

The Farmville Herald

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

Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Single Copy 50 Cents

Johns considered for statue

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

The late Barbara Rose Johns may soon be representing Farmville and Virginia in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

As the Virginia Office of the Governor announced in a July 24 press release, the Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol recommended, via unanimous vote, the removal of the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from National Statuary Hall.

"The eight-member state commission,

authorized by the General Assembly, is charged with determining whether the Robert E. Lee statue should be replaced, and if so, recommending to the General Assembly a replacement to represent the commonwealth of Virginia alongside George Washington in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection, where each state is entitled to two statues," officials said in the release.

It was recently noted that Johns is a popular suggestion to be recognized alongside

Washington.

At the age of 16, Johns led more than 400 students on a strike April 23, 1951, peacefully protesting the unequal treatment of African American students as illustrated then by the poor facilities at Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville.

Her stand helped birth the civil rights movement, leading to the desegregation of public schools in the U.S.

Farmville Mayor David Whitus spoke to the impact it would have on the town if



Barbara Rose Johns

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Our students are back



GREGORY WARNER



CASEY VANDEGRIFT

Hampden-Sydney College rising freshman Elijah Warner, a Fuqua School graduate, moves into his new residence.

Longwood University student Ashley Roberts moved into her room last week.

Lancers return socially distanced

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT
The Farmville Herald

LONGWOOD

Over five days last week, Longwood University welcomed just more than 5,000 undergraduate students to campus, but things will look different for the Lancers this new term.

On Wednesday, Aug. 19, the Farmville Town Council passed an ordinance limiting the size of social gatherings to 50 and setting rules requiring face coverings in public places. The university itself is requiring students to wear a face covering while on campus and in class-

rooms. Fines may be imposed up to \$300 for violations of the ordinance.

"Students that have returned to campus are doing a stellar job of wearing appropriate face coverings and maintaining social distances," Dean of Students Jennifer Fraley said.

Tammy Jones Manning dropped off her son Hunter, who is an incoming freshman. "Longwood did a great job, hats off," she said. "I never saw anyone upset or distraught, which says a lot for the university,

parents, and students. I thought it was going to be chaotic, but it was not, which makes me feel that Longwood was a great choice."

For Kim Brickhouse, whose son, Corbin, is a senior, sending her child back to campus during a pandemic was extremely stressful for her family.

"We were not sure what to do or what our options were other than to sit out the semester or maybe even the year," Brickhouse said. "I am grateful that the university offered a

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Area cases on downward trend

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

Piedmont Health District Director Dr. H. Robert Nash has said 30% of the district's positive coronavirus cases over the last two weeks were from patients under 19-years-old.

Sunday, Aug. 23, Nash gave some updates as to how the health district

is looking in terms of COVID-19 figures. He said the seven-county district saw 66 new cases since last week, and advised the Piedmont District is not currently seeing a "surge" in cases.

"However, schools and colleges and universities are just starting back up,"

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Parent says virtual learning is a flop

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

PRINCE EDWARD

Virtual learning has no doubt been a complicated process for families across the area, but parents of foster children in Prince Edward are concerned the school's remote learning system is leaving their young students behind.

Doug Spencer and his wife moved to Prince Edward County from Maui four years ago. They left Hawaii in order to serve God and better the lives of

foster children in the area, eventually opening up the C3 nonprofit Aloha House of Hope.

Spencer and his wife are foster parents to three children in the Prince Edward County Public Schools (PECPS) system. The couple educated their biological children through a fully accredited online academy for years, and do the same with

See **VIRTUAL**, Page A5

Seeing through a different lens

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

The 27 citizens who came before the Farmville Town Council during a Wednesday, Aug. 19, public hearing offered thoughts on the town's Confederate Heroes statue from a variety of backgrounds.

One of the most unique perspectives was offered by Longwood University Men's Basketball Head Coach Griff Aldrich. He did not come representing the university but rather himself as a concerned citizen who lives and works on High Street, a coach of African American players and a father of adopted African American children.

The Confederate soldier statue,

formerly located at the intersection of High and Randolph streets, was hastily removed from atop its pedestal the night of June 18 after the council voted to remove it. The large pedestal with the words "Confederate Heroes" on it remains at the intersection for now.

The Aug. 19 meeting was a public hearing, held to discuss the future of the statue as required by a state law allowing local municipalities to remove or recontextualize Confederate statues in their boundaries.

All speakers were given a time limit, and Aldrich opened his comments by thanking the council for its decision to remove the statue.

He shared his history with the Town of Farmville, having attended Hampden-Sydney College, returning to help coach basketball there before moving away again for a period of time and returning in 2018 to become the head coach at Longwood.

"What I've found in Farmville is a very welcoming community, a community that values peace and reconciliation," he said.

He did note, however, that it is a community steeped in racial challenges, difficulties and offenses.

"To me, this statue is, as has been mentioned (by other speakers), another symbol that is offensive to a significant portion of our

See **LENS**, Page A7



Griff Aldrich, head coach of Longwood's men's basketball team, said he and his wife felt called to adopt their children. Pictured are, from left, Griff, Ford, Julie, Laura Lee and Scott Aldrich.



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Tone is set for an unusual year

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

HAMPDEN SYDNEY

Students moving into their accommodations at Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC) was a routine sight this past week, but that process was — and day-to-day life in the school year ahead will be — infused with the unusual due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

H-SC Director of Communications & Marketing Gordon Neal said given the uncertainty amidst the pandemic, students were encouraged to cut back on the items that they would typically bring with them during a normal semester.

