

OB unit's days are numbered

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

KILMARNOCK—"No ifs, ands or buts," Rappahannock General Hospital will suspend obstetric services at the end of February.

The old cliché represented the mood of hospital officials and others this week following a series of so far unsuccessful rescue maneuvers stretching from Kilmarnock to Richmond and Washington, D.C.

The hospital reported that its maternity center will not admit patients after February 25 in preparation for the unit's closure on February 29, when malpractice insurance coverage expires for Drs. James Hamilton and Matthew Vogel of Rappahannock OB/GYN.

A top-level meeting among state health officials and RGH administrators was held last week in an attempt to try and solve the problems that threaten the Northern Neck's only maternity center.

"We had in that room anyone who has any power in the health care field," said hospital board chairman B.H.B. Hubbard III. "And even they couldn't find an answer."

Secretary of Health and Human Resources Jane H. Woods, State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, director of health care services for the Department of Medical Assistance Services of Virginia H. Bryan Tomlinson and the deputy commissioner for Community Health Services Jeffrey L. Lake met with hospital officials last Thursday.

Over the past four months, since Drs. Hamilton and Vogel learned their malpractice insurance through NCRIC Inc. of Washington, D.C., would not be renewed, the hospital board has scrambled to find a way to keep the facility open. Through its investigation, hospital president and chief executive officer James M. Holmes Jr. said the board has learned that operating an obstetric unit at a small, rural hospital is a high risk.

The high cost of defending OB malpractice lawsuits could threaten the financial health of the hospital itself, Holmes said this week.

Rappahannock OB/GYN was sued four times during a 12-month period for incidents which occurred over four years ago. Because of that, the cost of its malpractice insurance skyrocketed and NCRIC notified the doctors last October that their insurance would not be renewed. Drs. Hamilton and Vogel received a three-month extension, which expires February 29.

State officials last week said they would urge NCRIC to extend the policy again while the doctors negotiate with Central Virginia Health Services



Nurse Wendy Owens prepares a bassinet in the nursery at Rappahannock General Hospital. The obstetric unit, which can accommodate eight infants and six new mothers, will suspend services on February 29. RGH has set up an information line for expectant mothers, providing information about hospitals in the region that can deliver their babies: 435-8393.

(CVHS) about possibly opening an obstetrical clinic in the area. CVHS is a federally-funded program which would guarantee government malpractice insurance for the doctors.

Founded in 1970, CVHS is the oldest and largest community health center in Virginia with one OB/GYN practice in the Farmville area, two single site community health centers, two private practices and one non-profit community practice. Westmoreland Medical Center and King William Community Doctors are the two closest CVHS facilities.

If the state funding was available, said Holmes, the CVHS would employ and insure Drs. Hamilton and Vogel, but would not protect the hospital against possible malpractice suits.

Also at issue is the fact that the obstetric unit con-

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With hitches, towing service approved by Irvington council

by Robb Hoff

IRVINGTON—After more than two hours of debate last Thursday, the outcome of a conditional use permit application to operate a towing service in Irvington came down to a tie-breaker.

Mayor Alexander McDonald Fleet cast the deciding vote in favor of the Light House Towing Inc. application, "because it's legal and I think it belongs there."

The approval grants Light House Towing the right to operate towing and minor auto repair services in the Irvington business district at 4525 Irvington Road, where speakers noted that some fashion of automotive service has operated for more than 70 years.

The half-acre site, owned by John and Mike Christopher, was most recently used as an auto repair facility with wrecker service.

Fleet said he based his decision on the recommendation for approval by town administrator Jack Fitzpatrick in addition to the legal opinion for approval from town attorney Matson C. Terry II.

