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Congressman Garrett holds Q & A with ACHS students

Daniel Puckette
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Staff Writer

Congressman Tom Garrett was asked about a full range of political topics from Appomattox County High School students during a question and answer secession last Thursday morning.

Rep. Garrett (R-5th) stopped at ACHS along with other schools in the district to connect with students and answer their questions.

He told students he doesn't mind if they disagreed with him, but wanted to ensure they had reasons for their beliefs.

"I want to see that you guys are thinking 'why do I think that's right?'" Garrett said.

Students questioned Garrett about a number of topics including terrorism, Black Lives Matter, flag burning, trade, and voter fraud.

Garrett said that he does not agree with President Trump over the amount of voter fraud that occurs in the country, but he has first

hand experience as a prosecutor trying cases of it.

He also told students that he believes that foreign terrorists pose a greater threat to American lives than domestic ones, citing the attacks in San Bernardino and Orlando as having foreign influence.

Garrett also answered what he hopes to accomplish during his time in Congress.

"I'm doing it because I want to make sure my kids have the same opportunities or better than I had," he responded.

Maintaining the "federalist ideas of government" and reducing the debt are his goals as well.

The Congressman also spoke to the students about Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of the holiday earlier in the month.

"Martin Luther King Jr. understood something, that if we are equal we are equal," Garrett said, "One person stood up."

Garrett also told students about Barbara Johns, a student at the Morton School



Daniel Puckette/Times-Virginian

Congressman Tom Garrett held a question and answer secession with Appomattox County High School students in the cafeteria on Thursday morning.

in Farmville who lead a walkout over equal rights.

"It was the only walkout led by a student," he said.

Students should be know-

lagable of the people and events that brought America to where it is today, understand why holidays like

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

are celebrated.

"You stand on the shoulders of giants," he said.

Garrett was sworn in to the 5th District seat earlier this month, and replaced Robert Hurt, who did not seek reelection.

Grant could bring streetscape improvements & more to town

Daniel Puckette
Times-Virginian
Staff Writer

Around two-dozen town citizens and business owners gathered at the visitors center last Thursday to hear about streetscape improvements, increased parking, and facade improvements and more that could be provided by a grant within in the Town of Appomattox.

The Town organized the meeting as part of the on-

going process to receive a Business District Revitalization grant.

Craig Wilson of Community Planning Partners in Richmond discussed the ideas of designating a downtown area for marketing purposes, better public parking and signage, and creating a two way stop at the intersection of Church and Main streets as ways to improve the Main Street area of Appomattox.

The ideas also were to

help local businesses, and Wilson suggested creating a "shop local" environment and "pop up shops" to allow local entrepreneurs a chance to try their business ideas.

Also in the plan are physical improvements such as improved lighting, adding benches, and other public spaces.

The scope of the current grant will be a square area made by Main Street, Court Street, over to Highland Avenue and back down

Church Street.

The Town is interested in completing similar improvements up Confederate Boulevard in a separate grant later.

For the current project, Kelly Hitchcock of Region 2000 Local Government Council said that expressed interest by local businesses in the facade program is important in creating a competitive grant application.

The Town of Appomattox

can apply for up to \$1.25 million in grant funding out of \$15 million to 19 million the Virginia Department of Housing can distribute.

The Town of Appomattox was awarded a planning grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and

Community Development, which will lead to future grants for physical improvements including new benches, trees, lighting and building improvements.

The massive project will encompass infrastructure

and streetscape improvements, a marketing and branding study, and a physical assessment of property within the Business District.

Residents are encouraged to contact Kelly Hitchcock, Senior Planner, at 434-845-3491 or khitchcock@region2000.org for more information about the Appomattox Downtown Revitalization Project.

Family-operated Bull Daddys restaurant offers delicious food as well as free admission entertainment

Debra Ferrell
Times-Virginian
Editor

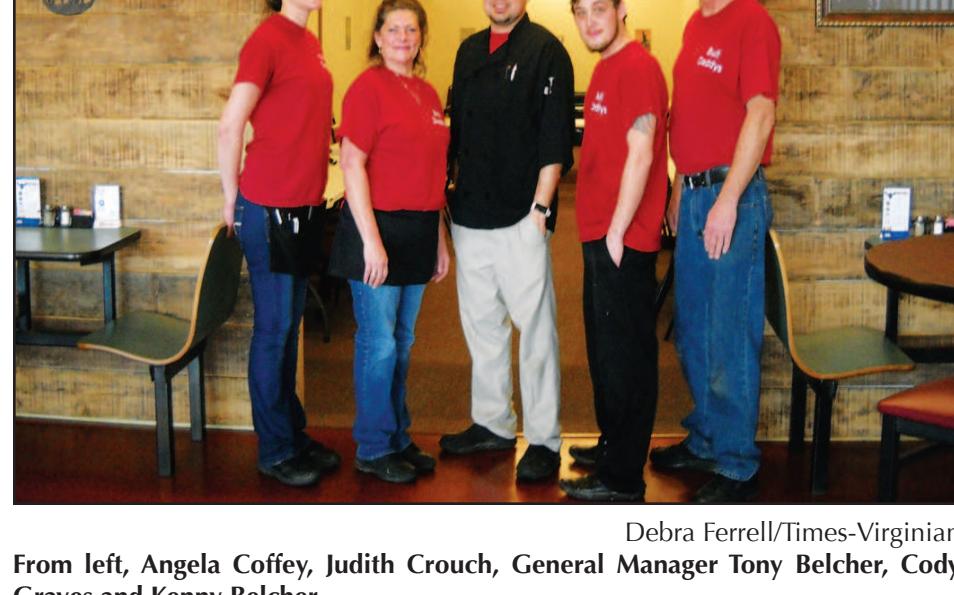
Appomattox is lucky to have a fine restaurant such as Bull Daddys where customers can kick back, eat steak and seafood among many other popular entrees, and enjoy (periodic) free entertainment.

The restaurant, located at History Junction on Rt. 460 right before you turn to come into the Town of Appomattox, is conveniently located next to Dollar Tree and Tractor Supply Co.

It is owned and operated by the Belcher family.

Sharon Cantrell is a big part of the eatery's success. She is well known to the town since she and her late husband, Kelly Cantrell, operated the Appomattox Trading Post where they dealt in gold, silver and coins. "It was sort of like a pawn shop but we didn't do loans," she explains.

After her husband passed



Debra Ferrell/Times-Virginian

From left, Angela Coffey, Judith Crouch, General Manager Tony Belcher, Cody Graves and Kenny Belcher.

away in May 2014, she and her family continued to run the shop until they closed it

in December 2015. She and some family members decided to open

a restaurant since her son, Tony Belcher, wanted to run his own restaurant. Af-

ter he moved here from the Hampton Roads area, they secured this location in 2016 and got to work painting and installing a state of the art kitchen, bar, banquet room, and dining area. After a good six-seven months of work, they opened in August of 2016. The restaurant employs up to 30 people at any given time.

Bull Daddys - what an interesting name. When asked where did that come from, Sharon replies, "My father's nickname is 'Bull' stemming from where he worked in the shipyard for 42 years."

The eatery has become very popular in the area, especially on nights when they offer free entertainment for customers. The place was packed a few weeks ago when Elvis tribute artist Taylor Rodriguez presented a rousing show. Farm Use Old Time String Band recently played some good ole mountain music to

an appreciative crowd. Starting in late January and running until the end of February (and maybe longer) karaoke will be offered on Wednesday nights until 10 p.m. Sweet Teaz Entertainment presents an enter-

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