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QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Fall 2012

This Week IN RICHMOND



Tune in for the latest Richmond News from host David Bailey and Virginia Elected officials.

Thanks to the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Alpha Natural Resources and our other underwriters, *This Week in Richmond* may be seen weekly throughout the year on WBRA (Roanoke), WMSY (Marion), WSBN (Norton), WVPT (Harrisonburg), WCVE (Richmond), WHTJ (Charlottesville) and WHRO (Norfolk).

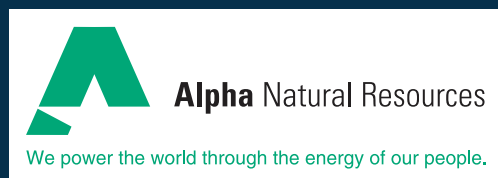
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FALL 2012 ISSUE



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Charles Judd—Chair,
and Don Palmer—Secretary.

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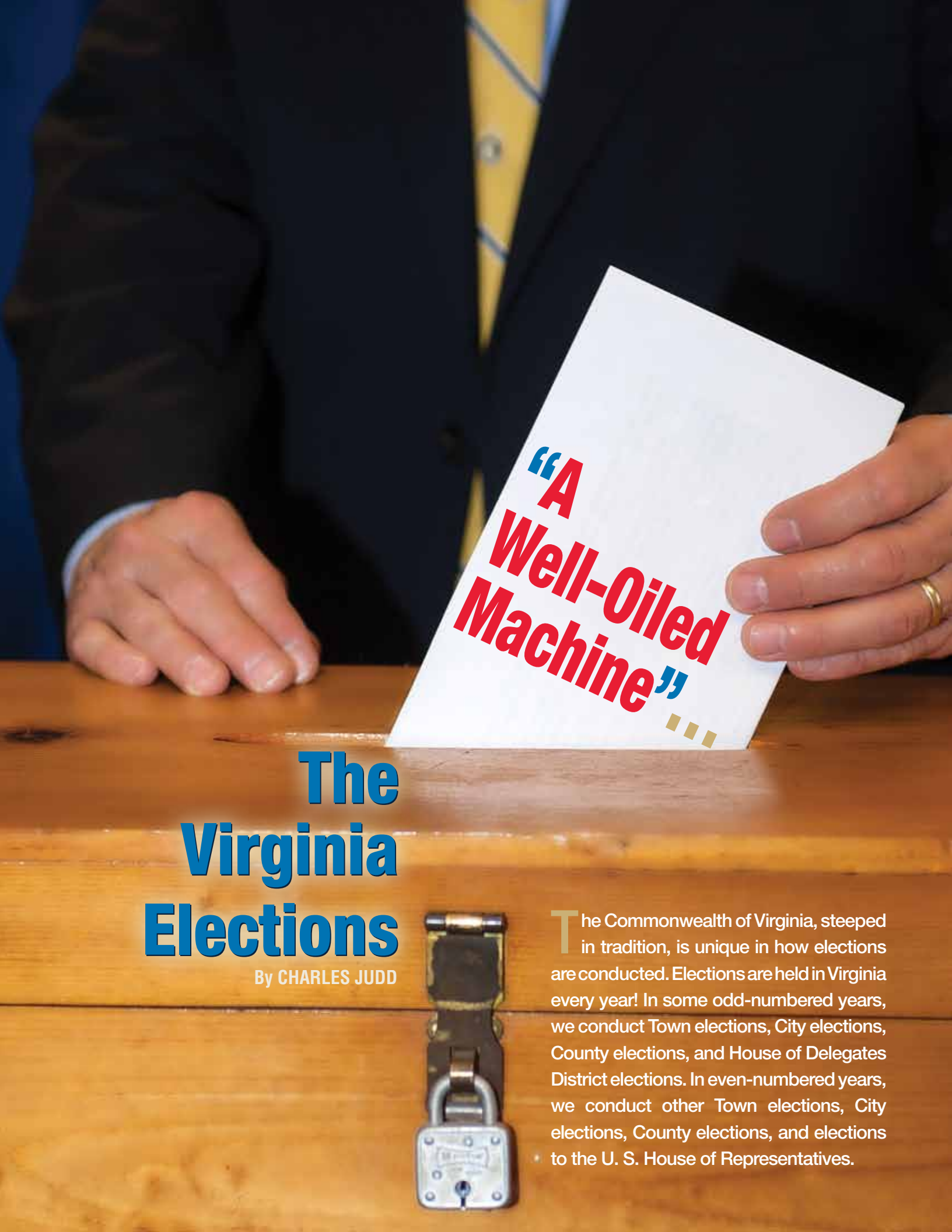
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A person wearing a dark suit jacket and a yellow patterned tie is holding a white ballot. The ballot has the text "A Well-Oiled Machine" printed on it in red and blue. The person's hands are visible, and they are standing behind a wooden ballot box. The ballot is partially inserted into the slot of the box. The background is a solid blue color.

“A
Well-Oiled
Machine”

The Virginia Elections

By CHARLES JUDD

The Commonwealth of Virginia, steeped in tradition, is unique in how elections are conducted. Elections are held in Virginia every year! In some odd-numbered years, we conduct Town elections, City elections, County elections, and House of Delegates District elections. In even-numbered years, we conduct other Town elections, City elections, County elections, and elections to the U. S. House of Representatives.

Then, in other odd-numbered years, we conduct some Town elections, City elections, County elections, and, every four years, State Senate District elections. And, when we are not electing State Senators, we conduct statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. Then certain even-numbered years we elect the President of the United States. But then, every sixth even-numbered year, elections are held for U. S. senate.



Sound confusing? Perhaps to the casual observer it may even be intimidating. But with the structure of the electoral process in Virginia, elections are conducted with uniformity, integrity, and accuracy. When was the last time that an election in Virginia was reversed following a recount of the votes?

In fact, when the last election was close enough to qualify for a recount, the unsuccessful candidate said he would not ask for the recount, because (quote): "I trust the integrity and accuracy of our system."

Accurate elections are a work product of the dedicated electoral community we enjoy in the Commonwealth. The Constitution of Virginia and the Code of Virginia structure that "community."

From the SBE website: *The State Board of Elections (SBE) was created in 1946 as a bipartisan agency responsible for ensuring uniformity, fairness, accuracy and purity in all elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The agency promotes the proper administration of election laws, campaign finance disclosure compliance, and voter registration processes in Virginia by promulgating rules, regulations, issuing instructions, and providing information to local electoral boards and general registrars. In addition, the agency maintains a centralized database of statewide voter registration and election related data.*

The three-member SBE Board serves for a four-year term, is appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the General Assembly. There are two members from the Party receiving the highest number of votes in the Gubernatorial election and one member from the Party receiving the second highest number of votes. The Governor designates one member to serve as Secretary. I serve as Chair, and Kimberly Bowers serves as Vice-Chair, both volunteer positions. Don Palmer serves as Secretary. The Board establishes policies, regulations, and guidelines for the work of the local Boards and General Registrars as set forth in 369 pages of Virginia Election Laws.

The SBE Agency is headed by the Secretary, who is an employee of the Commonwealth, and who, with a full-time staff of 35-40 professionals, supervises and coordinates the work of the local Boards and General Registrars to obtain uniformity in their practices and proceedings as well as legality and purity in all elections.

The Agency has staff dedicated to maintaining the voter database, voting machines and other technology, election law compliance, and assuring uniformity among all the election activity each and every election cycle.

Again this year, Virginia will have 402 local Electoral Board members, 134 General Registrars, 548 General Registrar staff statewide, and 23,880 trained Election Officials. In all, 24,830 people working in 2,545 precincts on election day... prepared to accommodate over 4,700,000 voters!

Virginia elections...the result of a 'Well Oiled Machine' indeed!

Charles Judd is the Chairman of the Virginia State Board of Elections, charles.judd@sbe.virginia.gov.

What's Next? Who Will America Choose?

By ANNE REAGAN HARDY (11 YEAR OLD, 6TH GRADER)

There are so many questions to ask and to answer. Who will win the election? Who did you vote for? Of course, that would never come out of an adult's mouth, maybe a kid's mouth. But, it would sound like this, "Are you a Republican or Democrat?" The other kids response would be "I have no idea!" Of course, most people keep their political view under their pillow in a heart shaped box. What is in your heart shaped box? 🗳️

Senator Kenny Alexander Sworn In



Senate Clerk Susan Clarke Schaar swears in Senator Kenneth Alexander as the new representative of the 5th Senate district of Virginia. Virginia's newest Senator is joined by his wife, Donna Burnley Alexander, and their children, Kenneth II and David.

Kenneth Cooper Alexander was born and reared in Norfolk, Virginia and became president of his neighborhood's civic league and Community Housing and Development Corporation. He has taught the Old and New Testament at the same church he attended as a child, as well as served as an instructor of International Relations at Tidewater Community College. By profession, Alexander is a Funeral Director and President of Metropolitan Funeral Service, a family-owned business, with two locations in Norfolk, and one in Portsmouth. Prior to the Senate, he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for ten years.

Alexander holds a Master of Arts Degree from Norwich University, a Bachelor of Science Degree from Old Dominion University, and an Associate Degree in Applied Science from John Tyler Community College. He is also a graduate of the FBI Citizen's Academy, Fellow of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership, and Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments. 🗳️

Will Virginia's Health Care Significantly Improve Without Better Data?

By SENATOR LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER (D-36)
and DELEGATE JOHN M. O'BANNON, III (R-73)

The answer is "no." The Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council (created by Governor McDonnell) stated the case for change in its 2010 report. "Virginia's overall quality of care is average, with strengths in cardiac care, hospital care generally, and home health. Weaknesses in Virginia's quality rankings include nursing home care, diabetes care, and maternal and child health. Specifically, Virginia ranks 41st in the nation in breast cancer death rates, and 35th in infant mortality. None of these statistics measure up to Virginia ranking sixth, nationwide, in median family income."