Councilman Garry Luckham made the motion for approval, with several conditions. The final

conditions stipulate:

- a 60-day limit for up to 10 vehicles to be held on site.
- wrecked vehicles must be stored inside the property's fenced area.
- they must be covered with tarpaulin and have roll plastic underneath to contain fluid leaks.
- all hazardous materials on-site must be contained.
- no disassembly or salvage of wrecked vehicles is permitted.
- no vehicles can be sold or leased at the site.
- no salvaged parts can be sold at the site.
- only one wrecker can be parked in public view at a time; others must be parked at the back of the lot.
- the business will have public access hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- the business cannot engage in welding for hire but can weld for its own vehicles.
- the town administrator is authorized to routinely visit the business to ensure compliance with the conditional uses.

Council members William Evans and Rannie Ransone joined Luckham in favor of the CUP.

Council members Norm Mosher, Robert Pittman and Kathleen Pollard voted against it.

In addition to the precedent for consistent use of the property, the rights of the property owner were also mentioned by Luckham as grounds for approval.

"Basically, if we do this (vote against), we're going to condemn Mr. Christopher's property, and that's not right," said Luckham.

Evans pursued the conditional use restrictions to ensure the business does not deteriorate into an objectionable presence.

"They don't want to have a dump there when people come into town," Evans said of constituents who had expressed their concerns to him about the towing service.

Council opposition

Pittman cited public sentiment as a factor in his decision to vote against the request. He said most residents seemed to be against it.

"I see precious few who want it," Pittman said.

He also questioned whether the wrecker service aspect of Light House Towing fit with the zoning ordinance for the town's business

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Welcome to Irvington: Light House Towing Inc. owners Paul and Tammy Davis are ready to relocate their business from their residence in Weems to 4525 Irvington Road. Besides towing, the Davises also plan to offer minor auto repair services within two months at the new site.

Proposed property use questioned

by Robb Hoff

IRVINGTON—The majority of some 25 speakers last Thursday made no bones about their opposition to a conditional use permit for Light House Towing Inc. during a public hearing in Irvington.

The business would offer minor auto repair and towing services in Irvington's front yard, at Irvington and Steamboat roads, where automotive services of one kind or another have been rendered for at least a half a century.

"This is an issue that has to do with what Irvington is all about, and I'm talking about what Irvington is today and not what it was 40 years ago," said business owner and resident Duncan Bright.

He objected to the presence of a towing service "being right there on the very edge of the historic district" in addition to the 24-hour nature of the on-call business. He contrasted the presence of "leaking fluid and broken cars" to the investment of money, time, and effort that he as a business owner and resident has spent to further the kind of community image that jibes with the attraction of The Tides Inn resort, which he said draws 35,000 visitors a year.

The objection was further detailed by Irvington business owner and architect William D. Prillaman, who said the town ordinance requires council to either add towing services as a permitted

use for business district zoning or to rezone the property for industrial use.

"I just don't think that the village of Irvington is the right place for that kind of industrial use unless you want to rezone," Prillaman said.

Citing "lots of noise, lots of traffic, lots of banging, lots of pneumatic drilling" as part of the towing service operation, he said the inclusion of towing as an automotive service amounts to a circumvention of town ordinances that could set a "dangerous" precedent.

"This is clearly not an auto repair service," Prillaman said. "This is a towing service."

Furthermore, he noted the 24-hour-a-day potential of the business. "No other business in Irvington is open 24 hours a day," said Prillaman.

Legal representation

Bright and Prillaman were represented by Irvington resident and attorney Lee Stephens, who said he represented "an ad hoc group of folks" that also included Irvington businessman John Dorsey.

Stephens cited legal precedents in court decisions and zoning ordinances that challenged the procedural validity and legality of granting a conditional use permit for Light House Towing.

The procedural question raised by Stephens was centered around

the town ordinance, which he said requires a study to determine whether a use not specifically permitted should be allowed. He also contended that the site plan submitted with the permit application requires more than a simple plat and should have included grading and the locations of existing improvements such as fencing.

"As the application is incomplete, a decision cannot be made tonight in any event," said Stephens.

The permit was eventually approved, however, when Mayor Alexander McDonald Fleet broke a 3-3 tie vote among the council members.

