

Bears earn first victory...

SPORTS, PAGE 6

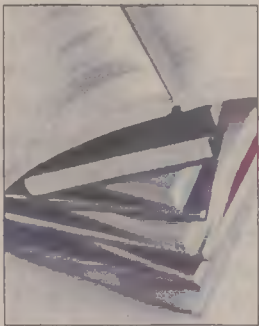


MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & Weekly Herald

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TUESDAY • JANUARY 7, 2020

Out & About



The Martin Memorial Library book club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. Learn about all upcoming events in Out & About. Page 2

Opinion



Enterprise & Weekly Herald Columnist Sarah Hodges Stalls challenges readers to make a shift in priorities. Page 4

Adopt-A-Pet



Jersey is a 9-month-old retriever mix, and is available for adoption at the Williamston Veterinary Clinic. Page 2



GOOD MORNING,

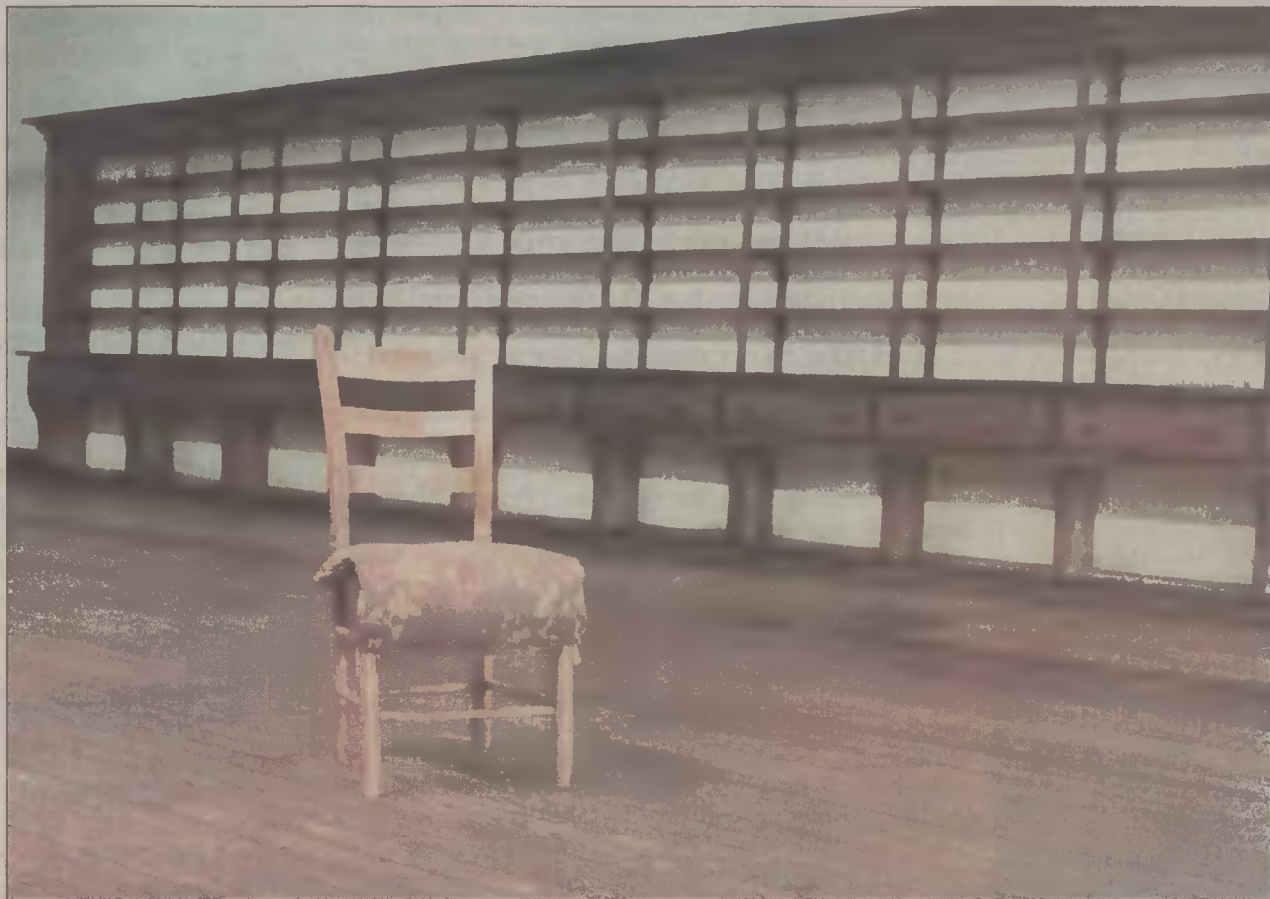
Tammy Haislip of Williamston
Thank you for subscribing!