As health care costs continue to take a larger portion of our paychecks, Virginia's health care system needs to become more transparent to allow for better decision-making. Having more and better cost information is key to improving routine health care decisions for consumers, employers, insurers, hospitals, public health officials, and policy-makers. To this end, we introduced bills creating an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) that allows Virginia Health Information to collect medical claims from insurers, third-party payers, Medicaid, Tricare and Medicare (Senate Bill 135 and House Bill 343).

Twelve states currently have an APCD. Virginia's Joint Commission on Health Care, on which we both serve, unanimously recommended establishing the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database. The APCD will allow for analysis and understanding of medical care that is not currently possible, particularly related to how and where Virginia's health care dollars are spent. Understanding health care expenditure patterns and measuring quality and access are vital to improving access to health care, reducing costs, and enhancing quality of care.

An APCD can lead to better information about where to go for quality care; for instance knowing the frequency that a provider performs a medical procedure is often an important predictor of the provider's ability to perform that procedure well. An APCD can facilitate better-informed public health decisions; identifying which regions of the state or age groups have the highest rates of diseases. This can allow scarce public health resources to be used for the most pressing problems. Employers may use APCD information to design benefit plans that encourage employees to use health care providers who deliver high quality at lower costs or to target their wellness programs to encourage the preventive care their employees are not receiving. Patient confidentiality will be protected.

Virginia was ranked by CNBC as the 2011 "Top state for Business." Improving health care quality and value is essential to staying competitive in the long-term. To this end, the legislation passed overwhelmingly in a bipartisan fashion and had public support from hospitals, physicians, as well as the large and small business communities.

As we continue our move to an information-based economy, it is only fitting that data-driven health care information be available to allow for better informed decision-making.

Senator Puller serves as Chair of the Joint Commission on Health Care. Delegate O'Bannon serves as Vice Chair. ▣



Business Development Caucus: "Virginia is the best state to do business in and getting better."

By BRENNAN LONG

Four freshman Delegates joined together to form the first Business Development Caucus in Virginia's General Assembly. Delegates Mike Watson (R-James City), Chris Head (R-Roanoke), David Ramadan (R-Loudoun) and Michael Webert (R-Fauquier)—all business owners employing Virginians—recently founded the caucus to introduce legislation to promote entrepreneurship and job growth in the Commonwealth.



"The four of us had had frequent casual conversations about our own businesses and realized that among all the Caucuses in the GA, there was not one focused on business development," Delegate Watson said.

Senior Delegates Joe May (R-Loudoun) and Terry Kilgore (R-Gate City) are serving as advisors to the Business Development Caucus, which carries the support and endorsement of both Governor Robert F. McDonnell and Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford). "The Business Development Caucus has formed in keeping with Virginia's tradition as a place where opportunity exists for anyone who takes a risk and puts their God-given talents and time to work," Governor McDonnell said. "The Business Development Caucus will also partner with my Year of the Entrepreneur initiative in our shared mission of growing opportunity in the Commonwealth. I applaud freshman Delegates Ramadan, Webert, Head and Watson and committee chairmen Terry Kilgore and Joe May for taking the initiative to form this caucus and look forward to seeing the results of their efforts."

In addition to an enthusiastic response from the governor, the Caucus also received offers of full support from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Americans For Prosperity, the National Federation of Independent Business and similar organizations, all of which stand willing to facilitate the Caucus's efforts.



The four founders of the Business Development Caucus: (From left) Delegates Webert, Head, Ramadan and Watson touring Dulles airport during a Loudoun BDC event.

Continued on next page



(From left) Delegates Head, Watson, Ramadan and Webert at a BDC event in Richmond.

"I think it's a great idea for these Delegates to draw upon their experience as employers to help other Virginia businesses create new jobs," Speaker Howell said.

Though the Delegates differ in their business backgrounds—Head in healthcare, Ramadan in international franchising, Watson in manufacturing technology and Webert in agriculture—they have encountered many of the same challenges, from infrastructure and employer mandates to regulation and taxes, among others.

"Businesses face a wide range of issues that limit their ability to invest and grow," Delegate Head said. "The four of us shared our own business experiences, including the unique challenges that come with meeting payroll, and determined that we needed a mechanism for bringing these concerns to the forefront."

The BDC Mission is to promote practical business legislation to facilitate start ups, growth and success of Virginia businesses. Their strategy is to visit locations around the state to host Business Town Hall meetings, getting direct input from business owners and leaders.

"After 30 years of working with high-tech firms and manufacturers, most of it as a business owner, I've seen what draws business and what drives it away," Delegate Watson said. "With our new caucus, we can use our own experiences and ideas from other companies to pass legislation that will promote business success and job growth in the Commonwealth."

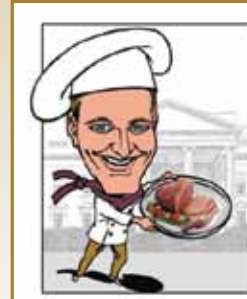
The Business Development Caucus has conducted six town hall style meetings in Roanoke, Hampton Roads, Loudoun, Culpeper, Richmond and Danville. All four delegates attended the meetings along with representatives from the governor's office. Over 130 companies were represented at the meetings and the Caucus leaders learned about issues including taxes, permits, workforce development, Virginia Employment Commission and Home-based businesses.

Ideas generated at these regional meetings, will lead to legislation which Caucus members will guide through the legislative process in the 2013 session, enhancing the outlook for Virginia's job-creators.

"This is why we ran for office," Watson said. "We now have a group of experienced employers working together with a clear mission: Promoting business success and job creation in the Commonwealth."

Any Virginia business leader interested in participating in a regional business roundtable meeting should contact Delegate Mike Watson at DelMWatson@house.virginia.gov.

Brennan Long is a junior at the University of Richmond. She is majoring in Journalism and minoring in French at the university.



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Robert Krupicka Sworn In as the Delegate of the 45th District After a Special Election

Rob Krupicka was sworn in on Friday, September 28th as the newest state Delegate in Virginia. "I'm honored to be entrusted with representing the interests of the residents of the 45th District."


Krupicka, a Democrat from Alexandria, won a decisive victory with a 75% margin during a Special Election held on September 4. The 45th District covers parts of Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County. Delegate Krupicka plans to spend the next three months focused on reaching out to constituents and developing his legislative agenda. A three-term Alexandria City Councilman and a Governor Kaine appointee to the State Board of Education, Krupicka has a record of collaborative policy work and of successful work on education, environment, transportation and small business issues.

Rob was born in California on February 18th, 1971 to a teen-age mother who taught him that above all else, a good education is the foundation to success in life. While neither has a college degree, Rob's parents' instilled in him the belief that everyone deserves the same chance to fulfill their potential, a value that Rob has spent his career working to uphold.

Rob graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Economics, and shortly thereafter moved to Northern Virginia where he met his wife Lisa at the Old Town Safeway. Along with their two daughters, Janelle and Gillian, the Krupickas live in Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood and attend church at Hope United Church of Christ. Rob began his civic career as president of the Del Ray Citizens Association and as the Vice Chair of Alexandria's Community Services Board.

Delegate Krupicka considers closing the student achievement gap one of the greatest opportunities for Virginia. "The future prosperity of the Commonwealth is directly related to the capacity and skill of every single student. Closing the gaps and maximizing that potential will unleash economic growth, help us attract employers to our state, and will strengthen our ability to compete in the world."

Rob presently works as a communications and strategy consultant with state and national organizations to promote quality, early childhood programs that have a positive impact on the economy of the United States. He has also worked with numerous technology companies from very small to the very large. Rob was an early innovator in online financial services developing one of the first online banking web sites in the early 90s and playing a lead role in America Online's online financial services strategy.

An avid runner, who just completed a 50K trail race in the Blue Ridge mountains, if Rob isn't working, coaching soccer or spending time with his family, he is likely out training for his next race. 



Newly elected Delegate Krupicka stands with his wife and daughters as he is sworn in by House Clerk Paul Nardo.



Friends and family members sit in the House of Delegates for the swearing in of Delegate Krupicka.



Delegate Krupicka stands with his family and friends after he has been sworn in as the newest delegate in the General Assembly.

Hope

for
Grayson County

By LYDIA FREEMAN



I turn to my friend, Amelia, and ask her for ten words that she associates with prison. She holds up her fingers while she counts them off.

“Cells, barred doors, jumpsuits,” she pauses. “This is really hard. Shank, warden, prisoners, courtyard basketball,” we both laugh. “Barbed wire fence, and gangs.”

“Why’d you ask me that?” she asks.

“To make a point,” I reply. “Prison has never been an archetype for hope.”



Hope Granted

In 2011 a prison was completed in Grayson County. The community had shown support for the project.

“The state looked at rival counties,” said Jonathan Sweet, the Grayson County Administrator. “Some counties were receptive, some were not, but Grayson County was one of the most receptive and made logistical sense. The employment opportunities were needed in this part of the Commonwealth.”

It was anticipated that the opening of the prison would bring about 300 plus new jobs that would pay well and provide benefits. The prison will also lead to family visiting, which will bring even more income into the community.

Delegate Israel O’Quinn explained that Virginia originally housed the vast majority of its own inmates, until overcrowding forced these prisoners to be moved into regional jails.

“We still have a lot of inmates in Virginia prisons and we need the space that’s available in Independence,” O’Quinn said.

But currently, the opening of the prison is on a continued delay due to funding. Now it is nearing 2013, and another year of emptiness will begin.

A Hope Unfulfilled

Opening the prison will cost 24 million dollars annually to staff and run the facility. Lack of funds is the primary reason for holding off on the opening.

“I’m hoping that the governor will find the appropriation to completely open this facility,” Senator Carrico said. “A thousand bed units; three shifts and around 300 people to employ; 24 million dollars to operate it. We are currently spending \$750,000 a year to keep it in good working condition. We have a state of the art facility that has just been built. It makes no sense to leave this state of the art facility empty when older facilities are still operating but are not as efficient.”

