

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Playoff rematch coming for Central

By Matthew Hatfield
The K-V Dispatch

Fresh off their first unbeaten regular season since 1995, the Central Lunenburg Chargers get a chance for a measure of revenge against the team that last beat them. That would be the Buffalo Gap Bison, who knocked the Chargers out of the playoffs in the Region 1B semifinals last November, 44-20.

It ended Lunenburg's 2021 campaign at 8-3 overall, whereas Buffalo Gap would move on to play Riverheads in the Region 1B title game. Riverheads took that with ease, 37-0, on their way to a VHSL record sixth straight state title.

In last year's matchup, the Bison ground attack proved too much for the Chargers. Buffalo Gap got touchdown runs of 42 and 53 yards from Bryce Hildebrand in building a 38-14 half-time lead.

Once again, the Buffalo Gap (7-4) offense comes in with sky high confidence. Their senior tailback, Dylan Alphin, rushed for 250 yards and three touchdowns on 18 carries as they beat William Campbell 56-36 in the opening round of the Region 1B playoffs last Thursday. He's not the only rushing threat either as the Bison finished the night with 47 attempts for 401 yards on the ground, plus junior kicker Kody Bright made all eight of his extra point tries.

It'll certainly be a battle of wills as Lunenburg rushed for 3363 yards during the regular season with 13 different ball carriers, plus generated 30 turnovers on defense. An extra week of preparation could play into Lunenburg's favor as well because last year they had to face Surry in a quarterfinal that they won 57-14, whereas Buffalo Gap got to rest up for the regional

semifinals.

In between their 47-6 win over Prince Edward and 14-0 shutout of Buckingham, the Chargers were idle, so if recent history is any indication, it could work out well for coach Will Thomas and his unbeaten squad in hopes of capturing the program's 57th playoff victory on the gridiron.

Did You Know? The last time that Lunenburg beat Buffalo Gap was in 1993 when they defeated the Bison 40-7 in the playoffs at Charger Stadium in Victoria. That Lunenburg team fell to Giles, 27-18, in the State Championship two weeks later.

SEASON COMES TO AN END FOR BUCKINGHAM

The sixth-seeded Buckingham Knights saw their 2022 season come to a close last Thursday. In a hard-fought game, the team lost 17-12 to the reigning Region 2B Cham-

pion Central-Woodstock Falcons in the opening round of the playoffs.

Coming in, the Woodstock offense averaged 35.6 points per game. Yet, the Knights limited them to a season-low in points as well as 127 total yards and two pass completions.

Buckingham struck first when senior Kymeir Lockett scored on a two-yard touchdown run with 15 seconds to go in the first quarter. However, the extra point was blocked, leaving the Knights ahead, 6-0.

Late in the first half, Buckingham lost one of three fumbles on the night, giving Woodstock golden field position just inside the 50, at the Knights 48-yard line, with 2:25 to go in the second quarter. With 25 seconds till intermission, Central scored on a touchdown run from a yard out. Even though the Falcons missed a chance to

extend that lead with a 15-play, 49-yard drive to begin the third quarter when they missed a 44-yard field goal, miscues on both sides kept the offenses from exploding.

Each team had three lost fumbles on the night, but Buckingham lost the turnover battle with an interception also thrown and managed to only complete three passes for 38 yards themselves. Two Buckingham's turnovers came within a span of 1:41 in the fourth quarter, leading directly to 10 points that Woodstock scored to keep the Knights at bay.

Down 11 with 4:47 to play, Buckingham quickly pieced together a 52-yard drive in four plays with junior Zahir Chambers connecting with senior James Motley for a nine-yard touchdown pass. But a missed two-point conversion and unsuccessful on-side kick try prevented them from getting any closer.

THE GARDEN MUSE

Herb garden history

Most people believe herbs are strictly grown and used primarily in the preparation of food and that belief is incorrect. The earliest uses of herbs were medicinal.

I suspect that many people have plants growing in their gardens today that they do not realize are indeed herbs. The Herb Society of America's Encyclopedia of Herbs definition is "In addition to herbaceous perennials, herbs include

trees, shrubs, annuals, vines, and more primitive plants such as ferns, mosses, algae, lichens and fungi."

Herbs have been around and closely tied to self-sufficiency of society for a long time. The Egyptians had herb gardens dating back 4,000 years. Thiers were primarily grown for medicinal purposes. Over time the Egyptians also used herbs for culinary and decorative purposes.



