

FLEDGLING PUGILISTS

Chesterfield club  
provides 'safe haven'  
for youths **B1**



Regulators take over  
Virginia Business Bank **D1**

PAUL WOODY'S COLUMN

Strangers meet at Skins training camp **C1**

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## History for Va. high court

Powell will be first black woman to serve as justice

BY OLYMPIA MEOLA  
AND WESLEY P. HESTER  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Virginia General Assembly on Friday elected the state's first African-American female Supreme Court justice, Cleo E. Powell of Chesterfield County, in a historic selection that also marks the first time the legisla-

ture has originally elected any African-American to the state's highest court.

Previous black justices have been appointed by governors and then elected by lawmakers, said Sen. A. Donald McEachin, D-Henrico.

"She's well-credentialed, well-experienced and I look forward to her having a very successful tenure as a member of the Supreme Court," McEachin said of Powell.

Elizabeth A. McClanahan of Washington County also was elevated to

the Supreme Court on Friday during a short meeting of the General Assembly to fill judicial vacancies, which have slowed the courts. McClanahan, the chief deputy to then-Virginia Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore, had the support of most Republicans.

The justices were elected to 12-year terms starting Monday at an annual salary of \$170,339.

Gov. Bob McDonnell, who recently asked lawmakers to fill the vacancies or adjourn so he could do it, called it a

**JUDGES, Page A7**



**Cleo E. Powell** of Chesterfield is one of two women elected to the court Friday.

## House passes GOP debt plan

But Senate rejects proposal with balanced budget amendment

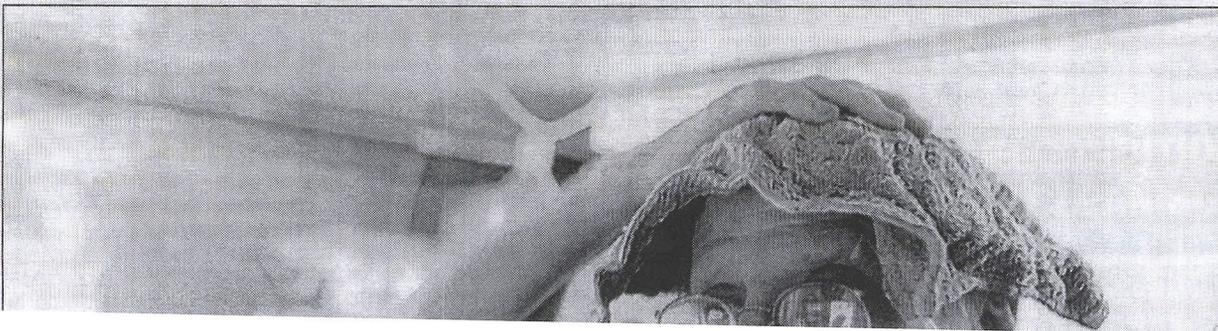
BY DAVID LIGHTMAN  
AND LESLEY CLARK  
McClatchy-Tribune

WASHINGTON — After days of theatrics, the House of Representatives on Friday evening approved a conservative Republican plan linking an increase in the nation's debt ceiling to the highly unlikely passage of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

The measure passed on a 218-210 vote.

But the GOP plan was quickly killed in the Democratic-run Senate by a 59-41 vote. The Senate is expected to take up a Democratic-

## Staying cool in record heat





BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

**Del. Benjamin L. Cline, R-Rockbridge, left, and House Speaker William J. Howell, R-Stafford, conferred Friday during the election of judges.**

## Judges

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“historic day for Virginia to add two women to the Supreme Court, only months after the appointment of our first female chief justice.”

Powell’s election “is a great moment in the life of our commonwealth,” he said, while praising McClanahan for bringing “valuable appellate experience and legal acumen to the Supreme Court of Virginia.”

Also Friday, the legislature filled two spots on the Court of Appeals with Glen A. Huff of Virginia Beach — a former law partner of McDonnell’s — and Stephen R. McCullough of Fredericksburg. They will serve eight-year terms starting Monday.



### On the floor

To see more images from Friday’s session of the General Assembly, go to [TimesDispatch.com](http://TimesDispatch.com), search: gallery.

eight-year circuit court judgeships, including Glenn R. Croshaw — a former Virginia Beach Democratic delegate-turned-lobbyist — and W. Revell Lewis III of Accomack County, both to the Second Judicial Circuit.

Judge Richard Y. AtLee Jr. of York County was elected to the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Despite finding consensus on those vacant judgeships, the politically split legislature recessed again Friday without agreement on new congressional districts.

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