Carrico worked in law enforcement for fifteen years, and he knows the value of the facility.

“When budgets are low, cuts are made to places where they feel they are less needed,” Carrico said. “But I’ve spent 15 years of my life in the state police. I know that a prison uprising can be one of the worst situations you can have. If you are double bunking in regional jails those public safety hazards could arise. We need to open the facility before this happens.”

According to Carrico, 4,000 committed inmates are in regional jails not equipped for the numbers they hold. By the end of this budget year the numbers are expected to rise to 6,000.

Sweet said the most disheartening part of the situation is listening to the people who are underemployed or unemployed.

“These people have put their life and family plans on hold. It’s frustrating to listen to those questions of when it will be open. People have a desire to work there, and currently they are not able to,” Sweet said. “That situation is difficult for individuals as well as the businesses because right now we are seeing them both tread water until it opens. That is the most frustrating part.”

Delegate Israel O’Quinn gave his top three reasons for opening the prison, echoing the sentiments of Carrico and Sweet.

“First, we need the 300 plus jobs in the Twin County area,” said O’Quinn “Second, we’re wasting over \$750,000 each year to have it sitting there unopened and not functioning. Finally, our prison system is already overcrowded and we need to get the doors open to alleviate that problem for the Department of Corrections.”

See *Hope*, continued on page 12

Bluefield College Partners with Tazewell County to Create Dental School



Artist's rendition of the dental school.



Jim Spencer, Administrator, Tazewell County shows the site of the proposed dental school.



Dr. David Olive, President, Bluefield College.

Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia, in partnership with the Tazewell County (VA) Board of Supervisors and the County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) unveiled a plan of historic significance for higher education and economic development in southwest Virginia during a ceremony, Friday, September 14.

In front of a crowd of leaders and dignitaries from both the state and local level, Tazewell County officials and Bluefield College president Dr. David Olive announced their collaborative plans to build and open a dental school at the County's new regional business and technology center known as The Bluestone.

To be officially named at a later date, the new dental school, according to BC and County officials, is designed to address the growing shortage of dentists and dental care professionals in southwest Virginia and Central Appalachia.

"Dentists and professional dental care are limited in Central Appalachia, but this new dental school will address that problem," said Dr. Olive, "and begin to fill our understaffed clinics with the personnel needed to provide rural residents with sufficient oral care."

In addition to offering the doctor of dental medicine (DDM) degree, the dental school will have the potential to offer programs in dental hygiene and dental therapy for students interested in other oral care disciplines. These programs, said County administrator Jim Spencer, will not only address the shortage of dental professionals in Central Appalachia, but also improves access to quality oral care.

"Through partnerships with local and regional clinics, our hope is to provide sliding scale dental care for uninsured low income citizens," said Spencer. "It's heartbreaking to see so many people suffer from oral problems and associated ailments and not be able to get the help they need. This new school and its supportive programs in dental care and nursing will help address that longstanding problem in our region."

According to planners, the new dental school will recruit qualified applicants primarily from the Appalachian region with a mission to have these students return to their communities to provide dental and health care. Toward that end, the dental school will rely on partnerships with rural outreach clinics to implement a block scheduling system for students that



Doyle Rasnick, Chairman, Tazewell County IDA.



Mike Hymes, Chairman, Tazewell County Supervisors.



Dr. David Olive, Jim Spencer and Doyle Rasnick sign the 'Memorandum of Understanding' to create the dental school.

will keep overhead and tuition as low as possible. The idea is that graduates who incur less debt for their degree can afford to pursue primary care practices in Central Appalachia instead of higher-paying specialties in urban areas.

“We don’t want to educate and export our graduates to urban areas,” said Dr. Olive. “We want them to stay at home to provide quality care to communities that are losing dentists and to mentor future dental students.”

Students in the program will also participate in rigorous community service projects designed to inform and educate public school students about tooth decay, obesity, diabetes, hygiene, nutrition, and exercise so that future generations of Appalachian residents can help break the cycle of poor health outcomes in their communities.

“The Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority has a proven track record of cooperation with Bluefield College as evidenced by our partnership to allow the College use of the former Pocahontas High School building,” said IDA chair Doyle Rasnick. “This new dental school is just another great example of the ways in which the County is working with the College to advance this region and to improve the lives of the residents of southwest Virginia.”

In addition, the economic impact of the dental school, the County said, will include hundreds of new direct and indirect jobs and millions of dollars annually as a result of an increased demand for housing and services and the creation of ancillary businesses. In fact, once fully developed, The Bluestone will provide 680 acres of mixed used development. Of the 680 acres, 180 acres are envisioned for business development.

Located alongside U.S. Route 460 between Bluefield, Virginia, and Tazewell, Virginia, at the gateway of Virginia’s e-Region and part of the Virginia Enterprise Zone, The Bluestone is an urban development in a rural setting where you can work, live, play, and learn. In addition to being the first development for The Bluestone, the dental school will be just the third of its kind in the four states that represent Central Appalachia.

“We are very excited about our agreement with Bluefield College to develop a dental school in Tazewell County,” said Mike Hymes,

chair of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors. “National studies indicate that jobs in healthcare will be one of the fastest growing areas in the future. The economic impact of this school will be significant and will provide employment diversification for our area. Establishing a dental school will allow Tazewell County to participate in growing good paying jobs while providing affordable healthcare service to area residents.”

Plans are to recruit and enroll the school’s first students by the fall of 2015, contingent on additional fundraising and pre-approval by national and regional accrediting agencies, including the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Made possible by county, state and regional partners and a variety of funding sources, the dental school venture between Bluefield College, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, and the Tazewell County IDA comes just a year after the College launched a new nursing program to provide RN-to-BSN degrees for local health care professionals and to address the region’s shortage of registered nurses with four-year college degrees.

A private Christian college founded in southwest Virginia in 1922, Bluefield College also just recently unveiled a new special education major in its nationally recognized Teacher Education Program and revived its intercollegiate football program after a 71-year hiatus.

“In 1922, Bluefield area business leaders established Bluefield College to serve the higher education needs of this region,” said Dr. David Bailey, Jr., chair of the BC Board of Trustees. “Now, some 90 years later, Tazewell County leaders and Bluefield College are responding to yet another critical need, a need for more dentists. I am excited to be involved in this partnership, an historic venture in the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

For more information about the College or the proposed dental school, visit the BC web site at www.bluefield.edu, or call 800-872-0176. To explore the new Bluestone regional business and technology center, visit www.thebluestone.org. 

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Hope from page 9

Possible Solutions

A prison support letter exists to petition the state government to open the prison. Within the letter the "\$104.5 million state of the art facility" is connected with "completed for over a year" and "without the necessary operational funding to put up to 300 Virginians to work."

"Their cries have resonated in Richmond and have been an asset to voicing the community's desire to open facility," Sweet said.

Carrico discussed the possibility of using the US Marshall Services to house inmates on the federal level that are being transported for court appearances in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

"I have solicited help of Warner, Webb, and Griffith to try and get federal prisons to enter a long term lease," Carrico said. "I've even reached out to director of public safety to try and get outside inmates from other states who would be willing to come into a long-term lease to house inmates. I've tried every avenue for the last two years. I got a budget amendment, but it failed. For two years, going on three I've done everything I could possibly do to get the facility opened."

Jonathan Sweet agreed with Carrico. "Although patiently waiting for the River North Correctional facility to open has been somewhat challenging, it would be worth the wait if the Commonwealth were able to secure a care-of-prisoners contract from another state, in lieu of purely housing Virginia inmates. If this were the case, the new employment opportunities would more closely resemble private sector created jobs versus standard government jobs due to out of state dollars from contract revenues funding these new positions.

"This model would be the best case scenario for Virginians, as it would allow the cost to house state inmates with the remaining facility capacity and generally the same fixed overhead, to be subsidized with out of state monies," Sweet continued. "Although this is not what the facility was ultimately constructed for, it would be a creative and resourceful approach to activating the prison and putting Grayson County citizens and fellow Virginians to work."

O'Quinn said that opening the prison was on top of his list of priorities.

"The people in the Twin County region are some of the very best and hardest working people I've ever met," said O'Quinn. "This is of utmost importance for the region and I am focused on it every, single day."

Waiting Hope

"The prison opening hasn't been a question of if but of when," said Sweet. "The hope has waned because some folks have put their life plans on hold: they went back to school to get an applicable degree for employment there and the opportunity hasn't materialized. They have been treading water for sometime. The facility is constructed. The question is when. But there is still hope and it has always been a source of hope."

And even though the hope that comes with this prison is a "waiting hope," it is still doing good in the community. Sweet described it as a "rallying point."

"It is something that we can most all agree on that will benefit the county and region," said Sweet. "We have seen state and local representatives all come together around this issue. We mostly all agree that this is going to be a positive to our community."

A prison is not a place of hope. It symbolizes entrapment through barbed wire fences and cells. However, for Grayson County, hope is found in these walls. Hope is found in the employment that will be generated and the people that will bring money into the economy as they visit their friends and relatives. And even though right now that hope is a waiting hope, the people of Grayson County know that it is a hope that will be fulfilled.

Lydia Freeman is a student at Bluefield College who interned during the summer of 2011. 

Career and Technical Education: Learning That Works for Virginia

By BRENDA LONG

Learning That Works for Virginia: Never has a statement been more important as today's students prepare themselves for college and careers. The future workforce must prepare for jobs that have not yet been created and, at the same time, be competitive in the current workforce.



Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers 16 Career Clusters, each with multiple career pathways, which help students investigate careers and formulate a plan for their future. The career pathways represent academic, technical, and career readiness skills that lead to credentials, including industry certifications, occupational competency assessments, state licensures, and Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth certificates.

The Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE) is the leading professional organization that promotes CTE in the Commonwealth. VACTE actively works with business and industry partners, professional and parent associations, and local, state, and national policy makers to create and promote quality programs to meet projected workforce needs.

