Chantilly Beats Centreville, 14-7

Sports, Page 7

Chantilly QB #12 Simon Condemi prepares to hand the ball. Chantilly defeated Centreville 14-7 in a low-scoring game on March 5.

Supervisors Foust and Alcorn on Years 1 and 2: COVID-19

News, Page 3

‘He’s Devoted His Whole Life to Being a Pastor’

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Opinion

And They Are Off!

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Inevitably someone is going to refer to the nominating contests for candidates for the Virginia statewide offices and the House of Delegates as horse races—not because of the characteristics of any of the candidates but because of the crowded field of persons who are offering themselves for public office. Space limitations on this column will not permit me to list all the candidates for they are numerous. For whatever the reason, Virginia voters have more choices than ever. That is a good thing. Democracy has broken out in the Commonwealth.

Virginia election cycles do not parallel those of other states except for New Jersey where state elections are held in years other than those in which federal elections are held. This November Virginia will be electing a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and all one hundred members of the House of Delegates. That is the schedule for the general election. Before we get there, however, candidates must be chosen by the political parties. Democrats pick their candidates in primary elections this year on June 8, and Republicans use conventions to pick their candidates. What is amazing is the number of people who have shown up seeking the nominations. For the names of all persons who have declared themselves at the time of the writing of this column, go to https://www.vpap.org/elections/.

For governor, there will be five Democrats on the June 8 primary ballot from which voters can choose their candidate. Republicans will have seven candidates from which to choose in a convention-like process adapted for the pandemic to determine their candidate for governor to be on the ballot for the General Election on November 2.

At the same time and as part of the same process, the major political parties will pick their candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general. For lieutenant governor there are five Republicans and eight Democrats seeking their party’s nomination. For attorney general there are three Republicans and two Democrats seeking their party’s nomination. There may be independent candidates on the ballot in November, but they must qualify through another process.

In the House of Delegates races there are more challenges to incumbents and to open seats than I can remember. For Democrats who have a slight majority in the House of Delegates and who have been realizing amazing success in getting their legislative agenda passed, there are fourteen challenges to incumbents with many of them being to Democratic representatives in Northern Virginia. On the Republican side there are contests for the House nominations in seven districts with a couple of the most conservative members being challenged for their nomination.

In the past two legislative sessions the General Assembly passed and the Governor has signed many pieces of legislation to make voting easier and more accessible. There will be early voting this year with no-excuse absentee voting, curbside voting, drop-boxes for ballot delivery, longer voting times. Voter registration is for life. There is no excuse for not voting. And for this year in particular, there is no lack of choice. The candidates are off, and you get to decide who wins!

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10% down nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years
The Fairfax County COVID-19 Vulnerability Index by Zip Codes. The COVID Vulnerability Index shows five domains individually and as a composite index: Socioeconomic Status, Household Composition and Disability, Race/Ethnicity and Language, Housing and Transportation, and Health. Individual indicators were ranked into 5 classes using natural breaks and given a score of 1 - 5, with 5 being the most vulnerable (shown in dark blue).

At the height of the spring 2020 COVID-19 shutdown, many small businesses and workers struggled to survive financially.
‘He’s Devoted His Whole Life to Being a Pastor’

CPC members discuss Bromhead’s merits, their favorite memories.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Retiring after more than three decades as pastor of Centreville Presbyterian Church (CPC), Rob Bromhead’s final day there was last Sunday, Feb. 28. The congregation hopes to give him a proper sendoff in October; but meanwhile, some members shared their thoughts about him with The Connection.

“He baptized my four sons,” said Jenni Aiello, a member since 1991. “He cares about people like a friend; and when speaking with him, he makes you feel like you’re the most important person. When he preaches, he comes across as genuine. Often, you feel like God is speaking to you and it’s something personal you needed to hear. He’s devoted his whole life to being a pastor, and caring for people is a 24/7 job, so I’m excited for this new season in his life.”

