

R-H feels like home for Conner

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

Ray Conner is living his dream as he takes on the role of Randolph-Henry High School's head football coach.

"It's a dream come true for me to coach at the varsity level at this stage, and Randolph-Henry was probably my biggest choice," he said.

Randolph-Henry stood out to him

because it is a small school that, he noted, feels like home.

Conner is a 1991 graduate of Appomattox County High School, where he played football as a center, guard and defensive tackle.

It is within the Appomattox County school system that he spent 15 of his 16 years as a football coach.

He was the head coach of the Appomattox County Middle School football team

that had a close relationship with the high school program that has produced the Virginia High School League Class 2 state champion four out of the last five seasons.

"I actually had guys to leave middle school (and) go directly to varsity," he said.

He noted the Appomattox middle school squad enjoyed multiple 9-1 seasons under his leadership.

"We've had great suc-

cess there at the middle school," he said.

Conner also served as head coach of the Buckingham County High School junior varsity football team in 2017.

The coaching opportunity with the Statesmen will be his first time serving as a head coach at the varsity high school level. He confirmed he will also be serving as the team's defensive coordinator. He said he, of course, has general football



Ray Conner

knowledge across the board, but defense is his specialty.

"I take more pride in the defensive side of the ball," he said.

He noted his focus as Randolph-Henry's coach will be in making sure the Statesmen are playing as a team.

While more details on his approach will come in due time, he noted the Statesmen will run multiple formations, and he communicated optimism for the future.

"I really believe that this program could have great success," he said.

Jordan to play ball for Chowan

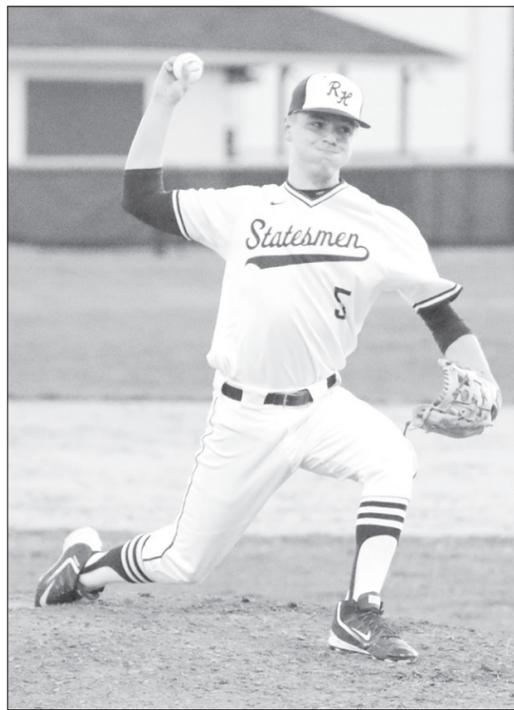


Photo by Titus Mohler

Randolph-Henry High School standout Colby Jordan will be aiding Chowan University with his abilities on the mound after signing to play for the Hawks.

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

Randolph-Henry High School senior baseball standout Colby Jordan will be taking his talents to Murfreesboro, North Carolina, to play for Chowan University.

"It's exciting," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

It was April 22 when Jordan signed with the NCAA Division II Chowan Hawks, who reached out to him after his junior season, his first on the Randolph-Henry varsity squad.

And for Tracy Jordan, witnessing her son sign on the dotted line was a special moment.

"It was amazing, because it's something that he's wanted to do for years," she said. "He's dreamed about

it, he's looked forward to it, he's worked really hard to get it with playing and practicing and putting in all of the time. It was just really exciting to be able to see him achieve what he'd been working for."

Jordan said playing college baseball has been a goal of his since he was 10 years old.

He grew up in Drakes Branch and has played Dixie Youth Baseball in the county and travel ball for RISE out of Richmond in addition to playing for Randolph-Henry.

His decision of where to go at the next level was between Chowan and Ferrum College. What made Chowan his choice was related to both educational structure and the baseball program.

"They had smaller class sizes and were

closer as a team," he said.

He looks to major in exercise science with a goal of doing something in the realm of physical therapy.

On the diamond, he expects to be a middle reliever during his freshman year.

Statesmen Head Coach Josh Barmoy played at Chowan, which he said gives him some inside information on the Hawks' program.