With increasing accountability and declining resources, educators must provide relevant knowledge and skills to students of all ages. New CTE accountability measures go beyond technical skill attainment, and discussions of college and career readiness have moved education to the true integration of academic and technical content.

Student enrollment in CTE courses for 2011-2012 totaled 584,172. This number counts individual students multiple times if they took more than one CTE course during the school year. More than 46.65% of CTE completers (students who have completed a CTE concentration, which is a coherent sequence of state-approved courses, and have met high school graduation requirements) attained an Advanced Studies Diploma.

Today, Virginia's Career and Technical Education courses offer increased opportunities to earn industry credentials. These credentials, which are highly valued by employers, and education beyond high school, are vital to Virginia's economic future.

Virginia's CTE programs are providing multiple avenues for students to earn credentials, continue their education after high school, and document their skills for employers. During the 2011-2012 school year, students earned 36,719 credentials, selected from the Virginia Board of Education's approved list of more than 350 credentials. These industry exams and assessments are available in all of the 16 Career Clusters.

The Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth (taught in all CTE courses and programs) are an increasingly clear priority for Virginia's economy. Researched by UVA's Weldon Cooper Center and validated by Virginia employers, these 21 skills are a critical component of career preparation. According to the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education Services, initial statistics on the Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth assessment show that 65% of students passed.

Students enrolled in CTE courses learn core academic skills and specific occupational, technical, and employability skills, leading to attainment of both a diploma and industry credential. Each course in CTE links academic and occupational standards and reinforces achievement of Virginia's Standards of Learning.

VACTE supports career and college readiness through continued integration of secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education curricula with the Standards of Learning and postsecondary academic requirements. Given particular emphasis are CTE programs addressing current high-demand jobs and anticipated

See *Career and Technical Education*, continued on page 18

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The Division of Capitol Police

By OFFICER JOHN COLLAMORE

It is a rare event when visitors or employees of the Commonwealth are not greeted by members of the new world's oldest law enforcement agency, the Division of Capitol Police. Being ambassadors for the Commonwealth at the seat of state government has been a hallmark of the Division since January 28, 1884, when an act of the Virginia General Assembly first codified the establishment of a "Capitol Police" force.

What many visitors do not know is that the Division of Capitol Police has been a part of state government since 1618, beginning in Jamestown, Virginia. Then known as the "Public Guard," ten men were appointed to protect the Governor and the new House of Burgesses from the hostile Indian population. These ten men were provided distinctive red cloaks for uniforms and pike poles to carry out their duties. By 1663, the force had been expanded to 20 men, and assigned to protect the Governor, the Council, and the Colonial Assembly.

In 1699 the Capital was moved to Williamsburg, Virginia where the Guard remained an important part of the executive and legislative process. During the American Revolution, British Governor Dunmore disbanded the Public Guard, but the Colonial Assembly reorganized the "patriots." These patriots would later sound the alert when British forces raided the Colonial powder magazine and accompanied Governor Thomas Jefferson as he evacuated Williamsburg, and later Richmond, as British forces closed in.

In 1780, the Capital of Virginia was again relocated to a safer location, its present home in Richmond. In 1801, the General Assembly enacted legislation resurrecting the "Public Guard, replacing the militia, which had been responsible for protecting public property in Richmond. This military force remained active until 1869.

Recent research at the Library of Virginia has revealed some interesting historical clues about the history of the Capitol Police between 1868 and its charter in 1884. In 1868 two individuals received pay for "services as patrolmen for the Capitol" which is the first recognition of a non-military Capitol Police

force after the American Civil War. These first two officers worked six days a week, one during the day and one at night, receiving \$2.60 a day. In March of 1870 the Governor received no fewer than nine requests for employment for police at the Capitol. It is currently unclear why the requests were received when they were, but seven of the applicants appear in the payrolls by September of the same year, bringing the total force to nine men. [V]



Major Howard
Acting Chief
1869-1871



Past and Present

The Capitol
Police Today



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VP-Virginia Government and External Affairs

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FROM THE ROOTS: A Conversation with Superintendent Thomas Brewster

By LYDIA FREEMAN

First things first: there was a terrible cell phone connection. My hands were already shaking—interviews still make me a little nervous—and I had never met the man I was calling. I had done a little research: Superintendent of Pulaski County Schools, PhD from Virginia Tech, Masters from Radford, undergrad from Bluefield College.

But research doesn't make up for bad cell phone connection, shaky fingers, and not being able to speak as well as I would have liked.

Imagine a beautiful countryside with rolling hills with the same emerald green color that are trademarks of Ireland. Cows dotting open fields. Trees stand tall against the sky, their shape strong against the horizon. Imagine the seasons changing: trees turning the colors of fire; white snow covering the mountains; new colors opening to the world; and finally, the emerald green of summer.

Thomas Brewster is from Tazewell County. I live there while I attend Bluefield College, and I am familiar with the county's beauty. Sometimes, driving down Highway 460, I get lost in the greens and blues and beauty. The area is rural, Brewster described it as such, and I know what he meant. He told me that he has lived in the county the majority of his life.

"I went to Bluefield College in the spring of 1989," Brewster told me. "Bluefield College has an outstanding teacher education program, and I knew then exactly what I wanted to do and exactly who I wanted to be. This was when I knew I wanted to go into teaching."

From there, Brewster continued his education at Radford University and Virginia Tech. He spent time teaching teacher education and leadership at Concord University.

"The time I spent in higher education gave me a broad knowledge of teacher and leader preparation," Brewster said. "I hope to be able to take that into my role as Superintendent to develop a pipeline with leaders and teachers in our system. Certainly I will take what I learned and use that in my leadership as Superintendent."

Brewster was appointed as Superintendent in August of 2012.

"To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure how I became Superintendent," Brewster said. "Not because I didn't want the job though. It immerses you in education. And you're always apprehensive to be the one where 'the buck stops.' But I felt like I was ready and certainly prepared."

"Now that I'm immersed in the role and the position, I believe it to be the best decision I ever made. I have been given the opportunity to have an impact in the school system, in education, in the county," Brewster said. "Every day we spend, we are trying to make something good happen for students, teachers, and the community. Every day that we go home to our families, we should look back and know that we made something happen. That's what I try to do every day."

The cell phone dropped the call, and my fingers were pretending the light-brown wood of my desk was a keyboard. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting. The phone rang. I answered. We got back on track with my next question: "What is your vision for public education?"

"I love looking at ... thinking about ... how should I word this..." he paused. "I love thinking about my vision for public education. I believe it should look like a place where students can come and be well cared for in a structured and orderly environment that is creative and innovative. I believe the school system should reach the whole child through physical education, fine arts, sports, and services that wrap around the whole child." Another pause. "Got that?"

Type. Type. Type. "Yes."

"We want to take into account students who are high risk because they have more obstacles. All students should be exposed to not only core areas, but also a variety of other areas," Brewster said. "Their school experience should lead them down a road that leads

See *From The Roots*, continued on page 27



A scene from Tazewell County.

Visions of the Commonwealth

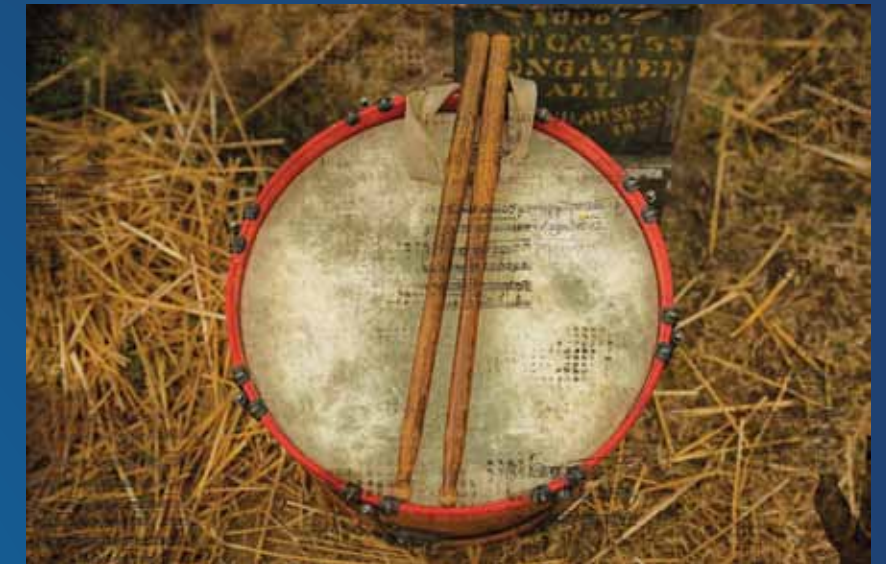
THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF WANDA JUDD



Travelers



Terminal A



Civil War Drum
at Chesterfield County Fair

Ferris Wheel
at Chesterfield County Fair



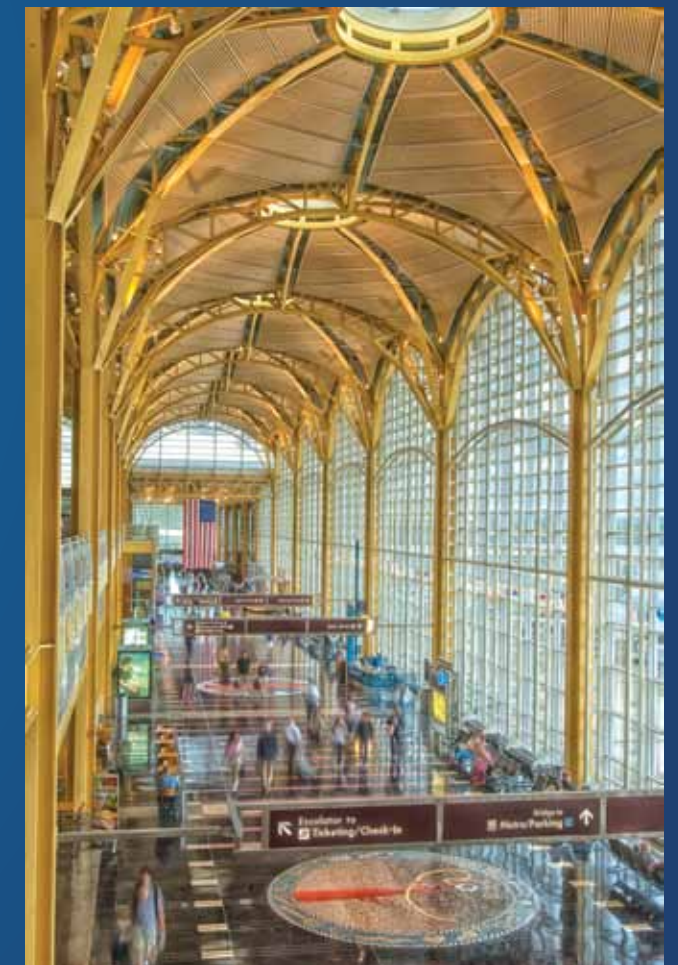
Ferris Cars
at Chesterfield County Fair



Flowers & Fences at Williamsburg



Governor's Palace—East Wing



Reagan National Airport

Letter to the Editor

Recent news reports and the Commonwealth of Virginia have created the false impression that Virginia's Training Centers for the intellectually disabled are unalterably destined for closure.

