

The Farmville Herald

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

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, January 15, 2021

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Surge in cases stresses EMS

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

The impact of the surge in area COVID-19 cases has been revealed for a large variety of people and organizations, including Prince Edward County's emergency medical service (EMS) agencies.

Prince Edward Deputy Emergency Coordinator Trey Pyle spoke about the surge's impact on the county's EMS during an emergency management presentation made to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Jan. 12.

"Spikes in the cases are currently stressing the health care systems in and around our area," he said. "Many of the hospitals and mortuaries in the region are at or near capacity. The local (emergency rooms) ERs have been just overwhelmed. They've been going on diversion status."

Diversion status means a hospital, like Centra Southside Community Hospital (Southside), asks ambulances to take their patients to another facility because the hospital in question has a full ER, full COVID unit and full intensive

PRINCE EDWARD

care unit, leaving no room for more patients.

"Southside does a very good job of working with the local agencies because they know there's nowhere else to go, but at some point in time, there's just nowhere to go," Pyle said.

When a full Southside is the only place for ambulances to go, it leads to longer turnaround times.

"Ambulances are waiting up to two hours to drop a patient off and get back in service," Pyle said. "Two Mondays

ago, there were seven trucks sitting at the hospital for two hours. That's a long time.

When you tie up the three (staffed) ambulances in the county — two of Prince Edward's and one of Meherrin's — for two hours, there's just nobody else to respond.

"Meherrin actually transported a call to Halifax from Hampden-Sydney just to get some patients moving a different direction," he added.

Pyle, who is also fire chief for Meherrin Volunteer Fire and Rescue, explained in a Wednesday, Jan. 13, interview

what he meant by "three staffed ambulances." Amid normal EMS operations during the daytime, there are three ambulances available in the county staffed with paid crews — two from Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad (PEVRS) and one from Meherrin Fire and Rescue.

While there are additional ambulances available, including three more from PEVRS and one more from Meherrin, they would require volunteer staff to assist in getting them

See EMS, Page A6



COURTNEY VOGEL | LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Greenwood Library Archives and Records Specialist Jamie Krogh helps with placement of the physical copies of *The Farmville Herald* in the library's storage space designed for preservation of documents at Longwood University.

Preserving history's first rough draft

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

The history of the Farmville area is rife with important events that should not be forgotten. *The Farmville Herald* has reported on these events since 1890.

Journalism has been called "the first rough draft of history," and a historic collaboration between

Longwood University, the Library of Virginia and *The Herald* is helping preserve the "rough drafts" that have chronicled events in the town and beyond for more than 130 years.

Longwood's Greenwood Library has agreed to store all the bound

See PRESERVING, Page A5

School goes virtual due to COVID

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

CUMBERLAND

Cumberland County Public Schools (CuCPS) students returned to full remote learning Wednesday, Jan. 13, after a member of the school nutrition team tested positive for COVID-19.

In a Tuesday, Jan. 12, Facebook post, officials said students would be attending school virtually for the remainder of the week after an employee at the middle/high school complex

tested positive for the virus.

In a Jan. 13 statement, CuCPS Superintendent Dr. Chip Jones said the positive case had affected the school's transportation department as well, noting that the school is in the process of contact tracing and talking with the health department.

In Tuesday's social media post,

See SCHOOL, Page A6

Commercial drilling now a by-right use

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The Buckingham County Board of Supervisors voted 5-2 Monday, Jan. 11, to allow commercial core drilling as a by-right activity in A-1, A-C, M-1 and M-2 zoning districts.

The news comes after months of deliberation from county officials on how to address the issue of commercial core drilling/sampling activities by Canadian-based company Aston Bay Holdings in pursuit of gold in Buckingham County.

Aston Bay had been performing drilling activities in search of gold in Buckingham for several years on the property of the Weyerhaeuser timber company. It wasn't until 2020 that

citizens and officials became aware of the drilling operations.

Since core sampling isn't a permitted use in an Agricultural Zone according to the county zoning ordinance, Aston Bay was told to cease its operations.

But after hearing from a panel of geological experts this fall, officials were told by many that core sampling is widely considered a harmless activity that goes largely unregulated not only in the state but throughout the country.