"Having a guy that can throw strikes and that's a reliable guy is somebody that they can use right away in various situations," Barmoy said.

He noted Jordan knows how to pitch and that while he is not going to light up the radar gun with his speed, he has never relied on just pure fastballs to perform well.

"He knows how to throw a curveball, his changeup, his fastball — he can throw them in any count and locate them extremely well," Barmoy said. "So he's a guy that has a lot of confidence, and as a coach, I have a lot of confidence in him to put him in, in any situation, because I know he's going to throw strikes. He's not going to walk a lot of people. He's going to be able to pound the strike zone and allow the defense to make some plays behind him and be very effective."

Jordan offered thanks to all of his coaches — but especially Barmoy — for helping him reach the college level. Barmoy coached Jordan at both the junior varsity and varsity levels at Randolph-Henry.

PSR receives federal aid to help older adults

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Piedmont Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging (PSR) has received more than \$730,000 in federal aid to help keep older adults across the seven-county area safe and secure.

The money was approved by the U.S. Congress through the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"This money is coming to us from the federal government because we are the designated Area Agency on Aging for the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Nottoway, Lunenburg and Prince Edward," Interim CEO Thomas Jordan Miles III said. "There is no local match with this money, unlike with our standard Older Americans Act funds where there is a required local 10% match."

The FFCRA funds are strictly for home meal delivery, per restrictions placed on the funds by the Congress, which means more frozen and hot meals for older adults ages 60 and over.

"Through the FFCRA, and part of the CARES Act, we are able to really ramp up our traditional frozen meal program, and begin the delivery of hot, nutritious meals from local restaurants in an effort to support these small businesses when they are suffering immense-

ly," Miles said.

Besides more home delivered meals, the CARES Act funding will result in a wide, temporary expansion of programs and services, including the home-maker/companion aid program, the purchasing of more personal protective equipment for clients, such as gloves and masks, the ability to complete more additional small, home projects, more services from the care coordination program, additional funds for check-in calls for isolated seniors,

money providing for emergency services, such as temporary housing, purchase of groceries and medicine for older adults, and additional resources for PSR's Long-Term Care Ombudsman to help those in nursing and rehabilitation facilities communicate with their loved ones during quarantine.

"These federal funds will not only help PSR meet its mission of advocating, advancing and achieving independence for the aging community, but help

keep our older adults in this community well as we operate under the tight grip of COVID-19," Miles said. "Our staff is willing and able to expand our services to more older adults. Though our offices are not open to the public, our staff members are working full time for the aging community using more innovation and novelty now more than ever."

For more information on PSR's programming and services, call 1-(434) 767-5588 or email psr@psraaa.org.

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Gazette wins VPA award

By Roger Watson
The Charlotte Gazette

The Charlotte Gazette was honored with

a second-place award in the annual Virginia Press Association writing contest.

Staff Writer Crys-

tal Vandegrift won the award in the in-depth and investigative reporting category for a story about hemp

farming in the area.

The Gazette's sister paper, The Farmville Herald was honored with 14 awards in the advertising and editorial content categories.

Betty Ramsey, publisher of The Charlotte Gazette and The Farmville Herald, said the awards are the result of hard work and intense focus on providing the best local news in the area.

"Our newsroom, sales and support staff have worked hard to serve our communities and area businesses and it is an honor to be recognized for that work" Ramsey said. "Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your will, determination and can do attitudes that make what we do possible."

The VPA's annual spring awards ceremony to honor winners throughout the state has been postponed until the fall.

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Vol. 147 - Number 49

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Drakes Branch, Virginia

Citizens want Dunaway removed

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Several citizens and educators addressed the Charlotte County School Board, continuing to ask that something be done following a Facebook post by an elected school board member in July that spawned a peaceful protest.

School board member Teresa Dunaway who was not in attendance at the Tuesday, Aug. 11 meeting, shared a

news story on her Facebook page on July 28, about the George Floyd Hologram Memorial Project making its first stop in Richmond. In doing so, Dunaway made a comment several citizens and educators say was racist.

The post by Dunaway on the news story about the event said, "Stupid as hell. Yes, I said it!"

Following the comment, several citizens, students and educators said the school board member should be re-

moved or resign her position.

