

Hoosiers hire DeVries

Leaves West Virginia after one season

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

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Netanyahu: Strikes 'only the beginning'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel launched airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing more than 400 Palestinians, local health officials said, and shattering a ceasefire in place since January with its deadliest bombardment in a 17-month war with Hamas.

Gaza attacks kill 400+ Palestinians

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the strikes, which killed mostly women and children, after Hamas refused Israeli demands to change the ceasefire agreement. In a statement aired on national television, he said the attack was "only

the beginning" and that Israel would press ahead until it achieves all of its war aims — destroying Hamas and freeing all hostages held by the militant group.

SEE GAZA — 6A



Associated Press

Palestinians inspect the damage at Al-Tabi'in School in central Gaza Strip following an Israeli airstrike Tuesday.

Putin, Trump confer on war

Agree to pause attacks against infrastructure, energy targets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during a lengthy call Tuesday to an immediate pause in strikes against energy and infrastructure targets in the Ukraine war, but the Russian leader stopped short of backing a broader 30-day pause in fighting that the

SEE WAR — 6A

INSIDE: Justice rejects call for impeaching judge: 2A

DEATHS

BEEMAN — Edna M. (Miller), 99, of Bloomington, formerly of Lonaconing.

BITTINGER — Charles "Chuck" A. Sr., 74, of Ridgely, W.Va.

CAMERON — Eva "Eve" C. (Roman), 101, of LaVale.

COSNER — Pauline E., 90, of Keyser, W.Va.

EICHNER — The Rev. C. Frederick, 83, of Littleton, N.C.

HIMMLER — Frances M. (Messenger), 88, of Cumberland.

IRWIN — James H. "Jim," 88, of Cumberland.

MALOOF — Donald M. "Don," 84, of LaVale.

SCHOENADEL — William "Bill" A. Sr., 84, of Cumberland.

(Obituaries on Pages 2A, 5A)



Ken Nolan/Times-News

A two-vehicle crash Tuesday afternoon involving a school bus injured two people.

Two injured in crash involving school bus

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CORRIGANVILLE — Two people were injured Tuesday afternoon in a two-vehicle accident involving a school bus on state Route 36 in the Corriganville area.

There were no students on the bus. The bus operator was taken to UPMC Western Maryland for treatment. The driver of the second vehicle was reportedly flown to a Baltimore hospital by Trooper 5, a Maryland State Police

No students were on board

medevac helicopter, for treatment of serious injuries.

The Allegany County Department of Emergency Services said the crash occurred about 3:40 p.m. Multiple fire and rescue units responded to the scene.

The Allegany County Sheriff's Office was investigating the cause of the accident, and further details were not immediately available.

Dumbhundred neighborhood residents seek designation

TERESA MCMINN TCMINN@TIMES-NEWS.COM

CUMBERLAND — Outside the recently renovated Baltimore Street area, many residents hope to see similar progress for their neighborhoods, Brian Plitnik said.

Plitnik, who formed the Historic Columbia Street Action Committee, was at Tuesday's mayor and City Council meeting to ask for the state-recognized Dumbhundred Historic District, also known as Stony Battery — North End, to be listed as a National Register Historic District.

While the neighborhood includes some neglected properties, a lot of its residents care about the area, Plitnik said.

Anne Devaughn, who has lived on Independence Street for 40 years, agreed.

"I think now there is new energy in our area," she said.

Ruth Davis-Rogers, the city's historic preservation planner, said the NRHD designation would make the Dumbhundred district eligible for historic preservation

financial incentives such as tax credits and facade grants.

The Dumbhundred, located on the north side of Cumberland, "is one of our oldest areas," she said.

Many wealthy people, including Cumberland architect Wright Butler, lived in the neighborhood at the turn of the 20th century.

The community included tanneries and breweries, Davis-Rogers said, adding that when non-English speaking folks moved in, area residents added "dumb" to the English land measurement "hundred" and the neighborhood's name was born.