He noted they were also given a checklist of both required and recommended items to bring with them this year, including necessary supplies for daily symptom checking, personal health, personal wellness and even a camping

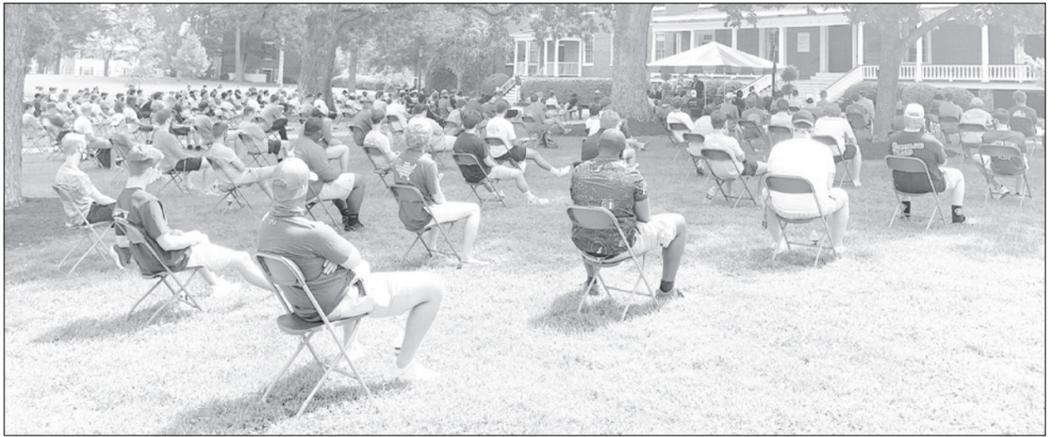
chair for outdoor classroom opportunities.

Neal stated that Resident Assistants (RAs) are some of the most important leaders on campus and will have key responsibilities in helping students navigate college life during the pandemic. Information sharing will be critical to their roles in the residence halls.

“Given the challenges we are all facing, RAs will be adhering to the rules and regulations set by the college and the commonwealth regarding health and safety practices,” Neal said.

He added that when feasible, RAs will find opportunities to meet in person with their residents in settings where social distancing and other health and safety measures can be assured.

“RAs have gone through extensive train-



HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

Aspects of the move-in process for Hampden-Sydney College students this past week were different due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, including the new student orientation ceremony. Students, equipped with masks, sit in chairs spaced out to allow social distancing during the ceremony Thursday, Aug. 20, on the lawn at Venable Hall.

ing on the current health and safety guidance, and administrative staff will be continuing to work closely with RAs in many ways, including the facilitation of hall meetings,” Neal said. “For a variety of reasons, there is great value in face-to-face interactions in residence life, and we will continue to help facilitate these

relationships in a manner consistent with our precautions.”

He also highlighted how RAs’ responsibilities include enforcement of pandemic-related rules and leadership beyond that.

“RAs play an important role in modeling appropriate behavior and setting an example

for their peers by ensuring that they themselves and their residents are following the expectations required of all students, including the health and safety protocols set by the college and by the commonwealth,” he stated. “However, their leadership does not stop simply at rule enforcement.

“Our students, including RAs, all share the responsibility of inspirational leadership: inspiring others to do what is necessary for the health and well-being of our entire community. This has always been the standard for the men of Hampden-Sydney, but it is even more apparent today.”

LANCERS: ‘I am heartened by what I have seen so far’

FROM PAGE ONE

way families could express their concerns and that we were able to work out a way for my child to take his classes virtually.”

For returning Longwood students Carrie Bailey and Ashley Roberts, they say this year’s move-in was differently different, and they both decided to bring less with them because of

the uncertainties, but are hopeful classes will remain in-person.

“I am praying that LU will stay with in-person classes,” Bailey said.

“Since I am a senior at Longwood, I am aware that my time is limited, and I am worried that my time might be cut. I just hope Longwood students and faculty all do their part to ensure the health and safety of those on campus as well

as their families and the Farmville community.”

Bailey said the pandemic affected her last semester as well.

“Having to leave Longwood in the spring abruptly was a drastic change. I am a strong believer in schedules and planning,” she said. “It is challenging for me with the constant uncertainties about my future here in Farmville.”

For Roberts, she is

afraid that all classes will eventually move to online due to the rise in COVID-19 cases around the state, but she is happy to see that Longwood has put safety measures in place for students and staff.

“There are signs and hand sanitizer stations that remind everyone to stay six feet apart and constantly wash their hands,” Roberts said.

Roberts said that on

move-in day, the normally crowded elevators were a thing of the past. “there are signs that say only four people are allowed in order to comply with social distancing.”

In an email to students, University President W. Taylor Reveley said the 2020-21 academic year would be a unique one and a true lesson in citizen-leadership for all and a reminder that we are all connected and

must be accountable to one another.

“As other institutions have seen, even one careless gathering could not just impact our own health but the course of the semester for all,” Reveley said, “I believe deeply in you all and your capacity to lead by example, and I am heartened by what I have seen so far these first few days with students returning.”

LENS: ‘I have not experienced with our children overt racist issues’

FROM PAGE ONE

community,” he said.

“I particularly had a problem with the statue because it’s not directed to any individual person. Secondly, it references heroism. That necessarily means that’s celebrating the cause for which the Confederate soldiers fought.”