For months citizens have urged the county to disallow any further

See DRILLING, Page A6

Rescue squad transition brings updates

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The official start of Buckingham County taking control of the county rescue squad began Dec. 15.

Earlier in the year, the Buckingham Volunteer Rescue Squad transferred control of emergency medical services (EMS) over to Buckingham County Emergency Services Department after

almost 50 years of operations.

In a Tuesday, Jan. 13, interview, Emergency Services Director Cody Davis provided details surrounding the transition and the changes county residents may notice.

Davis explained the rescue squad opted to continue contracting with Delta Response Team (DRT), with a new,

18-month contract having begun Dec. 15 of last year.

Approximately two-thirds of the squad's staffing is DRT employees, Davis said, while the other third is direct county-paid employees.

Davis noted one of the biggest changes citizens will likely notice after this change in administration is the reopening

See SQUAD, Page A3



BUCKINGHAM COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Buckingham Emergency Services Director Cody Davis provided some insight regarding upgrades and changes to the county rescue squad after control of the squad was transferred to the county. Pictured is one of the new ambulances the squad recently obtained.



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Volume 130 | Number 19
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PRESERVING: 'We'll probably get '53 to '65 up online before we get 1935 online'

FROM PAGE ONE

volumes containing physical copies of *The Farmville Herald* in its temperature- and humidity-controlled storage space to optimally preserve them and make them available to researchers. The volumes were moved there in October 2020.

Additionally, the Library of Virginia has agreed to digitize *The Herald's* editions from the end of the 1800s to around 2015, which will allow readers to enter words or names in a search field and find them while reading the old editions online at www.VirginiaChronicle.com.

"I'm excited about the partnership with Longwood and the Library of Virginia and what it will mean for the community in preserving the history of our community and making it accessible," Betty Ramsey, publisher of *The Farmville Herald*, said.

Dr. Brent Roberts, dean of Greenwood Library, said having the library be part of the archival project for *The Herald* means a lot.

"The partnership that we've forged between Greenwood Library and *The Herald* and the Library of Virginia makes available to students, faculty and other researchers a treasure trove of information about central and southside Virginia that is previously uncovered in the digitized newspapers," he said.

He noted that there is a blank space in central and southside Virginia when it comes to access to historical editions of contemporary newspapers.

"Having *The Farmville Herald* available both in print as well as digital is really, really incredible," he said. "It helps researchers of all kinds. We have a lot of those who study the history of civil rights, especially in our region, and so this will, I think, improve the study of civil rights, of Massive Resistance, and all those issues and how that occurred in our



COURTNEY VOGEL | LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Longwood University junior Jassmine Jordan helps with moving bound, physical copies of *The Farmville Herald* from *The Herald* office to Greenwood Library's temperature- and humidity-controlled storage space.

area, all the way down to people who are doing genealogical family history research."

He said Greenwood receives a lot of calls from people searching for a relative's obituary.

"Rather than scrolling endlessly through the microfilm, once it's digitized we will be able to do very quick keyword searches for obituaries, and people will be able to do that themselves and find the information that they're looking for," Roberts said.

He explained that improvements were made to the library in 2018 and 2019 as the collaboration between Longwood, the Library of Virginia and *The Herald* was getting started.

"We upgraded our archival storage HVAC systems largely with the storage of *The Herald* in mind, because in order to preserve paper documents properly, they have to be kept at very specific ranges of humidity and temperature, and previously our HVAC wasn't able to do that," Roberts said. But now, with an upgraded system, we are able to preserve *The Herald* as well as all of our other archives related to Longwood and the larger community."

Greenwood Library Archives and Records Specialist Jamie Krogh said she is still working with Farmville Newsme-

dia Director of Operations Staci Bridge to get digital editions of some issues after 2016, but all of the bound, print editions of *The Herald*, which start in 1902, are now at Greenwood.

Longwood noted *The Herald* archives from 1890-1902 only exist on microfilm.

As for preserving the print editions, Krogh said newspaper is very fragile.

"There's not a whole lot you can do to treat it, so your best options are just to try and keep it in the best environment you possibly can, and that will help it last as long as possible," she said.

The large volumes that had been stored vertically at *The Herald* office are now lying horizontally in Greenwood's storage space.