Stephens also argued that the primary use of the property for a towing service is not specifically set forth as a permitted use by ordinance and that the use should not be grandfathered by virtue of prior business operation in which it was a non-conforming, accessory use.

"Because it was done as an accessory use does not mean it can become a primary use later on," Stephens said, citing a Virginia court decision that he said involved issues similar to the Light House Towing application.

Stephens cited additional case law that prohibits a non-conforming, grandfathered use from

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Snow-stricken

The rush was on Tuesday afternoon. Snow was falling as shoppers crammed into Tri-Star Supermarket and other businesses in Kilmarnock to stock up on the essentials. Forecasters predicted between two and five inches of snow for the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. The afternoon dusting Tuesday closed area schools at 1:30 p.m. By evening, the snow turned to rain in the Northern Neck with the possibility of freezing rain into the night. (Photo by Lisa Hinton Valdrighi)

Requested Bay Act exception on small lot makes big splash

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

REEDVILLE—Residents of Reedville aren't happy about a proposal that would squeeze a new 1,500-square-foot house onto an unusually small lot, placing it within 20 feet of Cockrells Creek.

More than a dozen people spoke in

opposition to the request during a public hearing last Wednesday

The Northumberland board of supervisors responded that its hands are tied. It must grant the special exception or pay fair market value for the property, according to supervisors.

Adhering to the required 10-foot setbacks from the front and sides of the property, there is little room left to build on the site. But, by law, the Chesapeake Bay Act cannot make a parcel unbuildable.

"This is a pre-Bay Act lot," said

county attorney Les Kilduff. "It has been assessed and taxed as a building lot."

According to the Bay Act, "the vested rights of the owner are not to be impaired," he said.

The request came from Patsy Self of Self Realty. The property, at Morri-

son and Sutton streets, was platted long before the Bay Act came into existence.

The county's current Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Ordinance states that new construction must be placed at least 50 feet away from the water, but the

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Northumberland sets 100-foot buffer deadline

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—The count-down has begun.

On May 1, precisely 71 days from today (February 19), a long-awaited 100-foot waterfront setback goes into effect in Northumberland County.

The building department will be accepting site plans and building permit applications under the existing rules until the effective date.

The county board of supervisors approved the expanded buffer

area and other amendments to its Chesapeake Bay Act provisions following a public hearing last Wednesday.

The amendments are subject to approval by the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department.

Other major changes include:

- a reduction (from 10 inches to 6 inches) in the diameter of a tree that can be removed without special approval;

- alternatives to the requirement that septic systems be pumped out every five years, including

the installation of a plastic filter in the outflow pipe or documentation certifying that the system is functioning properly and does not need to be pumped out; and,

- a required soil and water quality assessment for lands upon which agricultural activities are being conducted.

The last amendment states that the assessments "shall evaluate the effectiveness of existing practices pertaining to soil erosion and sediment control, nutrient management and management of

pesticides."

In certain areas—namely lands adjacent to a resource protection area containing confined animal feeding operations, upon which biosolids or sewage sludge applications have occurred, or lands with highly erodible or permeable soils—the amendment requires a plan outlining additional practices needed to ensure that water quality protection is accomplished consistent with the Bay Act.

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VINTAGE YEARS

Look inside for Vintage Years!

February

19 Thursday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury. **Bingo** is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m. **The Planning Commission** for Lancaster County meets at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster. **The Planning Commission** for Northumberland County meets at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. **The Rappatomac Writers** meets from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chinn House at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw. **The Breast Cancer Support Group** meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Warsaw Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. 333-0005, 580-7039 or 462-7517. **Duplicate Bridge** will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women, and newcomers are invited. No reservations are needed. 435-2755. **The Potomac River Fisheries Commission** meets at 2 p.m. at PRFC headquarters in Colonial Beach. **Frank Delano** will review Patrick O'Brian's sea novels at Books Alive at 11 a.m. at the Northumberland County Public Library. 580-5051. **Native Ferns** will be discussed by Wesley Greene at the noon meeting of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. The meeting will be held at Wicomico Episcopal Church Parish in Wicomico Church. Bring a lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. **The Chesapeake Bay Garden Club** meets at 1:30 p.m. at Festival Halle in Reedville. The topic is "Gardening by the River." Landscape designer Bruce Peachee is the speaker.