U.S. District Court Judge John Gibney, in approving Virginia's settlement agreement with the Department of Justice, required that the settlement include additional language protecting the rights of Training Center residents. Accordingly, language citing Virginia law was included, specifically stating that "no resident of a training center shall be discharged from a training center to a setting other than a training center if he or his Authorized Representative chooses to continue receiving services in a training center." The statute referenced is from the Virginia Code and, as stated explicitly within the statute itself, is predicated on federal law.

Some members of state government are already working on repeal of the Virginia statute, indicating that they would like to be able to force training center residents out, into what families have determined to be inappropriate and undesirable settings. However, should they succeed, federal protections would still be in place, including the requisite state assurance that institutional care is available.

The future of the Training Centers is in the hands of the General Assembly, as stated repeatedly by Judge Gibney. The Commonwealth is required to present a plan for implementation of the settlement agreement to the General Assembly, by one year from the date of the settlement agreement, or March 6, 2013. The plan is to be developed in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Recently adopted Virginia law requires further consultation with families and other stakeholders.

The settlement agreement merely requires the submission of a plan. It does not require the General Assembly to adopt it. Yet, before the ink was dry on the original version of the settlement agreement in January, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services announced and began to implement a strict schedule of closures for four of the five training centers. There was no consultation with the legislature or families and other stakeholders. There was no consideration of alternative measures that might have afforded families the opportunity to keep their relatives in training centers, even if those alternatives are more cost effective and compliant with the ADA than closing the centers.

Before Virginia continues the rush to implementation of an unapproved Training Center closure plan, shouldn't the legislature first consider all viable alternatives? As a state, we cannot afford to make uninformed and reckless decisions about the lives of the critically disabled, with unconsidered financial and human costs, for the sake of political or ideological expedience.



| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Jane Powell <i>Central Virginia Training Center</i> | Peter Kinzer <i>Northern Virginia Training Center</i> | Judy Scott <i>Southside Virginia Training Center</i> | Wanda Robinson <i>Southwest Virginia Training Center</i> |
|---|---|--|--|



Career and Technical Education from page 13

employee shortages, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Research demonstrates higher levels of learning and performance when students learn essential academic skills in relevant context and applied to real-world settings, as they are in CTE courses. Career and Technical Education is uniquely able to integrate STEM initiatives in all Career Clusters.

The growth of the Governor's STEM academies, and other STEM initiatives, relevant to all CTE programs, provide options for students to acquire STEM literacy, critical and problem-solving skills, and technological literacy, to experience performance-based instruction, and to earn credentials that will prepare them for postsecondary education and for high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage careers in Virginia.

The CTE Resource Center is an integral component of Virginia's Career and Technical Education. The Center produces comprehensive, standardized state curriculum and resources for teachers and offers professional development and training opportunities to all Virginia career and technical educators, at no cost to individual teachers and school divisions.

Now in its 30th year, the CTE Resource Center has worked with state and local educators and with Virginia employers to keep Virginia's CTE curriculum at the highest quality, up-to-date, and consistent with industry standards specifically validated for Virginia. The Center has worked closely with academic educators to identify the Standards of Learning that are supported and reinforced through CTE courses and programs. The Center's Web-based curriculum management system, Verso, provides ready access to these resources for all educators throughout the Commonwealth.

Now, more than ever, Virginia must embrace and support Career and Technical Education to ensure that our students are college and career ready. This is critical not only for our students, but for our families, our communities, our state, and our economy. CTE is truly *Learning That Works for Virginia*.

Brenda Long, Vice-President for Public Policy, VA Association for Career and Technical Education, has a 30 year career in Career and Technical Education including classroom teacher, school assistant principal, and district director.



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PIKE'S PEAK

By BRENNAN LONG

At 6:00 am, on a cool September morning David Johnson, director of the Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation, began the climb to Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Prepared with a filling breakfast and a Camelback with four liters of water fused with electrolyte tablets, David, marched up demanding Barr Trail for a peek at the view that inspired the anthem *America the Beautiful*.

David had been preparing for this journey for months. He did his research on the Internet, made several trips to his local REI store and he arrived in Colorado early to get accustomed to the difference in elevation.

Pike's Peak is over 14,000 feet tall, 8,000 feet higher than the tallest mountain in Virginia and the town of Colorado Springs itself is at a higher elevation than any mountain in Virginia. The difference in elevation affected David's breathing practices and made him susceptible to altitude sickness, making this 13-mile hike an even more ambitious quest.

To reach Pike's Peak David used Barr Trail, by far the most popular trail on the mountain. Along the trail he encountered many local hikers and runners who took the time to ask how he was doing and offer advice. "I came upon this man, actually older than me, he talked to me about my breathing. Better way actually to breathe. Better way actually to walk," David said. The friendly hiker told David to lock his leg when he took a step, a skill that David remembered learning in Boy Scouts. "And what that does is, even just for a short while, is it puts the weight more on the skeleton than the muscle."

The locals seemed to welcome tourists to Pike's Peak and even the most fit and acclimated of outdoorsmen took the time to encourage David. "I was in my first two miles of the 13 mile hike and all of a sudden this guy runs up behind me...about 10 years younger than me...in super good shape, looked like a marine type," David said. The runner just so happened to be running the 26 miles up and down the mountain. "He said it would take about three hours and he'd see me on the way down. And sure enough when I was around mile seven or eight or something like that he stopped and talked to me and gave me encouragement and said you're doing great."

The first part of the mountain does not have the altitude challenges of the second half, but it is not easy by any means. "The first part is a pretty good incline, like stairs, it's a pretty good elevation," David said. He took his time during the first half of the trail



to save some energy for the last 6 miles. "One of the suggestions that they all said was don't hurry, go at a reasonable pace."

About half way through his climb, David encountered Barr Camp, a one-room cabin serving as a rest stop for hikers and runners. A married couple owns the cabin and lives there full-time. There is no running water or electricity at Barr Camp, but they do have a running stream out back and for a fee hikers can sleep on mattresses in the cabin for the night. David stopped at Barr Camp for a break and to gather some water from the stream which he made sure to filter before drinking. "It was almost like a gathering place," he said. Several people were like you doing okay? Giving you advice... Its remarkable that people would be that helpful."

After his stop at Barr Camp David had about six miles to go on the trail and it took him about an hour and a half longer to hike the second half than it did the first. It was during this half of the hike that the altitude truly began to affect David. "You're getting more tired and breathing harder and you're getting into switchbacks," he said. The altitude caused David to lose focus and he had trouble finding the very few signs on the trail. "If I ever had a criticism for the Barr Trail it would be that it isn't as marked as well as it could be. I would have my head down going along, all of the sudden, you know you just wanna keep going and then next thing you look. I'm not on the trail anymore."

The last mile of the trail was certainly the most difficult for David. He was already weary from the 12 mile climb, the altitude was beginning to affect him and the trail was unfolding into switchback after switchback. "You're really just sluggin along," he said. Yet again, Pike's Peak's community of hikers

provided the support that he needed to keep going. "I'm getting up and I see somebody and they say 'You're almost there!'"

After 13 miles David looked up and saw the Pike's Peak gift shop and knew that he was finally done. "Oh my God I actually am here!" David thought to himself as he finished the strenuous hike, but it didn't take long for the pain to set in. "I get there and I'm still breathing hard and I can start to feel my feet and my muscles begin to change. I start feeling some pain." David also said that he continued to have trouble focusing and did not really know what to do when he got to the top. He decided to try some of the gift shop's popular donuts and look for a souvenir to remember his journey. He had one particular purchase in mind. "I'm gonna buy that t-shirt that says I hiked Pike's Peak, because it has to be there," he said. "But it's not! That had me a little defeated."

Despite the minor setbacks, and no t-shirt to prove that he completed the hike David realized that he had accomplished something great and had a reason to be proud of himself. "Some people who drove to the top of the mountain found what I did incredible," he said. "They said 'Oh wow you must be brave!' One of the guys lives there and he reached out and shook my hand and said congratulations. I sorta thought to myself, damn it did happen!" That was the highest hike that David had ever done and he hopes that his journey up Barr Trail helped prepare him to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa next year.

Brennan Long is a junior at the University of Richmond. She is majoring in Journalism and minoring in French at the university. ▣



Who We Are

- GRASP is a non-profit education organization created in 1983 and funded by school systems, foundations, businesses and individual donors that assists students and families in obtaining funding for post-secondary education.
- GRASP channels more than half of its resources to students with significant financial challenges, allowing us to qualify for the Neighborhood Assistance Program.
- GRASP financial aid advisors are in **65 public and private schools and venues** throughout Virginia.
- GRASP's in-school financial aid professionals advise students and parents, present financial aid education in classroom settings, and deliver financial aid seminars in libraries and other public forums.