He said any serious- or fair-minded people would understand that slavery, at a minimum, if not the main reason for the Civil War was a central contributing part of it.

He repeated that as such, the town is offending a significant portion of the community, and that this does not seem appropriate, or just or a unifying course of action for any community to continue with.

Then Aldrich focused on how this issue has become personal for him.

“I have three children — (ages) 9, 8 and 5,” he said. “They’re all adopted. They’re all African American. I have to walk these children to my

office, which is directly across from that statue.”

Then he addressed the council members directly.

“I would ask you, if your children were African American and you had to explain to them why it is a hero that fought for segregation and for slavery, how you would handle that,” he said.

In a Sunday, Aug. 23, interview, Aldrich shared some additional thoughts on behalf of himself.

“To be honest, I think that the reality is my perspective on race issues has dramatically changed since I’ve had children,” he said.

Being a bridge between communities, he stated, is something he and his wife feel called to, allowing them to advocate in certain ways because they have a different experience.

Though racial issues can be politicized at times, Aldrich made it clear the family decisions he and his wife have made have had

nothing to do with politics.

“We adopted our kids because we felt called to, not for any political statement,” he said.

Racial issues have become more personal to him now that they pertain to his children, he stated, but he has also engaged with them as a basketball coach of almost exclusively minority or African American players throughout his career.

“My players are very near and dear to me,” he said. “And we’ve had quite a few conversations as a group and individually with the players about their experiences in recent events and also their experiences as being a student-athlete and a student in Farmville and at Longwood. And being confronted with that has really opened my eyes.”

He said it certainly has caused him to want to use any platform he has as a parent or as a coach to advocate on behalf of his children and players. “I also think that it’s

not lost on me that I’m a white male who will probably be seen differently, and I understand the perspectives of probably a lot of similarly situated individuals, but I have been blessed to have a different experience,” he said. “And it’s been a very rich experience to have African American children, but it’s absolutely transformed my perspective and really allowed me to see things through a different lens.”

As a basketball coach, Aldrich said the topic of the statue on High Street has come up with recruits, alumni and staff members.

“I had freshmen parents of a player who came to drop their son off this weekend, and due to COVID, they had not had an opportunity to come on campus yet,” he said. “And we walked them around, and they stayed at the (Hotel Weyanoke), and he’s an

African American player, and they saw the statue, and we had a very open discussion about it.”

Aldrich emphasized how the statue is incongruous with his experience of Farmville.

“I have not experienced with our children overt racist issues during our short time here, and to me, that statue reflects a message that I don’t think is consistent with who we are as a community,” he said.

He also highlighted something he might have said if he had been allowed more time during

the public hearing.

“People say we need to remember,” he said. “There is not a lack of tributes to (the) Civil War in this area and in this community. And so the argument that we need another place to remember the Civil War and Confederates fighting, we’ve got Sailor’s Creek, we’ve got High Bridge, we’ve got the Confederate (Cemetery). There’s plenty of places where we can remember history, and the Confederate statue, to me, is a celebration, which, to me, is inappropriate, celebrating those causes.”

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Farmville Herald

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

Friday, October 30, 2020

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Living in a food desert

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

Many are aware that Cumberland County is considered a food desert in which residents have very limited access to healthy or affordable food.

And while the installation of a greatly needed grocery store may remove Cumberland from the list of food deserts in the United States, it could take much more to solve the greater problems of food accessibility and affordability.

Jennifer Sullivan, a Cartersville resident, said she's had food insecurity on her mind ever since she held

CUMBERLAND

a seat on the Cumberland County School Board in the late 1990s, witnessing firsthand the relationship between hunger and poor test scores.

Although back then there was still no significant supermarket, Sullivan recalled there were some shops like Marion's Market where residents could purchase basic groceries.

"If I needed a cup of sugar or to go get some ground beef, I could go to town and grab it."

Although she is now retired, Sullivan last worked in real estate and

often attempted to sway developers and commercial clients into considering opening up a grocery store.

She even started her own Facebook group, "Cumberland County Needs a Grocery Store," that has garnered more than 1,000 members in the last several years. She attended several Board of Supervisors meetings to voice her thoughts to county officials.

Despite her efforts, clients were never interested in bringing a grocery store to the area. Sullivan said she was often told there was not

See **FOOD**, Page A8



REGINA CARAWAY | HERALD

A True Value Hardware store is now in the location of the former Marion's Market where Cumberland residents purchased basic groceries.

Police stop leads to pursuit

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

A stop for a traffic violation led to a pursuit by the police department Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 28, in downtown Farmville.

"We had an officer attempt to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation," Farmville Police Department (FPD) Chief Andy Ellington said. "The vehicle took off and crashed at the intersection of Osborn Road and (Route) 45 (North Main Street), crashed into another vehicle."

The fleeing vehicle had four occupants, Ellington said. Three jumped out and fled on foot, and one was arrested at the scene.

After a search between Northview Drive and Needham Street, police were able to find some of the fleeing suspects.

"We've got three in custody out of the four," Ellington said at 6:40 p.m.

He reported at 8:35 p.m. that the fourth suspect was taken into custody after being found walking down Plank Road near Raines Tavern in Cumberland County.

"The vehicle that was involved in the crash they were driving has been confirmed to be stolen out of Henrico County," he said.