20 Friday

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. in Charterhouse in Kilmarnock. 580-4400. **Bingo** begins at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m. **Steve Keith** sails into Piper's Pub in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m. Dinner reservations recommended. 435-7178. **Dave Long** is featured on the piano from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bambery's Restaurant in Heathsville. For dinner reservations, call 580-8181. **A Woman's Canoe Building Class** begins at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. \$135. Pre-registration required; 453-6529. **A Spaghetti Dinner** will be served by the Trinity Episcopal Church Women in Lancaster from 5 to 7 p.m. \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, \$25 for families of five or more. Carry-out available.

21 Saturday

Line Dancing will be held by the Stepping Stones Square Dance Club from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Freeshade Community Center in Syringa. The cost is \$2.50. 435-6633. **A Bluegrass Show** to benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island. Donations are accepted. 725-3495. **A Woman's Canoe Building Class** continues at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. \$135. Pre-registration required; 453-6529.

22 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Bambery's Restaurant in Heathsville immediately following church services. **A Woman's Canoe Building Class** continues at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. \$135. Pre-registration required; 453-6529. **A Black History Month** program, sponsored by the Northumberland County Branch of the NAACP will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church in Burgess. The program begins at 5 p.m. **George Washington's Birthday** will be celebrated at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Westmoreland County. Activities include hearth cooking, candle making, spinning, blacksmithing. Ranger programs on the hour begin at 10 a.m. Cake and punch will be served at 1 p.m. Admission is free. The park closes at 5 p.m. **Ingleside Plantation Vineyards** at Oak Grove will host Washington's Birthday Party from 1 to 4 p.m. Activities include music, wine samples, cherry pie and other desserts. Reservations recommended. \$12. 224-8687. **Neil Smart, Linda Douglas and Nina Buzby** will present "Mozart: Music and Anecdotes," at Sundays at Two at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The program begins at 2 p.m. **Wine Tastings** to benefit the Northern Neck Medical Association Alliance begin at 5 p.m. at the White Stone Wine & Cheese. 435-3504.

23 Monday

Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women, and newcomers are invited. No reservations are needed. 435-2755. **The Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership** will meet at 4 p.m. at Conrad's Upper Deck Restaurant in Lancaster. **The Northern Neck Planning District Commission** will hold a quarterly meeting at Conrad's Upper Deck Restaurant in Lancaster. The business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

24 Tuesday

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. at Charterhouse in Kilmarnock. **The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band** rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125. **Bridge** will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury.

21 Saturday

An Annual Meeting of the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship begins at 9:30 a.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church Meeting Hall in Heathsville. The program focuses on Bay Act enforcement. **Neighborhood Watch** is the focus of a Corrotoman By the Bay (CBTB) Association potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. A representative of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department will discuss the program. Association members are urged to attend to learn how to better safeguard health and property. **Story Hour** begins at 11 a.m. at the Northumberland County Public Library.

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24 Tuesday

"Surfin' the Net," a computer workshop with Richard Emory for middle and high school students, is from 3 to 5 p.m. at Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville. 580-5051. **A Bridge Discussion Group** meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of Lancaster. \$3. No reservation necessary. 462-0742. **The RFM Quilters** meet at 7 p.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529. **Trinity Episcopal Church** in Lancaster will host a pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Donations accepted. **St. Mary's Episcopal Church Men** in Fleeton will serve a pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Donations accepted.

