

The Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

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Supreme Court to hear ACP case

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Oct. 4 to review a federal court ruling that previously halted Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) construction. The Supreme Court will revisit a decision made by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals last December that prevented the U. S. Forest Service from permitting construc-

tion of the ACP to cross the Appalachian Trail.

After the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals made the ruling, Dominion Energy, the largest of four companies backing the ACP project, petitioned the Supreme Court to consider the case.

The ACP is projected to span 600 miles, crossing counties including Prince Edward, Buckingham, and Cumberland.

Officials from the ACP released a statement following the Supreme Court's decision to revisit the case.

"The Supreme Court's acceptance of our petition is a very encouraging sign and provides a clear path forward to resolve this important issue," the release cited. "The law and the facts are on our side, and we're supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders. The U.S. Solicitor General, 16 state

Attorneys General and more than a dozen industry and labor organizations all agree that the U.S. Forest Service has the authority to approve our Appalachian Trail crossing."

ACP's release went on to say that more than 50 other pipelines cross underneath the Appalachian Trail without disturbing public use. It also cited that the ACP will be installed more than 600 feet

below the surface of the trail and more than half a mile from each side of the trail in order to avoid any impacts.

The release highlighted that the ACP will make its case in front of the Supreme Court in early 2020 and hope to hear a final ruling by next June.

"We are confident in our arguments, and those of the Solicitor General, and are

See **ACP**, Page **A2**

Bringing books to life



Ethan Hill picks out a book from the bookstore during the Virginia Children's Book Festival.

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT
The Farmville Herald

Thousands of books being distributed and thousands of happy children were the focuses of the sixth annual Virginia Children's Book Festival (VCBF) held Wednesday, Oct. 16, through Friday, Oct. 18, on the campus of Longwood University.

The VCBF is a free three-day event celebrating books, reading and children, with a mission to create a culture of literacy for the Commonwealth's children, regardless of their circumstance.

This year's event brought more than 20 authors and illustrators to life for thousands of children around the state. The Robert Russa Moton Museum and the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) also held events in conjunction with the VCBF.

See **VCBF**, Page **A2**



Three large chimneys and a pile of flaming debris were all that was left after a house fire burned down a Buckingham home built several centuries ago. No injuries were reported.

Centuries-old home destroyed

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

Units from the Arvonnia, Cumberland and Macon District volunteer fire departments responded to a fire on the morning of Oct. 15 that left a centuries-old home in Buckingham burned to the ground.

Arvonnia Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) President Steve Toney stated that AVFD received a call around 7 a.m. reporting a structure fire at Walnut Hill Lane. Firefighters arrived to find that the home had completely burned to the ground.

According to Toney, the owners of the house were not present at the time of the fire and no injuries were sustained. He explained that the owners had purchased the house in the '70s and used it primarily as their summer home.

While no one was injured due to the fire, the homeowners were devastated by the loss of a historic home filled with memories and valuable collections.

"It was built in the late 1700s or early 1800s," Toney explained. "It was a huge house. I think it was three stories and a full basement. ... He (the owner) said that he had a lot of valuable antiques and a whole lot of his family's stuff. You know, China and stuff like that. Everything was gone."

Toney estimated that the building may have been burning between 4-5 hours before the fire was discovered. "It burned the whole thing up," he said. "No walls. The only thing that was left standing were the three chimneys. They had

See **DESTROYED**, Page **A2**

Pride raises road concerns

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

Hampden District Supervisor Dr. Odessa Pride shared safety concerns she has regarding the condition of Abilene Road with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Scott Frederick during the board's regular October meeting.

Pride complimented Frederick and VDOT for the work done at the intersection from County Line Road headed south to Keysville, and then she began to address her concerns.

"I traveled on Darling-



Odessa
Pride



Scott
Frederick

PRINCE EDWARD

ton Heights Road, and what I'm getting ready to say is no reflection on the individuals from Darlington Heights Road, but they were repaint-

ing those outside white lines," she said. "They're in good condition. What's the maintenance plan that tells you when they need to be repainted?"

