**State steps in to help elections office**

RUCKERSVILLE

The Buckingham County Elections Office is in need of business. That part isn’t unusual. Residents can come in, register to vote, pick up forms to run for office and handle any other election-related business from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. What is unusual is that the Buckingham County Registrar isn’t running the office. Currently, officials from the Virginia Department of Elections are handling that.

“The Department of Elections (DOE) will receive requests of assistance from several areas,” said Andrea Gamble, who works as an electoral affairs manager for the Virginia DOE. For how long state help will be needed, that question is still up in the air.

“We do not have a specific time identified for when our staff will leave,” Gamble said. “The reason for that is because as a Monday, March 20, Buckingham Registrar Lindsey Taylor reported to her home, not knowing whether she would be able to return to work. The administration of the private company that operates the elections office was not known to the registrar, who was attending to other duties.

Local officials have known for months that the decision would be a possibility, as the Buckingham Electoral Board decided to renew Taylor’s contract, which expires June 30. The board made that announcement during their Friday, March 10 meeting.

She has three options for her contract,” Electoral Board member Dr. Karen Williams said during the March 10 meeting, speaking of Taylor. “She’s a smart person and she will pick the right option.”

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**High winds expected Saturday**

Resident can expect a windy weekend throughout this region. As a result, power companies are taking precautions.

According to the National Weather Service, a front is coming in late Friday, March 31, and is expected to stick around until Saturday night. The winds are expected to blow from the southwest.

The National Weather Service suggests residents secure loose items, remove branches from porches and driveways, and make sure grills are secured.

**‘There are no deposits big enough’, experts say**

Yes, there are gold deposits in Buckingham County. And yes, it would be possible to mine those areas, but the problem, according to Paul Bush, investment banking, mining, and real estate expert, is that the mined areas of Virginia are too small to be profitable.

“Virginia is one of the leading states in gold mining,” Bush said. “It’s a big deal because there are so many deposits that are too small to be mined. However, the gold in those areas is not enough to justify the cost of mining.”

Bush said the biggest challenge in mining in Virginia is the cost of mining. The cost of mining is too high, according to Bush, because there are so many deposits that are too small to be mined.

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