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No. 2



SARAH HODGES STALLS / Enterprise & Weekly Herald

After decades of serving the community, Martin Supply Company will soon close its doors in downtown Williamston.

Time to say 'farewell'

Martin County landmark to close soon

SARAH HODGES STALLS
Enterprise & Weekly Herald

WILLIAMSTON — In the coming weeks, the doors will close for good at Martin Supply Company. Until then, the store will operate on a limited schedule.

"We are sorry we can't make it work," explained long-time manager Georgie Griffin. "But it's been a good, viable business."

The business first opened in downtown Williamston in 1940. Its first year of operation saw transition and change, however; the right combination of people fell into place and the store began to thrive.

Griffin went to work at the store in 1973 for the late Oswald Stalls. When Stalls passed away in 1983, he took over as manager.



Georgie Griffin, who joined Martin Supply Company in 1973, says it is heartbreaking to see this day come but he will always be grateful for the role Martin Supply Company played in the lives of area residents and his own family.

"Somebody said to me, 'You got rich working at Martin Supply,'" Griffin said. He did not fight back the smile that fol-

lowed. "I got rich with friends," he

See FAREWELL, 8

Everetts leaders take oaths

Deans will stay mayor

EVERETTS — Tonya Leggett, Martin County Clerk of Court, swore in Everetts mayor Ray Deans and commissioners during Thursday night's meeting.

Deans has served as mayor since 1999. His service to the town began as a commissioner in 1995, serving until he took over as mayor.

Will Prettyman has served the town as a commissioner since 2010.



SARAH HODGES STALLS / Enterprise & Weekly Herald

Martin County Clerk of Superior Court Tonya Leggett (left) swears in Everetts Commissioners Will Prettyman, Becky Williams and Ben Jones.

See OATHS, 3

See VOTER ID, 3

Judge halts Voter ID law

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
Associated Press

RALEIGH (AP) — Republican attempts to require photo identification to vote in North Carolina are being thwarted again by judges hearing arguments that the mandate is tainted by bias that would deter black and Latino residents.

A federal court announced that next week U.S. District Judge Loretta Biggs will formally block a photo ID requirement scheduled to begin in 2020. Unless the upcoming preliminary injunction is successfully appealed, the requirement will be halted until a lawsuit filed by the state NAACP and others is resolved.

Thursday's short written notice from the federal court in Winston-Salem previewed Biggs' order because state election officials were planning to expand efforts to educate voters about the ID law within days. Although the requirement would be carried out beginning with the March 3 primary, the requirement would actually start in just a few weeks with mail-in absentee ballot filers, who also would have to provide an ID copy.

The state law identified several types of qualifying photo IDs and allowed people lacking one to get a free ID card or to fill out a form while voting explaining their "reasonable impediment" to obtaining one.

GOP leaders in charge of the legislature have been trying for most of the decade to advance voter ID, saying that more than 30 states require it and it builds confidence in elections. Data show voter impersonation is rare, however. The voting pool — currently 6.8 million registered voters — is critical in a closely divided presidential battleground state where statewide races are often competitive be-

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