"We had a local baseball team called the Dumbhundreds," she said.

Today, many properties on Columbia Street in The Dumbhundred are being restored, Davis-Rogers said.

An NRHD designation would be at no cost to the city, she said.

"We're here to protect the property values," Davis-Rogers said.

Town hall to address plan for aging population

TERESA MCMINN TCMINN@TIMES-NEWS.COM

CUMBERLAND — The public is invited to a town hall in Allegany County next week to discuss a plan for Maryland's aging population.

Five years from now, more than a quarter of the state's residents will be at least 60 years old.

That demographic, according to the Maryland Department of Aging, has increased over the years.

In 2000, the 60 and older population represented 15% of all Marylanders, and by 2020, that percentage grew to 23%.

Because people in the state are living longer than ever, Gov. Wes Moore in January 2024 signed an executive order that mandates development of Longevity Ready Maryland, a 10-year plan "to address the challenges and maximize the benefits and opportunities of an aging society," the Department of Aging said.

"By ensuring equal access to coordinated care, services and social determinants that enable healthy longevity, we can become a state where all Marylanders lead healthy, financially secure, socially connected and purposeful lives," the organization said.

The LRM plan aims to "lead to more integrated service delivery models and provide a voice to those who participate to ensure the needs of all Marylanders are heard,"

SEE TOWN HALL — 6A

IF YOU GO

- What: Town hall to discuss plan for Maryland's aging population.
When: 1 to 3 p.m. March 25.
Where: Allegany County Fairgrounds, 11490 Moss Ave., in the multi-purpose building.
Registration: Free at aging.maryland.gov/LRM/Pages/Planning.aspx.

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# SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

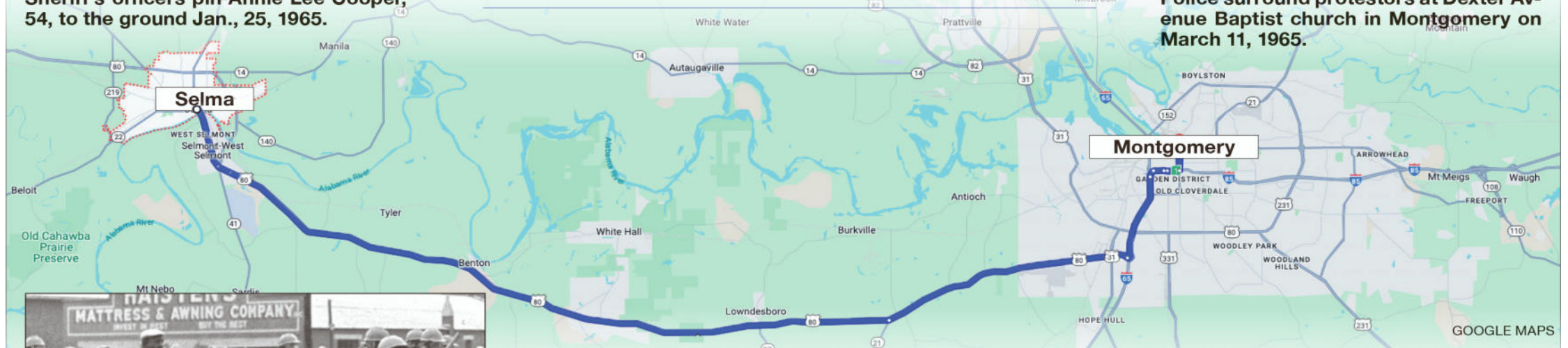
March 7-25, 1965 | 60 years later



The Associated Press  
Sheriff's officers pin Annie Lee Cooper, 54, to the ground Jan., 25, 1965.