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Virginia Press Women Inc.

By LAUREN FELLS

To sum up Virginia Press Women Inc. (VPW) in one word would be impossible. "If you went around the room at a Virginia Press Women gathering and asked people to say words or phrases, they would say words such as professional, friendship, confidence-building, inspiration, networking...and fun," said Bonnie Atwood, Vice President of Membership for Virginia Press Women Inc.

Affiliated with the National Federation of Press Women, Virginia Press Women Inc. was founded in 1958 for newspaper editors and writers. Their mission is to promote the highest ideals in journalism, provide exchange of journalistic ideas and experiences, offer continuing educational opportunities and serve the public's right to know.

The organization was established in response to the discrimination against women in the communications field in the early 20th century. "If a woman was hired, it was not uncommon for her to be assigned to 'women's news or pages.' They would get the lowest leveled task. The more interesting work was assigned to the men," Atwood said.

Within VPW, they are very active in what they are known for: communications. Two state conferences are held annually, and they conduct a very competitive communications contest covering multiple categories. Virginia Press Woman Inc. also offers scholarships to deserving Virginia college students, pursuing a career in communications. The annual scholarship is named after one of the most well-known political journalists in Virginia, Agnes Cooke, a charter member of the Virginia Press Women

They also present the Newsmaker of the Year Award. "Newsmakers are honored because they have been effective in making news," Atwood mentioned.

This year's honorees are Katherine Waddell and Robin Abbott of the Women's Strike Force, a political action committee raising funds to defeat the legislators that support the personhood bills.

"VPW is nonpartisan and objective. It does not endorse the political stand of the honorees; it honors them for their effectiveness in making news," Atwood said.

Past winners of the Newsmaker of the Year award include business woman, Rowena Fullinwider in 2011 and philanthropist, Doris Buffet in 2010.

Virginia Press Women's membership is comprised of men and women who work in newspapers, magazines, radio, television stations, schools, colleges, government, non-profit organizations, public relations, and graphic and web design. Men supporters are very active in this organization. The president of this corporation is Cathy Jett, a business reporter for the Free-Lance Star in Fredericksburg.

To learn more about joining this exemplary organization, go to www.virginiapresswomen.org.

Lauren Fells is a graduating senior at Virginia State University. She is currently a fall 2012 intern for David Bailey Associates. ▣



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The Hillsville Massacre of 1912

On March 14, 1912, a gun went off at the Carroll County Courthouse and to this day no one can say with certainty who fired that first shot. The single shot from an unknown gun erupted into a full-blown massacre leaving five dead.

More than 100 spectators had come to court that day to see the trial of Floyd Allen, a member of the infamous Allen Clan, the closest thing to celebrities in Hillsville, Virginia. Many people believed that even trying Floyd Allen was a mistake and in G.M.N. Parker's book *The Mountain Massacre* he would go so far to say that Carroll County had two governments, "one by the county and one by the Allen Clan."

Some considered the Allen family to be outlaws, frequently threatening law enforcement officials and taking the law into their own hands and getting away with it. Floyd himself had a history of violence including: beating up a police officer in Mount Airy and shooting a man in North Carolina. But the Allens were not a typical group of lawless citizens, they were respected business men as well. Floyd Allen, the patriarch of the family, was a landowner, storekeeper and part time moonshiner. He was wealthy, generous, and courageous but he also had a fiery temper.

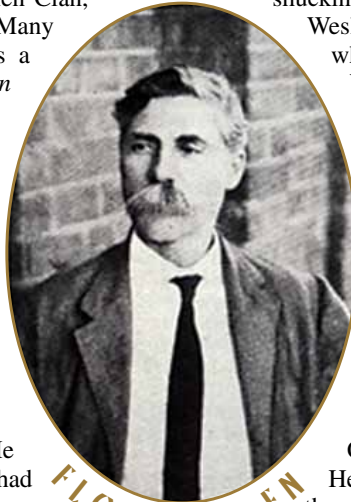
"Floyd Allen was perhaps the worst man of the clan—overbearing, vindictive, high-tempered brutal, with no respect for law and little to no regard for human life," said Judge Robert Jackson, a Carroll County judge during the reign of the Allens. "During my

term of office Floyd Allen was several times charged with violations of the law. In several instances he escaped the indictment, I am satisfied, because the witnesses were afraid to testify the facts before the grand jury."

The roots of the shootout began in December of 1910 at a corn shucking bee in Hillsville where one of Floyd's nephews, Wesley (the son of Floyd's sister Alvirtia), kissed a girl who at the time was dating another local boy named Will Thomas. The next morning at church, Will called Wesley outside to fight. Will and three friends assaulted Wesley. Wesley's brother Sidna came rushing to his aid and joined the fight. Wesley and Sidna Edwards were charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing a public worship service and assault with a deadly weapon, while Will Thomas and the other boys got off without charges.

Since members of the Allen family considered themselves above the law, Sidna and Wesley Edwards avoided arrest by fleeing to Surry County, North Carolina where they found jobs at a local rock quarry. Dexter Goad, the deputy clerk of Carroll County was not going to let the Allens get away again.

He obtained a new warrant for their arrest and notified the sheriff in Surry County. The Surry County sheriff arrested the Edwards brothers and brought them to the state line, where they were collected by a Carroll County deputy and a driver. The brothers were tied-up and taken back to the Carroll County Courthouse.



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By BRENNAN LONG



On the way to the courthouse, the deputy and his captives were met by Floyd Allen who blocked the narrow road with his horse, refusing to let the deputy by. He said later that he was angered when he saw his nephews “trussed up like hogs.”

Floyd let his notorious temper flare and he beat the deputy with his pistol and left him in a ditch, while the driver escaped on foot. The Edwards brothers were free and unharmed. The following Monday Floyd Allen turned Wesley and Sidna over to the court and they were both convicted of the charges. They were sentenced to jail time that they served outside of jail on a work release.

Floyd Allen was charged with interfering with the deputies, and assault and battery. Floyd’s trial date was postponed more than once after rumors spread around the county that the Allens were intimidating the witnesses involved in the case. It took almost a year for the official trial date to be set for March 12, 1912. Fearful of the Allens taking justice into their own hands many court officials brought weapons with them to court that day. The jury had been unable to reach a verdict after the first two days, but on the eve of the shootout the Honorable Judge Thorton Massie sequestered the jury in his hotel in order to swiftly resolve this case before any violence was started by the Allens. The jury reached a decision that night and Judge Massie scheduled the verdict to be read the following day at 8 a.m.

The next day, courtroom spectators, including various Allens, held their breath in anticipation as the jury filed in to announce the verdict.

The jury found Floyd guilty and sentenced him to a year in jail and ordered him to pay a \$1,000 fine. Floyd’s request for bail was denied.

Floyd’s attorney, David Winton Bolen described the next few seconds: “[Floyd] hesitated a moment, and then he arose...He looked at me like a man who was about to say something, and had hardly made up his mind what he was going to say, but as he got straight, he moved off to my left, I would say five or six feet, and he seemed to gain his speech, and he said something like this, ‘I just tell you, I ain’t a’going.’”

Next, POW! A shot broke out in the courtroom.

Joe McGrady, a lawyer in Carroll County and a relative of the Allens, and three lawyers and a sheriff at court that day, has his own idea of who fired first. “The sheriff [Lewis Webb] was sort of like Andy Griffith...He didn’t carry a gun normally,” McGrady said. “He borrowed a gun that day, an automatic. Automatics were just coming out then and he didn’t really know how to use it. He thought Floyd was going for his gun and I think he [the sheriff] let his gun go off accidentally.”

Even among locals there is considerable dispute about who fired the first shot. According to McGrady, the deputy clerk, H.C. Quesinberry confessed on his deathbed that he started the shooting. In 1967, two men swore an affidavit that Quesinberry did in fact start the shooting, but it has been reported that these men were each paid \$25 for their efforts.

After the first shot, an explosion of bullets from various revolvers buzzed around the courtroom killing Judge Massie, Sheriff Webb, the Commonwealth’s Attorney William Foster and a jury foreman, Augustus Fowler. A nineteen-year-old girl, Elizabeth Ayers, was a subpoenaed witness who had testified against Floyd Allen and was shot in the back of the

head while trying to leave the courtroom and she died the next day. The Allens fled the scene of the massacre, shooting as they ran. Floyd was too badly injured in his hip, thigh and knee to leave Carroll County, so he spent the night at a hotel in town. When the deputies eventually arrested Floyd at the hotel, he attempted to slash his own throat with a knife to once again avoid going to jail.


Floyd Allen was the first in the Allen Clan taken to court for the murders of Judge Massie, Sheriff Webb and Commonwealth’s Attorney Foster. After a brief manhunt Floyd’s brother, Sidna, his son Claude and his two nephews Wesley and Sidna Edwards were also arrested for murder. The prosecutor in the murder trial based his case on the Allens’ supposed conspiracy to kill law enforcement officials on the day of Floyd’s trial. A Pulaski lawyer who was a witness at the shooting said that as Floyd left the courtroom he heard him mutter, “I am shot, but I got the damn scoundrel!”

On March 18, 1912 Floyd Allen was convicted of the first-degree murder of Commonwealth’s Attorney Foster and sentenced to death by electrocution. As the jury read the verdict, his courage escaped him and he wept openly in front of a crowd.

On March 14, 2012 at 8 a.m. the bell above the old courthouse was rung seven times to commemorate those lost during the shooting. Joe McGrady rang the bell five times for those who were shot in the courthouse, and Victor Allen rang the bell twice for his relatives Floyd and Claude Allen who were sentenced to death for the murders. A hundred years have passed since the courthouse massacre, but those eager to learn about the incident that made Carroll County famous can still visit the old courthouse can see the bullet holes on the stairs.

“I still don’t think that anyone planned for this to happen,” McGrady said. “They were just so fearful of each other, just such paranoia.”