See **CONCERNS**, Page **A7**

Dowdy seeks fourth term

After much deliberation and prayer, George Lee Dowdy III, of Cumberland, has stated he will seek a fourth term to Cumberland County's 2nd District (Madison District) School Board Seat.

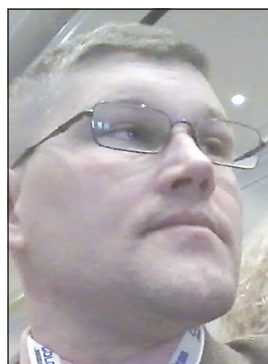
Dowdy attended Cumberland County Public Schools k-12 and received two special recognition awards during his tenure.

He has lived in the area all his life and has attended Southside Virginia Community College, Virginia Commonwealth

CUMBERLAND

University and Longwood University, graduating from all three with an associate degree in administration, a bachelor's in criminal justice, and a master's degree in sociology, respectively.

Dowdy has been recognized 11 times for his continued education with the Virginia School Board Association. He has received one award of honor, three awards of distinction, and seven awards of excellence



George Lee
Dowdy III

for his dedication to the school division and to the Commonwealth.

Dowdy will be launching a write-in campaign to retain his seat on the board.

Board grants land for hotel

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

At its monthly meeting held Oct. 15, the Buckingham Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to grant 3.5 acres of land to NHN Inc. to construct a 55-room Sleep Inn Hotel in Dillwyn.

At the September BOS meeting, County Administrator Rebecca Carter presented the Board with an updated proposal for the franchise after originally presenting an incentive package to the Board for a 25-bedroom motel.

After hearing Carter's updated proposal for a 55-room Sleep Inn Hotel, the BOS authorized a public hearing regarding the proposal to be held at its Oct. 15 meeting, where the board voted unanimously to approve the transfer of 3.5 acres of county-owned land to NHN, Inc.

The hotel will be located beside the Dillwyn Waste Site on State Route 750, Wingo Road.

When asked what the next step will be following the land transfer,

Carter stated, "Our county attorney will draw up a contract with all of the stipulations put in place. Once that's all agreed to, as the board has agreed to it, then we will move forward to transferring the land and they will start the project."

"They've already had a site developer up there to look, to see what all will need to be done pending that it was approved," Carter added, "So I think they're pretty much ready to go."

Carter added that the county attorney will draw up a contract to protect the county in case the project falls through.

The BOS agreed to consider certain incentives presented by Carter for the hotel's establishment in the county. The total proposed incentive package being considered for taxes and property was approximately \$124,900.

The incentives involve a percentage of tax abatement for the

See **LAND**, Page **A2**



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Volume 128 | Number 98
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OBITUARIES A3
OPINION A4

KIDZ PAGE A6
SPORTS A8-9

CLASSIFIEDS A10-11
PUBLIC NOTICES A11-12

A AND B SECTIONS
COMBINED

ACP: 'We remain committed to this project and are confident it will be completed.'

FROM PAGE ONE
 hopeful the Supreme Court will overturn the Fourth Circuit's decision and uphold the long-standing precedent allowing pipeline crossings of the Appalachian Trail," ACP's release stated. Officials continued, "The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is more important now than ever. The economic vitality, environmental health and energy security of

our region depend on it. Communities across Hampton Roads, Virginia and eastern North Carolina are experiencing chronic shortages of natural gas. The region urgently needs new infrastructure to support the U.S. military, manufacturing, home heating and cleaner electricity as we move away from coal. We remain committed to this project and are confident it will be completed."

While representatives from the ACP see the Supreme Court's decision as beneficial, activist groups opposing the pipeline are displeased with the possible continuation of construction. One such group, Friends of Buckingham, see the revisitation as a chance for Supreme Court rulers to see its side of the story. The group describes its mission statement as "To preserve the natural

resources and cultural heritage of Buckingham County." "The Supreme Court will now hear just how unlawful the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is," said Friends of Buckingham President Chad Oba. "This permit is just one of seven permits that have been vacated or suspended for this pipeline." Oba stated that the group saw Dominion and Duke Energy's petition

as a "last appeal for a pipeline project that is clearly in jeopardy." She stated that she believed the companies should not be able to restart construction until all of the project's permitting issues are resolved. "What Dominion and Duke want to do is unprecedented," said Oba. "No existing natural gas pipeline crosses the Appalachian Trail on national forest lands pursuant to an authorization

by the Forest Service." "We call this a case of David and Goliath," said Friends of Buckingham Secretary Heidi Berthoud. "We are deeply concerned about the future for all of us." The Oct. 4 ACP release added that representatives are hopeful that a resolution in favor of the ACP would allow full construction to resume next summer, with a project completion date of late 2021.

