

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

MUR # 7831

Members of the Commission,

On August 19, 2020 our local newspaper, The Mecklenburg Sun, published an ad on the editorial page (see attached) featuring Biden, Harris, Warner and Webb, all Democrats, as if these candidates were the only candidates on the ballot. As you can clearly see there was no disclaimer on the ad, as required by law. As you can imagine the caused quite a stir in the community.

Many of us thought that the editor of The Mecklenburg Sun had inserted the ad himself. As a way of clarifying this erroneous claim he published a "Note to Readers" (see attached) clearly naming Jeanne Capello as the "private citizen" who placed the ad. However, Jeanne Capello is far from a "private citizen" as claimed by the editor. In fact, she is Mecklenburg County Electoral Board Chairperson.

For someone in Ms. Capello's position to not only place a highly partisan ad, but to place it illegally in an effort to hide her identity is very disconcerting. How can any citizen in Mecklenburg County expect her to conduct the election process in a fair and equitable manner after such actions?

I urge the members of the Commission to immediately remove Jeanne Capello from her position of authority and restore the confidence in the local Election Board to the citizens of Mecklenburg County.

Respectfully,



Rick Buchanan

Clarksville, VA 23927

CELA

2020 OCT 23 AM 11:42

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

*Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 9th
of October, 2020.*



Wanda Y. Duncan
My commission expires:
Dec. 31, 2022



Mecklenburg County Republican Committee

September 11, 2020

Virginia State Board of Elections

ATTN: Chairman Robert H. Brant
Vice-Chair John O'Bannon
Sec-Jamilah D. Lecruise
Ms. Arielle Schneider

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the August 19, 2020 edition of the Mecklenburg Sun Newspaper a political ad was placed on the editorial page by Mecklenburg County Electoral Board Chairperson Jeanne Capello featuring the Biden, Harris, Warner, and Webb democratic party ticket for the November 3rd General Election. There was no "Disclaimer" on the ad as to who placed it and paid for it and the contact number referenced is the Mecklenburg County Registrar's Office-not officially named in the ad.

The lack of a disclaimer is a blatant violation of print media and campaign signage laws we have in the Commonwealth and the individual that placed and or published this information without said disclaimer should be held accountable for this violation. Ms. Capello is very aware of the law that governs print media political ads. Had republicans placed an ad in this manner, the opposition party would definitely have called attention to this and held our feet to the fire on such a violation.

This edition of the Mecklenburg Sun was a promotional, free copy throughout Mecklenburg County, and many more than usual subscribers have seen it and are wondering how this violation was allowed to happen. The normal circulation of this paper is 17,800 copies per week. This violation was not just a mere oversight, because the Mecklenburg Sun has run political ads as long as they have been in business and they know what is acceptable and what isn't. A week later, the Mecklenburg Sun printed an admission of the error and tried to explain Ms. Capello's actions after many calls by concerned citizens of the county to both the paper and the Registrar's Office. The Mecklenburg County Registrar's Office was unaware that the ad was placed in the paper in the manner that it was until it was in circulation.

As Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Republican Committee I attended a recent meeting of the Electoral Board in Boydton on September 8th and called for Ms. Capello to resign her position as Chairperson of the Mecklenburg County Electoral Board on the basis that she knew better, but did it anyway. She commented that she would take that request "under advisement".

I have included the following documentation in the following order:

- A copy of the original ad placed by Ms. Capello in the August 19th edition
- An article by Ms. Capello entitled be **"Let's be Respectful"** in the same edition of the Sun trying to accuse without naming names or organization of campaign sign theft. (A concern by all of us regardless of party affiliation)
- A letter written by Sun subscriber Catherine Hughes in the following week (August 26) edition of the Sun entitled **"Puzzling Episode"** pertaining to the article by Ms. Capello on sign theft and the placement of the ad with no disclaimer I the August 19th edition.
- The "Note to Readers" placed by the Sun (August 26th edition) explaining the placement of the ad by Ms. Capello.
- **"Public Statement regarding citizen concern over alleged activities by a member of this board"** by Republican representative on the Mecklenburg Board of Elections Robert P. Chadeayne.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward as to how you resolve this. Please advise as to when you plan on hearing this case as I intend to be at that hearing.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Wallace Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Hudson" clearly distinguishable.

R. Wallace Hudson, Chairman

Mecklenburg County Republican Committee

By SUSAN KYTE
New York, New York

With less than four weeks before school is set to begin, the Stocktonberg County School Board reversed course Monday night — voting to send only students in pre-K through fifth grade to school in person, four days a week. Students in grades 6-12 will learn remotely at home for the first three weeks.