Dawn Conrad

The Native Americans used herbs and still do

mostly for medicinal purposes.

Early Christians used herbs in exorcisms and to ward off demons. The Chinese also have a long history of growing herbs for medicinal purposes. Their traditional medicine evolved from plants and is still very closely entwined in herbalism today. The Chinese worked hard to eliminate superstitions regarding herbs and stress their practical uses when they wrote the Canon of Medicine in 2500 BC. A good example of this is

the chrysanthemum. By demonstrating how this plant could be useful, beautiful, and virtuous depending on the species. Today the uses for chrysanthemums still include medicinal, edible, beauty/display and economically as a pesticide (pyrethrum.)

In Medieval times in addition to their medicinal uses, herbs were starting to be recognized more for their culinary and decorative uses. It was during this period that herbal 'physic' gardens were grown to be used specifically in the teachings of botany & medicine.

It was not until the

17th and 19th centuries that the "formal" herb garden was developed, and France featured some of the finest. Grand hedges, geometric foundations, statuary, and paths consisting of hardscape and plant materials all incorporated stunning visual interest in all seasons. Most herb gardens today have evolved from the formal herb gardens of yesteryear.

Dawn Conrad is a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, Herbal enthusiast, Writer and Fiber Artist. She can be contacted at dawn@mygardenmuse.com.

Virginia farmers turn attention to Agriculture Bill

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 will expire in September 2023, and federal lawmakers are actively crafting legislation that will regulate agricultural programs for the next several years.

Otherwise known as the 2018 Farm Bill, the Agricultural Improvement Act will make way for the 2023 U.S. Farm Bill late next year. The new bill will authorize hundreds of billions of dollars in program funding for commodity programs, crop insurance and disaster relief, conservation initiatives, food policy, rural development, agricultural research and more.

With the upcoming bill still being developed, agricultural advocacy groups such as American Farm Bureau Federation and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation are acting to ensure American farmers' best interests are covered.

"Every five or so

years, Congress passes a new farm bill to help meet the challenges of an agricultural world that is constantly evolving, and ensure that critical programs continue to benefit farmers, families and farming communities," said Ben Rowe, VFBB national affairs coordinator. "Just as farming practices change and adapt to meet consumer needs and demands, the farm bill does the same," he continued. "It provides a pathway for Congress and policymakers to comprehensively address agricultural and food issues."

Rowe said Virginia-based representatives are working with AFBF to assess the 2018 farm bill and determine which aspects of the legislation are effective. Collectively, the group is working to improve the next iteration of the bill to address imminent economic and market conditions.

Current VFBB priorities include protecting current farm bill program spending; maintaining a unified farm bill that governs nutrition programs and agricultural programs together; and assuring that changes to existing farm bill policy are made as amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 or Agricultural Act of 1949.

Other concerns include prioritizing risk management tools, funding for federal crop insurance and commodity programs, and ensuring adequate funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture staffing and

technical assistance.

A full list of AFBF's farm bill policy positions may be found online.

"The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation that affects farmers and ranchers across the country," asserted AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Since enactment of the 2018 farm bill, farmers have faced significant challenges from market volatility, increased input costs and devastating natural disasters.

"(Farmers) have met the needs of consumers both in America and abroad while continuing to improve our environmental stewardship. We

look forward to working with Congress to ensure the appropriate resources are available to craft farm policy that reduces

food insecurity, bolsters national security and encourages long-term stability for all of our farm and ranch families."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Central completes perfect regular season

By Matthew Hatfield
The K-V Dispatch

With a 22-8 triumph over James River District foe Amelia County, the Central Lunenburg Chargers wrapped up an unblemished regular season last Friday, the program's first since 1995. Accompanying it is a first round bye for the upcoming Region 1B playoffs, where they will await the winner of the quarterfinal match between No. 3 seed Buffalo Gap (6-4) and No. 6 seed William Campbell (3-7).

Riverheads (8-1), the reigning six-time State Champions in Class 1, secured the top seed in Region 1B by virtue of its win over Class 2 Sturarts Draft in the regular season finale.

The Lunenburg offense has been a well-oiled machine all season long, headlined by Donelle 'Bam' Jones, who rushed for 950 yards and 17 touchdowns on 105 attempts. Jones also has 58 total tackles, 27 for loss, five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a defensive touchdown.

