

LOCAL LEAGUE SPURS FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

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Three qualify to run for two seats

Amherst County residents seek positions on school board

By Justin Faulconer
editor@neweraprogress.com

A trio of Amherst County residents has qualified to run for a pair of seats up for grabs on the county's school board.

Ginger Burg and Charlotte Hudson Fluharty are vying for an at-large seat

while Christopher Terry is seeking the District 3 seat in the Nov. 5 election, which marks the second cycle of races for school district seats since a November 2016 referendum transitioned the board to an elected body. Prior to that, the board of supervisors appointed school

board members.

Burg, who moved to Amherst County from New York in 2015 and is vice chair of the Amherst County Republican Committee, said she was deeply involved in schools as a mother of six. Coming from a community similar to Amherst where the biggest



Burg



Fluharty



Terry

taxpayers were farmers, she said her youngest daughter, who has faced medical issues, excelled in Amherst

County, a vast improvement from her previous environment. "I love the schools here. They are so much better than they were in New York," Burg said. "My daughter is now on honor roll

and going into advanced placement [courses] and it's all because of Amherst schools. We've been totally blessed by Amherst." Fluharty, a former teacher, said she has worked in public education for more than 25 years and taught all ages from preschool through college. When she

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YMCA facility projected at \$12.6M

Official says study found adequate public support for location in Amherst County

By Justin Faulconer
editor@neweraprogress.com

A possible YMCA in Amherst County is projected to cost \$12.6 million, according to a recent study into the potential endeavor.

The Amherst County Board of Supervisors discussed the results of the analysis backed by the county, Town of Amherst officials and the YMCA organization during its June 4 meeting. County Administrator Dean Rodgers said the survey results showed there is adequate public support for such a facility in two locations – the Amelon Commerce Center in Madison Heights, behind the Amelon Square shopping center on U.S. 29 Business, and the L. Barnes Brockman Sr. Business and Industrial Park on U.S. 60 in Amherst.

The survey indicated a pool is essential to such a facility and 35,000 square feet would be required, according to Rodgers. The YMCA organization's model is to have facilities without any debt and construction funding come through donations, he said.

A perpetual fundraising campaign for the life of the potential facility would be needed to keep it going, he said. A concern among YMCA leaders is a new facility in Amherst County could draw members away from a branch in downtown Lynchburg, Rodgers said.

YMCA leaders recommend hiring a

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A SWEET SPOT IN MADISON HEIGHTS



PHOTOS BY LEE LUTHER JR./FOR THE NEW ERA-PROGRESS



The Sweet Spot in Madison Heights (top) draws a large crowd June 5. Wednesdays in the late spring and early summer seasons often are busy as local baseball teams and church members stop by for frosty treats. LEFT: Three-year-old Lashaud Moore tends to his melting soft serve cone. ABOVE: Caitlyn Hicks serves a Sweet Spot drive-through customer June 5. See more photos on **page B3**.

Lynchburg man sentenced to 23 years in Madison Heights murder

By Rachel Mahoney
rmahoney@newsadvance.com

The last of three defendants charged in the October 2016 murder of 41-year-old Troy Tyrone Roberson was sentenced to 23 years in prison last Wednesday.

Rodney Andrew Hamlette, 23, of Lynchburg, faced charges of first-degree murder and using a firearm in a felony as the "trigger-

man" in Roberson's Oct. 25, 2016 death, according to prosecutors.

Hamlette and his attorney, Kevin Bailey, both signed a plea agreement back in late September 2017, when one of Hamlette's codefendants was on the lam after making bond.

At Hamlette's plea and sentencing hearing June 4, Commonwealth's Attorney Lyle Carver said Hamlette had given a "thorough



Hamlette

and "helpful" account of what happened that night to take into account for his codefendants' cases.

Now that those cases have closed, attorneys submitted the plea agreement to Judge Michael Garrett in Amherst Circuit Court.

Hamlette's codefendant Kaitlyn Renee Webber, 21, was the "mastermind" behind what happened to Roberson, Carver said. Having been in a relationship with him, she believed he had \$20,000 on him and made plans to rob him, he said.

After being turned down by others, she eventually sought help from Hamlette and Floyd Archie Jr. to try and get the money from

Roberson for drugs, Carver said. Webber planned to return a necklace to Roberson that night in exchange for money.

That night, Archie drove the three to Duvall's Barbershop on Old Wright Shop Road in Madison Heights, where Roberson worked.

In what Carver described as a "chaotic scene," Hamlette then

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» Amherst New Era-Progress
101 Wyndale Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501
» Phone: (434) 385-5440
» Email: editor@neweraprogress.com

Classifieds

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