In-person classroom attendance will also be offered as an option for all English as a second language students.

scope (ESL) and special needs students, regardless of grade level. Faculty will continue to have the option of choosing to keep students at home for remote instruction.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Nichols asked school trustees to modify the four-day school reopening plan after week 11.

members of the transportation department in case of the job-staying applicant's unavailability. The company is also considering the possibility of using some of the workers working in the United States to train the students in the U.S. who are over the age of 18.

opening plant was 4-5, with Boaz Chase Gavin Honeycutt and trustees Wade Bailey and Lindsey Palmer opposed to the idea. Vice Chair Peter Gagner and Brent Hickey, Rocky Allgood and Gloria Smith supported the Norfolk request. Trustees Rob Campbell and Glenn Edwards were not present for the Monday night vote.

Brian Dalton, director of facilities and operations, said trustees "We've got bus and car drivers, but we've gained bus routes." Bus routes had to be altered to comply with the special distancing required means for transporting students—only one child would be allowed per seat, except for the family members who can sit together on the same bus seat. With this restriction in place, Hamilton bus capacity is 21 students at one time. "We picked up 60 routes with five

See SCHOOLS, page A6

DOI: 10.1002/for

It is not so much about having adopted a life insurance policy as CSMH-19-1 wanted everyone to know the importance the CMH team of health care professionals and how united I am to be their CEO. I also want to thank this community for the many expressions of support and appreciation that have been offered to the staff at the hospital and all of our patient care services of CSMH. It means a lot for them to know that their willingness to face the daily risk to their personal health is appreciated. This same dedication is demonstrated by our L&M partners in this region who have worked tirelessly to make sure all patients receive whatever care is needed and I want to thank them as well.

We are not out of the woods with COVID-19 yet, but the teams at VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital and VCU Medical Center in Richmond stand ready to face their challenges as they have done so well throughout our history.

No words are adequate to express my appreciation to the CMH team, so I will simply end this letter by saying, "Thank you."

W. Scott Hammer, Chief Executive Officer

their only type of permitting is monitoring.

Now, it appears that there is worse chance than U.S. may have to deal with such a formidable. A new Rural Director. The one thing that has irrefragably been a positive aspect during these trying times has been Mr. Moton. He has gone above and beyond (and there have been many, if not, countless teachers) by engaging the students in ideas that are not lessons. We realize the decision to cancel the school for the students is another means whereby and do not pretend to debate the merits of that decision in the current

Mr. Mungai's leadership has been critical to the development of the organization, which is doing things that are important to the life of the African continent. The program has made significant progress in a short time and Mr. Mungai has been leading the African continent. The African continent deserves to continue to work with the United Nations in developing the

Let me state that some of the agents driving this discussion expect more than an explicit definition of consent, including that the matter cannot be discussed. We are hopeful that useful constructive dialogue is still possible in this regard.

Thank you for your attention and we certainly do hope to

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Wednesday, August 19, 2020

VIEWPOINT



Write Viewpoint, PO Box 997, Clarksville VA 23927 or
e-mail The Sun at news@themecklenburgsun.com.

Let's be respectful

Dear Viewpoint:

With only 76 days to Election Day on Nov. 3, more and more presidential campaign signs are appearing in the county. We all believe that our candidate is the best and with that said, how about we show respect for the other party's signs, property, and each other? Whoever stole the 4' x 8' Biden-Warner-Webb sign from the corner of Mayfield Drive and Highway 58 — you were trespassing along with stealing. This type of behavior does not speak well for the party we choose to support. On a lighter note, early voting in the Nov. 3 general election starts Sept. 18 at the Voter Registrar's Office in Boydton.

Jeanne M. Capello
Boydton

Praise for health care heroes

Dear Viewpoint:

I want to take this opportunity to let this community know how proud they should be of the health care team

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VIEWPOINT



Send your opinions to Viewpoint, PO Box 997, Clarksville VA 23927 or e-mail The Sun at news@themecklenburgsun.com

Puzzling episode

Dear Viewpoint:

We were recently puzzled when reading a mass mailed edition of The Sun (Aug. 19) and noticed a political ad on the editorial page that didn't have the legally required disclaimer of who placed and paid for it. The ad for the Democrat ticket included the phone number and extension of the Mecklenburg County Registrar's office as the contact to vote for their ticket.

Above the ad was a letter to the editor written by Jeanne M. Capello, blaming without proof, the theft of a 4' x 8' Biden, Harris, Warner, Webb sign on Republicans. She asked for "respect for the other party's signs, property and each other".