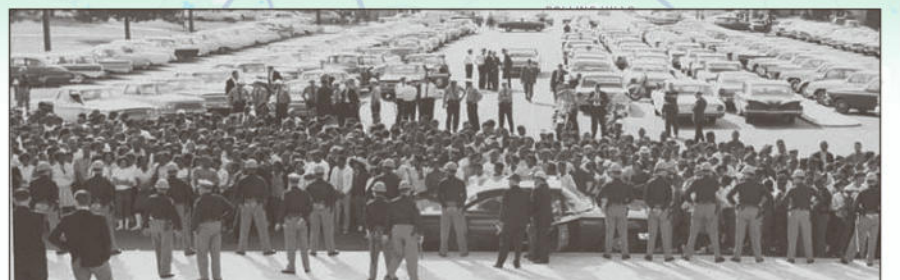
Civil Rights Movement Archive  
Police surround protesters at Dexter Avenue Baptist church in Montgomery on March 11, 1965.



The Associated Press  
Officers attack protestors on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, using billy clubs, horses and tear gas to turn back the marchers.



Abernathy family photo in public domain  
The Rev. James Reeb, second from left, marches with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to his left, on March 9, 1965.



Alabama Department of Public Safety  
Police surround and block marchers from reaching the Alabama Capitol in Montgomery on March 10, 1965.



The Associated Press  
Dr. Martin Luther King, at front, third from right, and others march across the Alabama River on the first of a five-day, 54-mile march to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., on March 21, 1965.

## 'BLOODY SUNDAY,' THE MARCH, MORE

- 1965
- **Jan. 2:** Martin Luther King Jr. speaks at Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, defying a court injunction. The speech kicks off a renewed voting rights effort.
  - **Jan. 25:** Demonstrations in Selma continue. Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark billyclubs Mrs. Annie Lee Cooper.
  - **Feb. 1:** More than 700 are arrested during injunction-defying marches, including King and many school children.
  - **Feb. 5:** King posts bond, is released from jail and his "Letter from Selma Jail" appears in the New York Times.
  - **Feb. 18:** In Marion, Alabama, 30 miles from Selma, Jimmie Lee Jackson is shot defending his grandfather during a civil rights demonstration. He dies eight days later.
  - **March 3:** King speaks to more than 1,000 people at Jackson's funeral and endorses a march from Selma to Montgomery.
  - **March 7:** "Bloody Sunday" in Selma: Hosea Williams and John Lewis lead 600 civil rights marchers east out of Selma on U.S. Route 80. They travel six blocks, to the eastern side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state and local officers use billy clubs, horses and tear gas to drive them back over the bridge. More than a hundred people are hurt.
  - **March 21-25:** About 3,200 marchers in Selma, many clergy who have come from around the country, set out for Montgomery, walking 12 miles a day and sleeping in fields. Only a symbolic 300 are allowed to make the full march due to safety as U.S. Route 80 narrows.
  - **March 25:** Joined by Montgomery residents, marchers are 25,000 strong by the time they reach the state capitol, where King delivers an address. The Confederate flag and Alabama state flag wave over the capitol dome while marchers wave American flags. That evening, civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo, from Detroit, is shot and killed while driving marchers home to Selma.
  - **August 6:** The Voting Rights Act is passed into law.



National Archives  
An estimated 3,200 Civil Rights demonstrators cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, March 21, 1965.

## MARCH EFFORT PERSEVERED THROUGH VIOLENCE

Civil Rights Movement leaders in early 1965 started targeting Selma, Alabama, as a place for protests.

The Feb. 18 killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson in Marion, just 30 miles away, during a demonstration, started a chain reaction of key moments for the movement.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference organizer James Bevel said, "We will march Jimmie's body to the state capitol in Montgomery and lie it on the steps so Gov. George Wallace can see what he's done," according to the National Civil Rights Museum.

Jackson was buried and his funeral was

March 3, however, Bevel's comment sparked the idea of a march.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at Jackson's funeral, endorsed a march from Selma to Montgomery.

The first attempt, March 7, would become known as Bloody Sunday. In a violent attack, state and local law enforcement officers turned back protesters just blocks after they started.