Dunaway, who represents the Bacon/Saxe District, said, "The things I post on my page are my opinions only. They are not my family, in-laws, friends, or neighbors. They do not speak for me, and they are not responsible for what I post. It is just my opinion."

Rebecca Daly addressed the board to express her concerns about the post saying Dunaway needs to resign.

"The undercurrents of rac-

ism run throughout Charlotte County and the Facebook post and comments on it are proof of that," Daly said. "As happens so often, weak excuses are made to justify or explain away a hateful act. The objections to the posts were met with defiance by its author. No remorse. Not an apology. Just continued defiance. If those we elect cannot represent everyone in their district equally, regardless of their color, gender, heritage, sexual orientation, or reli-

gion, then they shouldn't be in that office. Intolerance will no longer be met with silence in Charlotte County as it has in the past. It will be called out every time it happens for exactly what it is, wrong. It is time to let go of the past and embrace a future where we are all simply human and equal."

Emily Preuss-Anderson, a teacher at CCPS, told the board she felt she could not

(See **REMOVED**, Page 2)



Photo by Nikki Pentecost

Randolph-Henry High School Varsity Baseball Head Coach Josh Barmoy, left, and his wife, Chrissy Barmoy, pose for a photo with their dog, Griffey, on the field at U.S. Ballpark in Ozark, Missouri, after "Bark at the Park" night earlier this year. The Barmoy's spent part of their summer in Missouri for what proved to be a time of growth for both of them. Josh coached a team sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in a collegiate baseball league.

'More than just baseball'

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

Randolph-Henry High School Varsity Baseball Head Coach Josh Barmoy had the opportunity to serve as baseball coach of a team in the Show-Me Collegiate League based this summer in Missouri. The experience ended up being one of tremendous growth on multiple levels for Barmoy and his wife, Chrissy, who accompanied him.

The league drew college players — rising freshmen to rising seniors — from all over the country who came due to their potential to succeed as professional baseball players.

Barmoy coached the Queen City Crush to an 8-6 overall record.

"We were the only team that didn't have a Division I player on the roster," he said. "We played against guys from Missouri State, from the University of Missouri, so Mizzou, and there was a guy who was there at one point from Vanderbilt, Will

Duff."

The Crush also played in an out-of-league game that pitted them against a team featuring the designated hitter from the University of Arkansas.

"And if they would have counted that out-of-league game for us, we'd have been 9-6, and that would have put us in second place," Barmoy said.

Queen City ended up placing fourth out of seven teams in the league when the COVID-19 pandemic brought the season to an early end for all involved.

"I thought we had a really good chance at making a run for that first or second seed, but it still was a great summer," Barmoy said.

The Crush may not have had a Division I player, but they did end up with the league's Pitcher of the Year — Ryan Carmack, who goes to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

(See **BASEBALL**, Page 4)

Sales tax increase will help schools

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Despite getting off to a slow start to raise public awareness for the need of an additional 1% sales tax increase, voters will go to the polls in November to decide the issue.

The additional tax would be used to pay for school construction projects and has the potential to lessen the tax burden by bringing in

an estimated \$700,000 in additional revenue to the county.

According to County Administrator Dan Witt, the 1% tax would go away once the debt service is paid off or once the projects are completed.

If approved, the tax would be placed on beer, wine, cigarettes, and prepared foods.

(See **TAX**, Page 3)

Parents not fans of virtual learning

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Just two days into the new virtual school term, Charlotte County parents addressed the school board with their concerns and dislikes for the new way of learning.

Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) began Monday, Aug. 10, with 100% virtual instruction with the intention to convert to a hybrid teaching method on Monday, Sept.

14, where students will have some days of in-school instruction mixed with virtual lessons.

Crystal Shepherd, whose two children attend Phenix Elementary School, addressed the board expressing her disapproval of virtual learning and problems she and her children have encountered with Google Classroom.

"COVID is not going away.

(See **VIRTUAL**, Page 2)



Photo courtesy of Jessica Sue Southall

Studying with a feline friend

Students across the area are having to get used to learning from home, although doing classwork in your pajamas is a plus. Pictured, Eureka Elementary second-grader Peter Southall and Oscar the kitten attend school from home.