VCFB: Prominent children's authors and illustrators attend

FROM PAGE ONE
 Founded by Juanita Giles and Katie Snyder in 2011, the VCFB has grown into the largest children's book festival on the East Coast. During the event, the VCFB brings prominent children's authors and illustrators to Farmville each year.

Katherine Paterson, author of Newbery Award-Winning Novels *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*, was this year's special guest and spoke about her life and books during a workshop held on Friday. Other workshops and events included a live mural painting by artist

Monty Montgomery and illustrator Jay Cooper who showed children how to draw a robot. The Robert Russa Moton Museum hosted the Hip-Hop in Children's Literature workshop featuring Tiffany Jackson, bestselling author of *Let me Hear a Rhyme* and Malik 16, a rapper with a literary twist.

Leah Brown, assistant director of education for the Robert Russa Moton Museum, explained that close to 50 students who attended the event had the chance to compose their own Hip-Hop songs. "A lot of the students who attended already listen to Hip-Hop music and this allowed them to be a part of how

hip-hop music is created and gave them the opportunity to meet and talk with creators," said Brown. The LCVA featured artist Victoria Kann, creator of the beloved PBS *Pinkalicious* series. Returning authors and illustrators to the 2019 festival included Sophie Blackall, Johnny Marcia-

no, Todd Parr and Tim Ering. In addition to the three-day event, the VCFB donates thousands of books each year, established libraries at juvenile detention centers, operates a mobile READcart, and provides programming for children with special needs.

DESTROYED: Everything was gone

FROM PAGE ONE
 these great, big, three rock chimneys." Toney said that AVFD firefighters arrived on scene to find that several trees in close proximity to the home had also caught fire, including a large cedar tree. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced on Oct. 15

the start of fall wildfire season in Virginia. Toney stated in an interview with *The Herald* that the risk of wildfires was in the back of his brain during AVFD's response to the house fire. "Yeah, that's what we were scared of," Toney said. "The cedar tree that was on fire, it was a huge cedar tree, probably 36 inches around.

It was hollow and that one was burning inside. So, I ended up cutting that down. I figured if it would finally catch on fire, that thing would be throwing fire across the fields. As dry as it is now, it wouldn't take much. We had two more trees that were burning and we got all of them out before we left. We stayed down there for

about four hours. I think at 11 p.m. we were going around and putting foam all the way around the building just to keep it from spreading." Toney stated that many neighbors reported that the sky was lit up with flames early in the morning, and that several witnesses had

mistaken the house fire as belonging to a power station adjacent to the home. Many loud explosions were reported at the scene. "We found four propane bottles that had blown the tops clean off them. That could have been the explosions they were hearing." According to Toney, officials are still at-

tempting to determine the origin of the fire. Toney also stated that an arson investigator would be looking into the incident. "I told the guy that I was sorry," Toney stated in reference to the homeowner. "I know it's devastating, especially when you lose all of your family heirlooms that you've had for years."



The Buckingham Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to grant 3.5 acres of land to NHN, Inc. to construct a Sleep Inn Hotel in Dillwyn.

