



SPORTS

Roanoke Rapids High School softball team off to a good start. **PAGE B1**



VALLEY FACES

Check out Roanoke Valley folks at work and play. **PAGE A7**

\$1.50 • Vol. 103, No. 250 • © 2018 The Daily Herald • Our 104th Year Serving the Roanoke Valley & Lake Gaston RRDailyHerald.com

City frozen out of early voting location



Roger Bell | The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids City Manager Joseph Scherer, left, talks with City Attorney Gilbert Chichester on Friday at City Hall.

BY ROGER BELL
RBELL@RRDAILYHERALD.COM

Early voting in Roanoke Rapids for the May 8 primary elections will not happen. Roanoke Rapids City Manager Joseph Scherer said the groundwork for what occurred with early voting began in December when representatives of NC Works approached him about moving into their former location at the city's Resources Building, located at the intersection of West Third and Jackson streets in Roanoke Rapids.

"They told me they were having some safety issues and some work issues with their space over at (Becker

Village Mall.)" Scherer said. They asked to use the space for their offices for up to six months, Scherer said, while their new offices were being prepared. Scherer, who knew there was an election coming in November, didn't realize the primary would fall into that period.

"Nothing was mentioned until mid-February about the primary," Scherer said. "I had not given any consideration to the primary."

Knowing the space had been used for early voting, Scherer said, he set about looking for another space to offer to the board of elections to use as an alternate location. The first of these

locations was the Roanoke Rapids Public Library. "Initially the library was offered," said Halifax County Board of Elections Director Kristin Scott. "The library would not have worked for early voting because of the turnout. The library is small and the parking is extremely limited. It was agreed it could work for Election Day and the precinct could go there but I did let the city manager know it would not work for one-stop voting."

The week before the board was scheduled to meet to adopt the one-stop plan, Scott said, the city

SEE VOTING/PAGE A3

City optimistic following theater meeting

BY ROGER BELL
RBELL@RRDAILYHERALD.COM

Things appear to still be on track regarding the sale of The Roanoke Rapids Theatre. Roanoke Rapids City Attorney Gilbert Chichester said Friday he and City Manager Joseph Scherer met with representatives of Thomas and Evon McLean, the prospective buyers of the theater, for what he characterized as a "status conference."

"They were making sure the city has complied with the conditions of the contract," Chichester said.

Chichester said the city appears to be in compliance, and while there are a few details to be worked out in the agreement. Those details, he added, have to do with

SEE THEATER/PAGE A6

Fitch nominated to replace Bryant as state senator

BY CAROLYN HARMON
CHARMON@RRDAILYHERALD.COM

HALIFAX — The state Senate District 4 Democratic executive committee has selected Milton "Toby" Fitch Jr. to replace state Sen. Angela Bryant, who resigned her position on Monday.

Fitch, the only Democrat who filed for election to the District 4 Senate seat, was nominated Friday at the Halifax County Ag Center by executive committee members Gwen Wilkins (Nash County) and Zette McArn (Wilson County). The committee unanimously supported his nomination.

"Toby Fitch is no stranger to politics or eastern North Carolina," said Kim Mack, chairwoman of the Senate District 4 executive committee. "He brings a wealth of experience of the North Carolina General Assembly and the issues facing us."

Wilkins said, "He has experience and concern for the citizens, and he will help those who cannot help themselves."

McArn added, "He is not shy about raising his voice for you and for me."

Last month Fitch retired from serving as a Superior Court Judge, a position he held for more than 16 years starting in 2001. Before that he served in the NC House of the General Assembly, representing Edgecombe and Wilson counties, from 1984 to 2001.

Fitch said in his statement of candidacy in February that he is focusing on new job creation,



Carolyn Harmon | The Daily Herald

Milton "Toby" Fitch Jr. speaks before the SD04 executive committee that selected him on Friday to replace Sen. Angela Bryant, who resigned on Monday.

better infrastructure, attracting new business and industry and improving technological advances.

"I never take anything for granted, that is why I love the democratic process," Fitch said on Friday.

About his executive committee selection on Friday, Fitch said,

"Some people say it went mighty fast; I say it felt like a lifetime trying to get to this point. These are good citizens in this particular District 4, as it's now presently constituted. I'm sorry that district is changing. I have a close affinity and relations with all those who

SEE FITCH/PAGE A6

Wayfinding design makes progress

BY ROGER BELL
RBELL@RRDAILYHERALD.COM

Lori Medlin is all for helping people find their way in Roanoke Rapids. Medlin, president and CEO of the Halifax County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is working with Christina Caudle, Roanoke Rapids' Main Street Development director, and Kelly Lasky, Roanoke Rapids Planning and Development director to move the city forward regarding its wayfinding design.

"A wayfinding system is a system of signs that help people find their way to key areas in cities," Medlin said.

SEE DESIGN/PAGE A6

WEATHER

47 29 MORE, A2

OBITUARIES

Medie Merritt
Carl White
Cleveland Broadie
Solomon Boone

John Cooper
Claude Britt Jr.

DAILY POLL QUESTION

Vote at rrdailyherald.com
Should elected officials be permitted to resign and take a government appointment?
• Yes
• No

Results of previous poll:
Should the city of Roanoke Rapids restrict "vaping" in city parks and facilities?
• Yes - 52.2%
• No - 47.8%

A4

The American Dream Is Still Alive At RRSB.
Let us help you live your dream.

Home, Construction and Lot Loans • Home Equity Lines of Credit • Consumer Loans • Business Loans

ROANOKE RAPIDS SAVINGS BANK
Banking With A Difference

325 Becker Dr. • Roanoke Rapids • 252-537-8061 • 2451 Bolling Rd. • Roanoke Rapids • 252-537-0158

www.rrsb.com