Her husband Steve said the Holy Spirit comes through in [Bromhead’s] sermons. He interprets Scripture and applies it to real life and to where he feels the Spirit is leading the church. “Mitch Kirsch, a 31-year member, called him a “gifted preacher who often used visual aids – even a chainsaw – to augment his sermons. And noting Bromhead’s affection for his two Airedale dogs, Kirsch said, “You can tell a lot about a person by his relationship with his pets.”

When they first met him, said Kirsch’s wife Jane, their cat rubbed his face against Bromhead’s socks. So, she said, “We say our wife Jane, their cat rubbed his face against Bromhead’s socks. So, she said, “We say our...

Another 30-year member, Nancy Anthony appreciated how Bromhead taught the stories in Scripture and said he’s “walked through some of my family’s milestones, including my marriage. Rob was the one who married us, and we both sang to the choir. ”

When they first met him, said Kirsch’s wife Jane, their cat rubbed his face against Bromhead’s socks. So, she said, “We say our cat picked him as our pastor. He’s a real and honest person who shows his passions and emotions. He can be funny or serious and is a good listener. We’ll miss him, but we wish him well – he certainly deserves it. We hope he and his wife will enjoy this new chapter.”

The Rev Rob Bromhead greets CPC congregation members arriving for worship.

“I feel like Rob is my brother and my brother in Christ ... Many times, I thought he was preaching just to me, saying what I needed to hear. And he helped the church transition from one location to another.” Recalling a poignant memory from years ago, she said, “We had a Sunday School kickoff with stations each representing a Bible story. Rob, dressed as Jesus, spoke about the Last Supper and was down on his knees, washing our feet. It brought tears to my eyes that he’d humble himself to do that. It was such a powerful example for all of us. “I understand it’s time for him to have a rest, but I’m sad because he’s been such an important part of my family’s life for decades. But at least, I’ll still get to see him on the pickleball court. He’s impacted families for generations, and I know he couldn’t have done it without the support of his own family.”

Director of Missions Sharon Hoover, also at CPC for 30 years, said, “The person Rob is on Sunday mornings is the same person he is in his private life and with the staff. It’s the Christ-centered life he leads. He was passionate about the community and having it know Christ, and I appreciated his steadfastness. It showed a faithfulness to the people and to God that Rob was willing to walk through even the difficult times with us.”

She said Bromhead baptized her children and performed her son’s marriage, so there are deep roots for her family. “And being on staff with him, he didn’t micromanage, but encouraged creativity and allowed the space to make mistakes and learn from them,” she said Hoover. “He’s open to new books and resources and learning from others. He’s always willing to try something new, and I’ve enjoyed working in that environment.”

Concerned that the church transitions well, Bromhead reminded everyone of his coming retirement, the last couple years, said Hoover. “Having Co-Pastor Aaron McMillan here, this past year, demonstrates Rob’s incredible leadership and humility,” she said. “He let Aaron make some of the decisions, and it’s been a good way for people to get to know him.”

Julie Burke joined CPC when Bromhead did, in October 1989. “I liked Rob and what he had to say; no other pastor is like him,” she said. “When my dad visited, he noticed the teens and tweens in church were really listening to him. Rob resonates with every age group and pays attention to everyone, engaging them all on their own level.”

She recalled one time when the youth group was watching a movie inside the church and Bromhead joined them. “I see popcorn flying through the air, and it’s Rob tossing popcorn to one of the teens,” said Burke. “He’s a kid at heart, fun to be around, and the kids really love him. He’s a grandfather now, but he’s still like that.”

Overall, said Burke, “Rob’s been a phenomenal shepherd to his flock – he’s led us well. People are resonating with the new pastor, so the church is in good hands. Rob’s shoes can’t be filled, but we’ll continue.”

Area Roundups

Child Car Seat Inspections
Police officers will inspect car seats, Thursday, March 11, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Seats should already be installed so they’re ready to be inspected and properly reinstalled, if necessary. Parents will also learn how to properly install the seats themselves. Inspections are done first-come, first-served. Wear a mask and adhere to social distancing.