LAND: 'I think they're pretty much ready to go'

FROM PAGE ONE
 property over a four year period, with total abatements amounting to approximately \$89,900. Incentives also involved a cost not to exceed \$40,000 in order to bring water and sewer lines to the property

line. Carter explained at the September meeting that a \$1,000 per unit facility fee paid by the business and totaling \$55,000 would offset this cost. Carter stated that the county would recover all incentives from NHN, Inc. by year six. Carter said that these

proposed tax incentives for the hotel will have to be approved by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). She added that Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director Karl Carter will call the meeting with the IDA, although a meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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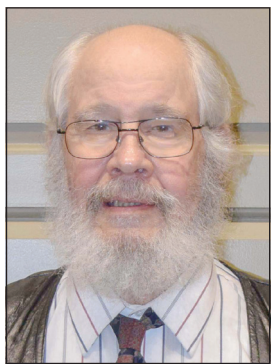
Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, October 11, 2019

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County sees big leadership changes



David Meinhard

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

Cumberland County experienced four changes in board and administrative positions this week after a series of sudden resignations, including an unexpected resignation on Oct. 3 from Cumberland County Board of Supervisors (BOS)



Parker Wheeler

Chairman and District Four Supervisor David Meinhard. Meinhard stepped down only weeks after the resignation of the then newly-appointed Cumberland County Administrator Donald Unmussig. Meinhard was present in the audience at the board's regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening and spoke



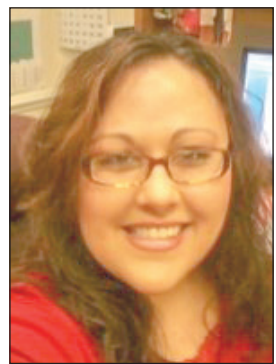
William Osl Jr.

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as a member of the public during the public comments portion of the meeting, though his comments did not directly address his resignation. In an interview with *The Herald* at the board meeting, Meinhard cited frustration in relation to the board as the



Jennifer Crews

primary reason for his resignation. Near the end of Tuesday's meeting, the board went into closed session. Upon return to open session, a motion was made to name BOS Vice Chairman and District Five Supervisor Parker Wheeler the new board chairman and District One Supervisor William F.



Stephany Johnson

Osl, Jr. as vice chairman. The motion passed unanimously. The board then agreed to recess until 6 p.m. on Wednesday. After the continuation of the closed session on Wednesday night, the remaining four board members passed a motion to make County Financial

See **CHANGES**, Page A2

SCVP dealt setback

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

The establishment of a forensic advocacy center by the Southside Center for Violence Prevention (SCVP) in Prince Edward County has come to a halt after Prince Edward Commonwealth's Attorney Megan Clark withdrew her written support of the program.

The SCVP, which already runs a shelter at an undisclosed location in Farmville, provides confidential and free services to both adults and children affected by sexual and domestic violence.

According to Forensic Advocacy Program Director Monica Ratliff, SCVP was in the process of opening a forensic advocacy center to citizens of Prince Edward County. The center would provide residents with resources following an incident, including advocacy for victims trying to navigate the medical and legal system.



Megan Clark

PRINCE EDWARD

SCVP anticipated offering forensic interviews to the citizens of Prince Edward County starting July 1 of this year and sexual assault examinations starting Oct. 1.

Ratliff explained that in order to offer services to the county and receive Childhood Advocacy Center (CAC) accreditation, SCVP had to secure a Memo-

See **SCVP**, Page A5



TITUS MOHLER | HERALD

Martha Moore, far left, moderates the Buckingham County Farm Bureau-sponsored candidate's forum Saturday evening for the upcoming Buckingham County Board of Supervisors general election. Those participating in the forum on the platform are, from left, David Wade Ball, Robert C. "Bobby" Jones, Thomas Jordan Miles III, Donald R. "Don" Matthews Jr., Robert H. Scarbrough, Wilbert M. "Esau" Dean, E. Morgan Dunnivant, William F. "Buster" Martin, and at right on the lower level, Harry W. Bryant Jr. and Joe N. Chambers Jr.

The supervisor candidate forum

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The Buckingham County Farm Bureau-sponsored candidate's forum for the upcoming Buckingham County Board of Supervisors general election drew 10 of the 12 candidates running this year and a crowd of around 60 people to the Peter Francisco

Auditorium in the county administration complex Saturday evening.