SVCC opens with lots of options

Page 6

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Friday at noon



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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church and Community Events calendar is published each Wednesday. Items must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Monday for that Wednesday's calendar. Email events to CommunityCalendar@TheCharlotteGazette.com.

AUGUST 20

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – The Caregiver Support Group for caregivers of Alzheimers and dementia patients will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Call 1-800-272-3900 to register.

AUGUST 25

PLANNING COMMISSION – A planning commission meeting will be held Tuesday, Aug.

25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Office.

SEPTEMBER 6

AMATEUR RADIO MEETING – The Charlotte County Amateur Radio Club will meet at the Keysville Fire Station located at 500 Osbourne St behind Burger King at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

BEAUTIFUL PLAIN BAPTIST – Beautiful Plain Baptist Church will hold services the second and fourth Sundays at 11 a.m. at Beautiful Plain Baptist Church, Charlotte Court House until further notice.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST – Hebron United Methodist Church in Saxe will hold in-person services at 9:45 a.m. until further notice. Masks are required to attend.

LEBANON UNITED METHODIST – Until further notice Lebanon UMC on Crofton's Gate Highway in Drakes Branch will be holding in-person worship at 11 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month. Masks are required to attend.

CHARLOTTE COURTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST – Until further notice Charlotte Courthouse UMC will be holding in-person services at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Masks are required to attend. Services will also be broadcast on Facebook Live.

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BASEBALL: 'Our team just clicked'

FROM PAGE ONE

But for Barmoy and many of his players, what happened on the diamond was simply one part of their experience during the Missouri collegiate league's run.

"The experience out there, it was more than just baseball," Barmoy said. "It was an opportunity for myself and for my wife to really just kind of grow in our faith as well."

The Queen City Crush were a team sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

"Guys don't have to believe in Jesus Christ to be on the team, they just have to kind of agree to do some team things that we do," Barmoy said.

The Crush went to church on Sundays and had team Bible studies on Mondays and Thursdays.

"We had a real treat to actually have the chaplain from the Springfield Cardinals, the AAA affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals — he actually did a Bible study for our guys while we were there," Barmoy said.

The squad also helped out with a T-ball league.

"It was called Monday Night Minis," Barmoy said. "And so our guys would come and we would set up a field. We played on an all-turf field, so we had some temporary fences and different things like that, and we set up about six or seven fields, and our guys actually would coach the T-ball



Randolph-Henry High School Varsity Baseball Head Coach Josh Barmoy coaches the Queen City Crush this summer in the Show-Me Collegiate Baseball League based out of Missouri.

team and help with practicing and different things on Monday nights, which was really cool to see our guys interact with those kids and just show their heart and just know that they're here for more than just baseball."

The Crush also had plans for community service outreach. They helped with a 7-on-7 football tournament, where one member of the baseball team was able to share his Christian testimony.

The pandemic halted the league and team activities before the Queen City squad was able to help out at a food pantry.

Nevertheless, Barmoy indicated the benefit for all involved, particularly himself, was significant. He said he worked on his relationship skills with new people, since he knew none of his players beforehand.

He highlighted the positives he and his wife experienced courtesy of the team's general manager, Cody Pentecost, and his wife. Barmoy described Pentecost as an outstanding man and a great leader.

"He runs the FCA in

Springfield and kind of took me under his wing and was able to kind of pour into me," Barmoy said. "And then his wife, actually, and my wife were really good friends, and they were able to kind of meet together and kind of talk about the role of a coach's wife. And that's a tough role to really ask our wives to (play) during the season, just all the time that we're away and different things like that."

"So I think that both of us kind of grew in a sense of better perspective of why we're here," he added.

Barmoy recalled a highly significant moment for the Crush early in the summer. They had been together as a team for only two days when he took them to a ropes course for a team-building experience.

During that event, players had an opportunity to talk with each other and their coaches, as everyone was just getting to know each other.

"(The players) just opened up about everything that's going on in their lives," Barmoy said. "And from that moment on, it was like our team just clicked. It was

just a bonding (moment), because everybody shared their story of where they're from and kind of their vision and just what they're struggling with."

Barmoy said back in Charlotte County, he hopes to create opportunities for members of the Randolph-Henry baseball program to have similar moments in which they can connect with their teammates and be able to share their own stories.

"Because regardless of what you're going through, somebody is probably going through the same thing or has gone through the same thing," he said. "It's powerful."