Right behind on the ground attack were senior Kemarion Watson (95 attempts, 802 yards, 10 TDs) and sophomore Amaron Moore (83 attempts, 711 yards, 7 TDs), together totaling more than 1500 yards on the ground with 15 rushing scores.

Connor Mattox has been efficient at the quarterback position,

completing 59% of his throws for 334 yards and 10 touchdowns compared to only interception. Defensively, he also made 54 total tackles and three interceptions, returning two for touchdowns.

Most impressively, 11 different players on offense scored a touchdown for Lunenburg, which averaged 43 points per game. That's the highest scoring average in school history, surpassing their 41.6 PPG from 1985.

As great as the offense has been, coach Will Thomas loves the fact his defense is one of the stingiest in the state, yielding just 8.6 points per contest. The Chargers came up with 30 takeaways on defense, 17 off interceptions, during the regular season.

Senior defensive end Jamel Alexander led the defense with a team-high 76 total tackles, 30 behind the line of scrimmage with six forced fumbles and two blocked kicks. Additionally, Alexander is the team's leading pass catcher with eight receptions for 168 yards and 4 TD's.

Junior linebacker Seth Bishop racked up 56 total tackles and four interceptions. Senior Dasjohn Hurt made a team-high five interceptions.

BUCKINGHAM PREPARES FOR ROAD TEST

A forfeit victory over winless Cumberland did not provide much benefit to the final power



rating for Seth Wilkerson's Buckingham Knights, who closed out the regular season with victories in eight of their final nine games for an 8-2 overall record and the No. 6 seed for the Region 2B playoffs. That gives Buckingham a first round matchup at third-seeded Central-Woodstock (8-2), which last year made it to the state semifinals and captured the Region 2B Championship.

This marks the first ever meeting between the Knights and Central-Woodstock, who averaged 35.6 points per game and allowed 12.3 points per contest. Their lone two defeats were courtesy of Bull Run District rivals Luray (41-25) and Strasburg (22-17).

The only two losses for Buckingham came at the hands of five-time State Champ Appomattox, 37-24 in

their season opener, and 14-0 to unbeaten Central-Lunenburg back on Oct. 27. The Knights' success largely hinges on their ground attack and physical o-line paving the way for senior ball carriers Kymeir Lockett and Kenneth 'K.J.' Williams. Through the first seven games, Lockett and Williams combined to rush for 1822 yards and 22 touchdowns on 136 carries, an average of 13.4 yards per pop.

But the Buckingham defense has also stepped up as the season has progressed, limiting opponents to 7.4 points per game during their seven-game winning streak. Contributions have come from a host of players, including Williams, senior Rocco Raynor and senior Jevonte Jones.

SOME PLAYOFF NUMBERS

Of the eight teams in the Region 2B play-

off field, only one – eighth-seeded East Rockingham (4-6) – enters with a record below .500. Even East Rock showed it can be formidable by beating Luray, the No. 2 seed in

the region, by a count of 35-14 back on Oct. 14.

Strasburg (9-1), the region's top seed, has won every game it has played on the field with its lone blemish being a forfeit to Skyline.

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Farmers offered mental health support

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation is working to promote the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' newly launched AgriStress Helpline to provide the state's farmers with mental health support.

The helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has interpretation services for 160 languages. Farmers can call or text 833-897-2474 to speak directly with a healthcare professional. Crisis specialists have access to a Virginia-specific database of agricultural and health resources.

"Stress on a farm never ends," shared Dana Fisher, chair of the VFBF Safety Advisory Committee, which is spearheading the organization's mental health support efforts. "Stress and mental health issues are always a problem in the agriculture community, and

stress can lead to costly mistakes on the job.

"Taking care of one's mental health is just as important as taking care of your physical health, but farmers don't always know who to talk to."

The AgriStress Helpline offers Virginia farmers a confidential, reliable source for seeing mental health support.

VDACS partnered with AgriSafe on the helpline, which is supported by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. AgriSafe is a national 501(c)(3) organization representing health and safety professionals who strive to reduce health disparities in the agricultural community.

Farm Bureau received a portion of the grant funds, and used part of

the money to create 15 billboards promoting the helpline. The billboards are in strategic rural locations throughout the state and were on display through October.