"Large volumes like that, when they're standing upright, their spines kind of start to bend and bow because of the weight, and so now they're all flat and they can all, I like to say, relax," Krogh said. "They don't have to support themselves as much, so that will also help probably preserve them longer, a little less stress on them."

Krogh said people wanting to search through the physical editions of *The Herald* need to contact library staff first.

"They could do that at the front desk, and someone would find Benedict (Chatelain) or I, so you do have to request access to them, but they are now accessible, and I've already started offering them to researchers who come in and ask about *The Herald*, and I've mentioned that we have the physical copies," she said.

As for the digitization of *The Herald's* early editions, Virginia Newspaper Project Director Errol Somay said it is in full swing. He noted editions up through about 1934 have now been digitized and are accessible at www.VirginiaChronicle.com.

"Brent Roberts was instrumental in making this happen because he served as the liaison with the publishers to grant us this permission," Somay said. "That's the difference-maker here is to have somebody there who could sell the idea of allowing us to digitize past 1925, so that was great."

Microfilm is essential to this digitization project.

"It's almost entirely a microfilm-to-digital conversion project, so that's how we're proceeding is digitizing from the film," Somay said.

Briefly explaining the process, he said the film is scanned to get a good image in the form of a TIF file. With that file, derivative images are created, like JPGs or PDFs, because they are smaller and take less time to load on a computer screen. These derivative images are used

for delivery to software that "reads" the newspaper, creating an optical character recognition (OCR) file.

Somay said attention to detail involves controlling how the software "reads" the pages so it stays with a particular story rather than reading across the page and mixing stories together.

The OCR file is what allows for people to type in keywords or names and search for them in old editions online.

Somay acknowledged the software's ability to "read" is not perfect, but there is an option for people to make corrections, which creates an additional file with the changes.

The Library of Virginia has been eager to add *The Herald* to its collec-

tion, Somay indicated.

"A key part of the interest with *The Farmville Herald* for us and for scholars — I hate to say it — is Massive Resistance, so '53 to '65 and that period where you got from the (Brown v.) Board of Education through the reopening of schools — this is of national interest," he said. "It's local news in one way, but it's also just a huge story, and so there's no doubt that we were aching to get at that."

"So in fact, that's one of the areas we're processing now. We'll probably get '53 to '65 up online before we get 1935 online."

Expectations are that the digitization project will be complete in early 2021.

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A side of art beside the river

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

Many people dining at Riverside Cafe on North Main Street in Farmville are treated to more than just a meal when they sit down to eat.

Surrounding patrons in two of the restaurant's dining rooms are pieces of artwork from Central Virginia Arts (CVA). Recently, the walls have been lined with examples of art from a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, digital photography, mixed media, oil and linocut.

Riverside Cafe is one of two locations at which CVA has ongoing art exhibitions. The cafe had also been the site of artist receptions prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

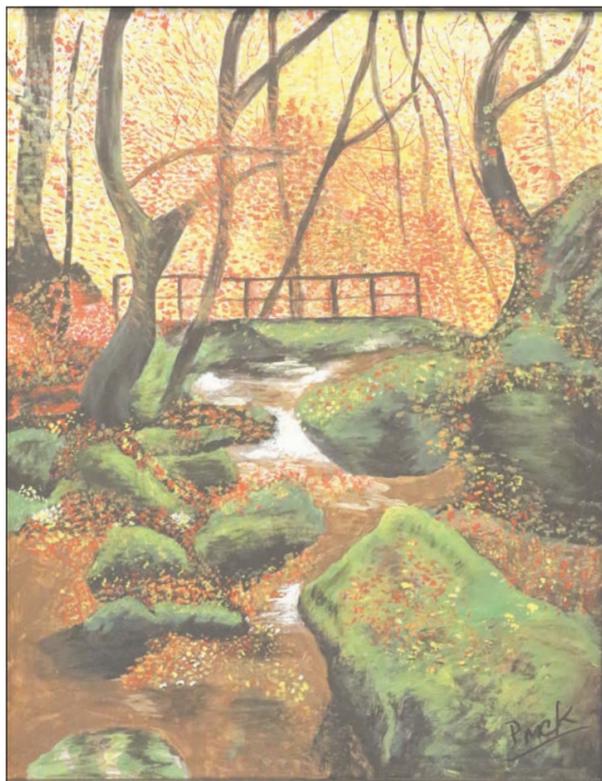
CVA Treasurer Paul Hoffman spoke to this in a message to 2021 CVA members at CentralVirginiaArts.org.