The following week, a note in The Sun revealed it was Jeanne M. Capello who had paid for the anonymous ad. The editor of The Sun also admitted that quite a few people were upset because the registrar phone number and extension included in the ad implied that it had been paid for by Mecklenburg County local government. He also said some felt it was a "dirty trick," because of the difficulty many had in believing that it was just a mistake made by both the advertiser and editor, aggravated by the placement in an issue reached by 16,500 residences

in addition to the normal subscribers.

In the coming months before the election on November 3rd, hopefully Ms. Capello and the Democrat party will heed her own advice, which she certainly failed to do in the August 19th edition of The Sun, and show respect for each other and remember that deceitful behavior doesn't speak well for the party one supports.

Catherine P Hughes
Bracey

Welcome aid for students

Dear Viewpoint:

I want to thank everyone who came out to support the school kids of Mecklenburg County with gifts of hand sanitizer and face masks. Your donations today, August 25, will help to ensure their safe return to school on September 8.

I realize that people are used to me asking for donations of paper, notebooks, pencils, and other typical school supplies. But this is not a typical year and so your willingness to protect the health and safety of our children at this time touched my heart as I know it will the hearts of the children who need these supplies.

A special thanks to Mr. Melvin Terry, the New Liberty Baptist Church and Miss Barbara Lassiter for their support and assistance this year. It was a hot four-hour day, but well worth the time and sacrifice.

So, thank you one and all. Let's pray for the virus to end and for our children to have a safe and successful school year.

Rosalyn Henderson

THE WRIGHT

Democrats are picking and ing that I fully support the SRO

red from ommission

Democratic members of Virginia's legislative delegation elected from Southside or Southwest Virginia.

Hearing that Ruff was no longer a member of the Tobacco Commission, Mecklenburg County Administrator Wayne Carter said he was disheartened to learn that the county which has historically been in the top three tobacco producing counties in Virginia no longer has any representation on the Commission.

He added on behalf of Mecklenburg County supervisors, "we are gravely disappointed that our two representatives have been replaced with others outside the region in violation of state law." He also commended Ruff and Wright who he said always represented their communities well.

The Virginia Tobacco Commission was created in 1999 for the purposes of determining the appropri-

Note to readers

The Election Day ad that ran on page A5 of the August 19 edition of The Sun was paid for by a private citizen, Jeanne Capello. It should have included a disclaimer that identified Capello as the person who purchased the ad and that it was not authorized by any candidate or candidate's campaign committee.

The contact information listed at the bottom of the ad is for the Mecklenburg County Registrar's office. It was included for persons interested in obtaining an absentee ballot only.

Capello says that anyone seeking additional information about the candidates listed in the ad can contact her at jmc20005@yahoo.

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

Robert P. Chadeayne

Public Statement regarding citizen concern over alleged activities by a member of this board.

When I was appointed to the Electoral Board, I was told that the Registrar's Office and the Electoral Board are non-partisan.

This emphasis of non-partisanship is a central theme in all of the training classes conducted by the state that I have attended.

Today, I am faced with an advertisement published in the August 19, 2020 edition of the Mecklenburg Sun purported to be placed by the Chairperson of this board. This is troubling on many fronts.

- The advertisement does not comport to current law in that there is not a disclosure statement of who placed and paid for the advertisement.
- The advertisement is misleading and implies that "in person voting" will begin in precincts on September 18th by not referencing absentee balloting. In addition, without reference provides the telephone number of the Registrar of Voters.
- The advertisement is misleading, in that without disclosure, it implies that the only candidates on the ballot in November are the three names listed. There is no reference to any referenda questions, other candidates, or offices.

When information was published in the August 26th edition of the Mecklenburg Sun identifying Jeanne Capello as the alleged advertiser, the Chairperson of this Electoral Board; the Registrar and entire Electoral Board became implicated. An inference to which I clearly, loudly and strongly make objection to.

At best this may be a simple lapse of judgement and at worst, some sort of sinister plot to undermine our election and constitution.

In case anyone hasn't noticed, this November election is one of the most contentious in recent history. Those of us who are in positions of authority can

not and must not contribute to, or condone any behavior that calls into question the integrity and transparency of the Officers of Election charged with conducting this or any other election in Mecklenburg County.

The Registrar's Office and the Mecklenburg Electoral Board **MUST, and I underscore the word MUST,** scrupulously conduct themselves in such a manner as to maintain the confidence and trust of all the citizens of Mecklenburg County.