In the early evening, Ellington reported there were no major injuries that he was aware of.

"One of the suspects was taken to (Centra) Southside (Community Hospital) just to be checked out," he said.



Nicholas Storment, left, rings the bell three times, signifying the end of his chemotherapy treatment at Centra Southside Community Hospital this year. He is celebrating in this photo with his wife, Kristin Storment, who has been his biggest supporter as he has successfully battled Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Storment successfully battles cancer

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

Nicholas Storment and his wife, Kristin, were visiting with family in the Farmville area toward the beginning of this year when he went to see a doctor to address a cough that would not go away.

"We were living in Oregon, and we were actually planning on moving overseas, so we were coming home to visit with family, and then I found out I

had cancer," he said. "So we are kind of here now."

The cancer was identified as Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Born and raised in Gresham, Oregon, just outside of Portland, the 32-year-old Storment was a long way from home as he battled cancer this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

But together with support in

See **STORMENT**, Page A3

Stanley addresses his past

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

It has been a challenging year for incoming Prince Edward County Administrator Douglas Stanley, but he has confidence in a positive conclusion to 2020 and a bright future in Prince Edward.

In a Tuesday, Oct. 27, interview, Stanley addressed the future and both successes and pitfalls of his past.

"Without doubt, it's been probably the most difficult and challenging year of my career," he said.

Stanley was formerly the county administrator in Warren County. Along with that county's Board of Supervisors, the county attorney, the county schools superintendent and the Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority (EDA) board, Stanley was charged by a special grand jury in September 2019 with two counts of misfeasance and one count of nonfeasance due to lack of oversight of the Front Royal-Warren County EDA.



Douglas Stanley

PRINCE EDWARD

See **STANLEY**, Page A5

Mom says return to school is critical for her kids

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

A Prince Edward County mother is hoping the local school system will elect to send children back to in-person classes in the near future, fearing the safety of virtual learning is outweighed by the effects it is having on children, particularly students with special needs.

Emma Webb is a working

mother with nine children, six of whom are currently at home and enrolled in Prince Edward County Public Schools. She's got kids in elementary, middle and high school.

Webb's family is no stranger to COVID-19. In fact, it was affected firsthand by the virus in the spring. During the last school year, several members of the family, including some children, contracted

PRINCE EDWARD

COVID-19. The family was quarantined for four to six weeks and one family member was hospitalized. Some of the family members still have lasting symptoms, such as rashes, chronic fatigue and severe bruising, she said.

Webb initially was a supporter of a more virtual-oriented approach to the 2020-2021 school year, but her opinion

has changed.

While most of her kids were honor roll students in the pre-pandemic world, the majority of her children are now borderline failing, especially her young elementary-school age son, who was recently diagnosed with dyslexia.

Webb explained that virtual learning did happen to some degree last semester as schools all over the country tackled the issue of how to

wrap up the semester in the midst of a pandemic. However, the impromptu end-of-the-year grading system involved much more paperwork than online work, and students were able to pass primarily just by participating and turning in packets.

Now, her children work online weekdays from approximately 8:20 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

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STANLEY: 'For me it's about making the community better'

FROM PAGE ONE

He said an auditor confirmed corruption within the EDA, and the alleged embezzlement has been reported to have totaled more than \$21 million.

The charges against Stanley were later dismissed, and he assisted with the efforts to recover the lost funds.

After Stanley served Warren County for more than 25 years, including more than 20 years as its administrator, the county's five-member Board of Supervisors, which had three new members at the time, opted not to renew his contract in March 2020, giving him three months to begin looking for other opportunities.

Stanley noted he applied for the Lynchburg city manager job around May and was appointed to that position Aug. 11.

Around that same time, word began to spread on social media of inappropriate emails Stanley had allegedly sent while administrator in Warren. For one of the emails, dated 2016, no evidence was found that it was ever sent or received, pointing to the possibility that it was fabricated.

At least one of the emails was real and something Stanley had addressed and apologized for in 2019.

"In 2014, I sent an email that was intended — emphasis on the word intended — to be a funny reference to a movie line but included some insensitive and vulgar language," he said. "I realize I went entirely too far with, again, what was intended to be a joke. And even though the recipient acknowledged it was a joke, it was inappropriate for me to send it in the first place."

"I think we all have things we wish we could undo at the end of the day, and that's one of mine," he said.

He noted that when the email became public in May of 2019, he acted on his own to address it. The Board of Supervisors chair did not ask for it, but in a board meeting, he gave a public apology to the board, his staff and the community for having written the email.

"I think they understood and I think the papers in Front Royal understood that the release of the (email) excerpt — because it wasn't the full piece of the email which gave it more context — was made to disparage me and my reputation in the community," he said. "And the fact is that the person ultimately responsible for that is the same person responsible for the \$21 million embezzlement scheme with the EDA."

Stanley said Lynchburg and its background headhunter firm had not identified the information about the emails.

"For me, at my standpoint, they always ask about negative press and what's going on in the community," he said, referring to questions asked during the vetting process before a hire. "And this wasn't in the press, it was more social media driven. I had not brought it up. It came up, obviously, after my appointment."

He ultimately chose to submit his resignation from the Lynchburg position Aug. 21, shortly before he was set to

begin his duties as city manager Sept. 1.