During the summer, he was specifically encouraged to overhear conversations about spiritual matters between Crush players while driving them to an away game.

"To hear guys just choosing to talk about different things that's going on in their faith and just talking about different biblical truths and stuff like that was just kind of refreshing, because that's just something you don't normally hear from teenagers," he said.

He noted this time of COVID-19 has been almost perfect as far as learning patience and just being able to get a new perspective on baseball and the impact that coaches can have on student-athletes.

"I'm looking to bring everything that I learned to Randolph-Henry and really pour into our guys and build stronger relationships with them and help them in any way possible, whether that's spiritual or just helping them with their skills, helping them get into college, making them a better person," he said. "I think that's kind of (what) I want our program to be known for is just creating really good men that come out of our program."

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Charlotte Gazette

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Vol. 148 - Number 11

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Drakes Branch, Virginia

BOS to hear solar farm concerns

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Next month the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors (BOS) will hold a public hearing to hear comments regarding a proposed 167-megawatt solar farm just outside the town of Charlotte Court House.

According to the application summary, NOVI Energy

proposes to construct a solar facility known as Courthouse Solar on 1,354 acres from 12 parcels owned by Blue Rock Resources, LLC, Ridgeway Farm LLC, and Robert Locke.

The project is southwest of Charlotte Court House and generally bound to the north by George Washington Highway (Route 40), to the west by Tollhouse Highway

(Route 47), to the east by Eureka School Road, and to the south by Ash Camp Creek. The applicant proposes using multiple gated entrances off public roads (Shady Oaks Road, Ingleside Lane, and Eureka School Road).

Shady Oaks Road, labeled to be one of the main construction entrances, was brought into question by Lynn Royster, who cited po-

tential safety traffic issues.

Royster, developer of the Shady Oaks residential area, addressed the Board of Supervisors during its Monday, Nov. 9 meeting, expressing his concerns about safety issues.

Royster had previously addressed the planning commission with his concerns during its September meeting and again during the

commission's Oct. 27 public hearing to no avail.

According to Royster, there are 18 families, most with children who live on Shady Oaks Road.

Children walking to the bus stop and the amount of truck traffic that will be on the road during construction is Royster's main concern, he

(See **SOLAR**, Page 2)



Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Chargers

Los Angeles Chargers rookie Joe Reed navigates through the visiting Las Vegas Raiders' defense Sunday, Nov. 8, during Week 9 of the NFL season. The former Randolph-Henry High School star has now gained NFL experience as a kickoff returner, runner, receiver and tackler.

Reed enjoys the NFL learning process

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

Former Randolph-Henry High School and University of Virginia football standout Joe Reed is more than halfway through his first season in the NFL, and is experiencing the blessing of being able to enjoy his work.

Speaking on Wednesday, Nov. 18,

nine games into the season for the Los Angeles Chargers, Reed shared how he was feeling about the experience.

"There's definitely a lot to learn, especially at this level of play, so (I'm) just learning from the older guys, just learning from film and work I'm doing every day," he said. "And I'm definitely

(See **REED**, Page 7)

Broadband to expand by 2026

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

Charlotte County Administrator Dan Witt said the need for broadband expansion within the county is great.

Plans are in place to bring the internet to two thirds of the county by 2026, but the deployment of internet hot spots around Charlotte will help meet needs even before then.

"Expanding access to high-

speed, reliable internet access is a top priority of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors," Witt said in a Thursday, Nov. 5, email interview. "While internet is used for a multitude of reasons, the Board of Supervisors has noted the need for increased capability for distance learning, telecommuting and telehealth/telemedicine."

The COVID-19 pandemic has

(See **PLAN**, Page 3)

Town to upgrade water meters with CARES funding

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

The Town of Charlotte Court House plans to use \$89,000 in CARES funding to upgrade to touchless water meters.

The new meters can be read without the meter reader ever leaving their vehicle. Each of the meters has a small radio transmitter powered by a battery that is connected to the water meter by a cable. The meter transmits the reading from the meter to a receiver in the meter reader's

vehicle as it is driven through the neighborhood.

According to town officials, they are following the lead of the Towns of Keysville and Phenix, who are also moving to touchless meters.

