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History of Lebanon, Virginia's Russell College - Part II
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The People and History behind The Lebanon News
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The Lebanon News

"Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880"

127th YEAR - 7807 TWO SECTIONS 20 PAGES Wednesday, August 14, 2019 JERRY E. LARK, EDITOR LEBANON, VIRGINIA

School Begins Tomorrow

Russell County Public Schools 2019-2020 Calendar

- August 15: First Day for Students
- September 2: Labor Day (Holiday for all personnel)
- September 6: Teacher workday/professional development (no school for students)
- September 27: End 1st six weeks (30 days) no early dismissal
- November 1: End 2nd six weeks (25 days) no early dismissal
- November 4: Teacher workday/professional development (no school for students)
- November 5: Election Day, schools closed for everyone
- November 25-29: Thanksgiving break
- December 19: End 3rd six weeks (27 days) end 1st semester (82 days) no early dismissal
- December 20-Jan. 5: Christmas Break
- December 25: Christmas Day
- January 1: New Years Day
- January 6: Students and teachers return to school
- February 14: End 4th six weeks (30 days) no early dismissal
- March 27: End 5th six weeks (30 days) no early dismissal
- April 10: Good Friday (Guaranteed holiday for all personnel)
- April 13,14: Easter Break (Guaranteed holidays for all personnel)
- May 26: Last day of school: End 6th six weeks (38 days) not including make-up days. End second semester (98 days) Early dismissal at 11 a.m.
- May 25: Memorial Day (no school for students or teachers)

(See 2019-2020 Personell Roster Page 9B)

Supervisors Act On Courthouse Renovation

Statement Heard Regarding Farm Use Land Tax

By Heather Powers

Russell County Supervisors convened for the regular August board meeting and passed a resolution regarding the courthouse located in the county seat of Lebanon.

The board unanimously passed a resolution to move forward with preliminary plans regarding the courthouse renovations and additional space needs and courthouse security issues.

Within the resolution it stated that the Russell County courthouse continues to have several issues such as lack of adequate space, lack of adequate security, insufficient accessibility to individuals with disabilities and plumbing and electrical issues.

Deficiencies in the Department of General Services' evaluation of the courthouse include but are not limited to the following:

- Insufficient parking for judges and staff which is to be segregated from public parking and secure.
- No dedicated jury parking lot and no dedicated jury parking spaces.
- No secure entrance/circulation for judges, staff and support.

- No secure circulation for prisoners.
- Courtrooms are generally not accessible.
- There are no designated handicap/wheel chair areas in the courtroom or jury box.
- There are steps to the witness stands, judge's benches and court reporter stations.
- There are no dedicated witness waiting rooms.
- Witness waiting areas are shared spaces that are not secured or separate from general waiting.
- Circuit courtroom does not meet accessibility standards.
- Circuit courtroom has inadequate space/furnishings, environmental controls and technology provisions.
- General District courtroom does not meet accessibility standards.
- General District courtroom has inadequate space/furnishings, environmental controls, technology provisions.

The board of supervisors within the resolution stated they understand that extensive repairs and improvements are immediately required for the courthouse.

The board resolved they acknowledged and committed to take steps to gather information including but not limited to architectural, construction costs and financing options to remedy the aforementioned issues for the

Russell County courthouse. The commit to remedy the above issues as soon as possible, taking into consideration financing options and appropriate construction timelines.

During the meeting, Supervisor Tim Lovelace acknowledged that it had come to his attention that there had been some miscommunication and some residents had stated that he did not want to see a tax break on farm use land. All other board members also stated that this was not true and they have not discussed this. The board is not in favor of doing away with farm use land tax break. The county has always been agricultural based and this was needed.

A presentation was heard from Peggy Hurley of the United States Census 2020. There will be three ways to fill out the census which included online, paper and a 1-800 number. Hurley said the most efficient way will be to complete online. She encouraged the county to support the online needs of citizens. April 2020 is the census date and surveys will be online as early as March 1.

County administrator Lonzo Lester showed the board the Bronze Award they received for SolSmart.

(See Supervisors Page 5A)

Saint Paul Is Now Home Of The Clinch River State Park

By Heather Powers

At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7 a portion of the Clinch River State Park had a birthday with a deed transfer that made an already developed piece of land continue to operate with the state as the owner.

The state of Virginia officially purchased land that was owned by Frank Kilgore and created a one-of-a-kind "Blueway" state park. The park can best be described as a "pearl

necklace" by a former employee at DHCD, Denise Ambrose. Lou Ann Wallace, also a Steering Committee member explained that during the initial planning of this park, the vision of creating access points where travelers could enter and exit reminded everyone of a "String of Pearls". "To this day, that is how this idea and Blueway is described".

This event has been ten years in the making. Mayor Kyle Fletcher of Saint Paul said that

the town has supported the state park and all those who have been instrumental in getting this done.

This unique park was born out of the Clinch River Valley Initiative (CRVI), which is a collaborative effort in Southwest Virginia, focusing on the Clinch River Valley—one of the most biodiverse river systems in North America. Working at a watershed scale with many local partners, this grass-roots effort has developed significant momentum with applicability for communities in Appalachia and beyond.

Building on a shared vision for the Clinch River Valley, five active Action Groups are currently making substantial

efforts around five goal areas as part of the Initiative and include 1) Create a Clinch River State Park. 2) Develop and integrate access points, trails and campgrounds along the Clinch River. 3) Improve water quality in the Clinch River. 4) Increase environmental education opportunities for all community members in the Clinch River watershed. 5) Foster Downtown Revitalization, Marketing and Entrepreneurial Development Opportunities in the Clinch River Valley.

The state park was first looked at by the Virginia General Assembly during the time Delegate Clarence "Bud" Phillips was in office. It was studied and there was no action

taken nor a grass roots committee pushing for it until approximately 10 years ago.

During the time Senator William Wampler was in office he was instrumental in organizing a meeting that took place at UVA Wise which ultimately led to the creation of CRVI as it is today. The movers and thinkers came together, and the initiative turned into around 300 members from the Tazewell to Tennessee line. This developed into a steering committee that sometimes had as many as 60 attendees at meetings.

The state park has a boundary at Artrip with a canoe launch, a boundary at the old

(See Clinch River State Park Page 5A)

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