Matching Funds for Brookfield Bike Trail
On Feb. 24, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board granted $16,910 to the Trails for Youth Organization (TYO) to construct a bike pump track and surrounding park areas.

To meet the need for more bicycling opportunities for families, TYO proposed a perimeter bicycle trail to complement the existing pump track and playground. This total $33,820 project is expected to be completed by this fall.
Sports

Chantilly Wins in a Low-scoring Game with Centreville

In a low scoring game in Clifton on March 5 Chantilly defeated Centreville 14-7. Chantilly Michael Tacinelli’s 77 yard touchdown reception would put Chantilly up early. After a scoreless 2nd quarter, Jack Shields would find Nick Ragano for a 32 yard touchdown reception. In the 4th quarter Chantilly running back would power his way in for a few yards out to give Chantilly the lead again, 14-7. On the ensuing kickoff, Centerville’s Nick Ragano would return the kick for a touchdown, however a penalty on Centreville nullified the touchdown. Later in the 4th in the closing seconds Centreville QB Jack Shields scrambled from the pocket to find an open Centreville receiver in the endzone but again a penalty for an illegal forward pass nullified the touchdown once again. Chantilly would take a few knees and charge home with a big conference win. Chantilly (2-0) will play at Hayfield on March 12. Centreville (2-1) will host Oakton on March 13.

Westfield Bulldogs Beat West Potomac, 35-0

The Westfield Bulldogs defeated the visiting West Potomac Stallions 35-0 on March 5. The Bulldogs scored three touchdowns in the opening quarter, the first a 2 yard touchdown run by Mikal Legall, followed by an 17 yard touchdown reception by Rob Keys from QB Toviel Jung. Legall scored his second rushing touchdown to close out scoring in the quarter. Later in the 2nd quarter Alex Richards would score on a short reception to put Westfield up 28-0. Legall would score his 3rd touchdown of the game in the 3rd quarter. Westfield improves to 1-1 and travels to take on James Madison on Friday. West Potomac falls to 1-1 and will take on Mt. Vernon on the road.

Two Giraffes Die in Reston Blaze

Two giraffes at Roer’s Zoofari at 1228 Hunter Mill Road in Reston died in a barn fire Monday evening. The blaze claimed the lives of “Waffles,” who arrived at the zoo in 2016, and his recently acquired companion giraffe, yet unnamed.

“We are heartbroken,” said Roer in a post on Roer’s Zoofari’s website. Waffles, beloved by the team staff, was a favorite with visitors, he said. “Our team is so dedicated to the well-being of every animal, so when any are lost, it’s a very emotional time. We will be supporting each other through the healing.”

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department reported on the department’s official Twitter account flames on the roof and two floors of a 2-story barn when firefighters first arrived. In an update Tuesday morning, the department said no other animals were injured, and they were being attended to by zoo staff. There were no reported firefighter injuries at this time. Fire investigators were on the scene.

According to Roer, zoo staff members and veterinarian arrived within minutes to help rescue and care for approximately 20 other animals housed in the same area. “We deeply appreciate the firefighters who came so quickly to help extinguish the fire.”

The zoo will be closed until March 12.

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— Will Palenscar
Oak Hill/Herndon / Reston / Chantilly Connection / Centre View • March 10-16, 2021 • 5
An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg
Herbert Lain Holt
March 25, 1934 – February 13, 2021

It is with great joy for the long and wonderful life he lived that we announce the passing of Herbert Lain Holt (Bill) on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at sundown in Catoosa, California. Still on his feet until just days prior to his passing, Herbert kept his Battall Pataonie’s grace and never once complained. Our hero drew his last breath peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. We could have asked for more for our beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, coach and friend.