The attack caused national outrage and prompted federal Judge Frank Johnson to issue an injunction against the march until a hearing could take place.

On March 9, about 2,000 marchers approached the state

troopers at the site of the violence, knelt, prayed, got up and went back to Selma on "Turn-around Tuesday."

A week later, President Lyndon B. Johnson called on Congress to pass a voting rights bill and the judge lifted the injunction the next day.

Wallace refused President Johnson's request to use state officers to protect the marchers, so the president federalized the 1,900 Alabama National Guard troops and sent 2,000 soldiers and dozens of FBI agents and federal marshals.

About 3,200 marchers set out from Selma on the 54-mile march on March 21, stopping at

four campsites along the route.

When U.S. Route 80 narrowed to two lanes the group was limited for safety to 300 people, most of whom marched the entire 54 miles.

By the time they approached the state capitol in Montgomery, the number of marchers had swelled to 25,000.

King delivered what is known as the "Our God is Marching On" or the "How Long? Not Long" speech to the marchers from a platform in front of the capitol building.




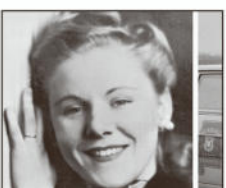
A few months later, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which the president signed into law Aug. 6, 1965.

"Let us march on ballot boxes until brotherhood becomes more than a meaningless word in an opening prayer, but the order of the day on every legislative agenda. Let us march on ballot boxes until all over Alabama God's children will be able to walk the Earth in decency and honor."

— The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., at the Alabam State Capitol, following the march from Selma on March 25, 1965

The Associated Press photo

### SOME VICTIMS OF SELMA-RELATED VIOLENCE

			
Jimmie Lee Jackson is shot by police Feb. 18, 1965, and dies eight days later. His death was the catalyst for the Bloody Sunday march.	John Lewis, as one of the leaders of the first March to Montgomery on March 7, 1965, Bloody Sunday, suffers a fractured skull in the attack.	The Rev. James Reeb is killed by a white segregationist in Selma on March 9. His death added to the national outrage over Bloody Sunday.	Viola Liuzzo, activist, is shot and killed by Ku Klux Klan members while she transported marchers from Montgomery back to Selma on March 25.

## SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, BY THE NUMBERS

<b>600</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>25,000</b>
Marchers who set out on the first attempt, March 7, which turned into Bloody Sunday.	Marchers who, on March 9, approached the Bloody Sunday site, prayed and turned around.	Marchers who set out for Montgomery on March 21, with federal officers there for protection.	Marchers during the final leg of the march as residents from city of Montgomery joined.

## ODDS AND ENDS

On Jan. 18, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others were assaulted as they broke Jim Crow conventions in Selma hotels and restaurants.

George Lincoln Rockwell of the American Nazi Party arrived as an "observer." James Robinson of the National States Rights Party punched King and kicked him in the groin. Robinson was arrested by Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark.

On March 24, carloads and busloads of people joined the march as U.S. Route 80 widened. Many were celebrities.

That night, at City of St. Jude, the march's last campsite, Harry Belafonte set up a late evening show, "Stars for Freedom," featuring performers such as Sammy Davis Jr., Tony Bennett and Nina Simone.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble; and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

PUBLISHER:  
**Chip Minemyer**  
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

## Sunshine Week

### Public has right to know what is going on in government

The Times-News is joining the March 16-22 observance of Sunshine Week, a nationwide media effort designed to provide increased transparency in government.

It is held annually in conjunction with the March 16 birthday of James Madison, the father of the Constitution. He was a key proponent of the Bill of Rights, which includes the First Amendment that preserves the freedoms of religion,

speech and the press, and the rights of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

Officials at all levels of America's government want us to believe they have our best interests at heart, but often are secretive because secrecy preserves power. Power is easier to retain when no one knows what you are doing with it ... which is why Thomas Jefferson said the press would be "the first to be shut up by those who fear the investigation of their actions."