"We also hope to resume artists' receptions at Riverside Cafe," he stated. "We are considering hosting virtual lectures, but virtual workshops just seem too difficult to hold."

Parker Wheeler, who owns Riverside Cafe with his wife, Jean Wheeler, shared how the 13-year-old restaurant became a place where CVA artwork is exhibited.

"It got started shortly after we opened, and they came to us, and we both liked the idea of them having a place to hang and sell their paintings, and we get fresh art every two or three months," he said.

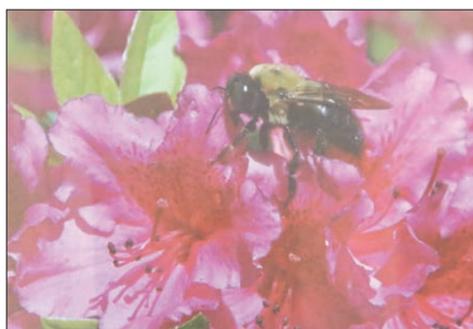
Pictured are pieces of artwork that had been on display at the cafe for the past few months.



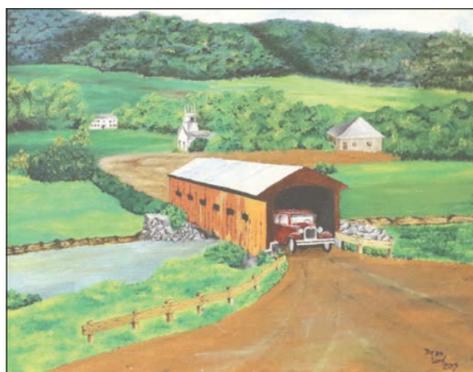
Phyllis McKinney created this acrylic painting called "Tranquility."



Marianne Dennison created this piece of linocut artwork titled "Changing with the Times."



"Bee on Azalea" is a piece of digital photography by Shirley V. Blackwell.



Dean Lord produced this oil on canvas piece called "Covered Bridge."



Rick Thomas was the creator of this 18-by-20-inch acrylic painting called "Quietly at Work."



This work of mixed media, which includes cat food labels, was created by Richard McClintock and is called "Guild of Watchers of the Universe."

Photos of artwork by Titus Mohler

'Not for sale'

DEVOTIONAL

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)



SUSIE THOMAS
FARMVILLE UNITED METHODIST

An interesting aspect of my childhood is that I grew up in an antique shop.

My father sold antique furniture (he retired early from a career in banking to pursue his real love, buying and selling old stuff). He converted our home into a sort of shop from which to sell his wares.

Daddy was always out on the road in his Country Squire station wagon visiting antique malls and antique shows and antique shops all over the east coast and scooping up treasures. He had a good eye for quality 18th- and 19th-century American furniture and decorative items. Our home was filled with beautiful old chairs, tables, chests of drawers, oriental rugs and Chinese-export porcelain — lots of blue Chinese-export porcelain.

We lived with and used all of these antiques, and some were quite useful. Bed-warmers, for instance — you fill a long-handled metal container with coals from the fireplace and run that thing in-between

your bedsheets. Mmmm. So nice on cold winter nights.

But most of the furniture and many of our decorative items were also for sale. Daddy had folks in by invitation to our home to look at and hopefully to buy some of the things my family used every day.

Pick up a lamp, it had a little price tag stuck on the bottom. Chairs had price tags attached to their rungs. A blanket chest's price would be found inside its lid.

I remember, years after Daddy closed his antique business, turning over an ashtray in the living room (people smoked back then) and seeing that it still had a price sticker affixed to it - good memories.

But among all of the variously-priced objects in my childhood home, there were some things that were just too precious to sell. My old ladder-back highchair, an embroidered picture of the Holy Family, and my rope bed. On things we wanted to keep, Daddy placed a sticker with just three letters — NFS (Not For Sale). He meant it, too — no matter what people offered, Daddy wouldn't part with something marked NFS.

