

Smyth County News & Messenger



Patrick Henry blanks Northwood in football. See B1

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New faces join Smyth Board of Supervisors

BY STEPHANIE PORTER-NICHOLS Staff

Shuler retains sheriff post; Rhodes tops Ford

In January, voters may see a change in direction for the Smyth County Board of Supervisors. Tuesday's election results put two new faces on the board. Kris Ratliff unseated longtime supervisor and current board chairman Todd Dishner with a

decisive victory, claiming 67.18 percent of the Park District's votes.

Also, new to the board will be Lori Hester Deel, who was unopposed in her bid for the Rye Valley seat. She defeated incumbent Rick Blevins for the Repub-

lican Party's nomination earlier this year.

Deel and Ratliff worked together during the campaign and both advocated for transparency and integrity as elected officials.

Deel served as the county's economic development direc-

tor, while Ratliff served on the county's Economic Development Authority for 10 years. He is a 28-year independent pharmacy owner in Marion. He serves as the vice chairman of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

When asked by the News &

Messenger to explain why he was seeking a seat on the board, Ratliff wrote, "... to bring a fresh perspective to our county government. I will strive to provide transparency in county business decisions and to restore the faith and confidence of the citizens in their elected officials and hired

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Ken Heath and Marion Mayor David Helms added their voices to those of Valley Grass Tuesday evening as they waited on election results.

STEPHANIE PORTER-NICHOLS/SMYTH COUNTY NEWS & MESSENGER

Veterans Day

Shazier recounts time as a soldier

BY GLENNA CRABTREE-BULLINS Staff

When local veterans gather at the Chilhowie Town Hall to commemorate Veterans Day, Franklin Shazier plans to be among them as he usually is each year.

Shazier served his country in the U.S. Army from 1966 until 1991, pulling two years active duty, seeing combat in Vietnam, and being a member of the Army Reserves until he was honorably discharged in 1991.

Born on Aug. 25, 1945 to Hugh Byrd and Helen Shazier, he has an older brother and two sisters. His brother, Harry, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to Vietnam. Shazier intended to follow in his brother's footsteps and go into the Marines, but, when he graduated from Chilhowie High School in 1966, his cousin got him a job in New Jersey working for Sears, so he delayed his enlistment.

Three months later, he was drafted into the Army. Since Harry was already serving in Vietnam, Shazier was not immediately sent into the war. The Army had a practice of only send-



Franklin Shazier of Chilhowie was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. He fought in the Vietnam War, and, following his honorable discharge, served in the Army Reserves for 20 years.

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Heath looks to future

BY STEPHANIE PORTER-NICHOLS Staff

When the results became obvious Tuesday evening, Ken Heath stood before a roomful of his supporters and looked back only briefly – just long enough to reflect gratefully on the experience and to be clear that he had no regrets. With a grace and hope-oriented spirit that's marked his campaign, Heath looked to the future.

Heath's run for the 40th District Senate seat has faced challenges since its first day in early March when he managed to file for the Republican Party's nomination with mere minutes to spare.

Heath had promised not to run against incumbents. Republican Sen. Bill Carrico held off on announcing that he wouldn't be seeking re-election until a short time before the deadline to sign up as a party candidate expired. At the same time, Car-



Jim Barker, Ken Heath and Patrick Ford didn't win the seats they campaigned for, but all agreed the experience was worthwhile and they were glad to give people a choice.

STEPHANIE PORTER-NICHOLS/SMYTH COUNTY NEWS & MESSENGER

rico endorsed Todd Pillion as his successor.

Though Heath got his paperwork

filed just in time, another obstacle came when the GOP set its mass

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Veterans Day

About the letters to home and the ways soldiers serve and save one another still. See Page A4



String of Pearls

Smyth County's courthouse history. See Page A5



Deaths

Nancy Bivens
Rosetta Hodge Thomas
Sylvia Cahvodiayah Glass
Wheeler

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