What's legally considered public information is often treated otherwise by the government. Each state government and the federal government say they are trying to increase transparency, but continue to maneuver around the Right-To-Know.

Jefferson said this about the press: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them."

The people won't know what government is up to unless someone tells them, and government has repeatedly demonstrated it can't be trusted to do that.

Recent mistrust is well-earned when there are state legislatures in Texas, Kansas, Iowa and Utah restricting the access of, or outright banning, journalists from the floor of their houses for, we imagine, concerns over of having to take accountability for their actions. Or when a credentialed journalist and photographer are banned from Air Force One because their company does not parrot the administration's line on something trivial like the name of a body of water.

What's important to remember is none of this is new. The founding fathers made freedom of speech the First Amendment for a reason.

The First Amendment has the effect of guaranteeing that the balance of power between the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government also includes the press — which in America is decidedly not a function of government or a tool of government, as it is in other countries.

Government insists it that it wants transparency, so our legislatures enact Sunshine Laws and Freedom of Information acts. However, it gets around transparency through such actions as charging fees for information to which people are legally entitled or by creating exemptions from their Freedom of Information acts. Most often, government simply — and conveniently — neglects to tell us what it is doing.

America has always had a few leaders who like to blame the press for the country's problems. They say the press is disloyal and contributes to dissent, tells the people things they're better off not knowing and is actually an enemy of the people.

Such people are often in the nation's highest offices. The press usually looks at these outbursts as positive reinforcement, and an indication that it's doing what it's supposed to do.

Fortunately, America also has leaders who are diligent and vocal in protecting all of our freedoms, particularly those covered by the First Amendment. They know that America wouldn't be America without these freedoms, and they are aware that the press is the people's staunchest ally.

Jefferson was one of the first to think this. He said it was the duty of the press to "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

What Jefferson didn't anticipate was the new paradigm caused by social media, which allows fake news that only exists to mislead and reaffirm previously held factitious beliefs to profligate. It makes the job of the journalist committed to finding out the whole truth all the more important, even as they have to yell louder to be heard.

You have a right to know what's going on in government.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mid-Atlantic transmission line bad news for our area

The proposed Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link transmission line supported by Sen. Mike McKay and Del. Jim Hinebaugh is bad news for our region. We will get no benefits from this transmission line, no electricity (all will go to Virginia for data centers), no jobs (NextEra has no requirement to hire local contractors or buy from local businesses) and a dubious promise of \$350 million over 40 years in "property taxes," at least that is what Hinebaugh told me.

To get an \$8.5 million/year tax bill like that, NextEra would have to buy 125,000 acres in our counties. This is the equivalent of all our farmland combined, farms where the majority of the 35-mile length of this line would be built. Even if they go through the three

wildlands that protect drinking water, hunting grounds, brook trout fisheries and old growth forest, 26 miles would be on private land. What we do get is higher electric bills to pay for this line, loss of our most natural landscapes, loss of protection for Westernport drinking water, permanent loss of hundreds of acres of forest (600) and loss of use of our private property for rights of way, some to be taken by eminent domain.

Republicans downstate are the only ones voting against this as they know what new transmission lines mean to their constituents with the just approved MPRP line in Carroll and Frederick counties. Unlike our delegates, they are fighting for their farmers and residents to protect their lands, views and natural resources.

We hear Democrats are voting for this because Gov. Wes Moore has brokered some deal to exchange the MARL

in our backyards for AI data centers in Hagerstown. Tell former Sen. George Edwards, who is arranging private meetings between NextEra and elected officials, McKay and Hinebaugh to kill SB0399/HB1270 and stand up for our residents.