I sometimes think about those stickers

and that phrase, not for sale, in connection with my faith in God in Jesus Christ. What are my faith's non-negotiables, those beliefs and principles that I will not sell out on or depart from, whatever the cost? The Bible reminds us over and over again that we are precious in God's sight, and that we who follow Christ were "bought with a price" — Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.

St. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus with a reminder that "...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Imagine that. God has placed a "Not For Sale" sticker on all of us, for we are his handiwork, and each of us has a purpose and gifts that the Lord has given only to us. These gifts aren't for our own benefit but for the building up of Christ's kingdom.

If we are made by God and saved by Christ — well, then, you can't put a price on our worth. May the Lord help us to remember that we are infinitely special and precious, and as the season of Lent begins next week, let's examine our lives in the light of that "Not For Sale" label we all bear.

REV. SUSIE THOMAS is lead pastor of Farmville United Methodist Church. Her email address is stthomas@farmvilleumc.org.



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Nature provides its own valentines

According to the calendar, it's the shortest month, but, in reality, it never seems to end.

February is fickle. It can be cold, wet and snowy or it can be mild and adorned with early blooming flowers. There's nothing lovelier than a common blue violet in February. Sometimes February offers a little of everything, keeping us off balance from one day to the next.

February also brings Valentine's Day with sappy cards, heart-shaped candies, dinner in expensive restaurants and maybe even messages from secret admirers. While fun, it can all be a bit overwhelming.

What to do? Take a stroll through the woods and look for Mother Nature's hidden valentine's treasures.

If there's been snow and ice, look for small holes where there has been melting. It's not unusual to find one that's more or less heart shaped. And if you explore a swampy area, you just might find some skunk cabbages. They're thermogenic and capable of melting snow and ice into fantastical shapes, including hearts.

Wander around a stream and you'll probably find Virginia heartleaf growing on the banks. It's a low growing evergreen plant that has heart-shaped leaves mottled with cream. The leaves are two to three inches across and smell like ginger when crushed. In spring, Virginia heartleaf produces half-inch wide red-dish-brown flowers at ground level. They're often hidden by leaf litter and can be difficult to find. Virginia heartleaf is an excellent addition to shady, acidic areas of the home garden.

Our native black walnut tree is famous for both its dark wood and nuts. Technically, this tree doesn't produce nuts but drupes, or fruits with spicy, scented husks. Remove the husks, and there are very hard, black "nuts" inside that are very difficult to crack. If split in half, however, the "nuts" reveal a heart-shaped interior filled with a delicious, high protein meat. Black walnut

trees can live for more than 100 years. There is conflicting research as to whether the black

walnut poisons surrounding plants. Even Pliny the Elder thought that it did. So, perhaps



There are many natural valentines: holes in snow, Virginia heartleaf, black walnuts and wild bleeding heart.



MOTHER NATURE'S GARDEN
CYNTHIA WOOD

a poison valentine for other plants.

In spring, you may be lucky enough to find wild bleeding heart in the mountains. It's a native perennial with finely cut, fern-like, blue-green foliage. In late spring, it produces long stems of pink, heart-shaped, pendulous flowers. Small, dark, protruding petals at the base of each flower look like tiny drops of blood, hence the common name bleeding heart. The fringed bleeding heart appears too late for Valentine's Day but serves as a reminder of past

romantic celebrations.

Mother Nature's garden has some fantastic valentines; we just need to take time to search for them. Happy

Valentine's Day!

DR. CYNTHIA WOOD is a master gardener who writes two columns for *The Herald*. Her email address is cynthia.crewe23930@gmail.com.

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Hidden figures and facets of Black history

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

Cainan Townsend took those interested on a tour of Black history in Farmville and Prince Edward County that is far less familiar to many people.

Townsend, who is the director of education and outreach at the Robert Russa Moton Museum, shared a presentation via Zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 16, evening titled “Ely to Griffin: The Forgotten Black History of Farmville.”