"I think after discussing with them the way things went down, it was the best decision for me and for Lynchburg to step back and step away from that," he said. "It was disappointing on a personal level, obviously, because I thought this was a great opportunity for me and my family and a place, again, I could make a difference and strong community, strong economic development opportunities. But it didn't work out. And I'll say that God has a plan for us all, and maybe, hopefully, it looks like Prince Edward is that plan for me and my family."

He indicated he feels confident the old email controversy will not represent the same issue in Prince Edward County because this time the subject was investigated and addressed during the hiring process.

"I will say this that I have been very up front with the leadership of Prince Edward, and they have been appreciative of the fact that I have been up front with that information, and I think they believe in, 'Hey, we all make mistakes, and people deserve second chances,' so to speak," he said. "We all have things that we wish we could take back, and sometimes I try to have a sense of humor, sometimes it fails, obviously in this case, and it was inappropriate."

"But we also learn lessons, and moving forward, the big thing is we don't make those mistakes again," he added. "So, I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve the citizens of Prince Edward. I'm excited about the opportunities that it brings."

According to the contract Stanley signed with Prince Edward County, he will receive an annual base salary of \$137,500 during the first year of the agreement. If he receives successful annual performance reviews in 2021, 2022 and 2023, he will be paid an increase each year of \$2,500, moving the salary totals to \$140,000, \$142,500 and \$145,000, respectively.

Also, the contract states that at the end of the third successful annual performance review in a row, the county will pay Stanley a one-time bonus of \$30,000, to be paid on or about Nov. 15, 2023.

Wade Bartlett, Prince Edward's previous county administrator, signed

his last regular contract with the county Feb. 8, 2017. He signed a brief extension this past May.

According to the last regular contract, he received an annual base salary of \$136,840 for the first year of the agreement. He would only receive an annual increase in salary equal to the percentage increase approved by the Board of Supervisors for all county employees. When Bartlett left his position this past September, he was earning the equivalent of \$143,764 annually.

Stanley also gave his perspective on the Front Royal-Warren County EDA embezzlement scheme and his later involuntary resignation.

He stated that the special grand jury making indictments was asserting somehow that he and his Board of Supervisors had authority over the EDA and its executive director.

"The circuit court threw out those charges in October of 2019 when the judge ruled that misfeasance and non-feasance weren't technically laws that could be broken," he said. "But he also accepted the argument that as county administrator, I had no duty to supervise the executive director."

"In fact, it was my actions to recommend the EDA chair contact their auditor to review the EDA's books and then my actions to get the EDA board and my board to hire an outside auditor that eventually led to the uncovering of the corruption of the EDA."

He explained what was also happening leading up to the board's decision not to renew his contract.

"It's been a tough year," he said. "The town is getting a new town manager, the superintendent retired, the clerk of court got appointed to a judgeship, circuit court judge got appointed to the Virginia Circuit Court of Appeals, our treasurer retired. I was kind of (the) last man standing, so to speak."

He said the Warren County Board of Supervisors has staggered terms, and three members were up for reelection.

"Two decided to retire, and the third lost his seat," he said. "So we had three out of five new board members come in. And I get it, that happens. Folks want to see change, they want to see some new folks come in."

He said the board did not give more specificity

as to why it was letting him go.

"Unfortunately it comes with the territory," he said. "It, I think, comes with the job. I will say there were two members of the board that wanted to keep me, so it was a 3-2 split."

His contract ran out in June, and the board let him continue about a week into July before ultimately accepting his resignation.

"As an individual, you hate — having given 25 years to a community — to have to leave, but when you look at the fact that out of 95 counties in Virginia, I was in the top probably three or four in tenure, the average lifespan is a lot less than 20 years in one seat," he said.

But he mentioned being grateful for having such an extended opportunity to have a significant impact in a community.

"I'm 51 years old," he said. "I think that I have the ability and the life left to go and do that in another community, and I think Prince Edward offers that opportunity to make a difference."

He shared a few of the successes that he was a part of while in Warren County, particularly as they relate to economic development. He first served as zoning administrator and planning director before becoming county administrator in 2000.

"In 1989, we lost our largest employer in Avtex Fibers," he said. "I came in about 1994, so about five years after that closed. And we've worked really hard to replace the tax base that we lost and replace the jobs that we lost."

It's hard to believe, but Avtex, at one point in time, paid over half of all the real estate taxes for the entire county — one business."

He said the county has also been able to bring in a substantial amount of commercial development.

"Everybody used to go shopping in Winchester, 30 minutes away, and we would spend all our tax money over there and help them build schools," he said. "And over the last 15 years, we've been able to bring in Walmart, a Target, a Lowe's and a number of restaurants and things have been able to help us improve schools in our community. That's been a big effort, but we've been very successful ... So when I walk away from Warren

County, I'm proud that we've been able to make significant investment."

As Prince Edward attempts to draw a data center to the area, Stanley indicated his past experience will allow him to be helpful in that effort.

"I have experience in working, promoting a community for (information technology) IT and data center types of uses," he said. "You can imagine, (with) Warren County, which sits just outside the northern Virginia metroplex of Loudoun County, where half the internet in the world is located, we do have quite a bit of acreage that we have begun over the last few years to try to market for IT."

He said he looks forward to being able to market the Prince Edward community.

"I think one of the things that hopefully made me stand out as a candidate for the position was my background in economic develop-

ment," he said. "We were able to bring in over 2,000 jobs into the Route 340-522 corridor and bring in over \$250 million in investment during about a 15-, 20-year stretch. And then we were able to bring in the Dominion power plant, which was over a \$1 billion investment — that's a project that I worked on for over 15 years."