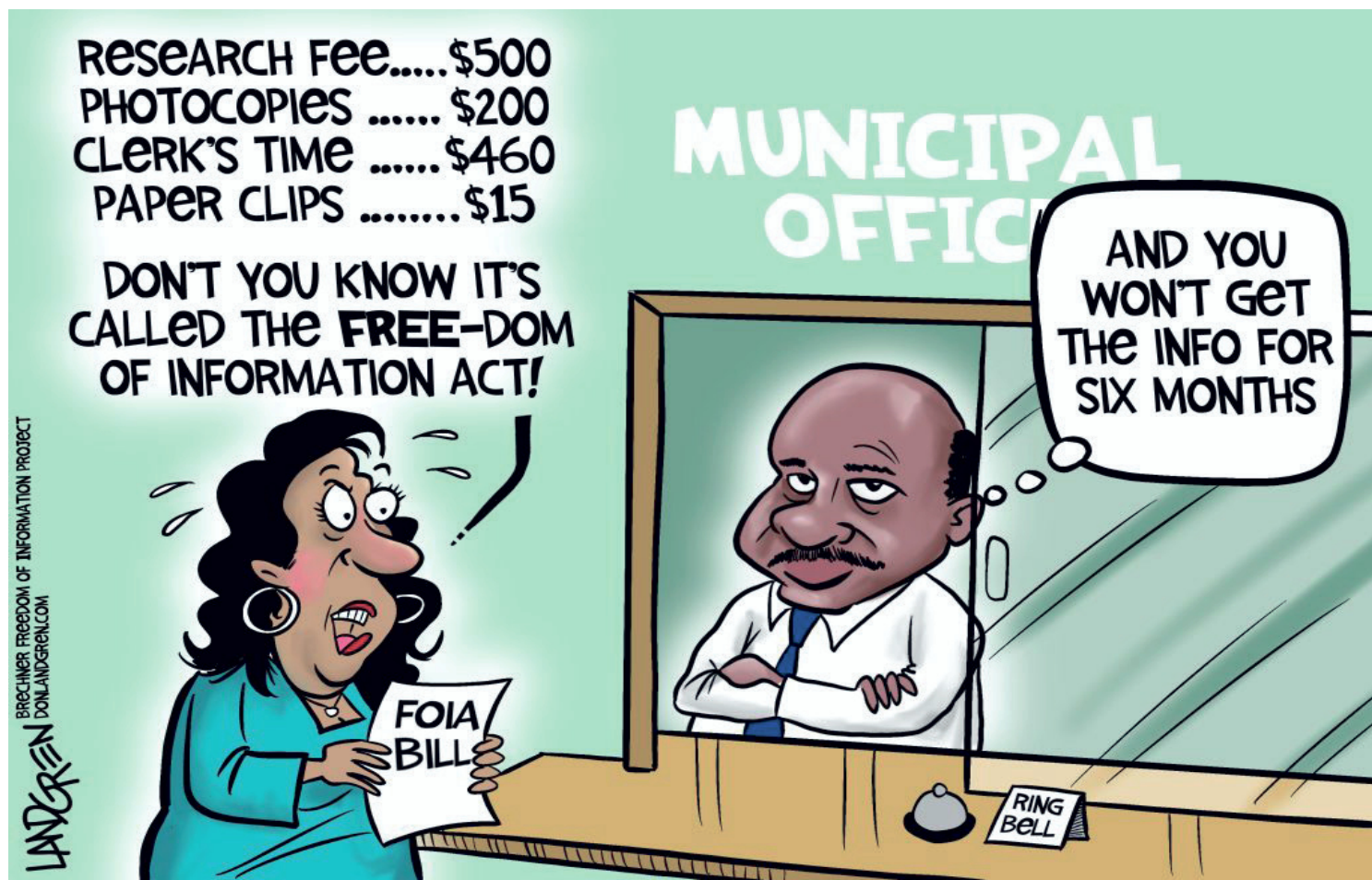
Steve Storck  
Oakland

### Officials dismantle laws to protect natural resources

In the last few years, at the behest of electricity providers, our local and state elected and appointed officials are recklessly dismantling our existing laws and regulations enacted to protect our natural resources.

