

# The Farmville Herald

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

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, November 4, 2022

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## Voter registration changes delayed by state error

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
The Farmville Herald

On Monday, Oct. 31, the Virginia Department of Elections announced that 149,000 voter registration transactions hadn't been properly processed this year. While Buckingham, Cumberland and Prince Edward counties all had some, it wasn't a large number in any part of our coverage area.

Out of those, 80 were in Buckingham County, according to Buckingham Registrar Lindsey Taylor.

"We did not have a large number," Taylor said. "Those are very easy to process."

A voter registration transaction is when a

resident changes things like their address, registers in a new county for the first time or requests any other adjustment to their record. This is done through visits to the Department of Motor Vehicles. As your driver's license and other information are updated there, the data is supposed to be sent to registrars in local cities and counties for processing. Due to a computer error in the statewide voter registration system, that didn't happen for these 149,000 people.

That's in the process of being corrected, both state and local officials say. As soon as the mistake was discovered, officials with

See **DELAYED**, Page A3



## What do I need to vote on Election Day?

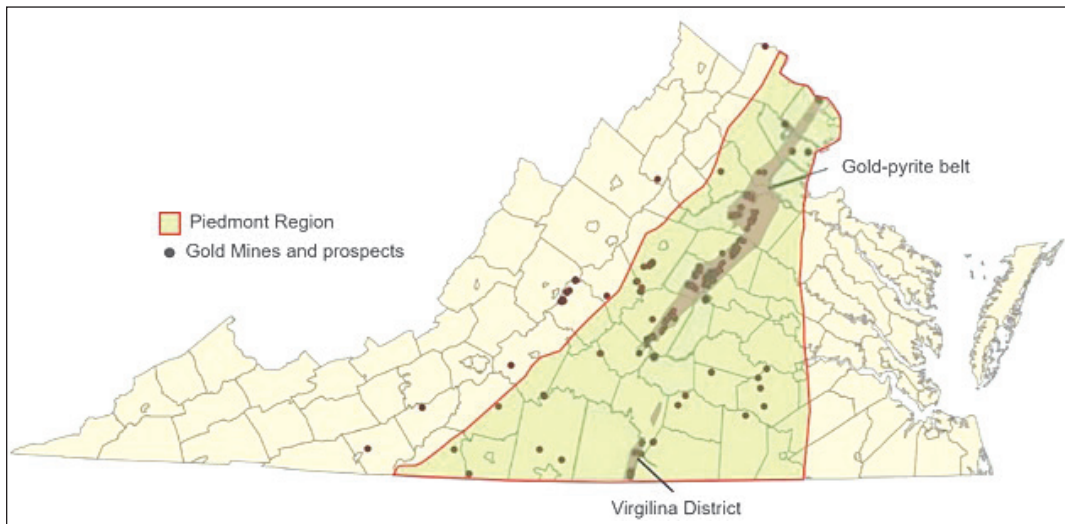
BY QUINN ARNONE  
The Farmville Herald

Election Day is next Tuesday and it can get confusing. We're here to help answer your questions and make sure you have all the information needed on where to go and what to bring to ensure your vote counts.

### WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE?

First, let's talk about the big issue: getting you to the correct polling place. You should have received a voter letter or card

See **VOTE**, Page A6



A look at one of the report's graphics, highlighting the main gold deposits in Virginia

## Warning offered in gold mining report

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
The Farmville Herald

### BUCKINGHAM

Virginia's gold mining regulations aren't strong enough to protect areas like Buckingham County. That comes from a report released Tuesday by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The report, a companion to the one being prepared by Virginia's gold mining workgroup, cautions that before gold mining is even considered for approval, the state needs to update outdated rules created some 40 years ago.

"As these regulations currently stand, they are not up to the task of assessing the risks to Virginia's communities and environment and ensuring that industry adheres

to modern best practices," said William Hopkins. A professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, he served this year as chairman of the committee who wrote the National Academies report.