In addition to his Warren County government work, Stanley said he was president of the area Rotary Club for his entire tenure, he is president of an educational endowment, raising money for public education, he was involved in a local arts council and he coached youth soccer.

He noted this involvement reveals the philosophy with which he approaches the county administrator position.

"For me it's about making the community better — that means not just doing your job but getting involved in the community," he said.

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The Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Friday, April 17, 2020

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Bartlett out as administrator

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors emerged from a closed session Tuesday night, April 14, and voted 5-3 to not renew County Administrator Wade Bartlett's contract.

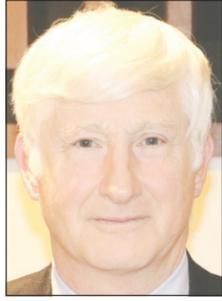
"This was not due to cause," Board Chairman Jerry R. Townsend said of the decision in a Wednesday, April 15, press release. "The majority of the board believes that at this time, the county will benefit from a change in direction with new leadership."

It is unclear if Bartlett

remains in his role as county administrator through the end of his contract June 30, or not. One supervisor said Bartlett was asked to surrender his keys after the meeting.

Those voting "yes" to not renew Bartlett's contract included Farmville 801 District Supervisor Pattie Cooper-Jones, Prospect District Supervisor and Board Vice Chairman J. David Emert, Hampden District Supervisor Dr. Odessa Pride, Leigh District Supervisor Townsend and Farmville 701 District Supervisor Jim Wilck.

Those voting "no" included Farmville 101 District Supervi-



Wade Bartlett

PRINCE EDWARD

sor Beverly M. Booth, Buffalo District Supervisor Llew Gilliam Jr. and Lockett District

Supervisor Robert M. "Bobby" Jones.

All the supervisors, except for Wilck, were physically at the county administration building. Wilck participated in the meeting by phone.

"I respect the decision made by the Board of Supervisors," Bartlett said Wednesday afternoon via a text message. "In the almost 13 years I have served as the county administrator, I have dedicated myself to the position and have served faithfully because I care about the county and its citizens."

After pointing out the difficulty of managing the county

through the Great Recession and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars through different initiatives, Bartlett thanked the board for his time as county administrator.

"I trust the Board of Supervisors will continue to move forward in a positive way that will serve the citizens well through these uncertain times," he stated. "I look forward to what lies ahead of me in my career of public service. I want to thank the citizens and the Board of Supervisors for allowing me to serve the county for the last 13 years."

See **ADMINISTRATOR**, Page A5

Social distancing order extended until May 8

BY ROGER WATSON
The Farmville Herald

Gov. Ralph Northam extended Executive Order 53, which closes restaurant dining rooms and other non-essential businesses while restricting crowd sizes to less than 10 and mandating everyone remain six feet apart, until Friday, May 8.

The order was set to expire Thursday, April 23, but with the Stay-at-Home Order in place until June 10, the extension of the order was a forgone conclusion.

"When people say, 'It's time

to stop what we are doing and get back to normal,' They are wrong," Northam said. "If we let off the brakes and try to go back to the way things were, we will see another spike in cases that could overwhelm our hospitals."

Northam said he understands the weeks of massive societal change are taking a toll on Virginia's citizens.

"I know this has been a frustrating time for all of us," Northam said. "People are out of work. Businesses are closed. Our entire sense of

See **DISTANCING**, Page A2



Traquan Gregory, an EMT from Buckingham County, poses next to a camper loaned to him by Sherry and Walter Klauer. The relationship is the product of the Facebook group RVs 4 MDs, which helps connect health care workers with mobile homes to use in order to keep the coronavirus away from their families.

RV makes strangers family

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

A Facebook page created to connect health care professionals with those willing to loan RVs as temporary living spaces has sparked a new friendship between a Buckingham EMT worker

and a Richmond family.

For many health care workers on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19, bringing the virus home to their families is a constant worry.

The Facebook group RVs 4

MDs, created March 24, aims to diminish those concerns. Since its creation, the page has helped hundreds of nurses, doctors and other health workers find a place to safely rest their heads after a long shift.

See **RV**, Page A3

Recycling issues arise for STEPS

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT
The Farmville Herald

With the halt of recycling and secure document shredding operations from STEPS Inc. in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two of the company's largest customers are now faced with recyclables having nowhere to go.

According to STEPS President and CEO Sharon Harrup, the STEPS recycling center will not reopen until the pandemic has passed.

STEPS currently employs 13 individuals with disabilities in its recycling and document shredding operation. Those employees have been furloughed.

"All the employees with disabilities depend on our van or public transportation to get to/from work, and we could not meet the social distancing



Sharon Harrup

requirement on any transportation option," Harrup said. "And honestly, not knowing how long the virus truly does live on products, it was simply not worth the risk of our employees' health."

Harrup said when the decision was made to close the recycling operation that

See **STEPS**, Page A2

Board to consider tax increase

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

CUMBERLAND

The Cumberland County Board of Supervisors is preparing to vote on the county's real estate tax and Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget Tuesday, April 28. The tax rate is expected to

be between 70 and 77 cents per \$100 valuation, meaning county taxpayers will likely pay more in property taxes in the coming year.

County Administrator Don Unmussig gave a presentation to the board during its

regular monthly meeting held via an online Zoom conference Tuesday, April 14.