It was the first in a two-part series studying the history of Farmville. Townsend spent a notable portion of his time chronicling the story of Israel Hill.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources notes Israel Hill is a piece of land in Farmville settled in 1810-11 by approximately 90 formerly enslaved persons who received freedom and 350 acres from Judith Randolph under the will of her husband, Richard Randolph Jr., the cousin of Thomas Jefferson.

Townsend noted that Randolph owned slaves, but he also believed slavery was an awful monstrosity, and he believed African Americans and white people could coexist peacefully. In 1795 when he was 25 years old, he wrote a will, which reflected his beliefs, and ultimately died the next year at 26.

“In that will, he promises to free his enslaved persons, over a hundred or so people, he planned to do that, as well as give them each 25 to 50 acres of land,” Townsend said, noting the 25-50 acres went to the heads of families.

Townsend highlighted details both of the “Israelites” that lived in Israel Hill and of the Prince Edward County they were a part of in the early 1800s.

The Israelites started to invest in the land and ran successful businesses. They defended their rights in court, sometimes even filing lawsuits against white people, and they were winning in Prince Edward courts.

The Israelites had working relationships with the white



Students and adults gather outside Mary E. Branch No. 2 for registration. This building was the first Robert Russa Moton High School and is now the Moton Museum. It was known, for a time, by Branch's name after the new high school was built in 1953 and assumed the Moton name.

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Cainan Townsend

FARMVILLE

community, and some even became river boatmen, which was a highly respected position.

Also, Israel Hill had guns.

There was peaceful coexistence at that time.

Townsend emphasized how the positive treatment of African Americans in these examples is so different from what would be expected of the time period.

He did also point out some lesser known negative details present in Prince Edward County's history, including the fact that lynching did occur in the county. He specifically pointed to an instance from 1888 in which Archer Cook was lynched after being accused of assaulting a white woman.

“Radical change creates radical change,” Townsend said,



TITUS MOHLER | HERALD

Heading into downtown Farmville, this historical sign is located where West Third Street and Layne Street meet in an intersection with Industrial Park Road. The sign commemorates Israel Hill and the formerly enslaved people who settled it and thrived in the county in the early 1800s.

emphasizing what proved to be a notable theme during his presentation.

He briefly alluded to how the county closed its public schools from 1959-64 in opposition to desegregation, mentioning it in the context of how Griffin Boulevard in downtown Farmville has changed.

“From what I can tell, I think

it was 1983 when it changed from Ely Street to Griffin Boulevard,” he said. “Griffin Boulevard was the Harlem of Farmville — it was Black-owned businesses, it was Black-owned homes. It was a central point of the Black African American community here in Prince Edward County, as well as all that part of cam-

pus kind of from the library over on up here to Moton.

“The schools close and a lot of people leave, and what I want to say about the people who left is that it wasn't our poor, it wasn't our uneducated people who were leaving because they were the ones who couldn't afford to leave, or didn't want to leave. It was our educated folks. It was our teachers. It was our nurses. It was our dentists. It was our only doctor. Those are people who left, and with that, a power vacuum of sorts kind of came into play.”

He said a lot of those people left and never came back. A lot of people locked out of schools left to go to school elsewhere. Some of them went on to get college degrees and never came back.

Toward the end of his presentation, Townsend briefly highlighted a few other lesser known historical facts and important people.

Though he grew up in Prince Edward, Townsend said it was not until a guest walked into the Moton Museum one day in 2016 and shared a bit of history that he came to know about the Prince Edward State Park for Negroes that existed from 1950-64.

“We had in Prince Edward County the only state park in

See **HIDDEN**, Page **C2**

Giving the best, or at least good enough

One passage that you have not heard many sermons unpacking (not surprisingly) is Acts 5:1-11, the Ananias and Sapphira story.

This is one difficult, maybe even brutal, depiction of offering expectations in the early church. Interestingly, several songs reference this passage, a catchy one being by the Chosen Gospel Singers, but there is nothing catchy about what happened here. It is a stark warning about how we give and what we give.

At this particular time, there seems to be a spirit of absolute generosity or commonality among the first followers of Christ Jesus (Acts 4:32). All kinds of needs were being met as people donated all that they had to the cause. That is until we get to Ananias and Sapphira who sold their property but kept some of the proceeds, lying to the apostles. It does seem excessive with both Ananias and Sapphira dying because they denied some portion to the fledging church. Of

DEVOTIONAL

course, we don't know the full account, the details that might help understanding, but at face value, it seems that keeping anything back or defrauding the offering meant such an offense to God that you were liable with your life.