The issue, Hopkins pointed out, is that Virginia's current rules and regulations just aren't built with today's industrial gold mining in mind. His argument is echoed throughout the report.

"Overall, the committee found that the regulatory framework of Virginia appears to have been designed for operations like

See **MINING**, Page A7

## Planning Commission signs off on solar farm request

### CUMBERLAND

The Cumberland County Board of Supervisors will have another solar project to consider at their November meeting. By a unanimous vote, the Cumberland Planning Commission approved the request by Sun

Tribe LLC for a conditional use permit. Now it goes to the county board for a final vote.

The proposed solar farm is located south of the Co-

lonial Gas Pipeline storage facility, right along Sports Lake Road. Under the current plan, 2,340 acres would be leased, with 1,750 or fewer being used for the

See **SOLAR**, Page A6



Dr. Ansari stands with his wife Diane after being inducted into the Northern Michigan Hall of Fame.

## Ansari makes alma mater's Hall of Fame

BY MATTHEW HATFIELD  
The Farmville Herald

Albeit soft-spoken and full of humility, Buckingham County resident Dr. Abdulbari Musa Ansari is beaming with pride these days. That's because back in September, he was inducted into the Northern Michigan University Sports Hall of Fame.

Each year, Northern Michigan University selects six former athletes from hundreds nominated to be inducted into its Sports Hall of Fame. Ansari set world and national records in the 60-yard dash in 1961. His record came at a meet at Central Michigan University, tying the U.S. and world record at the time of 6.8 seconds, set by Wilma Rudolph earlier that year.

See **ANSARI**, Page A2



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# ANSARI: Paying tribute to family

FROM PAGE ONE

"It was really a great experience. Everybody remembers their alma mater at one point, but one of the greatest honors is when your alma mater remembers you," Dr. Ansari remarked. "To be back at the school and actually have the school give me recognition was so wonderful. My wife Diane deserves a lot of credit because this wouldn't have happened without her nomination."

## ANSARI LOOKS BACK

Ansari's family history can be traced back to the days of enslavement in the Crozet area. Before going to NMU, he lived in New Jersey and his achievements almost didn't come to fruition. Spending time in reflection, he often thinks back to what did and almost didn't happen.

"I remember the great teams that we had and a lot of the individuals, but the thing that really went through my mind was what got me to be at Northern and to graduate. Northern was about 890 miles from Elizabeth, New Jersey where I lived. I only got to go home once during my freshman year because it took about 42-43 hours one way on a train. Even though I had a scholarship, when I went home that summer, I had planned not to go back," Ansari recalled.

During that summer, Ansari spent all his money he made so that he could say he would be unable to afford a

ticket to go back.

The life-changing event was his mother – Avis Louise Jackson Washington – telling him he was not going to quit when times were challenging. Ansari's father died when he was eight years old and his mother was raising five children.

"She asked when I had to go back and I told her I couldn't go back because I didn't have the train fare. She didn't say anything," relayed Ansari. "A couple days later, she gave me the money for the ticket and was ironing my shirts and putting them in the suitcase. I'm grateful to my mother because without her saying anything, she sent me back to Northern."

The rest, as they say, was history.

## A HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENT

The NMU alumnus has been a secondary school math teacher, assistant bank manager, regional human rights manager, director of community support services, attorney-at-law and adjunct professor, among several other distinguished titles. You can now add Hall of Famer to that list.

"Sports were a way for me to get a scholarship to go to school because we didn't have the money," pointed out Ansari, so appreciative of all the honors that have come his way.

"When I look back at it now, Northern provided me with the opportunity to learn who I was more and the tools that I needed in terms of knowledge, skills and ability to be able to apply



Dr. Ansari talks with members of the NMU Women's Track and Field Team after his induction.

them to whatever I wanted to do. A lot of people talk about themselves in terms of sports, but for me, it really was the contribution of the people around me that made the difference. The talent was there, but it was the encouragement of my coaches and teachers. When I graduated, I kept listening to those messages, including from my family from the days of being a child to now. That meant so much to me."

