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TIMES - VIRGINIAN

Serving Appomattox County Since 1892

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Vol. 126, No. 6 Appomattox, Virginia Wednesday, February 8, 2017 \$1.00

Former congressman Robert Hurt joins LU law program

**Susan Light
Special to the
Times-Virginian**

Former 5th District Congressman Robert Hurt has been selected to lead Liberty University's new center for law and government. After almost 16 years in public office, the Chatham native started in his new role in the private sector a couple of weeks ago.

"It is a fantastic opportunity," said Hurt. "There are so many exciting things going on here at Liberty University in terms of growth and potential. Plus, it's a nice way to continue to work on the things that I really care about and hopefully make a positive impact," he said.

The center, which is in collaboration with the Liberty University School of Law and Liberty's Helms School of Government, will develop and propose public policy at every level of government – a task for which Hurt is well-suited.

"My experience in Washington, my experience in Richmond, and my expe-

rience on Chatham Town Council give me a unique perspective in forming public policy," he said. "As important as anything is the philosophy of Liberty University, which promotes the fundamental three principles of our country: self-government, free markets, and the rule of law."

Hurt said the examination of public policy should lead to an ability to propose and advocate for "good conservative policy consistent with our principles."

Hurt also hopes to encourage debate, saying, "Liberty University is a tremendous platform."

President Trump participated in convocation at the university last year; Bernie Sanders was also a guest of the school; and Senator Ted Cruz made his campaign announcement for the Presidential election at Liberty.

"President Jerry Falwell and Liberty University have built it well. It is my hope to be able to amplify and expand upon that and make Liberty University a center for debate on important is-



Courtesy Photo/Times-Virginian

Robert Hurt looks happy to be working with Liberty University's new program.

sues affecting Presidential politics and state politics," he said.

The center for law and government is an independent entity, not affiliated

with any political party, said Hurt.

Hurt's third emphasis for

the center is the education

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Town of Pamplin seeks more funding for water tower

**Daniel Puckette
Times-Virginian
Staff Writer**

As project costs have increased, the Town of Pamplin will request additional grant funding from the Virginia Department of Health.

Pamplin will ask for an additional \$55,000 from VDH for the water tower restoration project, raising the total grant funding to \$210,000.

According to Town Clerk Paulie Johnson, the engi-

neering firm determined that more items will be needed for the project than were in the original budget.

"The initial recommendations were appropriate at the time to warrant the grant, but we have recently retained an engineering firm, Hurt & Proffitt, to handle the town's projects. During their inspection of the project they found that there was a shortfall of items that would be inclusive with the Water Tank refurbishment," she said.

Johnson said that ask-

ing for an increase "does not normally happen" with grants, but VDH was anticipating "a cushion" of extra money that may be needed.

Pamplin hopes to hear back soon, and Johnson does not anticipate the request to delay the project's start time.

The water tower project will be funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Health, totaling \$130,750, which was acquired in late June of 2016 that will go towards the

cleaning and repainting of the water tower, which stands just off U.S. 460 Business near the volunteer fire department building.

The town was also awarded a grant from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, or SERCAP, in July of last year, totaling \$25,000.

Pamplin must meet a number of requirements to receive the funding to repair and repaint the water tower, which stands just off U.S. 460 Business near the volunteer fire department

building.

In January, Gary Christie, Executive Director of Region 2000 Local Government Council, told the Pamplin Town Council that they would need to meet three requirements as part of a business plan in order to receive grant funding from the Virginia Department of Health.

One of the requirements was increasing revenue of water, likely meaning water rates in the Town will rise by two-percent each year

for five years.

Johnson said in January the increases will begin in 2018, and continue for five years.

Pamplin increased the minimum water and sewer prices in the spring of last year, raising water minimum payments from \$20.50 to \$28.13, marking a \$7.63 hike.

Town Council also increased the cost of inactive water meters from \$6 to \$14.25.



Courtesy Photo/Times-Virginian

Evergreen Baptist Church to hold special remembrance ceremony

This February marks the one-year anniversary of the devastating tornado that tore through Appomattox, Virginia. Many people across the county were affected by this natural disaster. Homes and churches were damaged or destroyed, farmlands and forests were left in disarray, and lives were forever changed. With the help of thousands of volunteers, monetary donations and other assistance, many families have been able to move toward recovery. Now, almost one year later, although numerous structures have been repaired and rebuilt, the lingering effects of this event can still be felt.

to remember what we lost, reflect on where we are now, and rejoice as we look ahead to the future. All first responders, volunteers, and residents that were impacted by the storm are invited to attend. The evening will

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**INSIDE
THIS WEEK**

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FOOD LION

To commemorate this significant event, our community is invited to join together to Remember and Rejoice. On Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 PM, Evergreen Baptist Church will be hosting a service

Leaders share knowledge

Delegates discuss agricultural education with Future Farmers of America members Caylan Moore and Jenna St. John at the General Assembly building in Richmond.