"It's really hard to find mental health professionals accepting new patients these days," Fisher noted. "This helpline is available 24/7, and there will be somebody on the end of the line who is familiar with agriculture and the challenges that farmers face. If you just need someone to talk to, this is a resource that's there to help."

Farm Bureau also will promote the helpline in late November at its annual convention that draws over 500 farmers and other industry pro-

fessionals.

Additionally, Farm Bureau is sponsoring a series of workshops to help people who regularly interface with farmers recognize signs of stress and mental health difficulties. Targeted toward co-op workers, farm supply businesses, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and others, the workshops will be held regionally through March 2023.

"The workshops are intended to help farmer-facing workers know the signs and causes of stress and understand where to direct them for help," Fisher said.

The workshops are being held in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Can Central finish with a perfect season?

By Matthew Hatfield
The K-V Dispatch

With sole possession of first place in the James River District on the line, fans were treated to a defensive battle on the final Thursday of October 2022 when Central Lunenburg hosted Buckingham County in Victoria.

Only two touchdowns were scored on the night, both by the host Chargers, as Lunenburg pitched a 14-0 shutout to improve to 9-0 overall on the campaign, 5-0 in district play.

For Lunenburg, it was their first shutout in the series in 22 years. During that last shutout in 2000, when they blanked the Knights 52-0, none of the players on this season's current Central team were even born.

"Unbelievable. It was a dominant performance. They brought it," said Lunenburg coach Will Thomas of his defense's stellar performance, marking the sixth time on the year they've held the opposition to single-digits.

"Jamel Alexander, James Jenkins, Bam Jones, Connor Mattox, (Seth) Bishop... they all just played well. Coach (Wallace) Owen, our defensive coordinator, had a very good game-plan. Buckingham did a good job stopping our offense, too. We punted five

or six times, and we haven't punted five or six times total this year coming into this game."

The Chargers benefited from a bad snap on a punt for Buckingham and received good field position, leading to their first score of the night. Lunenburg struck on a touchdown pass from Mattox to Bam Jones, who also had a rushing touchdown on a night when he ran for over 100 yards.

From there, the defenses seized control, bottling up high-powered offenses that came in averaging over 40 points per game.

"We ended up keeping them down on their end of the field. It was what I expected and a war," Thomas indicated. "I think there were some sore people afterwards on both sides."

SIGHTS ON THE PLAYOFFS

Now the Chargers set their sights towards the playoffs. In Region 1B, reigning six-time State Champ Riverheads (8-1) sits at the top seed presently with a power rating of 26.0, ahead of Lunenburg's 24.67.

"I don't think we're going to take the No. 1 seed. It would take a Riverheads loss if we were to go 10-0, but hopefully we'll get to play them at some point anyways. Even if we lose, we'd still likely be the No. 2 seed a bye because they're only taking six teams. But to go 10-0 would be a huge deal and to win the

district. I've been here 15 years and we haven't won the district before," noted Thomas, whose team closes out the regular season at Amelia (5-4).

"We have our work cut out for us because Amelia is going to be tough this week. Amelia gave Buckingham everything they wanted. They'll come after you, so we still have a lot of work to do."

PLAYOFF IMPLICATIONS AT STAKE THIS WEEK

Besides Lunenburg visiting Amelia, there are several games with playoff implications across the area as the 2022 regular season comes to a close.

Buckingham (7-2) hosts winless Cumberland and likely won't get much of a power rating jump from their current 22.89 rating that has them placed fifth in Region 2B. Right behind them is Clarke County (6-3) at 22.78. A win by Clarke County over Page County (3-6) could jump them and drop Buckingham to sixth, although Stuarts Draft (7-2) sits in fourth at 23.1 and has no easy task of staying there with a trip to Riverheads.

Bottom line – the Knights likely need both Clarke and Stuarts Draft to lose to host a first round playoff game.

In Region 2A, Randolph-Henry (5-4) now needs to win its regular season finale and get some help to crack the eight-team field as their 17.0 rating sits behind Nottoway's 17.78 and eighth place Bruton, who checks in with an 18.33 rating.

The Statesmen travel to JRD rival Prince Edward (4-5). Nottoway visits Mecklenburg County (2-7), while Bruton plays at York (6-3).