I don't see that giving strategy going over very well today, even if they did meet everyone's needs then with the generosity of the early church. Every once in a while, you do hear about someone who gives all they have to mission or ministry. We had an article just recently about something similar right here in Farmville with the Aloha House of Hope, but those stories are rare. Nevertheless, there is still a profound lesson in this regarding donations.

If you are not familiar with the Souper Bowl of Caring, it is a mission project in which people collect cans of soup around the time of the Super Bowl to be donated

to local food ministries. It is a tradition of our church to collect these cans and give them to FACES. When I was pondering the soups at Walmart, deciding what I would purchase to give. I was reminded of a lesson I once heard: a better offering is to give what you yourself would use. I am talking the quality of the things we donate.

Am I offering food I would prefer, clothes I would prefer, toys I would give my own kids, etc.? It is easy to think that cheaper means you can buy more, but the temptation is to buy just as much for less. We may feel better because we have given something, but the value of our gift is less. Donating is not about us.

If we put ourselves in the shoes of someone who might come for food assistance, we might believe quality is a statement of love. Ananias and Sapphira did not get this message when it came time to give.

REV. DR. PETER SMITH is the transitional pastor for Farmville Presbyterian Church. He can be reached at pastorfp@centurylink.net.



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HIDDEN: Part 2 of this program is set for Feb. 24

FROM PAGE ONE

Virginia for African Americans," he said. "Now, this is now Twin Lakes State Park. But Prince Edward State Park for Negroes, we had people coming from all over the state of Virginia — doctors, lawyers, nurses. This was a luxury-type deal, so you had people coming into Farmville, into Prince Edward County from all over the state and really in some cases all up the east coast. There were people coming from all over the place because Prince Edward State Park for Negroes was the spot."

He said the park ended in 1964 due to the Civil Rights Act.

Townsend also offered up a short list of "Farmville Hidden Figures."

• Tazewell Branch was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1874-77, one of the first African American delegates. He also owned the land that the Beulah African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on at 115 S. Main St. and was instrumental in setting up the church.

• His daughter, Mary E. Branch, was also an important figure. The name of the building that is across the street from Moton is Mary E. Branch Elementary, a former Farmville elementary school for African American students.

Her name was chosen because she was the first African American female college president, leading what is now known as Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas.

The first Moton High School, what is now the Moton Museum, was once a school known as Mary E. Branch No. 2 after the new high school was built in 1953 and assumed the Moton name.

• Robert Russa Moton was Booker T. Washington's No. 2 guy at what is now known as Tuskegee University and eventually succeeded him as the head of Tuskegee. Moton also came back to Virginia and did a lot of work with what is now known as Hampton University.



Dorothy Vaughan

He was a huge proponent of African Americans developing trade skills.

He also advised five or six U.S. presidents.

"He was the original kind of diversity committee," Townsend said.

• Dorothy Vaughan was one of the lead characters in the popular 2016 film "Hidden Figures." She was a former Robert Russa Moton High School math teacher who later became a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) mathematician, helping send a man to the

moon.

• James Maceo West, who turned 90 this year, was born and raised in Prince Edward County and graduated from Moton High School in 1949. He has long been interested in technology.

"In 1962, James Maceo West created and got the patent for an electric transducer, which is today found in 90% of microphones that we use, and he has since gone on to get a bunch of other patents," Townsend said. "He's very highly respected in the tech world."

• Robin Yvette Allen is a rapper known as The Lady of Rage, who has been an artist on Death Row Records and has been on TV shows and in movies. She has returned to Farmville, where she lives now.

Jonathan Page, director of multicultural affairs at Longwood University, said the second part of Tuesday's program, which will focus on the history of



TWIN LAKES STATE PARK

Twin Lakes State Park was once the only state park in Virginia for African Americans, called the Prince Edward State Park for Negroes from 1950-64.

Farmville and how its impact on the present can be measured and addressed, will take place Wednesday, Feb. 24.