The participating candidates included District One Supervisor incumbent Robert C. "Bobby" Jones and candidates William F. "Buster" Martin and Robert H. Scarbrough; District

Three Supervisor incumbent Donald R. "Don" Matthews Jr. and candidates David Wade Ball and Wilbert M. "Esau" Dean; District Four Supervisor incumbent E. Morgan Dunnivant and candidate Thomas Jordan Miles III; District Five Supervisor incumbent Harry W. Bryant

See **FORUM**, Page A7

Scabies outbreak worsens

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

Parents of Cumberland County Public Schools students received a letter Wednesday updating them on the worsening outbreak of scabies at the school district.

The original letter sent home with students on Oct. 3 stated that the outbreak was affecting a limited number of students and was contained to the elementary school. According to Wednesday's update, the district has experienced 12 confirmed cases in the last week, including seven elementary school students, two middle school students, one high school student, one elementary school teacher and one middle school teacher.

Division Superintendent Amy Griffin said in her letter to parents, "As stated in the Virginia Department of Health Scabies Fact Sheet, symptoms can appear anywhere from two to six



Amy Griffin

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weeks after exposure, so we all must continue to be persistent in checking for symptoms daily, cleaning, and treatment along with following protocol for diagnosed cases (treating family members, laundering bedding,

See **SCABIES**, Page A3

Bryant seeks reelection as county supervisor

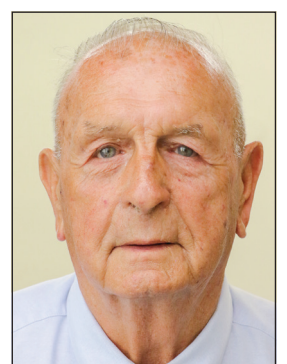
As a lifelong Buckingham County resident, Harry Bryant is honored to have served his first term as a county supervisor.

Bryant stated, "It has been a pleasure to be a part of a team of fellow citizens who have worked hard to keep our country safe and prosperous."

Bryant looks forward to continuing to do his best to keep the county moving in the right direction.

"We typically have limited revenues available for many, if not most, of the important issues that the county must deal with each year. Therefore, it is essential that we clearly determine the true benefit of all proposed projects against the cost of implementing them," Bryant added.

Bryant encourages everyone to



Harry Bryant

bring to the Board's attention new ideas in ways to boost economic development in the county, while at the same time protecting its rural lifestyle.

See **BRYANT**, Page A3



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OBITUARIES	A3	SPORTS	A6	LIFE	C1	A AND B SECTIONS
OPINION	A4	CLASSIFIEDS	A9-10	THE WORD	C6	COMBINED



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CHANGES: Our goal is to keep it moving forward

FROM PAGE ONE

Director Jennifer Crews, the new interim county administrator, and County Deputy Clerk Stephany Johnson, the interim assistant administrator.

In an interview with *The Herald*, newly-appointed Chairman Wheeler explained that Crews and Johnson would both keep their initial roles and responsibilities while taking on their added roles and responsibilities.

Wheeler also stated that he will be signing paychecks for the near future.

Meinhard was present

at Tuesday's meeting after having seen that the agenda included a resolution in appreciation of former Cumberland County Administrator and County Attorney Vivian Seay Giles, who resigned in July and now works primarily in Richmond for Sands Anderson PC law firm.

Meinhard used his time during the public comments portion of the meeting to commend Giles, emphasizing how important she had been to the county.

As District Four supervisor, Meinhard was nearing the end of his second term and was not

seeking re-election.

Wheeler explained that the District Four seat will likely remain empty until after next month's election. He added that the board elects its chairman and vice chairman in January during the first board meeting of the year.

Wheeler stated in an interview with *The Herald* Wednesday, "We as the board have worked hard to get the county moving forward, and we have it moving forward. Our goal is to keep it moving forward, to be progressive and get the county where it needs to go."

County led state in tourism revenue growth in '18

Tourism revenue growth for Prince Edward County led the commonwealth's 2018 Tourism Economic Impact numbers by reaching \$25,858,576, which is a 12.7% increase over 2017, a press release cited Tuesday.

Officials noted in the release that local tourism-supported jobs totaled \$5,435,202 while local tourism-related taxes were \$1,106,104. All data was received by the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) from the U.S. Travel Association and is based on the spending of travelers from within the U.S. on trips 50 miles or more away from home.

