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Keeping Youth And Entrepreneurial Spirit In Russell County

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The Results From The Va. High Girls Basketball Tournament

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The Lebanon News

"Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880"

127th YEAR - 7725

TWO SECTIONS 16 PAGES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

JERRY E. LARK, EDITOR

LEBANON, VIRGINIA

Russell County Public Schools To Add Cybersecurity Program

Russell County Public Schools' administration is excited to announce Russell County Public Schools will be one of the first school divisions in Southwest Virginia to add a cybersecurity program to their high school course offerings.

Administration has been working with Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in analyzing the recently established Virginia Department of Education curriculum for cybersecurity. The result of this collaboration will be a three-year program avail-

able to high school students that includes dual-enrolled courses with SWCC. Once completed, the student will have secured twelve (12) college credit hours toward SWCC's Career Certificate in Cybersecurity. Additionally, these credits may be applied toward Associated Degree programs at SWCC in Computer Networking and Telecommunications, and/or Information Systems Technology.

Division Superintendent, Dr. Greg Brown stated, "School divisions across the Commonwealth are working toward these types

of opportunities for their students. There has not been a hotter topic in non-core curriculum in several years. Our school board members recognized that Russell County Public Schools needed to move in this direction and staff have worked toward this goal."

Governor McAuliffe views cybersecurity as one of the fastest growing areas of need in Virginia. Governor McAuliffe has stated that there are over 36,000 cybersecurity jobs unfilled in the Commonwealth (January 26, 2017) and again, shared similar information when the Governor visited Castlewood Elementary School and Castlewood High School in May.

Mr. James Dye, Dean of Business, Engineering, Industrial Technology and Workforce Solutions at SWCC states, "Southwest Virginia Community College is eager to partner with Russell County Public Schools with the Cybersecurity program. The students completing the program will be in a great position after graduating high school. They can complete an Associates or other program at SWCC in a reduced time and also decrease the total cost of obtaining a degree by completing the dual-enrollment program."

Russell County School Board Chairman, Mr. Don Ramey shares, "We are excited to be one of the first school divisions to add such a highly structured and detailed cybersecurity program to our high schools. This should allow students who take advantage of this opportunity a head-start as they graduate and move on to higher education."

Dr. Thomas F. Wright Selected To Be The Next President Of Southwest Virginia Community College

RICHMOND - Southwest Virginia Community College has a new president. Dr. Thomas F. Wright, currently of Cleveland, TN, will become the institution's third permanent president. His first day of work will be January 8, 2018. Wright's selection concludes a national search that attracted 83 applicants and took six months to complete.

"Thomas Wright is an impressive higher education leader who really connects with the people and the culture of Southwest Virginia," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "His selection is the result of a competitive process that attracted a great deal of talent. We are eager to see what he accomplishes when he begins at the college next month."

Wright has worked in higher education for more than 25 years. He currently serves as vice president for finance and advancement at Cleveland State Community College, as well as the executive director of the college's education foundation. Wright previously served as the college's interim vice president for academic affairs.

Prior to that, Wright worked for a decade at Appalachian State University, rising to the position of director of housing operations. He began his higher education career at Middle Tennessee State University where he served in several roles including interim assistant dean of students. He earned a doctorate from Tennessee State University, and a master's degree and bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

"Our college's local board was impressed and delighted to see the talent that this competitive search process brought to our college," said Peggy Lowe, chair of the Southwest Virginia Community College local board. "This wasn't an easy decision. Each of the four finalist who came to campus had something special to offer. We are excited to work with Dr. Wright. He displays a firm grasp of the challenges and opportunities that are unique to our region, and we are eager to see what the college can do under his leadership."

Wright will succeed Dr. Mark Estep, who is retiring from the college's presidency after serving in that role since 2007.

Southwest Virginia Community College, founded in 1968 and located outside Richlands, VA, is a comprehensive two-year college serving approximately 3,200 students annually from the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell, and Tazewell.



Dr. Thomas F. Wright



LPD Cautions Drivers Regarding Flashing Turn Arrows At Traffic Lights

The Lebanon Police Department would like to advise all drivers travelling U.S. Highway 19 to please use caution at the intersection of Highway 19 and Regional Park Road at Walmart.

VDOT recently changed the red lights for the turning lanes on Highway 19. Drivers may now approach amber flashing turn arrows. Drivers must yield the right of way to vehicles travelling Highway 19. Make sure the road is clear and have enough time to turn safely.

Increases in traffic crashes have occurred in this area due to drivers not taking the time or using caution to cross the roadway. Please remember we all have to share the roads.

Castlewood Water And Sewage Authority Faces Major Budget Shortages

New Leadership Optimistic For A Drastic Turn Around

By Heather Powers

Two of the newest employees of the Castlewood Water and Sewage Authority (CWSA) made supervisors aware during a reconvened meeting of the board on Thursday afternoon of critical issues they have discovered regarding operations at the facility and how they plan to turn financial turmoil around.

Office manager Marty Stanley has been employed at the authority for around 18 months and has discovered several reasons for lack of funds that were necessary for bills and daily operations. Recently, the board of supervisors appropriated up to \$60,000 to the CWSA for their mandated VRA loan payment that brought them up to date through Dec. 1, 2017. However, other bills have fallen behind and the facility has ran around \$30,000 short each month and has forced them to conduct business on their line of credit.

Stanley was astounded when she found out daily operations were being funded with a line of credit. She felt this came to be due to mismanagement in years past. Stanley is relieved they have been

able to obtain the service of Tracy Puckett who is a long-time manager at a Lee County water facility. He has been there only a short few weeks but already has a grasp on the situation. Puckett's board has allowed him to provide service to the CWSA on a part-time bases to help correct issues and get this facility back on track.

Stanley has discovered that operations were running well until about half-way through 2013 and then line of credit was being used but was not being paid back. This led to much research as to what was the cause for the funds to no longer be available to pay bills.

It is true that revenue declined when CWSA lost the local power plant as they no longer needed water services when they converted to gas. They also lost two railroads. Also, within 18 months over 200 customers were lost.

Puckett further explained that he has seen a substantial amount of water loss that needed to be corrected so they do not have to purchase water. He felt when this is corrected, the CWSA can operate without purchasing water. The amount of overtime pay was also very alarming and he knew from experience this should not be necessary. The facility employed 10 full time and four part time at this time.

news but were ready to help work with the CWSA to correct his problem. Supervisors discussed other issues they needed to look into such as their health insurance providers, auditor fees and fees they pay for travel. County administrator Lonzo Lester said he can help them in areas of procurement.

Puckett felt that within three months they would see some improvement and it will continue to drastically improve throughout the next year.

Other items approved by the board during Thursday's meeting were early employee pay for Dec. 20 and certificates for a holiday ham or turkey for employees. They noted this will stay in line with what school employees were to receive from their principals. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.



Santa waves to crowd atop Lebanon Volunteer Fire Truck.

Lebanon Town Christmas Parade

The streets of Lebanon were filled Monday evening as the annual Christmas parade took place and was enjoyed by many.

This year the theme was "A Storybook Christmas" and there were several floats that entered the parade along with the three high school bands of Lebanon, Castlewood and Honaker as well as several other company and personal vehicles, emergency vehicles, horses and dogs.

Winners for the 2017 Christmas parade included: First place-RC-CTC FFA; Second place-FFA Chapter Honaker and Third place-Occupational Enterprises.

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75¢ each

NOTICE
The Lebanon News
NEW YEAR'S DEADLINES
Friday, December 22nd 11 AM
is the deadline for the December 27th paper.
Friday, December 29th 11 AM
is the deadline for the January 3rd paper.