The decision came as part of a public hearing where no citizens spoke about the issue. The hearing amended the town's 2020-2021 budget for local allocation of \$89,000 in CARES Relief (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic

(See **FUNDING**, Page 2)

Program targets at risk young adults

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Light of Christ (LOC) Family Services based in Farmville has opened a second office in Charlotte Court House located at 117 LeGrande Ave and will be offering services to help provide employment training and educational services for justice-involved young adults between the ages of 18-24.

"LOC Family Services has

helped many released individuals transition back into the community," Project Director Shelley Mays-Couch said. "We help individuals returning from incarceration become not only productive citizens but re-established members of value in their families."

This fall LOC was awarded a grant through the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to help

(See **PROGRAM**, Page 7)

Keysville holds decorating contest

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

The Keysville Town Council announced last week that the annual Christmas parade will not be held but will use funds budgeted for the parade to help sponsor a decorating contest.

"With no way to guarantee public safety from COVID and not knowing

how many entries there would be, it seemed the best course to cancel the parade," a release from the town said. "The council wanted to find some way to help boost spirits during the holiday season and decided to partner with the Keysville Garden Club and the Keysville Ruritan Club to offer cash prizes

(See **CONTEST**, Page 2)

Blessings abound in very different Thanksgiving

Page 4

Advertising and news deadline: Friday at noon



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No winter sports for Statesmen

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

The Charlotte County School Board voted 5-2 on Tuesday, Nov. 10, that Randolph-Henry High School will not participate in winter sports for the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Randolph-Henry Athletics Director and Assistant Principal Christopher Holt said in an email the school board was

concerned about the mixing of different cohorts of students. Monday/Tuesday students, Wednesday/Thursday students and fully remote students would all have to practice and play together.

"Mixing of students such as this, especially when distancing cannot be maintained and masks are not worn, has been strongly discouraged by Piedmont Health District officials," Holt said. "The board also

expressed concern about the physical nature of these sports and the fact that they are held indoors. Traveling to other areas, which could be hot spots for COVID, was another concern."

Randolph-Henry sports affected by the school board's decision include boys and girls basketball and wrestling.

"Scholastic Bowl and forensics will be allowed to proceed due to the virtual component availability," Holt said.

He noted that as Randolph-Henry athletics director, he certainly respects the school board's decision but mourns the impact of it.

"My heart hurts for the students, coaches and families that are impacted, as it did this past spring," he said. "Time is moving quickly for our students, and unfortunately these missed seasons are not coming back. These are unprecedented times for us all."



Christopher Holt

PROGRAM: Provides employment training

FROM PAGE ONE

individuals in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

With the grant LOC has developed a program called "HYPER" (Helping Youth Persevere Every day).

According to LOC Assistant Project Director Leland Davidson the HYPER program will implement the Hospitality Opportunities for People (Re)Entering Society (HOPES) Program approach which utilizes a Community

Collaborative model to connect young adults with current or previous justice-involvement to career opportunities in the restaurant, food service, and hospitality industry, with the goals of developing work-readiness and industry-specific skills; increasing credentialing, placement, retention, and advancement; and reducing recidivism.

In 2018 LOC was awarded Second Chance Act Grant from the Department of

Justice to provide case management, clinical therapy, and peer groups to medium to high-risk men.

According to Mays-Couch one recent LOC participant began coming to peer groups while serving time at the Charlotte County Jail.

"He showed great interest and was enthusiastic about what LOC had to offer," Mays-Couch said. "Upon his release he continued to participate in our post release peer groups and started putting in applications and after being turned down at several places, we're pleased to announce that he is now, a full-time employee."



Light of Christ Family Services works with individuals to provide employment training and educational services.

For more information on LOC programs visit www.locfamilyservices.com.

REED: Reed's earliest return to Charlotte County will be after Chargers' final game

FROM PAGE ONE

having a positive experience, and I'm enjoying what I'm doing."

A major highlight for Reed and his young NFL career came in Week 7, Sunday, Oct. 25, when the Chargers were hosting the Jacksonville Jaguars.

During a Chargers drive that had advanced to the Jaguars' 7-yard line, Reed was sprinting to the right, pre-snap. He took the handoff from rookie quarterback Justin Herbert without breaking stride and curled around the right side. The pathway to the end zone was not obvious at first, but he broke a tackle and then burst forward between two Jacksonville defenders to score his first NFL touchdown with five seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Reed reflected on what that landmark achievement meant to him.