According to the U.S. Travel Association, tourism in Virginia generated \$26 billion in travel spending, the release highlighted. Tourism also supported 235,000 jobs for Virginia communities and contributed \$1.8 billion

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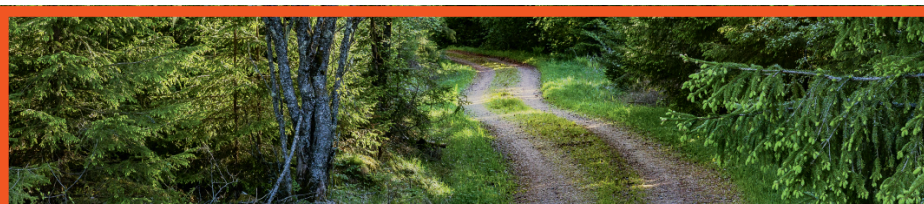
in state and local taxes. The increase is largely attributed to Virginia's tourism promotion and development efforts all around the state, including new hotels, restaurants, agritourism, craft breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries, sports, outdoor recreation, festivals and events, music venues, wedding venues, meeting and convention venues, attractions and so much more. Virginia's changing tourism industry makes the commonwealth a destination for authentic travel experiences and vibrant communities.

Farmville 701 District Supervisor and Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Wilck said in the release, "Tourism is one of the strategic priorities in the county's comprehensive economic development program. The state's

Tourism Economic Impact report shows our efforts are paying off. With new hotels, breweries and restaurants, along with the expansion of local outdoor recreational and shopping opportunities, we are seeing more visitors, who are staying longer and spending more money."

In the release, Sandy River Outdoor Adventures Owner Candice Smith said, "This has been a great year for growth at Sandy River Outdoor Adventures. Over the past eight years, since we opened, each year we have grown. Now that we have added additional accommodations and a pool, the increase in our revenue has been over 20%. Prince Edward County is on the map, and we are so glad to have

See **GROWTH**, Page A11



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Centra Medical Group Southside Women's Center: Your OB/GYN team



Centra Medical Group Southside Women's Center, located on the Farmville campus of Centra Southside Community Hospital, is dedicated to providing the highest quality medical and ethical standard of care for its patients.

Practitioners include:

- Kathleen Cauble, MD, board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist
- Hany Moustafa, PhD, MD, board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist
- Hilary Neves, MD, board-eligible obstetrician/gynecologist
- Candi O'Rourke, NP, OB/GYN nurse practitioner

The practice offers a wide range of services, including obstetrics, family planning, ultrasound, gynecology, gynecologic surgeries, reproductive endocrinology, infertility, and urogynecology.

CENTRA MEDICAL GROUP

Southside Women's Center

To learn more about the Centra Medical Group Southside Women's Center or to schedule an appointment, call

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The Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, December 13, 2019

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Second Amendment sanctuary declared

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

At its Dec. 9 meeting, all six present members of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors voted to declare the county a Second Amendment sanctuary. District One Supervisor Robert "Bobby" Jones was unable to attend and therefore did not vote on the resolution.

The sanctuary means that Buckingham county will not expend resources to enforce certain gun control measures perceived as violative of the Second Amendment. The decision comes after many similar resolutions were passed in other counties following a new Democratic majority in the General Assembly that gun supporters fear may put their

right to bear arms in jeopardy.

Both county residents and state activists gathered Monday night in preparation for the vote. Members of the Virginia Citizens Defense League stood at the door to hand out pamphlets and large orange stickers that read "Guns SAVE Lives." Hundreds of individuals packed the administration complex as Board Chairman Donnie Bryan read aloud the resolution declaring Buckingham a Second Amendment sanctuary.

The full version of the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A

See **SANCTUARY**, Page A2



ALEXA MASSEY | HERALD

Many audience members stood up and raised their hands in order to show support for making Cumberland County a Second Amendment sanctuary.

Sanctuary resolution adopted

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

CUMBERLAND

At the Dec. 10 Cumberland County Board of Supervisors meeting the board, voted unanimously, 3-0, to pass a resolution declaring Cumberland County to be a Second Amendment sanctuary. District Two Supervisor Lloyd Banks was not present at the meeting and therefore did not participate in the vote.

