

Culpeper Star-Exponent

Culpeper, Virginia

StarExponent.com | A Media General Newspaper

50 cents

SPORTS

CCHS boots Liberty

Matt Willett and Carter Mills score to lead Blue Devils to win » **B1**



NATION & WORLD

Chump change?

Your two cents costs 2.52 cents to make » **A3**



LOCAL & STATE

Silence on Angler plan

Supervisors nix release of details of firm's water-sewer plan. » **A2**



Chips fall for incumbents

Ryan edges out Beckett for fourth council seat

By Allison Brophy Champion
STAFF WRITER

In Tuesday's Town Council election, the voters went with what they know.

Incumbents Chip Coleman, Mike Olinger and Chris Snider were the top three vote getters, followed by former Vice Mayor Bobby Ryan, who picked up the fourth at-large seat, edging out candidate Jerry Beckett by just 14 votes.

Of the town's 7,086 registered voters, only 1,261 turned out to vote — a mere 17.8 percent.

Snider, 38, got the most votes of the 11 candidates with 663.

"Oh man, I want to cry," he said around 7:30 p.m. from inside Ravens Nest Coffee House downtown. "If you would have asked me an hour ago, I had no idea."

That's because the 2008 race for Town Council attracted the most candidates in recent memory, including a few who made illegal immigration a big issue.

"You just never know until the votes are counted," said Snider, congratulating his fellow winners. "I think this is an endorsement by the voters of the direction council is going in, the work we've been doing. We're doing a good job of managing the town. This is a victory for all of us."

As for the illegal immigration issue, people are concerned about it, he said, but they realize it's not Town Council's job to solve.

"They realize we have bigger issues on our plate they want us to deal with like consolidation — that's what I heard all day long," Snider said.

Olinger, 36, the youngest councilman, was at a loss for words as he walked into the Channel 21 studio shortly after the polls closed.

"Hot dog!" he said, learning he got the second most votes. "Good enough."

See Election A4

INSIDE

Voters opted for experience in Tuesday's Town Council voting and that's not really surprising. » **COMMENTARY, A5**



STAFF PHOTO, VINCENT VALA

Kathi Walker passes out "Chip cookies" at Culpeper County Library for Councilman Chip Coleman, right, during Tuesday's Town Council elections. Coleman and fellow incumbents Chris Snider and Mike Olinger were re-elected Tuesday. They will be joined on council by former Vice Mayor Bobby Ryan.

THE WINNERS



How the cookie crumbled

Here's a breakdown of how town residents voted in Tuesday's Council election:

Candidate	East Fairfax		West Fairfax	Absent	Total
	266	380	17		
1. Chris Snider	266	380	17	663	
2. Mike Olinger	244	351	15	610	
3. Chip Coleman	223	347	19	589	
4. Bobby Ryan	178	290	10	478	
5. Jerry Beckett	142	314	8	464	
6. Frank Reaves	150	277	9	436	
7. Laurel C. Gravatte	124	299	11	434	
8. Pat Baker	124	225	4	353	
9. Julie Peppe	104	216	2	322	
10. William Platts	66	109	1	176	
11. Cecil Schonowitz	38	74	3	115	

Voters stayed away in droves

Registered voters: 7,086
Votes cast: 1,261

Turnout: 17.8%



HPC, other candidates regroup after election

By Rhonda Simmons
STAFF WRITER

Apparently, illegal immigration isn't a primary concern for Culpeper town voters.

When it came down to Tuesday's Culpeper Town Council race none of the Help Protect Culpeper members and/or associates — Jerry Beckett, Julie Peppe, William Platts and Pat Baker — won any of the four available seats up for grabs.

Instead, incumbents Chris Snider, Mike Olinger and Chip Coleman and former councilman Bobby Ryan returned to their posts winning the four at-large seats.

According to its Web site, the grassroots group HPC formed last October in an effort to shine the spotlight on issues caused by illegal immigration such as: residential overcrowding, crime, identity theft and labor distortions.

They are a group of concerned citizens that seek to "preserve their community, promote the rule of law, foster public awareness of the negative effects of illegal immigra-



"We gave it our best shot."

■ **JERRY BECKETT**
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

tion, and facilitate effective engagement by the citizens in the legislative process on issue that regard illegal immigration," according to the Help Protect Culpeper Web site.

President Jerry Beckett, retired command sergeant major, U.S. Army and Vietnam veteran, collected 464 votes — only 14 votes behind newly elected council member Ryan.

"We gave it our best shot," said the 64-year-old after learning about the results at Pepper's Grill & Bar — the restaurant adjacent to the Best Western on Bus. 29 South. "I've got a lot of help from a lot of people and I've got to visit a lot of people and knock on a lot of doors."

See Regroup A4

Obama says victory near after N.C. win

Clinton leads late in Indiana primary

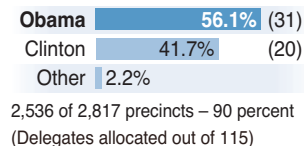
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton clung to a narrow Indiana lead, struggling to halt her rival's march into history.

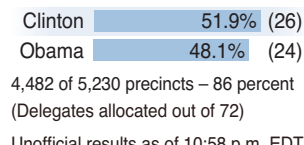
"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. — and left no doubt he intended to claim

Election08
Dem primaries

North Carolina • 1,452,567 votes



Indiana • 1,076,282 votes



Unofficial results as of 10:58 p.m. EDT

the prize.

Clinton and Obama both said the former first lady would win Indiana.

Yet thousands of votes were yet to be counted, prin-

cipally in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

She told cheering supporters in Indianapolis, "Thanks to you, it's full speed on to the White House," signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 15 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 92 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern contest for the former first lady, who was hoping to counter Obama's persistent

delegate advantage with a strong run through the late primaries. Returns from 85 percent of the state's precincts showed Clinton with 52 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Obama.

Obama won at least 63 delegates and Clinton at least 57 in the two states combined, with 67 still to be awarded.

Voters in both states fell along racial lines long since established in a marathon race between the nation's strongest-ever black presidential candidate and its most formidable female challenger for the White House.

The economy was the top issue by far in both states, according to interviews with voters as they left their polling places.



AP PHOTO

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and his wife Michelle react to the crowd Tuesday in Raleigh, N.C., after winning the North Carolina primary.

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SPORTS: CCHS's Kyle Majors confirms his plan to play basketball at Averett University. **B1**
NATION & WORLD: Housing picture worsens as Fannie Mae reports quarterly decline. **A3**

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Classified B4 | Commentary A5 | Nation & World A3 | Sports B1 | Weather A6



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Increasing clouds
Forecast: A6