And, that's a damn shame.

John N. Bambacus  
Frostburg



## Government transparency spotty in states, worsening

As the director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government — a 29-year-old nonpartisan, nonprofit devoted to helping the public navigate the ins and outs of access to state and local government records and meetings — I'm often asked which state has the best open records or open meetings law.

It's a fool's gambit to give a conclusive answer.

The words on the page of any given state law may look fine. But those words can be stretched to the point of breaking by some local government, school district or state agency. Meanwhile, just one city over, or at another agency even within the same building, those words may be applied within both the letter and the spirit of the law.

State by state. Locality by locality. It's going to be different.

Nonetheless, regardless of the strengths or weaknesses of each state's laws, there are a few challenges every state faces.

To start at the very top, the constant drama that characterizes our national political scenes sucks the oxygen out of state transparency efforts. Coalition leaders like me can wave flags, blow whistles, or yell at the top of our lungs, but we are all too often drowned out by the din of partisan rancor at the federal level.

So, there's an overarching climate state open-government advocates must overcome. But there are specific state-wide threats we are all dealing with right now.

The cost of obtaining public records varies by state, with charges for materials like paper and flash drives widely allowed. However, states differ on fees for search, review, or redaction time. No perfect fee statute exists, though, because provisions are often manipulat-

ed. The sad reality is that fees are used as a deterrent: If we charge enough, they will go away.

This interferes with journalists' ability to get records they need for reporting, and it means people of limited means are priced out of their ability to hold their government accountable.

High fees are often justified by governmental bodies by what they see as a legion of "vexatious requesters."

These are people who bombard public bodies with records requests just to throw sand in the gears of government operations. Some states have already put limits on how many requests someone can file or under what circumstances, and many other states are trying.

Disappointingly, there are bad actors, but what is driving many of these governmental bodies across the country to paint requestors as vexatious is the sheer amount of records that are generated even for a relatively simple request. We are all drowning in email. We use email for everything, we attach things, we "CC" everyone or "reply all," we create long email chains that quote and requote the previous message. Even for a narrow period of time or for a limited number of email inboxes, the number of potentially responsive records that must be combed through is immense.

Two vexatious issues plaguing public meetings in every state are public comment periods and electronic meetings. Comment periods — with their limited public forum First Amendment implications — are often not even a part of a state's open meetings law, but we've

all seen videos of the vitriol spewed by speakers on the one hand, to citizens being manhandled out of a meeting on the other. State open-government coalitions spend a lot of their time explaining what their law and the constitution say about public comment periods.

During COVID, we all learned that meetings could be rigged up to ensure the public got to observe and participate in virtual meetings. After COVID, it seems that many governmental bodies forgot. While members of councils, commissions and boards fight for their own right to participate remotely, they have balked at suggestions that they give the public that same right to observe and/or participate via Zoom or some alternative platform.

Some of these challenges are intentional obstacles thrown in the way of the media and the public to prevent them from knowing too much. But some are the product of inadequate training. Even states with mandated training struggle with scofflaws and high turnover. Training, too often, also comes from sources that encourage a presumed-closed mindset instead of a presumed-open one.

There are plenty of other areas we all struggle with right now: police accountability, economic development, disappearing messaging apps, lack of enforcement mechanisms, underutilization of technology, and on and on and on.

If state open-government coalition leaders have one thing to be thankful for it's that they will always have work to do.

Megan Rhyne has been the executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government since 2008 and worked with the organization for 10 years prior to that. She is also the part-time administrator for the National Freedom of Information Coalition. She can be reached at [mrhyne@nfoic.org](mailto:mrhyne@nfoic.org).

## BIBLE DIGEST

"You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble."  
(James 2:19 AKJV)

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

• Letters to the editor should be no more than 300 words, not counting the headline or the writer's name and community of residence. Longer submissions of up to 600 words will be published as reader commentaries.

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