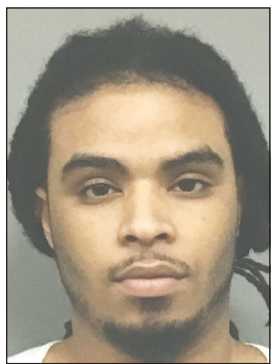
The full resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," and,

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual's right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to "keep and bear arms," as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment against the states, and

See **RESOLUTION**, Page A5



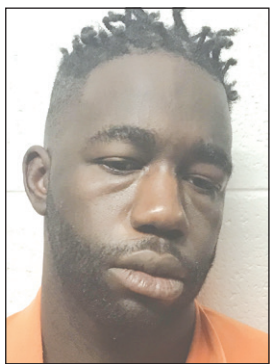
Christopher Johnson



Selina Robert



Treyanna Randolph



Xavion Kemp

Four arrested for B&E of Rebel Sporting Goods

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT
The Farmville Herald

Following an investigation, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has arrested and charged four individuals with the attempted breaking and entering (B&E) of Rebel Sporting Goods Ltd. in Keysville that occurred on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 in the early morning hours.

According to investigators an additional suspect is still being sought.

Christopher Johnson, 19 of Farmville was arrested and charged for both the Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 incidents. Johnson has been charged with one count of misdemeanor property damage, one count of felony property damage, one count of felony property damage, one count of conspiring to break and enter, and one count of breaking and entering. Johnson

has posted bail and has been released.

Selina Robert, 21 of Cumberland was arrested and charged with both the Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 incidents. Robert has been charged with one count of misdemeanor property damage, one count of felony property damage, two counts of conspiring to break and enter. Robert has been released on her own recognizance.

Treyanna Randolph, 20 of Farmville has been arrested and charged with both the Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 incidents. Randolph has been charged with one count of misdemeanor property damage, one count of felony property damage, two counts of conspiring to break and enter. Randolph was released on her own recognizance.

Xavion Kemp, 25 of Rice, has been arrested and charged

with the incident on Nov. 26. Kemp has been charged with one count of misdemeanor property damage and one count of conspiring to break and enter. Kemp is currently being held in the Charlotte County Jail.

According to the sheriff's office, the first B&E occurred around 1:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, when individuals tried to enter the store by cutting a lock off the front door with a power tool. In doing so, an audible alarm was triggered, and the suspects fled the scene.

A second attempted breaking and entering (B&E) at Rebel Sporting Goods Ltd. in Keysville occurred on Nov. 27, around 4 a.m. Two individuals gained entry into the display window of the store.

In both incidents outside surveillance cameras captured images of the individuals.

8-year-old strip searched at prison

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

DILLWYN

Gov. Ralph S. Northam has temporarily suspended a policy allowing for the strip search of minors in Virginia prisons following the strip search of an 8-year-old girl at the Buckingham Correctional Center in Dillwyn on Nov. 24. Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) officials say that the staff member

who authorized the search didn't have the authority to do so and an investigation is underway.

"Strip search of a minor is extremely rare, and in this case Department procedures weren't followed," said VDOC Director of Communications Lisa Kinney in a statement to *The Herald*.

See **PRISON**, Page A2

A focused special meeting set

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

PRINCE EDWARD

Prince Edward County residents will be given a platform and the priority when the county Board of Supervisors holds a special meeting Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the Prince Edward County High School Auditorium to consider a proposed resolution that, if adopted, would declare Prince Edward a Second Amendment sanctuary county.

Many other localities in Virginia have adopted the

resolution, motivated by the prospect of Democrat Gov. Ralph S. Northam passing significant gun control legislation once the General Assembly features Democrat majorities starting in January 2020.