The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association hear from officials with Lunenburg schools in October. Pictured are, from left, Evelyn Cunningham, presenters Dr. Sharon Stanislas and Dawn Bacon, Florence Oliver, Alice Birkhead, Thelma Craig, Marilyn Jones, Doris Fisher, Becky Nowlin, Gloria Pinckney, Sherman Vaughan, Ruby Ingram, Rose Ann Sweetney, Shirley Lee, Marjorie Crowder, Alvoid Crowder and Evelyn Staples. Not pictured are Chrystal Wynn, Jean Overman and Willette Hazelwood.

LNRTA learns about current trends in education

The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association (LNRTA) hosted a "Current Trends in Education" presentation facilitated by Dr. Sharon Stanislas and Mrs. Dawn Bacon, Directors of Instruction for Lunenburg County Public Schools on Oct. 20.

LNRTA President Ruby Ingram stated that the event had a two-fold purpose: (1) to keep retired school personnel abreast of the phenomenal growth in education upon the foundation for which they have attributed and (2) to promote ongoing networking between present and retired personnel, as they reflect on the premise that "it takes the whole village to educate our children." Invited as special guests

were school personnel retirees representing former superintendency, central office, principals, guidance counselors, librarians, teachers, nurses, custodians, food service, bus drivers and maintenance employees.

After the presentation, the room echoed with testimonials as retirees expressed treasured contributory memories from years of service to public education. This made for an impactful connection between past and present school personnel. LNRTA welcomes membership to all retired school personnel in Lunenburg and Nottoway counties.

Take Your Legislator to School Month

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) has declared November as "Take Your Legislator to School Month." Lunenburg County Public Schools has invited local residents to come visit on Thursday, Nov. 10, along with legislators, school board members, and board of supervisors members. The district staff said they plan to visit each school that day for a brief presentation. The day will begin as indicated by the schedule below.

- Lunenburg Middle School - 9:30 a.m.
- Central High School - 9:50 a.m.
- Victoria Elementary School - 10:15 a.m.
- Kenbridge Elementary School - 10:45 a.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Victoria Town Council and the Victoria Planning Commission will hold a **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING** on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM** in the **Victoria Town Office**

concerning a conditional use permit application from John T. Crenshaw to operate a golf cart repair and customization business at 1706 Virginia Avenue.

Inquiries concerning this Public Hearing may be addressed to the Victoria Town Office, 1809 Main Street, P.O. Box 1421, Victoria, VA 23974, or by phone at (434) 696-2343 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

It is the intention of the Victoria Town Council to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should anyone need special accommodations, please contact the Town Office prior to the meeting.

Rodney Newton, Town Manager

LUNENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Thursday, **November 10th, 2022**, beginning at **6:00 PM** in the 2nd floor Courtroom; Lunenburg Courts Building, Lunenburg, VA 23952 for public input on the following:

- 1. Lunenburg Event Venue Ordinance**
- 2. Amendment to the Lunenburg Event Permit Ordinance**
A copy of the full text of both ordinances are available to review in the County Administration Office, 11413 Courthouse Road, Lunenburg, VA 23952, and on the Lunenburg County website at www.lunenburgva.org pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1427.
- 3. CUP 3-22 Conditional Use Permit** for Robert McQuillan, III—Funky Fungi Foods—to operate a Retail Store and Shop/Personal Service Business (Restaurant) on tax parcel 002-0A-0-5, 848 Free State Road, Meherrin, VA 23954, consisting of 3.12 acres in an A-1 Agricultural Zone.
- 4. School Budget Amendment FY2021-22:** Receive input on an increase of \$2,044,160 in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Revenue for the Lunenburg County School Division as a result of previously awarded ESSER funds and expensed to Trane for updates to the HVAC system in June 2022. The increase will result in a total updated school budget for FY2022 of \$26,205,387. These funds were previously advertised as a part of the Lunenburg County School Division's revenue for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Moving the funds to FY2022 will result in a decrease of \$2,044,160 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revenue for the Lunenburg County School Division. The decrease will result in a total updated school budget for FY2023 of \$27,513,540.

It is the intention of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you need special Accommodations, please contact the County Administration office at 434.696.2142 prior to the meeting date.

Written comments will be appreciated, in lieu of oral presentation. Please send comments to taylor@lunenburgva.gov or Lunenburg County Administration Office, Office of Planning and Economic Development, 11413 Courthouse Road, Lunenburg, VA 23952.