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News Release

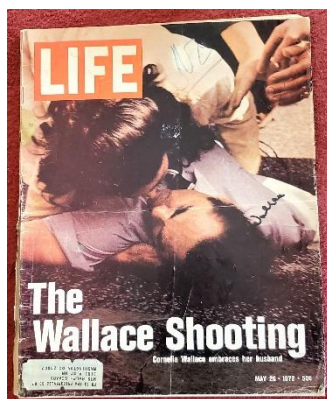
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For Immediate Release

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Photos: **Autographed Copy of Life Magazine:** *Laurel Historical Society Collection*
A flooded Rt. 1 looking North *Laurel Historical Society Collection*



Laurel Museum Marks Wallace Shooting/Hurricane Agnes 50th Anniversaries

Fifty years ago, Laurel, MD was rocked by two major events. On May 15, 1972, segregationist and democratic political candidate George Wallace was shot and paralyzed at the Laurel Shopping Center. Slightly over a month later, on June 21, 10+ inches of rain from Hurricane Agnes and a controversial decision by WSSC to open flood gates without notice destroyed two bridges and resulted in catastrophic damage to areas of Laurel.

The Laurel Museum will mark these two anniversaries by displaying items from its collection and a June 9 program in conjunction with the Laurel History Boys. May 1-31 the focus will be on items related to the shooting of George Wallace. Items on display will include the *Life Magazine* cover issue with the shooting, signed by George Wallace, campaign materials, plus *Laurel Leader* and *Washington Post* shooting-related issues. June 1-30 attention turns to Hurricane Agnes. The displayed items will include remnants from the 9th Street bridge, newspaper articles and residents' photos from the event.



In conjunction with the two displays, on June 9, Richard Friend of The Laurel History Boys will provide a colorful look back at this pivotal year from half a century ago with program called *1972: 50 Years Ago in Laurel*. In addition to the Wallace shooting and the flood, Friend will look at other important events of 1972 in the town, including a murder on Main Street, and the dawn of some iconic businesses.

“Because these events had such an impact on Laurel, both in the community, and nationally, we felt we needed to acknowledge them,” noted Executive Director Ann Bennett. “Many Laurelites

still remember them. And for those who weren't around, the display and the program can bring to life and put in context parts of the community's history they may not be fully aware of," she added.

The Thursday June 9 program is also free and will be held at the Laurel Municipal Pool Room, which is located at 9th & Main in Laurel, next to the museum. starting at 7 p.m.

The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, MD. Hours are Fri-Sun, 12-4. Admission is free. The Laurel Museum's current main exhibit is "What's Cookin' Laurel: Recipes, Restaurants and Community. It runs through December 19, 2022. Tour groups and researchers are welcome during the week by appointment. For more information visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org ##