'Listen to the messages'

Ansari's family relocated to Buckingham County in 2005, seven years after returning to Virginia from Michigan. He and Diane, who have been married 58 years, have five children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Rather than his accomplishments

in sports, he hopes those remember most who he is and how he approached things in life beyond track through education and his work.

"My focus has been to utilize whatever knowledge and skills that I had to help better the organization that I work for or the people that I worked with," Ansari said. "We always had small teams, so we had to work together in order for us to compete against some of the larger schools."

Through Ansari's remarkable journey, he imparts one valuable piece of advice.

"Listen to the messages to help you improve to be better today than yesterday and tomorrow than today," Ansari stated.

# USDA says ice cream helped during pandemic

When the going gets tough, familiar comforts beckon from the fridge, according to new U.S. Department of Agriculture data showing an increase of per-capita dairy consumption over the past year.

Despite major food service sector disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the USDA's Economic Research Service reports American demand for dairy products including fluid milk, ice cream, butter and yogurts increased by 3 pounds per person. This was 655 pounds total in 2020 compared to 539 pounds in the previous year.

The increase of dairy indulgence could be linked to more at-home dining, baking and comfort-eating. The updated look at domestic dairy demand indicates pandemic shoppers may have found comfort in butter and ice cream.

That's good news for Virginia's dairy farmers said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Dairy Advisory Committee chair Leigh Pemberton. Virginia's dairy industry has suffered financial stress for years, with nearly one dairy closing every week in 2019. But the new ERS data shows American dairy consumption is on a growth trajectory.

Pemberton hopes it stays that way. "When people stayed home and had to start eating cereal, they bought more milk," he said. "We've seen fluid milk consumption go up in the last year overall, and it still is."

He added that families prepared more food at home when dining options changed, fueling demand for dairy products. Sales of baking-related products increased 24% in the U.S. last year as many consumers

turned to home-based activities, according to the Home Baking: U.S. Market Trends & Opportunities report released by Packaged Facts.

"It would be interesting if we continue this trend, when the world hopefully comes back to what it was before 2020," Pemberton said. "Are those buying habits ingrained enough that it will stick? You've got to look for the good in the bad, and I'm staying positive — hoping that dairy consumption will continue to increase going forward."

Commodity experts agree the pandemic is having a significant impact on how consumers view and consume food.

"Many have learned or relearned how to prepare meals from scratch, and there has been a shift to comfort-type foods and dishes," said Tony Banks, VFBF senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation. "Milk and dairy products fit this shift in home meal prep. We hope this is a trend that can continue."



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Prince Edward County School Board is accepting proposals for the purpose of

### PROVIDING CUSTODIAL SERVICES.

Proposals are due at the Board of Education Building no later than 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Envelopes containing proposals must have the statement "Sealed Proposal – Custodial Services", written on the outside of the envelope and they must have the name of the firm stated in the return address portion of the envelope. Proposals must be addressed to: Richard Goode, Director of Support Services, Prince Edward County Public Schools, 35 Eagle Drive, Farmville, Virginia 23901.

There will be a mandatory pre-proposal meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, December 2, 2022, at the Prince Edward County School Board Office.

To request the RFP specifications, please contact Richard Goode, Director of Support Services, at the address previously noted or phone (434) 315-2150.

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# One step closer: With veteran team, Knights built for success

BY MATTHEW HATFIELD

BUCKINGHAM

**E**xciting moments and close finishes were the norm for the Buckingham County Knights the past couple seasons. In 2019, they pieced together a nine-game winning streak and edged Page County, 20-19, in overtime in the regional quarterfinals.

Last year, Buckingham saw four games decided by six points or less, splitting them with a heart-breaking loss to Strasburg in the Region 2B quarterfinals where they saw a 16-point lead evaporate in a 22-19 decision.

Since that defeat that closed out their 2021 season at 6-3 overall, the Knights have been eager to get on the gridiron and show they're ready to

take another step forward.