In his presentation, Unmussig noted the FY2021 budget expenditure requests submitted by all county departments totaled \$16,643,812.

See **INCREASE**, Page A8

10% rate bump on the table

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The Buckingham Board of Supervisors will convene Monday, April 20, at 6 p.m. to consider final adoption of the county's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget and tax rates. After a 10% increase in its real property reassessment,

the county is proposing to set the rate to 55 cents per \$100 of real assessed value for the coming year, a 10% effective rate increase over FY2020.

County Administrator Rebecca Carter gave a presentation to the board at its reg-

ular monthly meeting held Monday, April 13, regarding the budget and the real property tax reassessment. Only one person submitted a public comment during Monday's public hearing.

The meeting was livestreamed on YouTube

See **RATE**, Page A8



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OBITUARIES	A3	CLASSIFIEDS	A6	LIFE	C1	A AND B SECTIONS
OPINION	A4	PUZZLES	A6	THE WORD	C6	COMBINED

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ADMINISTRATOR: 'I'm very upset with some of my fellow board members'

FROM PAGE ONE

Jones said some people did not vote the way he anticipated, but said what took place after the meeting was the most surprising event of the evening.

"The real thing that shocked me is that our chair (Townsend) and vice chair (Emert), after our meeting was adjourned, they took it upon themselves to meet with Mr. Bartlett in private and took his keys away and put him on suspension from work, and there was no board vote to do so," Jones said.

Jones considered an alternate way things could have been handled.

"Obviously, if we probably called another meeting back and they called for a vote to suspend him, I guess they would probably vote along the same lines they did before, but I do think they way overstepped their rights to do so without a board vote," he said. "If they will carry on business like that in our county, we don't need to have board meetings. We just let the chair and vice chair make all the decisions for us, and that has really upset me."

In a call placed to the county administrator's office Wednesday afternoon, a county employee who answered the phone said Bartlett was out of the office.

Townsend would not say if Bartlett remains active in his role as county administrator, or if his duties have been suspended.

"The press release is pretty much, at this point in time, all I can reveal," he said.

Jones said he called both the chair and vice chair and asked what is going to happen.

"We've got a lot of business going on," Jones said. "We've got the coronavirus problem. We don't have a county planner, and Wade has taken on things, like we're running the landfill, the county is (running the landfill) itself now, and not hiring somebody to do it, saving us lots and lots of money."

"We have nobody else qualified to do that," Jones said. "He's been doing that, so if somebody wants to come in and build a home now and a site has to have the proper permitting for the stormwater management, we don't have anybody to do it."

Jones said he spoke to both the chair and vice chair, and he said they do not have a plan.

"They don't know," he said. "And in the serious situation we have right now in our nation and in our world, our county definitely needs some leadership. Of course, we have good people that work under Wade, but they're overloaded with work already. They can't take on all the workload he's doing."

Jones said a supervisor who voted "yes" to not renewing Bartlett's contract noted the county would have to hire two people to do what he does.

"I don't think two people would cover what he does," Jones said. "It'd take three. The man works weekends, he works late hours — he's a workaholic, there's no doubt about it. And he's done tons of good for our county, just unbelievable. And right now, to find somebody that would come to this county and take his position, first of all with all the goings on with coronavirus, would be a tough task. And on top of that, I think if anybody did their homework and found out how he was treated, I think they would mark Prince Edward County off their list of a place to want to start a career."

Wilck said he didn't expect the decision on Bartlett to come so quickly.

"It was going to come up to a vote, and I think I had indicated that with all the coronavirus and stuff going around that maybe we just put an extension of a few months on it or something like that to get through this stuff before we have the vote on it," he said. "But Wade really kind of pushed it and said he'd like to know. So that's basically what happened."

Wilck praised Bartlett for his response to the board's decision.

"Wade offered to make sure that, of course, it was a smooth transition of power and whatnot to the new person we might bring in," Wilck said. "And also if it took a little bit longer to get somebody trained or something like that, he'd be happy to stay on an extra month or two beyond when his contract was, all of which I thought was pretty nice, particularly in these times with the virus and the situation where there's a lot of unknown(s) out there."

Jones said he knows there are some board members who are not satisfied with Bartlett.

"They all compliment the work he does, but some of them have issues with other things," he said. "One, I believe, has issues with the fact that Wade has enforced some violations of ordinances on him, and he seems to blame Wade for that, where he is in violation of these ordinances, and he hasn't done anything to correct them."

Emert has dealt with legal complaints in the past with regard to the maintenance and appearance of some of his property and the lack of containment of livestock. According to online court records, in some cases he was found not guilty or the case was dismissed, and in others he was found guilty and paid a fine. Two cases involving charges of zoning ordinance noncompliance, for which Bartlett is listed as the complainant, have been continued to May 6.

Jones said everybody is always very complimentary of the budgets that Bartlett prepares, which Jones noted are very well-thought out and well-prepared.

"I'm very upset with some of my fellow board members," Jones said. "Mr. Bartlett, some of them claim that he's wasted money for the county. The only money he can spend is what the board votes on."

Cooper-Jones and Pride said they had no comment on the board's action regarding Bartlett's contract.