Herbert was born in 1934 to Otis Ettridge Holt and Martha Louise Holt (nee McDaniell) in Gibson County, Tennessee. A proud son of Trenio, Herbert attended Trenio Elementary and Middle School, and played quarterback and was captain of the football team for Peabody High School. During his high school tenure, Herb won the distinction of being voted football captain of the “Big Ten” on all ten western Tennessee high school coaches’ ballots. In baseball, Herb served as captain of the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams. Aside from sports, Herb exhibited leadership as the senior class president. Herb also played baseball for the Humboldt Tennessee American Legion. Because of Herb’s outstanding sports performances, he was honored in 2006 to be inducted into the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. Known as “Television”, he was honored in 2020 to be inducted into the Peabody High School Football Hall of Fame.

Herb graduated high school in 1952, and attended Murray State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship where he played quarterback for the Racers and was co-captain of the team. He was the student body vice president and president of the Methodist Student Union. At Murray, Herb met the love of his life, Celia Maurelle Kirksey of Paducah, Kentucky, and they married over the winter break of their senior year in 1955. They recently celebrated 65 years of happily ever after.

After graduating from Murray State in 1957, Herb then earned his Master’s Degree in Secondary Education Administration over the summers while he worked as head football coach and head basketball coach for three years in McKenzie, Tennessee. Herb then accepted an offer to teach and coach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, Coach Holt drew out the best from students and players and touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of students and their parents for 40 years. Herb taught physical education and English at Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, where he was also the assistant football coach and a junior varsity baseball coach. When T.C. Williams high school opened, he served as head football coach, and the junior varsity baseball coach. After three years, Herb was appointed athletic director, and later became assistant principal. Coach Holt was at T.C. Williams High School tutoring goodness during the time of the story “Remember the Titans.” Coach Holt also will be remembered for his dedication to students at George Washington Middle School. Upon retirement from T.C. Williams in 1997, he was named “Coach of the Year” by the National Football Coaches Association.

Herb and Maurelle raised their son and daughter in Springfield and West Springfield, Virginia. Herb continued to coach kids’ baseball after retirement for the Springfield Babe Ruth League. He proudly served as the Membership Chairman, Vice President and President of the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVALDAA). A natural at sports, he turned his love of sports toward golf and enjoyed golf outings and trips with his son and friends. Herb never once met a stranger and was known for his get-up-and-go, tenacity and his fun-loving spirit. Genuine interest in people. Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kind spirited hitchhiking a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a lifeguard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave his family lots of swim and beach days with bonfires and stories, trips to music festivals and county fairs, football and basketball games, amusement parks, long country drives and especially family and friends. He loved bluegrass, spaghetti Westerns, Burt Reynolds comedies, ice cream, and U.S. historical fiction novels in no particular order. He was cool, calm and collected and supported and loved us dearly, always encouraging our independence and best selves while also being available to catch us should we fall. Herb and Maurelle moved to Carlsbad, California to be with daughter and family and were able to enjoy lots of family celebrations together.

Predeceased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN), Herbert is survived by his wife, Celia Maurelle Holt; son John Lain Holt and daughter-in-love Martee Holt of Greensboro, NC; grandchildren Lauren Maurelle Holt (potentially Pooboo, WA), engaged to Darrin Cripe and Alexander Lain Holt of Charlotte, NC, engaged to Chloe Kanet; daughter Kristen Walker, son-in-law Justin D. Walker of Carlsbad, CA, and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Aubrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown Caragi, Pat Brown (Baltimore, MD), and the late John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sister-in-law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane De L O, nephew Samuel Kirksey (aka), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 60+ working years at Raleigh Corps and Beach there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generous spirit. Herb made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

A celebration of life will be held when people can safely gather. Please sign the guest book and leave comments at www.accuratecremation.com/obituary. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a scholarship fund in Herb’s name for young college-bound athletics at Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVALDAA) at www.nvald aa.org or PO Box 305, Buhre, VA 2009.

The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.