This event may no longer be making headlines around the world, but it certainly will be discussed, analyzed and debated in Carroll County and around Virginia. The paranoia may be gone, but the mystery surrounding this story remains and the small-town courthouse shooting that erupted over a 1-year jail sentence will continue to fascinate generations for years to come.

Brennan Long is a junior at the University of Richmond. She is majoring in Journalism and minoring in French at the university. 

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The Virginia SILC— What Can We Do For You?

By KEN JESSUP

The Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is an autonomous planning body working with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) and the fifteen Centers for Independent Living (CIL), with the mission to promote effective policies, programs and activities that maximize independence for Virginians with disabilities. The SILC receives its authority from Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 1992. The SILC is composed of 18 gubernatorial appointees who represent people with significant disabilities from across the state, as well as the interests of other independent living programs and services.



Through the SILC's mission, it plays an active role in:

- Supporting and expanding the state network of CILs
- Creating a culture for full integration and independence
- Advocating systems change for full access and equality in community life
- Educating policymakers and stakeholders about the importance of independent living
- Developing a strategy for collaboration among stakeholders in the disability community
- Leading to full inclusion and independence in the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth receives federal pass-through dollars (e.g., "Part B funds") due to the SILC's development and submission of the triennial *State Plan for Independent Living* (SPIL). The SPIL outlines independent living (IL) priorities and identifies IL needs of the Commonwealth's citizens. The plan is developed by the SILC and signed jointly with DARS and DVBI and addresses how federal, state and other funds will be used to sustain and expand the statewide independent living network of programs.

Through a strong partnership with the 15 CILs scattered throughout the Commonwealth, the SILC works to implement its main goal of ensuring that Virginians with disabilities are able to live independently with the necessary resources available. This partnership also allows the SILC to develop new strategies to create more accessible and affordable housing units, promote the use of universal design methods, and educate

communities about the housing rights of persons with disabilities.


The SILC/CIL partnership has resulted in some great success stories for the Commonwealth. For instance, in federal fiscal year 2011, the CILs reported these outcomes related to housing:

- Over 700 people with disabilities were provided training on housing planning processes
- Over 100 community entities were provided training on housing planning processes
- Approximately 300 community entities were trained on Money Follows the Person
- Over 100 people who work with the public housing agency plans and consolidated plans were trained on the housing needs of people with disabilities
- Approximately 100 people with disabilities provided public comments on public housing agency plans and consolidated plans
- 50 Section-8 vouchers were requested due to the work of the CIL staff

Overall, the work of your SILC has resulted in many successes, but that work has only begun. There is so much more that needs to be accomplished in the world of independent living.

Only by developing and expanding partnerships with a multitude of parties will we be able to bring the opportunities offered by a fully independent living community to those with disabilities across the Commonwealth.

For more information on the SILC, visit our website at www.vasilc.org or contact our SILC Administrator at 804-325-1360 or 866-460-9306.

Ken Jessup is a Lobbyist and may be contacted at: 757-513-3967 or by email: kenjessup@cox.net. 



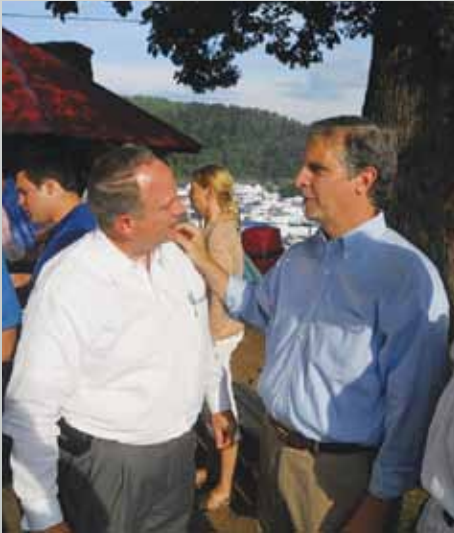


Welcome to the Famous
POOR MAN'S
2012 ANNUAL DINNER

Legislators being introduced on stage at the Fiddler's Convention.



Rev. David Andersen speaks with Senator Mark Obenshain at the Poor Man's dinner.



A view from the 2012 Fiddler's Convention in Galax, Virginia.



(From left) Angelique Phipps, Marty Hall and Tom Barr, members of the Twin County Regional Chamber.

David Bailey, MC for the Poor Man's Dinner



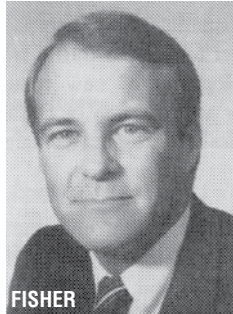
Taping 'This Week in Richmond' with Anne Holton.



Taping 'This Week in Richmond' with Susan Allen.

Reflections on Former Delegate Richard Leland Fisher By PETE GIESEN

People run for public office for many different reasons. Many seek the limelight and find self-satisfaction from being in that light while running a campaign. That satisfaction becomes even greater if the campaign is successful. Then there are people like Richard Leland “Dick” Fisher. Citizens who seek public office in the way that Dick does, do so to sincerely be of service to their fellow citizen.



FISHER

Dick Fisher, in his short life, successfully obtained public offices to do just that, be of service to his fellow citizens, first at the community level and later at the state level. He was dedicated to helping solve problems rather than advancing his own agenda or his own personal career.

During his years in the House of Delegates Dick was a member of the Republican caucus which was then the minority caucus. Having had considerable experience at the local level both in appointed positions and as an elected councilman on the Vienna Town Council, Dick knew the importance of working with members of the other party—in this case the Democratic majority—to resolve differences and reach acceptable compromises for the benefit of the whole state.

Dick brought a business acumen to his service on the committees to which he was appointed by The Speaker of the House of Delegates. In his four terms as Delegate, Dick served on the Committees of Labor and Commerce; Chesapeake and Its Tributaries; Health, Welfare and Institutions; and General Laws. His extensive experience as an executive of Washington Gas Light Co. helped Dick give beneficial, common sense suggestions to his committees and the whole House Chamber on numerous occasions as the General Assembly debated some very complicated utility laws during the 1990s.

It was a rare occasion when any of his legislative colleagues had an unkind word to say about Dick Fisher. He was a “straight shooter and a knowledgeable delegate” as one of his fellow committee members once noted. Oh yes, this gentleman was a senior Democratic member of the committee and of the Democratic caucus. Dick’s ability to interact successfully with other legislators of both parties served him

extremely well as he conscientiously served all of the people of the 35th legislative district.

A significant example of Delegate Dick Fisher’s ability to communicate well, persuade when possible, and compromise when necessary is illustrated by his success in sponsoring and then successfully shepherding thru the legislative process a bill to help mildly mentally challenged children. This bill, requiring the Virginia Department of Education to set appropriate class sizes for these children to give them a push toward being productive citizens passed because of Dick’s ability to attract bi-partisan support. His passion to help children and his success in expressing this passion also helped him in this endeavor.


The bill noted above closed a disparity which had existed in class size between other children with certain learning disabilities and those who were mildly challenged. Richard L. Fisher bridged these gaps during his sophomore term in the House. This was a very unusual success for a member of the minority party in those days.

Dick Fisher left the General Assembly after his fourth term in 1997 when he was promoted to the # 3 position of Washington Gas Light. In 2000 he retired from the company for which he had worked for for thirty years as Vice President of Operations. For his service to the community including his appointment to over a dozen commissions, study groups, and committees in Northern Virginia, his election to the Vienna Town Council and the House of Delegates, he received the Governor and First Lady’s Volunteerism and Community Service Award in 1997.

From a legislative standpoint, the commendation given Dick by a long serving delegate from an adjacent district is even more noteworthy. This delegate when asked what he would say about Dick Fisher regarding his service in the House of Delegates, responded, “He was a very solid legislator. He studied the issues. He sponsored legislation to help his constituents and the people of the Commonwealth. He made his decisions on other legislators’ bills with the same value system. He exemplified the traits that are good in a delegate.”

The Honorable A. R. “Pete” Giesen, Jr.

James Madison University, Department of Political Science

Retired Member of the House of Delegates 



2012 Redbook now on Droid and Air!

Virginia Capitol Connections has created an app in Android and Adobe Air formats for their 2012 Redbook, a nonpartisan annual publication dedicated to a more informed electorate. These apps give citizens the chance to reach their representatives easily from their phones or computers, with simple access to email addresses, phone numbers and websites.



www.dbava.com/redbook_app/index.html

Virginia General Assembly Launches New Website

The Clerks of the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia announced in October the launch of a new website for the Virginia General Assembly – viriniageneralassembly.gov.

Seeking to build upon the average of 2,000 daily visits to its old homepage, the collaborative effort took to heart Mr. Jefferson's admonition that "an enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic."

Over 18-months in the making, the new website for the Virginia state legislature offers a clean and contemporary look and streamlined user experience. It features enhanced resources and an ease of navigation, with more content and options presented on the homepage. New to the website is the incorporation of social media feeds and an "At-a-Glance" widget where citizens can access more conveniently legislative meetings held any day throughout the year and video feeds with close captioning during legislative floor sessions as well as determine more quickly who represents them.

Through the new website's state-of-the-art navigation, citizens can browse a treasure-trove of useful information without getting overwhelmed. Relevant topics and related links are presented through six main topic areas, which create a broad overview of Virginia's General Assembly, current events and the Capitol.

Answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" are present at all times, and change to reflect the topics being browsed by users. There also is a quick reference tool on the new homepage – viriniageneralassembly.gov – to connect citizens to the Legislative Information System, which promotes open government through easy access to bills and resolutions.

"Active citizen awareness of and easier participation in their state government is essential for a healthy and vibrant representative democracy," said G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates. "By embracing advanced technologies and fashioning

them in dynamic new ways that are relevant and convenient to use, viriniageneralassembly.gov promotes a more informed citizenry and gives them new tools to stay attuned to the legislative business being conducted by state lawmakers in their name."