For more information about it, contact Quincy Goodine, Longwood assistant director of leadership and multicultural affairs, at goodineqa@longwood.edu.

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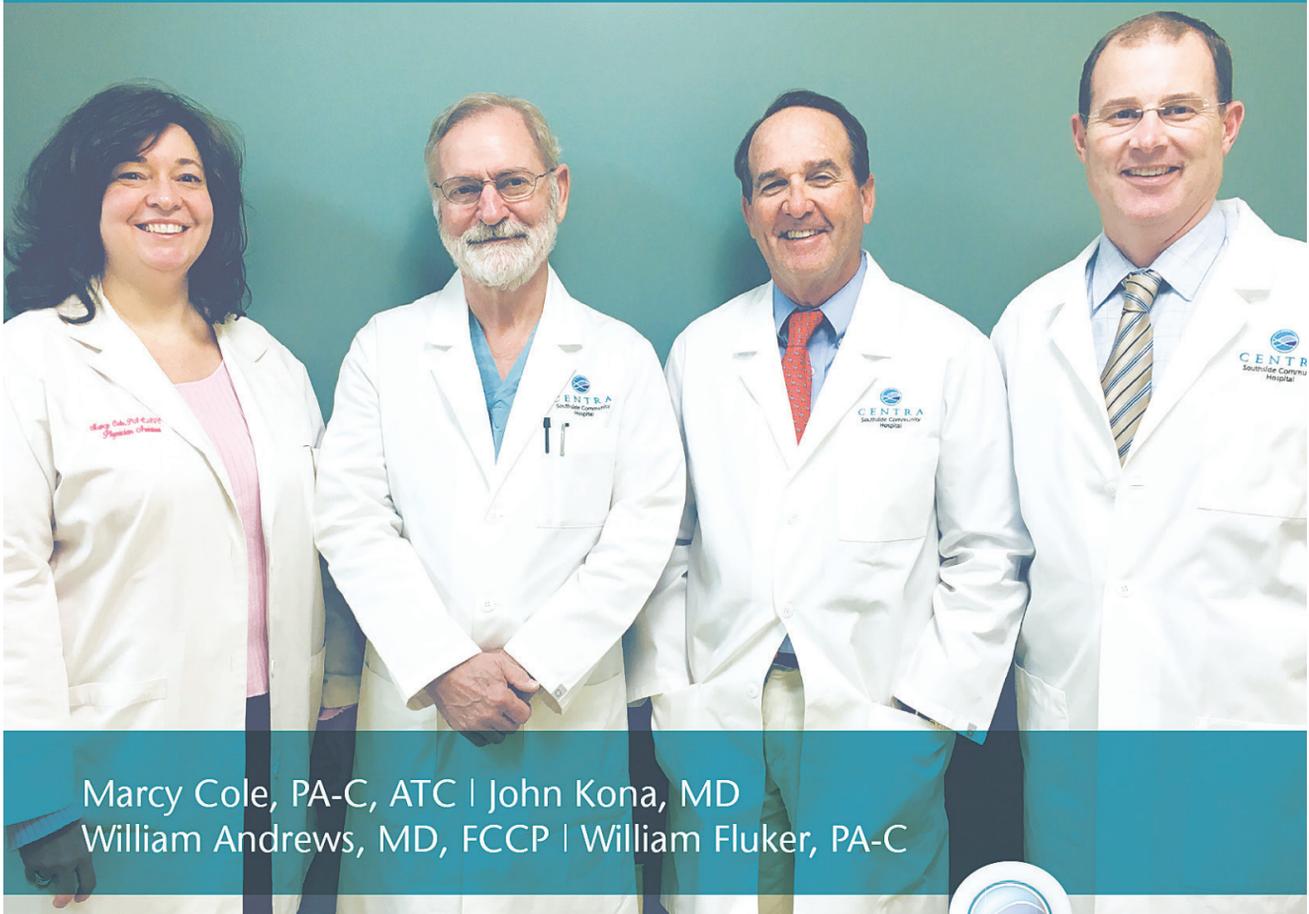
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William Fluker, holds bachelor of science degrees in biology from the University of Kentucky and from the physician assistant program at James Madison University.



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