Booth and Emert did not return calls by 5 p.m. Wednesday to their phone numbers listed on the county website.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

COUNTY AND SCHOOL BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2020 COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD, VIRGINIA



The Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward will hold a public hearing on **TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Board of Supervisors Room, Prince Edward County Courthouse, 111 South Street, 3rd Floor, Farmville, Virginia, on the proposed **FY21 County Budget, FY21 School Budget and 2020 Tax Levies.** The details of the proposed budget may be examined in the Prince Edward County Administrator's Office, 111 South Street, 3rd Floor, Farmville, Virginia. Information is also available on the County web site: www.co.prince-edward.va.us.

The following synopsis of the proposed consolidated FY21 County and School Budget is prepared and published for information and fiscal planning purposes only. The inclusion in the proposed budget of any item(s) does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors to appropriate any funds for that purpose. There is no allocation or designation of any funds of the County for any purpose until there has first been an appropriation for that purpose by the Board of Supervisors.

- GENERAL FUND -

ANTICIPATED REVENUES:

Revenue from Local Sources:	
General Property Taxes	\$14,082,748
Other Local Taxes	\$3,930,240
Permits and Licenses	\$60,256
Fines and Forfeitures	\$173,000
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	\$505,943
Charges for Services	\$86,021
Miscellaneous Income	\$33,100
Recovered Costs	\$130,778
Revenue from the Commonwealth	\$4,480,485
Revenue from Federal Government	\$36,758
Revenue from Fund Balance	\$320,285
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$23,839,614

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Board of Supervisors	\$134,628
General/Financial Administration	\$1,496,741
Board of Elections/Registrar	\$201,169
Judicial Administration	\$1,825,713
Public Safety	\$4,928,284
Public Works	\$1,886,634
Health & Welfare	\$1,931,221
Education	\$8,977,315
Parks/Recreation/Culture	\$341,730
Community Development	\$645,073
General Expense	\$177,744
Capital Projects	\$94,800
Debt Service	\$1,198,562
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$23,839,614

- SCHOOL FUND -

ANTICIPATED REVENUES:

Other Sources	\$287,344
Revenue from the Commonwealth	\$15,690,038
Revenue from the Federal Government	\$1,904,911
Transfer from County General Fund	\$8,970,706
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$26,852,999

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Instruction	\$19,615,613
Administration, Health, Attendance	\$1,646,801
Pupil Transportation	\$1,846,138
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,762,329
Facilities	\$150,000
Technology	\$1,225,361
Debt Service	\$606,757
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$26,852,999

- SCHOOL CAFETERIA FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$1,481,347
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$1,481,347

- SOCIAL SERVICES FUND -

ANTICIPATED REVENUES:

Revenue from the Commonwealth	\$1,031,137
Revenue from the Federal Government	\$1,758,363
Transfer from County General Fund	\$481,551
Recovered Cost	\$5,000
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$3,276,051
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$3,276,051

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$23,368
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$23,368

- WATER FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$298,259
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$298,259

- SEWER FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$116,953
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$116,953

- LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION FUND -

ANTICIPATED REVENUES:

Interest	\$13,000
Landfill Charges	\$275,000
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$288,000

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Transfer to Landfill Construction Fund Balance	\$288,000
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$288,000

- SOLID WASTE FUND -

ANTICIPATED REVENUES:

Landfill Charges	\$608,000
Recycling Fees	\$15,000
Transfer from General Fund	\$735,272
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$1,358,272

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Collections	\$573,546
Landfill	\$784,726
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$1,358,272

- GRANITE FALLS CDA FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$1,600
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$1,600

- HEALTH INSURANCE FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$1,029,197
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$1,029,197

- POPLAR HILL CDA FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$74,004
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$74,004

- EMS DISTRICT FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$300,000
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$300,000

- FORFEITED ASSETS FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$0
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$0

- RETIREE BENEFITS FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$14,290
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$14,290

- PIEDMONT COURT SERVICES FUND -

Total Anticipated Revenues	\$562,330
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$562,330

TOTAL COUNTY OPERATIONS FOR FY21 \$59,516,284

It is the County's intent to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you require special accommodations, please contact W.W. Bartlett, County Administrator, at 434-392-8837, by April 24, 2020.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
W.W. Bartlett, County Administrator**

NOTE: This Proposed Budget is contingent upon receipt of all federal, state & local funding.

PROPOSED TAX RATES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, Virginia, proposes the following tax levies for the tax year 2020:

Unit Levy—All Districts— Per \$100 Assessed Valuation

Levy	2019 Actual Levy	2020 Proposed Levy
Real Estate	\$0.51	\$0.51
Tangible Personal Property – Motor Vehicles	\$4.50	\$4.50
Tangible Personal Property – Business Furniture & Fixtures	\$4.50	\$4.50
Tangible Personal Property – Heavy Equipment	\$4.50	\$4.50
Machinery & Tools	\$4.20	\$4.20
Merchant's Capital	\$0.70	\$0.70
EMS Levy-Real Estate	\$0.01	\$0.01
EMS Levy-Tangible Personal Property – Motor Vehicles	\$0.10	\$0.10
EMS Levy-Tangible Personal Property – Business Furniture & Fixtures	\$0.10	\$0.10
EMS Levy-Tangible Personal Property – Heavy Equipment	\$0.10	\$0.10

Additional Special Levy—Poplar Hill CDA District Only—Per \$100 Assessed Valuation

Levy	2019 Actual Levy	2020 Proposed Levy
Poplar Hill CDA Real Estate Special Levy	\$1.00	\$1.00