"Like so many, I am confident that this new website will become a widely recognized 'must use' portal for citizens," said Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate of Virginia.

A key responsibility of the General Assembly is civics education for students and life-long learners. To better accomplish that mission, the "Capitol Classroom" section of viriniageneralassembly.gov has been revamped completely. It now provides a far more robust array of legislative information about Virginia in an educational and entertaining setting for K-12 students and adults. Crafted in ways that fully complement

Virginia's Standards of Learning, the civics education portion of the new website helps visitors learn about Virginia's symbols and emblems, history, members of the General Assembly, the Virginia State Capitol, and "How a Bill Becomes a Law."

The new website even has an application that allows citizens to take a "virtual" tour of the Capitol if an in-person visit is not possible. The Virginia General Assembly, the oldest English-speaking legislative body in the Western Hemisphere, held its first session in 1619 and has been serving the people of Virginia for almost 400 years. Having first met in Jamestown (1619-1699), then Williamsburg (1699-1780) and finally in Richmond since 1788 in the Jefferson-designed State Capitol which is the first public building in the New World constructed in the classical Roman temple design that has served as a prototype for countless other capitols, courthouses and other buildings.

The new website for the state legislature can be accessed at <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov>.

From The Roots from page 15

them towards post secondary education, the work force, and success. Extra curricular activities teach life lessons, emotional control, and passion."

His voice had the rhythm of passion, and I could tell that being superintendent isn't just a job to Thomas Brewster. I looked to my list of questions.

"Who has been your greatest inspiration?"

Imagine a woman, waking up early every morning to make the drive to the school where she works. Maybe her car has ice on the windshield, and her arms move with the harsh scrape of ice against windshield. She is wearing a big coat, scarf and hat, gloves, all to block out the painful cold. She makes her way to the school, unlocks the door and makes her way to furnace, where she makes sure the heat is on to warm the school. Soon the halls will not be quiet, the classrooms will not be dark, and voices and movement will have filled this place. But first it is her job to take the cold away.

"My philosophy is that every job is important and contributes to the wellbeing of the child," Brewster said. "I've had a lot of professional mentors over time but my first influence was my mother. She was a maintenance worker in Tazewell County. She considered her job important because she was in charge of getting the heat; she was responsible for getting that there so schools could be warm and students could learn in a stable and comfortable environment."

"My mother taught me how to treat people," Brewster said. "She considered everyone important and every job important. She believed that people who worked with her were her people. She took great pride and ownership in saying 'our,' so there was a sense of pride and joy in what she did. She worked hard and rarely missed a day. That

rubbed off. You learn to take the same pride in your job and appreciate the work that other people do. What we do affects children, and if you work in public education your work affects students."

I asked Thomas Brewster about his mission statement.

"I have a vision for the institution that is about moving forward and beyond," Brewster replies. "That we are constantly moving our schools, teachers and students forward. We're going beyond the minimum standards of learning to do that."

I was nodding with the phone pressed against my ear, thinking back to my own classroom experiences. The teachers who push me are the ones I find myself working hardest for. I'm not late for those classes, my work is fine-tuned, and I lose plenty of sleep trying to do my best. But that is when I am growing, fighting, and learning the most.

Brewster kept talking:

"If I had to say my personal philosophy, it would be this: We are pushing them forward, being innovative, taking initiative with technology, and we're trying to challenge our students to go beyond minimum standards to meet fullest potential."

Imagine students embracing a learning environment. Well-rounded education is offered; athletic abilities, musical abilities, artistic abilities and more are not overlooked. Academics are taught with passion and care. High-risk students are being cared for so they can best reach their potential. All of this is working and allowing students to succeed and circle back around to work in the community that raised them.

This is the vision of Thomas Brewster, Superintendent of Pulaski County Schools. This is the goal for which he has decided to work. And it is a goal infused with hope for the children of today and tomorrow.

Lydia Freeman is a student at Bluefield College who interned during the summer of 2011.

Thirteen of the New Legislative Aides

Eric Bateman

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Nick Rush*

Eric Bateman is the new legislative aide for Delegate Nick Rush. Eric graduated from Virginia Tech in May of 2012 with a degree in history. Previously, he interned for Congressman Morgan Griffith. Before that, he worked on the State Senate campaign for Dave Nutter. At Virginia Tech, he was accepted into Phi Alpha Theta: National History Honor Society and was also part of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Chapter.



Dale Hendon

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Mark Dudenhefer*

Dale Hendon is the new legislative aide to Delegate Mark Dudenhefer. He is from Union City, Tennessee and has BA in history from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has previously worked as a volunteer coordinator and field representative, and for Tennessee Congressman Stephen Fincher.



Sam Bosch

*Legislative Aide
to Senator Adam Ebbin*

Sam Bosch, a native of Richmond, graduated magna cum laude from the Honors College at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011 with a double major in Political Science and History after just three years of college. During the 2011 General Assembly Session, Sam interned for Delegate Charniele Herring of Alexandria, and after graduating Sam returned for the 2012 Session to work as an Enrolling Assistant in the House of Delegates' Clerk's Office. In May he moved to Alexandria to begin working for Senator Adam Ebbin as his legislative aide.



Cori Inman

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate David Albo*

Cori Inman began working for Delegate Dave Albo in September 2012. She graduated in May from Louisiana State University where she majored in Public Relations and minored in Business Administration. As a member of Delegate Albo's 42nd District in Fairfax, she is also a former West Springfield High School alumna.



Shawneequa James

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Jeion Ward*

Shawneequa C. James is the new legislative aide to Delegate Jeion Ward. She was born and raised in the Newport News and Hampton area. She is a 2007 graduate of Bethel High School and a 2011 graduate of Old Dominion University where she received a B.S. in Human Services.



Jennifer Boyd

*Legislative Aide
to Senator Phillip Puckett*

Jennifer Boyd as the new legislative aide to Senator Phillip Puckett. A longtime resident of Tazewell County, Boyd earned her Associates in Business Administration from Southwest Virginia Community College and her B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies from Liberty University. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Business Leadership. Jennifer is a Rotary Club member, a Paul Harris Fellow and a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



Eric Johnson

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate David Ramadan*

Eric is originally from the New Orleans, Louisiana area. In 2007-2008, he served in Iraq with a Marine Corps infantry battalion. Upon his return, he went to work for President George W. Bush in the Office of National Drug Control Policy. He later worked for the Home School Legal Defense Association as a paralegal. He is also currently enrolled in Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy pursuing his juris doctorate.



Jessica Goodman

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Barbara Comstock*

Jessica Goodman is Delegate Barbara Comstock's legislative assistant. A native of Vienna, Virginia, Jessica graduated in May 2012 from the University of Richmond with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Leadership Studies. During Jessica's last semester at Richmond, she completed an internship at Speaker William Howell's office.



Note: *January issue will have photographs of all the legislative aides in the General Assembly.*

Elizabeth Jones

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Krupicka*

After managing Delegate Krupicka's winning City Council campaign in 2003, Elizabeth Jones has served continuously as his aide. She has handled constituent affairs and correspondence, researched policy issues, and interfaced with senior City staff on behalf of Mr. Krupicka. Elizabeth has professional and educational backgrounds in criminal justice programs and urban and environmental planning.



Marti Meersman

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate James M. LeMunyon*

Marti Meersman is the new legislative aide and chief of staff for Delegate James LeMunyon. She has extensive experience in politics and public policy in Virginia, Iowa, and Illinois. Marti has been a staff member on a U.S. Presidential election campaign in Iowa and statewide gubernatorial and U.S. Senate campaigns in Illinois. Marti served as political director on a targeted U.S. Congressional race in eastern Iowa. She has also advised and managed campaigns for U.S. Congress, the Virginia General Assembly, and the Fairfax County School Board. She is a former staffer to Illinois Governors Jim Edgar and George Ryan, and has provided government affairs and writing support to a private company in Northern Virginia. She holds two Master's Degrees — one in Political Science and one in Business.



Carolyn Morris

*Legislative Aide
to Senator Ryan McDougle*

Carolyn Morris is the legislative aide to Sen. Ryan McDougle. She is a native of Hanover, Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University. She has undergraduate degrees in International studies and Religious studies and a masters degree in Homeland Security also from VCU. Carolyn was previously a graduate teaching assistant at VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and she also worked for Senator McDougle during graduate school.



Waylin Ross

*Legislative Aide
to Delegate Joe Morrissey*

Waylin Ross is the new legislative aide for Delegate Joe Morrissey. He graduated from Old Dominion University in 2012 with a B.S. in Political Science, and a minor in History. While attending ODU, he sat on the Student Governmental Advisory Board for the university. During the 2010 General Assembly Session he interned for the late Senator Yvonne B. Miller, and Senator L. Louise Lucas. Waylin was elected to a one-year term as Chairman of the Student Leadership Committee of Virginia21, a non-profit organization that engages and informs young people in the political process. Additionally, Waylin is a Graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia (CLP 2009).



Kelly Tsipitsis

*Legislative Aide
to House Majority Leader Kirk Cox*

Kelly Tsipitsis, the new legislative aide for House Majority Leader Kirk Cox. She was born and raised in the 66th district and in 2010 she graduated from The College of William and Mary with a Bachelor's degree in Government. She worked in Delegate Kirk Cox's office during the 2011 General Assembly session where her focus was on writing press releases and managing constituent correspondence. Kelly then moved on to be the Political Director for Delegate Michael Webert during his first campaign run for the House of Delegates in 2011. After helping get Delegate Webert elected, she moved to Arlington where she worked for Stateside Associates, a Government Relations Consulting Firm. Kelly's tasks at Stateside involved tracking consumer protection and education legislation in 17 states. [V]



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The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) presented Susan Clarke Schaar (left), clerk of the Senate, the Joseph A. Beek Distinguished Service Award. The ASLCS presented Tara Perkinson, the deputy clerk of the Senate, with the Distinguished Service Award for Associates.

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