Obituary

By KENNETH B. LOUIE

I realize I’m cancer-centric, especially in these columns, but for some reason that cen- tricity didn’t acknowledge my February 27th cancer anniversary. That date, in 2009, is when I was originally diagnosed with stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, the “terminal” kind. I remember. It was a Thursday. It was the initial Team Louie meeting with my soon-to-be new best friend: my oncologist. A week or so prior, I had received the first indication - from my primary physician, my pulmonologist, that my change was about to change: the results from the previous surgical biopsy confirmed a malignancy. It’s rather an awkward dynamic to meet someone for the first time, who immediately becomes the person who will control, manage and in effect, be responsible for whether you live or die, and for how long. From then on, he becomes the most important person in your life; a person who is now entrusted with your precious asset: your health.

It was not an unfamiliar experience for me meeting someone cold and attempting to build a rapport. As a long-time salesman, that was my modus operandi. Whether in person or over the telephone, I have regularly been engaged in this kind of pursuit: trying to create an environment of trust and understanding in order to reach a shared goal. Previously, it was about making a sale; now it was about understanding my options and agreeing on a course of treatment. However, the one mistake I realized I was making was a failure to pursue, was control, or rather the lack thereof. Cancer was now in control as compared to my life as a salesperson. I chose it because it allowed me to be in control: who I called, when I called, scheduling appointments, etc. etc. Soon it became apparent, I was no longer in Kansas anymore. I was in the hands - figuratively speaking, of my oncologist - in Maryland: my new boss. If I wanted to live beyond the “13 month to two year” prognosis I was given, I would have to be as attentive and complaint as possible.

In spite of our shotgun-type of relationship, we have persevered together, which has en- abled you truly to acknowledge, albeit a week or so later, an amazing achievement: 12 years and still living. Not that my circumstances have become de rigueur, hardly; especially since the thyroid cancer diagnosis of late has put into question my original non small cell lung cancer story. What’s disappointing, after making a few inquiries, it appears unlikely that we can litigate the past any more than we can guarantee the future. For someone with cancer, whatever type, will be a part of my life and likely a part of my death as well.

I’m surprised how it’s (my life) all turned out and grateful to whomever for what I’m not en- tirely sure. Nevertheless, somehow it’s worked and here I am: alive and reasonably well. Not that my circumstances have become de rigueur, hardly; especially since the thyroid cancer diagnosis of late has put into question my original non small cell lung cancer story. What’s disappointing, after making a few inquiries, it appears unlikely that we can litigate the past any more than we can guarantee the future. For someone with cancer, whatever type, will be a part of my life and likely a part of my death as well.

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This Town Protects Its Homeowners

Cory Laws works from his home office during the pandemic.

By Mercia Horson
The Connection

I n the Town of Herndon, homeowners, regardless of income levels, have an ally on their side when dealing with contractors. Whether adding a room, updating a kitchen, or even getting rid of pests, Town staff person Cory Laws can help consumers spend less time selecting a contractor and avoid costly mistakes and misunderstandings by reviewing written agreements before execution. Relaying a conversation with David Stromberg, Zoning Administrator of the Town of Herndon, Laws quoted Stromberg to say, “You’re the one person in Town everybody likes.”

Though Laws cannot magically remove the inconvenience of the noise and dust, he can help homeowners understand contractor contracts. Laws will let the homeowner know if the work and bill scopes are not compatible or other issues come to light.

LAWS has been the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator for the Town of Herndon since 2019. The position is funded in part by a HUD Community Development Block Grant through Fairfax County, with other costs covered by the Town.

When COVID-19 hit in March, the problem Laws faced became what kind of service could he provide. The program was designed to help homeowners maintain their home’s structure, appearance, and value. It’s just the focus (that has changed), and what I’m able to do, allowed to do, and good at doing that can still provide benefit to people,” he said.