"We've been working hard in the off-season. These guys have been in the weight room since January, getting ready for the season. I've got a good group of seniors coming back. It's a very coachable group that listens, too," remarked four-year head coach Seth Wilkerson.

"We've got some talented skill guys back. Each day, we're just working and trying to get better at the small things that we do."

## A TALENTED RETURNING GROUP

Of those gifted athletes, several will play multiple positions and get to showcase their versatility. One of them is senior K.J. Williams, a dynamic play-

maker that is likely to play quarterback and tailback offensively, plus line up in the secondary on defense at both cornerback and safety. In the playoff game against Strasburg last November, Williams rushed for 172 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries.

Another senior expected to get snaps at QB along with wide receiver and defensive back is Kymeir Lockett, a player that like Williams could garner All-District or even All-Region accolades. The same may very well be true for senior tight end and defensive end Tucker Motley, one of seven starters returning on defense for a Knights team that gave up just 13.4 points per game a season ago. That was their best showing since 2009.

"We missed a couple games because of COVID and that kind of put us



**SETH WILKERSON**

Buckingham Knights Head Coach

behind, but they got better as the year went along," Wilkerson noted of the defense.

Another player that figures to be a major contributor on both sides of the



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ball is senior tailback and linebacker Rocco Raynor. Going both ways doesn't exclude the linemen either. In the trenches, senior Desmond Vaughan returns as the starting center and is going to be a key component on the d-line as well.

#### A NEED FOR DEPTH

"We lost a few on the offensive line that were seniors last year, so building that back up will be big. We do have a couple guys back there that are coming along," remarked Wilkerson, fully recognizing the value of getting the

backups ready to step in and start at a moment's notice so that this group can reach its full potential.

"It's the same as it is for everybody else, establishing depth. There are some younger guys that we have to get them on the same page as those seniors. Depth is the big key right now."

Buckingham opens the 2022 season against Appomattox, who the Knights beat 27-6 in 2019 in the last meeting between the two teams. Appomattox has won five of the past seven state titles at the Class 2 level, including

three in a row from 2015-17.

"We know that's a big game. That's a good measuring stick for where we are for the season," Wilkerson acknowledged. "It's always a good,

well-coached team. We can get an idea from the scrimmages, but that first game really tells us where we are as far as what's going good, what we need to improve on and go from there."

## Buckingham Knights 2022 Schedule

— ALL GAMES ARE AT 7 P.M. —

Aug. 26 – at Appomattox

Oct. 7 – at Randolph-Henry

Sept. 9 – William Campbell

Oct. 13 – at Nottoway

Sept. 16 – Fuqua

Oct. 21 – Amelia County

Sept. 23 – at Prince Edward

Oct. 27 – at Central of Lunenburg

Sept. 30 – at Franklin

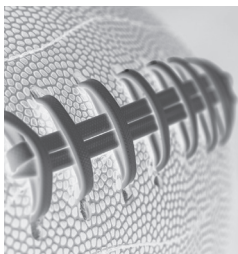
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

# Season comes to an end for Central

BY MATTHEW HATFIELD  
The Farmville Herald

At some point, it had to end. Coach Will Thomas knew that. Up until Nov. 24, his team had beaten all challengers. But the Central Lunenburg Chargers fell just one weekend short of extending their season into a fifth month as they were ousted from the playoffs in the Region 1B Championship by Riverheads, 42-13.

Riverheads rolled up 380 yards rushing with 169 of them and two touchdowns coming from bruising junior running back Cayden Cook-Cash, the Shenandoah District Offensive Player of the Year.

“We had a good year, but they’re at a different level. Riverheads is very good at

what they do. They ran it down our throats. They know their assignments and they have tough kids,” Thomas remarked after his team wrapped up the season at 11-1 overall.

“We fought, got on two fumbles. You think you’re in it and then triple C runs off a 50-yard run and you’re down 21-0. The problem was we couldn’t move the ball consistently. We were constantly in third-and-long, punting on our own 20, which would give it to them at midfield and a short field.”