26 Thursday

Mahjong will be played at 10:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert provided. Tables of three or more. \$2 per person. 435-2024. **Ongoing: Al-Anon Family Group** meetings are on Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Bethany United Methodist Church Hospitality Center; on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church and on Thursdays at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall. 435-1935. **AA Meetings** are on Mondays at noon at Palmer Hall (open); on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Palmer Hall (beginners) and at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall (closed); on Thursdays at 8 p.m. at De Sales Hall (open); on Wednesdays at noon at Irvington United Methodist Church (Shady Ladies); on Saturdays at 5 p.m. at Zoar Baptist Church in Deltaville and 8 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church (open); and on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church (open). 435-1935. **The Free Health Clinic** for uninsured residents of the Northern Neck and Middlesex County is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. General clinics also are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings; clients must register from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The office is off Harris Drive in Kilmarnock.

25 Wednesday

The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. **The Rotary Club** for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury. **The Northern Neck Bay Tones** meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127. **Piper's Pub** in Kilmarnock hosts an acoustic jam session open to all musicians, beginning at 7 p.m. For dinner reservations, call 435-7178. **The Lancaster Lions Club** will meet at 7 p.m. at Willaby's Restaurant in White Stone. **A Grief Support Group** meets at 4 p.m. at the White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585. **The Civil Air Patrol Squadron** at Hummel Field will meet in the Miller building at Christchurch School at 7 p.m. 435-6078.

26 Thursday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury. **Bingo** is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m. **The Board of Supervisors** for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster. **The Bay Aging Alzheimer's Support Group** will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury. 758-2386. **An After Hours Lecture** begins at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point. The topic is "What Lies Beneath: Exploring the Mysteries of Chesapeake Bay's Mud and Sand Ecosystems." **David Guerrier and Pianist Lydia Brown** will give a concert at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. Sponsored by Music in the Village of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Dining Guide

TRADITIONAL DINING

ALEXANDER'S: Full service dining-Lunch & Dinner. Char-grilled steaks, seafood, salad bar. Sunday brunch 11-3, closed Tues., Wireless internet access. Power Point capability available for meetings. 555 North Main St., Kilmarnock. Take-out available. 804-435-3100.

BAY BREEZE DELI: Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast all day! Open late. Daily specials. Mon. - Sat. - 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun. - 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lancaster Square, Kilmarnock. 435-7796.

DIXIE DELI: Family owned and operated (forever!) Serving lunch 5 days a week, Mon-Fri., 10:30-3:00. Subs, soup, our famous potato & chicken salad and sandwiches, 50 Irvington Rd., Kilmarnock 435-6745.

ECKHARD'S: German and other fine foods. Open 7 days. Mon. - Sat., 4:30 - 9 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations suggested. 804-758-4060. Topping, Va.

LEE'S RESTAURANT: Hometown cooking and atmosphere in a popular downtown Kilmarnock tradition. Full menu, local seafood in season. (B,L,D) Main St., Kilmarnock. 435-1255.

PIPER'S PUB & TEA ROOM: The finest in Celtic cuisine served in a comfortable pub styled atmosphere in downtown Kilmarnock. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Lunch 11:30 to 2:30, Dinner 5 to 9. 37 N. Main St., Kilmarnock. 804-435-7178.

RIVER CROSSING: Fine dining in casual elegance with spectacular sunsets overlooking the Rappahannock at the bridge. Specializing in seafood, steaks and pasta. Weekdays 5-9 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Lounge open 4 pm-till. Weekend entertainment. 888-309-9644, White Stone (D) 436-8439

TRADITIONAL DINING

SANDPIPER RESTAURANT: Est. 1982. Casual relaxed dining with friendly service. Featuring nightly specials, charbroiled steaks and fresh seafood dishes. Full menu. (D) Route 3 White Stone. 435-6176.

SANDPIPER REEF RESTAURANT 4 Star Dining on the Piankatank Friendly, local atmosphere. Fresh seafood, prime beef. Thurs-Sat. 5-9. Sun 11:30-2. Special Parties-Off Nights Reservations accepted. Off Rt. 198 in Matthews County. (D). 725-3331.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S GUILD & CAFÉ LOTTÉ : Great BBQ Ribs chicken, homemade salad, delicious desserts & more. Serving lunch Mon.-Thurs. 11-3, Lunch and dinner Fri. - Sat. 11-8. Closed Sundays. 529-5938 Lottsburg, Va.

