehicles.

Case R-21-10 Prillaman & Meadors, LLC
The property is located on the northwest side of Clyde Prillaman St, at approximately 179 Clyde Prillaman St, in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map numbers are a portion of 39.3/361 and 39.3/361D. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3.762-acres from Limited Industrial District I-2 to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant is selling the property to be used for the construction of a new church. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lee H. Clark, AICP Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County. Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.

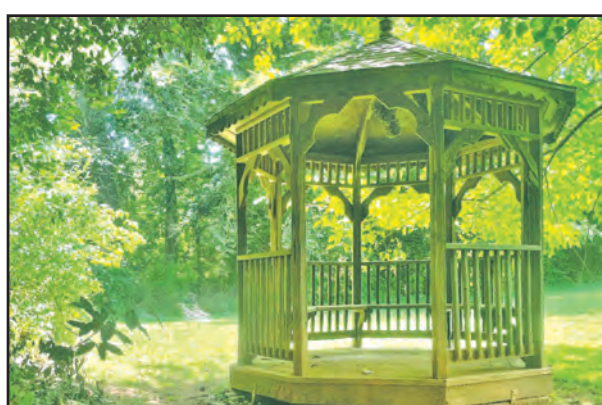
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Yeatts Restored

from page 1



With some minor rehab, Milestone Mercantile will remain open as part of the Yeatts Restored project.



"Granny's House" will have outdoor amenities such as a gazebo, plots for a campfire and a pond for fishing.



"Granny's House" is being rehabbed to become an Airbnb property.

have the house ready within eight weeks.

After the house is up to par, Knighten said that Milestone Mercantile will be getting a fresh coat of paint and some landscaping work.

"It'll still be here and open Wednesday through Saturday," Knighten said. "It's an awesome place if you haven't been there."

The final phase of the project will be bringing the nursery portion back.

"When we bring the nursery back, we are thinking of seasonal plants like Christmas Trees, mums, pumpkins, Easter lilies, and poinsettias at Christmas time," Knighten said.

He said he is most excited to see the guests that will visit the property from outside of the area.

Jim Woods, public relations director for Legacy Industries, said the project is indicative of a different type of economic development which the holding company

hopes to foster.

"It's nice when these industries like PressGlass come in. That's killer, but sometimes it's adding three jobs to a community, two more jobs somewhere else," Woods said. "We are playing the long-game. That's what Legacy Industries is all about."

Legacy Industries was started by Knighten and fellow co-founder Jay Judkins in 2019.

"Jay had worked a variety of different jobs in the area until 2006 when he opened up his insurance business," Woods said. "He, as this middle-aged man, is juxtaposed with Caleb who is a young man that graduated Martinsville High School and at one point said he would never come back."

After some time away, Knighten returned home to open his own lawn care business.

"They both go to the same church, and they just

began to talk it out," Woods said. "It's amazing how the Almighty will put people together for a greater purpose."

Woods said Legacy Industries is a faith-based organization that focuses on a greater plan where "the Almighty will open doors and sometimes he will close doors."

Currently, the organization has 24 employees across multiple companies.

"They go to aspiring retirees who don't have anybody in the family that wants to continue the business and none of their employees are particularly interested in buying it either," Woods said. "So Legacy Industries will come along and say 'hey, we would like to buy your business.' They don't just buy it and shut it down. They buy them and make them viable again. They come in and continue the legacy."

Woods said it is impor-

tant to the organization to not see long-standing businesses forced to shutter its doors.

"The first one that they went in together on was the insurance company next to the DMV," Woods said. "Ken and Phyllis Cockram wanted to retire, and Jay is an insurance agent down in Ridgeway. They just approached them and asked if they would be interested in selling the business. We just take that foundation that these people have built and add on to it to make it 21st Century business."

Woods said Legacy has done the same with other businesses like West Imports Metal Recycling.

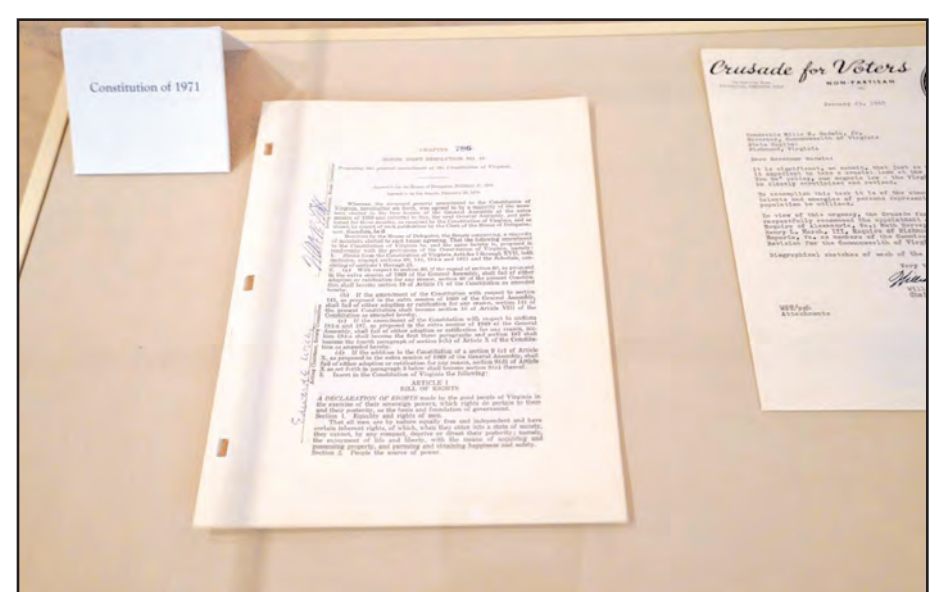
"It's not just insurance," Woods said, adding that another business held by Legacy is The Mower Store in Collinsville.

