Black History Month got its start locally

BY ROBERT MILLER
Winston-Salem Journal

Each February, schools, businesses and organizations take time to remember historical events and accomplishments of the Black and African-American community during Black History Month. Even though it’s celebrated across the country, the tradition was started by a man born in Burlington County in 1925.

According to Charles E. White, local and national historian, Burlington County is the location of where the first Black History Month was celebrated.

“In 1988, he organized the Black History Month activities,” White said. “He started it all, and it’s been going on ever since.”

WHO IS B.B. WOODSON?

Woodson was born on Dec. 15, 1865, to James Lewis and Eliza Huddie Woodson who were illiterate farmers. Despite this humble beginning, Woodson acted on his hunger for learning as he attended the local Burlington school and later moved on to Denison College in Kentucky. According to White, Woodson’s educational background enabled him to be a leader of the African American community, a writer and a researcher.


dominion bill changes as it heads to a vote

BY CHARLEY FIELDS
Virginia Observer

A House version of a bill Dominion Energy is backing in this General Assembly session made it out of committee Thursday without a controversial provision aimed at raising the company’s profit margins, but with a new section that critics say weakens the Virginia Clean Energy Act.

The House Commerce and Energy Committee voted Thursday morning to advance House Bill 273, sponsored by Majority Leader Terry R. Collins, a Dominion influence.

The current version of the bill strips out a provision opposed by environmental groups that would allow new regulations. In its place, the bill now requires the state Corporation Commission to decide which regulations Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company can impose when setting profit margins for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power.

It also includes a provision to roll into base rates $50 million in credits, or time Dominion and Appalachian Power can’t contribute to revenue costs for particular projects, or approval of Dominion’s issuance of up to 10,000 shares to help it immediately cover operating fuel costs.

A Senate version of the bill, also carried by Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, D-Fairfax, includes all those provisions and advanced to the Senate Commerce, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

CRC becomes Economic Development District

BY ROBERT MILLER
The Farmville Herald

A project two years in the making is closer to reality. The Commonwealth Region Council of Governments (CRC) is now officially an economic development district, the whole point of a development district.

The CRC is a regional entity to lead economic development efforts in the 21-county region. The CRC, which includes the Farmville area, has been working on this project for two years. The goal is to create economic growth and development in the region.

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