Nicknamed the Gladiators, Riverheads has now won 27 straight playoff games. Only one in that stretch came by single-digits, back in 2017 against Essex, their next op-

ponent in the state semifinals.

### ‘EVERYBODY UNDERESTIMATES THAT DEFENSE’

While Lunenburg found itself down 42-0 entering the fourth period, a large reason was because of the Gladiators bottling up their attack, which ended the regular season averaging 43 points and 336 yards rushing per game.

Both of the Chargers touchdowns came in the fourth quarter courtesy of run plays: a 35-yard run from Bam Jones and 11-yard run by K.J. Watson.

“Don’t get me wrong, their offense is phenomenal. But I think everybody underestimates that defense. We were fighting for every yard against them,” Thomas said of a team that now sits two wins away

from a VHSL record seventh consecutive State Championship.

### READY FOR A JUMP

As Riverheads stays in Region 2B next year, Lunenburg jumps up to Region 2A. A new classification and region will present its own set of challenges, but most of all their post-season path becomes different since no longer will run into a squad that has eliminated them three times since 2015.

“We had good runs in 2011, 12 and 13. Our district is not as strong as theirs obviously, but we were as good as we’ve been in about 15 years,” pointed out Thomas.

What will stick out most about the 2022 edition of the Central-Lunenburg Chargers?

The camaraderie and how they grew to overcome obstacles from the start to accomplish some significant goals.

“The kids, especially the seniors, worked together so well. They’re friends, do a lot of things together, so that was awesome. There was no jealousy. Most of them had played together since they were sophomores because they got introduced during that spring season. Since there was no JV, they played varsity together since sophomores,” Thomas noted.

“We’ve got a good group of juniors that will be seniors who started as freshmen. It was fun. We’ve been through quite a bit with COVID, the spring season and piecing everything together. It’s the first district championship in a long time, undefeated in the regular season since ‘95 and they mean a lot. They’re a good group of kids that you hate to see them go.”

# Opinion

YOUR VIEWS

## We’re fortunate to have Heritage Hall

Dear Editor,

I was a guest/patient at Heritage Hall Nursing Home in Dillwyn, for 18 days for therapy after a fall. It was a very pleasant experience. I appreciate everyone who contributed to the wonderful care I

received while I was there. The staff, nurses, therapists, CNA’s, Aids, housekeepers and maintenance workers were all excellent, helpful and caring. I had a wonderful roommate who will be a lifetime friend.

We are so fortunate to have a facility of this caliber

in our county.

Becky Bowling  
Dillwyn

## Be strong in the Lord, Virginia

**W**e never know when tragedy will touch our communities. One week after the senseless murder of three University of Virginia football players, a long-time manager at a Walmart in Chesapeake killed six of his coworkers and injured numerous others.

Late Tuesday evening of last week, a long-time manager at a Walmart in Chesapeake went into a break room and killed six co-workers, apparently selecting specific people before

killing himself. The killer had no previous criminal record. He purchased the firearm the morning of the shooting.

He purchased the firearm legally.

In a death note found in his phone, the shooter said, “Sorry everyone but I did not plan this I promise things just fell in place like I was led by the Satan.”

He claimed that his phone had been hacked, blamed his coworkers for making fun of him, and his parents for not

paying more attention to his “social deficits.”

As with the shooting at UVA, law enforcement and other investigators are working to determine what happened, and if anything could have been done to prevent the killings.

Until we know what happened, it is not only wrong to propose solutions — it’s counterproductive.

Virginia Democrats, however, even before they know what happened, have already proposed their solutions — more bans and more restrictions,

even though we don’t know if they have any bearing on the two shootings at all.

Democrats had complete control of state government for two years and passed a raft of gun control measures when they did. What new restrictions do we need now that Democrats themselves didn’t enact when they were in charge?