Declaring itself a Second Amendment sanctuary signals a move on the part of a county to insulate itself from the effects of gun control legislation deemed

See **MEETING**, Page A3



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OBITUARIES	A3	SPORTS	A6	LIFE	C1	A AND B SECTIONS
OPINION	A4	CLASSIFIEDS	A7-8	THE WORD	C6	COMBINED



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RESOLUTION: To stand up for their beliefs

FROM PAGE ONE

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in United States v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment, and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 13, of the constitution of Virginia provides "that a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," and

WHEREAS, Article I, section 1, of the constitution of Virginia reads "That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into the state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety, and

WHEREAS, Article I, section 2 of the constitution of Virginia reads "that all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people, that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them," and

WHEREAS, certain legislation that has or may be introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation which has or may be introduced in the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing upon the rights of the citizens of Cumberland County to keep and bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Cumberland County to keep and bear arms, and WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Cumberland County to keep and bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of the citizens of Cumberland County to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power to appropriate public funds, the right to petition for redress of grievances, and the power to direct the law enforcement and employees of Cumberland

County to not enforce any unconstitutional law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Cumberland County Virginia:

That the Cumberland Board of Supervisors hereby declares Cumberland County, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment sanctuary," and

That the Cumberland Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Cumberland County, Virginia, and

That the Cumberland Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the county not be used to restrict the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Cumberland County, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said rights, and

That the Cumberland Board of Supervisors hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms using such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action.

The board meeting Tuesday night was packed with hundreds of county residents and Virginians concerned that a new Democratic majority in Virginia's General Assembly could restrict the Second Amendment rights of gun supporters. In order to accommodate the large crowd, the meeting's location was changed to take place at Cumberland Elementary School.

District One Supervisor Bill Osl read the full resolution aloud to the packed board meeting. Before voting on the resolution, the board individually spoke regarding their thoughts on the sanctuary and Second Amend-

ment rights in the county.

Osl thanked the audience and gave a special thank you to the Virginia Citizens Defense League, who provided a model resolution that Cumberland County chose to base its resolution on. Osl cited that as of Tuesday morning, he had been made aware of 45 other counties that had passed such resolutions, with several others planning on doing the same. He also thanked the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association for their support of the sanctuary, as well as local veterans that had expressed concern over their Second Amendment rights.

Osl stated that as a life-long member of the NRA, he was in full support of the sanctuary and felt proud to stand up for the Second Amendment rights of Cumberland County citizens. During the meeting, he also read aloud a letter sent to him by a county citizen that did not support the concept of a sanctuary, as well as Osl's own response to the questions. "You say, 'Guns are an issue.' I say, the people using them are the issue," read Osl. He also urged citizens to "keep up the fight" by going out to vote in order to stand up for their beliefs.

Board Chairman and District Five Supervisor Parker Wheeler asked before the vote occurred for all audience members who agreed with the resolution to stand up and raise their hand in order to show their support. The majority of the crowd of more than 200 got to their feet.

After seeing the group rise to their feet, District Three Supervisor Kevin Ingle asked how a state with so many individuals in full support of the Second Amendment could be represented and gov-

erned by a small group that decide to "look the other way and vote the other way." He stated his own support of the resolution and encouraged those who are concerned about guns falling into the wrong hands to not be afraid of reporting individuals that seemed to have suspicious behavior.

Ingle also expressed that he himself is not a Republican or a Democrat, and encouraged residents to stick up for what they believed in and not simply "follow the shirttails" of others. "Be who you are, speak what's on your mind, and let it come from the heart and the mind," he added.

The vote to pass the resolution was unanimous, resulting in immense cheering and celebration from the majority of the audience.

Some individuals did come forward during the public comments to express their concerns re-

garding the sanctuary.

"First off, I want to say that I as a citizen of Cumberland County do support the Second Amendment," said resident Betty Meyer. "However, I also feel that the problems we're having with guns and these massive shootings and so on is not going to be changed whether this county is a sanctuary or not. That problem goes far beyond whether this county is a sanctuary or not. That's just the way I feel about it, and that's why I did not

stand up."

Community member Chris Rankin also expressed his feelings on the board's decision. "I also support the Second Amendment, but I also realize that the problems that this country is having goes way beyond this," said Rankin. "I also understand everybody's concern about big government, and that goes for both sides. I was here to see how this was going to play out, and I'm satisfied with what happened here."

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