To view the progress on Yeatts Restored, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/YeattsRestored>.

Northam commemorates 50th anniversary of the Virginia Constitution



Gov. Ralph Northam and Professor A.E. Dick Howard on Wednesday viewed original copies of Virginia's Constitutions at the Library of Virginia to mark Constitution Day.



Gov. Ralph Northam marked Constitution Day Wednesday by visiting the Library of Virginia to view original copies of four of Virginia's Constitutions and commemorate 50 years since the current Virginia Constitution took effect on July 1, 1971. Until 1971, the Virginia Constitution included detailed provisions intended to disenfranchise Black voters and prohibit racially integrated public schools.

In the years after the Civil War, the brief period of Reconstruction was characterized by state and federal laws that expanded the rights and freedoms of citizens. But Virginia leaders re-wrote the state constitution explicitly to restore white supremacy, culminating in the Constitution of 1902 that instituted poll taxes, literacy tests, and other barriers to voting. The Constitution also required segregated schools by prohibiting the teaching of Black and white children in the same school. While some of the

most discriminatory provisions of the 1902 Constitution were reversed by federal law or court decisions, it remained in effect in Virginia for most of the 20th century, until voters approved a new constitution in 1971.

"The 50th anniversary of Virginia's 1971 Constitution is an important opportunity to acknowledge how our Commonwealth has evolved," said Northam. "Virginia has 400 years of history—good and bad—and it is important that we tell the accurate, honest story of our past. Understanding our full history means learning about these events and the ways they are connected to the present day, so we can work together to build a better future for all Virginians."

The 1971 Virginia Constitution took important steps to renounce the constitution in place since 1902 by eliminating the poll tax, enshrining a ban on racially segregated schools, providing free public education for every school-aged child, and

prohibiting governmental discrimination based on race, color, national origin or sex.

Work on the 1971 Virginia Constitution began in 1968 when Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. appointed a commission to revise the 1902 document. This action came in response to the momentous social changes of the 1960s, including the passage of the Civil Rights Act and other laws that superseded discriminatory provisions in state constitutions, including that of Virginia.

A.E. Dick Howard, the Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of Law at University of Virginia School of Law, served as executive director of the Commission on Constitutional Revision 50 years ago and directed the successful referendum campaign for the ratification of a new constitution.

"Thomas Jefferson famously called for each generation to consider the extent to

which a constitution serves the needs of its own time," said Howard. "In 1971, the revision commission's purpose was to repudiate the racism of the 1902 constitution, and to put Virginia on a sound and progressive footing. I consider Virginia to have been well served by the commission—they handed us a good constitution, and the proof lies in the fact that it continues to serve the purpose of upholding a democratic government."

Virginia adopted its first Constitution on June 29, 1776, declaring the total dissolution of the rule of Great Britain and its monarch over the citizens of the Commonwealth. Virginia also led the nation by adopting the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which later influenced the United States Constitution Bill of Rights.

The public can view original copies of Virginia's Constitutions of 1776, 1869, 1902, and 1971 from June 29 – July 1, 2021, at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

Reynolds appointed as Virginia's First Children's Ombudsman

Eric J. Reynolds was appointed as Virginia's first Director of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman. The Office was established by the General Assembly and approved by Gov. Ralph Northam during the 2020 legislative session to serve as a mechanism for reporting concerns about the treatment of children within Virginia's foster care system.

"The role of the Children's Ombudsman is to ensure every child in Virginia has a safe and permanent home," said Northam. "Eric Reynolds is a compassionate leader with extensive experience working in our foster care system and with agencies that serve children—he is the right person for this important position."

The Office is an independent agency that is authorized to receive complaints and investigate and review actions of the Virginia Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, child-placing agencies, or child-caring institutions. Prior to the creation of this office, the only way for families to file a complaint with a local department of social services was with the agency itself or with the Department of Social

Services. It will also monitor and ensure compliance with relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to child protective services and the placement, supervision, treatment, and delivery of care to children in foster care and adoptive homes. The Children's Ombudsman has the ability to advocate for legislation.

"I am honored to serve in this inaugural role," said Reynolds. "I was drawn to this position because I know how much of an impact it can make. I look forward to working alongside the Department of Social Services to ensure that the needs of foster care children across Virginia are put first."

Reynolds most recently served as Staff Attorney for Court Improvement Programs at the Virginia Supreme Court. Reynolds previously served as Assistant Attorney General in the Division of Health, Education, and Social Services at the Office of the Virginia Attorney General. He also served as legal counsel for the Department of Social Services, Office of Children's Services, Department of Medical Assistance Service, and Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services. In this role, he provided analysis for agency programs

and assisted in drafting proposed legislation and regulation.

As an attorney, Reynolds has represented both parents and children in child welfare cases and family law. Reynolds earned his law degree from the University of Richmond and his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York. Reynolds assumed his role on June 25.

"The creation of this office is an important step in our ongoing work to strengthen Virginia's foster care system," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM. "I am confident that Director Reynolds will build an office that improves outcomes and delivers results for children in foster care and their families."

The Office of the Children's Ombudsman is headed by the Children's Ombudsman, who is appointed for a term of four years by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Office is required to annually report its activities and findings to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

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CLASSES BEGIN MAY 24th

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