I hope our country and our Commonwealth can find peace from recent tragedies, and I pray to the Lord to continue to watch over us as we live in a time when people want to commit the most heinous acts of violence. I will continue to pray for our nation, as we are the



YOUR TURN  
TOMMY WRIGHT

greatest nation on Earth, and we should all be thankful for the opportunity to call America home.

DEL. TOMMY WRIGHT can be reached via email at DelTWright@House.Virginia.gov or (804) 698-1061.

## The Hartford and the chair

**I** suppose I am sometimes viewed as “portly” by those with enriched active vocabularies. Accordingly, my chest waders (to use the nomenclature of most outdoor catalogs) are “stout,” which means I am allowed to pay five dollars extra when I order, presumably to cover the many extra yards of material needed to manufacture them. Thanks to this stature — and I suppose just a hint of plain old bad luck — I have enjoyed a somewhat checkered history with all but the strongest of chairs...

My first mishap occurred in Mexico City decades ago when my wife and I went to a popular restaurant for lunch. The waiter showed us to our table, and my wife recounts that when I sat down, I suddenly disappeared. I wasn’t quite as husky back then, so clearly the chair was defective. It only took a few months to recover my dignity, but definitely not in that same restaurant.

The next incident involved patio furniture made of white PVC pipe with blue nylon stretched over the frame and ostensibly double-stitched seams. No problems with the showroom test, but the first time I sat down to a meal at home, I found myself looking at my knees with my butt on the floor. If laughter truly is beneficial to health, I am sure my wife will live a very long time... I have also broken bolts in a few recliner frames, but I’m pretty sure it was because of my little daughters’ insistence on constantly sitting on my lap to read! I have flattened several of those cheap beach chairs — the ones that keep you about six inches off the sand. Luckily, there are usually trash barrels available at beach exits.

The most tragic episode took place a couple of deer seasons ago. As the years have worn on, I have evolved in my seating philosophy from nothing at all, to a camo boat cushion

on the ground, to a dove stool, then to a folding stool with padded back, and finally to a full-blown camo folding camp chair for my ground hunting. I find I have many fewer aches after several freezing hours hunting deer on one of these wonderful technological advancements, especially if I happen to forget the preventive Aleves.

YOUR TURN  
MIKE WILSON

That year I encountered a major buck the first week of the black powder season that winded me just before legal light and emitted the loudest snort I have ever heard! Look-

ing around later that morning, I could see numerous scrapes and rubs nearby, so I knew this was his habitual haunt. The first week of regular firearm season, I decided to go to the same spot even earlier since the wind was more favorable and ambush him. Because the area is densely wooded with lots of stunted saplings, I had decided to take a shotgun with the Dixie Slugs Tri-Ball load (with 3 .60 caliber balls that pattern to 6” at 40 yards), which I had used to drop several deer right in their tracks.

After a couple of hours, I suddenly caught a glimpse of something moving at my 9. Naturally, my gun, which lay across the arms of my chair, was pointed to my 3 since I shoot left-handed, thanks to an old baseball accident. Worse, he began to slowly walk toward my 8, so I figured I had to do something smoothly and quickly before he ambled completely out of sight! I decided that whenever his eyes were blocked by one of

the larger trees, I would very slowly turn in his direction, a maneuver I finally could not wait any longer to undertake. Lean back just a little more and he would be on my wall and in my freezer!

Just when I had my muzzle pointed a couple of feet above his silhouette’s top line, I was suddenly looking up at the treetops. The frame of that poisonous chair couldn’t take those last few pounds of pressure and suddenly collapsed. The Hartford ran crashing off through the woods with his afterburners on, most likely to delight some trail-camera owner the next county over. Oh, he’ll be back... And so will I, since for Christmas a few weeks later the girls all chipped in to give me a new digital camo folding chair rated at 400 pounds, with an insulated buckshot holder on each arm. Let’s just see me break this one!

MIKE WILSON is a former Hampden-Sydney Spanish professor and 13-year resident of Prince Edward County, who now calls North Carolina home. He can be reached at jmwilson@catowba.edu.

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