Laws currently reviews contracts from large-scale additions to even the smallest project obtained by the Town of Herndon homeowners. Resident and homeowner Carolyn Wright contacted Laws when she needed a new stove and raling. “He (Laws) was instrumental in helping me find somebody that could do this, and not a minute too soon…We went over the contract to make sure it was okay…He’s had experience in those areas…Cory’s going to be my go-to-man,” Wright said.

One of Laws’ “pet peeves” when reviewing written contracts is that contractors have the right license for the job and proper insurance. “I want to check the licenses with the state… and each jurisdiction requires its license (too).” License status in Virginia can be verified at Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations.

THE FINANCIAL TERMS of the contract must also be clear. As a Class A contractor, Laws said, “I know what things should cost.” Asked about the worst contract he reviewed; Laws described a contract a Town of Herndon homeowner brought to him for pest control.

“It was horrendous. It was weasel-worded, way too much money, and basically invalid. It was written so poorly or well, depending on your perspective, that it eschewed any liability on the part of the company…Working with a contractor is difficult. If you need help, want help and advice from a contractor who is on your side, and it won’t cost you anything, call Cory Laws,” he said.

Laws can be reached at cory.laws@herndon.va.gov and 703-787-7380.

Sixth-graders Win History Essay Contest

On March 6, 2021 Lane’s Mill Chapter of the NSDAR awards American History Essay Contest winners David Minjoon Kim and Rishan Reddy, sixth grade students from Colin Powell Elementary. Also pictured are Kristin Bunch, their teacher, Karen Burkett, Chapter Regent, and Susan Douffas, American History Chair. Thirty others attended via Zoom.

Unwavering Motivation to Keep Residents, Neighborhoods Safe

Viar is Sully District Station’s Officer of the Quarter.

P FC Henry Viar has been named the Sully District Police Station’s Officer of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2020. He was honored at the Jan. 13 meeting of the station’s Citizens Advisory Committee.

In her write-up nominating him for the award, Sgt. Sharon Perry explained why he was deserving of the recognition. She began by stating that he’s “repeatedly demonstrated consistent, outstanding work.”

Calling Viar “always a very proactive officer and a team player,” Perry said he works one of the busiest service areas and is “constantly patrolling to keep the Sully community safe, both on its roadways and in its neighborhoods.”

For example, she wrote, “In October, Viar was patrolling the area when he caught two suspects stealing catalytic converters from a local resident’s vehicle. He recovered evidence at the scene and interviewed the suspects, who admitted to their activities.”

Viar also caught two juveniles breaking into several vehicles, that same month. In their possession were items that tied them to numerous vehicle-tamperings and thefts throughout the neighborhood. Perry described their arrest as “critical,” since people breaking into vehicles and stealing valuables from them is one of the Sully District’s most common problems.

Then in November, she wrote, “While working on a special assignment to apprehend drunk drivers, Viar observed a vehicle speeding 120 mph on Route 28. The driver crashed into several vehicles stopped at a nearby traffic light. Viar was able to arrest the driver and subsequently found a BB gun, ammunition and a large quantity of THC (the main compound in cannabis) packaged for distribution.”

In December, Viar responded to a call regarding a woman who reported that a family member broke into her house after being evicted. “Viar located the suspect, who was intoxicated and in possession of items taken from the home,” wrote Perry. “Fortunately, no one in the house, including an infant, were injured during the incident.”

But that’s not all, Perry noted that, “Earlier this quarter, while off duty and responding to the station, Viar observed an officer from a local jurisdiction dealing with a volatile situation on the side of the road. The officer had no backup around and needed assistance, so Viar immediately stopped his vehicle, donned his equipment and aided the officer on the traffic stop.”

For all these reasons, exclaimed Perry, Viar deserves to receive the Officer of the Quarter award. “It’s clear that PFC Viar’s work ethic and motivation to keep the Sully residents and their neighborhoods safe is unwavering,” she wrote. “We are fortunate to have him as part of the Sully team and look forward to his great and continued work in the future.”

— Sgt. Sharon Perry