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“Let’s get to work.”

Glenn Youngkin sworn in as Virginia’s 74th governor

By Zach McKnight
Womack News Service

RICHMOND, Va. - On a chilly Saturday afternoon, there was a new change of guard in Richmond and Virginia.

Glenn Youngkin was officially sworn in as the 74th governor of Virginia in front of a raucous, sold-out crowd. Lt. Governor Winsome Sears and Attorney General Jason Miyares also assumed their new positions.

Youngkin defeated former governor Terry McAuliffe in the November election to win the governorship.

As each person took the oath of office, it was followed by thunderous applause. The Hon. Kevin M. Duffan, 2nd Judicial Circuit Judge of Virginia administered the oath to Miyares and the Hon. Richard D. Taylor, Jr., retired judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit of Virginia, administered the oath to Sears. When Youngkin took his oath, administered by retired justice, the Hon. Elizabeth A. McClanahan, cannon fire followed by the Virginia Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, signifying a new leader.

Youngkin opened his speech uniting all Virginians and

See INAUGURATION on 2.



Glenn Youngkin thanks everyone in attendance after finishing his speech by proclaiming, “Virginia is open for business.” and “Let’s get to work.” Huge applause and cheers followed.

Surry native thrust into national spotlight

New Surry County Board of Supervisors vice-chairman appointed to key role by President Biden

By Terry Harris

“I guess you can say I’ve prepared my whole life for this,” said self-described “homegrown Virginian and lifelong resident of Surry County,” Dr. Ronald Howell, Jr., on the latest development in his life.

Speaking exclusively with the Sussex Surry Dispatch on Sunday evening, immediately following several days of intensive advance training in Washington and a long drive home through Winter Storm Izzy, Howell reflected on his appointment by President Joe Biden last week as FSA (Farm Service Agent).

See HOWELL on 3.



Dr. Ronald Howell, Jr.

Sussex Lions wage battle for hunger awareness

By Terry Harris

Lions Club International acknowledges Hunger Awareness Month in January, and according to Sussex Lions President Katrina Faltz this is, in part, because they realize that hunger is a problem without borders.

Around the world, their organization is focused on providing meals and nutrition for those in need, she said, “in hopes that one day no child will ever have to live without knowing when their next meal will come.”

Sobering statistics showing that one in every nine people is chronically hungry, that two billion people lack regular access to nutritious and sufficient food, and that one-third of annual food production is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain. This drives Faltz and the rest of the Lions in Sussex County and on an international level to stay vigilant in their efforts to help fight the hunger problem.

Faltz was happy to announce that “The Sussex Lions Club completed its second annual food drive, and it was a total success, thanks to our great community for all of their support. They showed up and showed out.”

See SUSSEX LIONS on 3.



Distributing food from Lions Hunger Drive.

Lyttle assumes chairmanship of BOS

By Terry Harris

Judy Lyttle, first elected in 1999 to the Surry County

Board of Supervisors, became this year’s chair of the group at their Jan. 6 meeting. While it is not the first time that she has headed the board, the always-busy Surry supporter admitted afterward that she had not necessarily expected the honor this time.

“I am happy about it,” she said, “and I was hopeful that I would get a chance to serve during this 4 year term in the chair position. But it was almost a surprise, and I am delighted that they supported me.”

Having served on the board for 22 consecutive years thus far, with another two years to go before her next election, Lyttle chuckled and said, “I’ve been serving citizens of Surry long before I became a board member. I retired in 2001 from the Department of Agriculture, so you could say that I served farmers and landowners of Surry County for 33 years before I became a board member – through the Farm Service Agency – Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service - ASCS.”

Lyttle, who makes a point of being as informed as possible about goings-on across the commonwealth, especially as they relate to Surry County, said that she has seen many changes in the small, largely rural county – many of which she



Judy Lyttle

championed. When asked about things for which she has fought the hardest and of which she is most proud, she was quick to respond.

“Broadband!” she immediately exclaimed. “For me that is the top of the line. Because being a rural community and not able to communicate today, especially when so much is available online, I am excited about things like the jobs this may create for our citizens. Now folks can work from home and children - with the covid situation like it is - can more easily do online learning – which is a much better scenario for our schools and all our youth. Of course it is a big boost for economic development having broadband available. And even being able to do things like stream movies, in addition to the educational and business advantages, is very important to a lot of people right now.”

“Due to broadband, people and businesses are moving to Surry now where they weren’t before,” she continued. Having

See LYTTLE on 3.

Area Covid-fighting efforts increased

Some new appointments and tests available for area citizens

By Terry Harris

In response to the resurgence of a rising wave of covid cases, area officials have stepped up the fight against COVID.

In an address on the Surry County website, County Administrator Melissa Rolins announced the closing of Government offices to “Appointment Only” status and availability of vaccinations and boosters to fight COVID at the County Health Department shortly after Surry County Chief of Emergency Management Ray Phelps revealed at the January Board of Supervisors meeting that numbers were rising.

“We have noted a significant rate of increase,” Phelps later confirmed. “Our seven day daily average is eleven new cases a day, which is quite a bit



Numbers rising for COVID cases.

for a small community. So this past week we teamed up with Crater Health and handed out 140 home test kits, and we are also team-

ing up with the Blackwater Library to set up to hand out home test kits as they come available. We are working with Crater Health to make the Library to be a hub for citizens to pick up and take home test kits.”

A flyer provided by Phelps noted that testing is recommended for individuals with symptoms and those who may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, and added that no insurance is needed. Individuals may pre-register for testing on the second or fourth Wednesday at the Surry Health Department between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and receive an apt-

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Queenie
Cooks:
Pineapple
Snow Cream!

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