"It was a dream come true — a surreal moment, for sure. (I'm) just happy to be out there, being able to make that play and really just keep it going," he said.

It gave the Chargers a 9-0 lead in a game they went on to win

39-29.

Reed confirmed that he did not know early on in the 7-yard run that he was going to get the angle to be able to score.

"The only thing I know is when I broke the huddle, I told myself, whatever I had to do to get in, take advantage of the opportunity that the coaches gave me, that I was going to make sure I willed my way into the end zone," he said. "So at first, it was a little blurry in there, but I can break a couple tackles, and that's what I did."

Reed has been active in eight of the Chargers' 10 games thus far. He has 17 kickoff returns for 376 yards, with his longest return being his first one, when he went for 46 yards. He has five carries for 29 yards and a touchdown, good for a 5.8-yards-per-carry average. He has been targeted once in the passing game, and he has also logged two total tackles.

He shared the goals he has set for himself for the second half of the season.

"Right now, for me, it's just, like I said earlier, just taking full advantage of any opportunity that I'm given,

especially as a rookie, being out there and playing and being able to put myself in a position where I can have them trust me and earn the trust of coaches," he said. "So my biggest goal right now is just to keep pressing forward and being able to earn that trust."

For outstanding, high-profile examples to follow, he need look no further than the L.A. Chargers' roster.

"I'm in the receiving room with Keenan Allen and Mike Williams every day, so I'm lucky to be in that situation," he said.

In addition to sharing the field with household names, Reed has also been presented with other fun realities of life in the NFL. One of those is now being an official character in the highly popular Madden NFL video game franchise.

However, Reed noted he has not played as himself in Madden NFL 21 yet for a simple reason.

"I do not play video

games," he said with a laugh. "Yeah, so I don't play the game, so I have not had that experience, but I've had friends send me Snapchats and videos of myself."

He affirmed it was incredible to see himself rendered in such a massively popular video game.

"And the graphics are so real and the movements look so real, and to just see myself on there is just simply awesome," he said.

Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reed's earliest return to Charlotte County will have to wait until the end of the Chargers' season.

"I'll be here for the rest of the season, because we have to COVID test every day, so even during our bye week, I wasn't able to leave," he said. "So I'll just be in California until our last game."

The Chargers (3-7) visit the Buffalo Bills (7-3) on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. The game will be broadcast on CBS.

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CHARLOTTE COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION
COURTHOUSE SOLAR

The Charlotte County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:05 pm or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Charlotte County Administration Office, 250 LeGrande Avenue, Suite A, Charlotte Court House, VA to receive public comment regarding Courthouse Solar LLC's conditional use permit application for a proposed 167 megawatt AC utility-scale solar energy system to be located southwest of the Town of Charlotte Court House and generally bound to the north by George Washington Highway (Rt. 40), to the west by Tollhouse Highway (Rt. 47), to the east by Eureka School Road, and to the south by Ash Camp Creek. Included tax parcels, owned by Blue Rock Resources, LLC; Ridge-way Farm LLC; and Robert Locke are 39-A-81, 39-A-82, 39-A-83, 39-A-84, 39-A-77, 39-A-78, 39-A-79, 39-A-80, 39-A-94, 39-A-95, 51-A-62A, 40-A-44 and consist of approximately 1,354 acres. The proposed facility would occupy approximately 1,000 acres, connecting to the power grid through an existing transmission line.

Persons affected may present their views at the hearing or may provide comments in writing or on voicemail to be shared at the hearing by calling 434-542-5118. Written comments (500 words or less) can be delivered to the Administration Office; mailed to PO Box 608, Charlotte Court House, VA, 23923; or emailed to publiccomments@charlottecountyva.gov. Written comments should include the subject and your name & address.

Following this hearing, the Board of Supervisors may vote on the application at their December 14th, 2020 meeting or at a subsequent public meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, limited seating is available on a first come first serve basis. Attendees must follow the County's current COVID-19 operating procedures. The hearing will also be available by live audio stream. Details of the application & audio call-in information can be obtained at the County Administration Office at the above address or by calling 434-542-5117.