THE STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT: Enjoy casual dining while overlooking the beautiful Piankatank River Golf Club. We offer a traditional lunch menu, gourmet and traditional evening menus and Sunday Brunch selections. Open Tues.-Sat. 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, Thurs., Fri. & Sat evenings 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Sunday Brunch 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Banquets, functions and group outings also available. Call 776-6589 (Reservations suggested). Located off Rt. 33 at 629 Hartfield, Va.

TOBY'S: Casual dining, fresh seafood, steaks chops & pasta. Open 7 days at 3 pm (D) 804-776-6913. Deltaville, just off Rt. 33.

WILLABY'S: Comfortable casual atmosphere. Featuring daily chef's specials, gourmet burgers & delectable desserts. Eat in or carry out available. Monday-Saturday 11-3. Items available for take home until 4:00. White Stone. (L) 435-0044.

For display or directory advertising, call the Record: 435-1701.

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Fri. (4:30) 6:45, 9:00 Sat. (2:15, 4:30) 6:45, 9:00
Sun. (2:15, 4:30), 6:45 Mon., Tues. (4:30), 6:45, 9:00

50 FIRST DATES (PG 13)
Fri. (4:15) 6:15, 8:15 Sat. (2:15, 4:15) 6:15, 8:15
Sun. (2:15, 4:15), 6:15 Mon.-Thurs. (4:15), 6:15, 8:15

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, FEBRUARY 25 (R)
Wed. & Thurs. (3:30), 6:00, 8:30
Sat. 2/28/04 (10:30, 1:00), 6:00, 8:30
Sun. 2/29/04 (10:30) 6:00, 8:30
Mon. 3/1/04 until Friday (3:30), 6:00, 8:30

Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military \$3.50 for all shows
Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to 16yrs. (any show) \$3.50
Shows in parentheses (*) all seats \$3.50/Adults all shows on & after 6pm \$5.50
Visit us at www.hillsidecinema.com or www.hc22.com for show times.
To print money-saving coupon click on **certificate** then **free stuff** icon.

TRINITY Episcopal Church Women
will host a
Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, February 20th • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Carry-Out Available!
\$7.00 for adults
\$4.00 for children under 12
\$25.00 for families of five or more

Proceeds benefit the outreach and ministry of the Episcopal Church Women
Trinity Episcopal Church is located on Route 3 in Lancaster Courthouse

ESSEX 5 CINEMAS
located on Route 17 in the Essex Square Shopping Center, Tappahannock • Movie Hotline: 804-445-1166
ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER: \$4.00 SENIORS 62 AND OLDER: \$4.00 ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 ARE \$4.00 FOR EVERYONE *NO PASSES OR COUPONS

STARTS FEB 25TH "THE PASSIONS OF THE CHRIST" CALL 301-593-2460 REGARDING GROUP SALES

FRI 2/20
WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT (PG13)
7:15, 9:35
EUROTRIP (R)
7:25, 9:40
50 FIRST DATES (PG13)
7:20, 9:30
BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)
7:30, 9:45
YOU GOT SERVED (PG13)
7:35, 9:50

SUN. 2/22
WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT (PG13)
7:20
EUROTRIP (R)
3:15, 5:15, 7:25
50 FIRST DATES (PG13)
2:35, 4:45, 7:20
BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)
2:45, 5:05, 7:30
YOU GOT SERVED (PG13)
3:10, 5:20, 7:35

SAT. 2/21
WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT (PG13)
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35
EUROTRIP (R)
3:15, 5:15, 7:25, 9:40
50 FIRST DATES (PG13)
2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 9:30
BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)
2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:45
YOU GOT SERVED (PG13)
3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

MON.-TUES. 2/23-24
WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT (PG13)
7:20
EUROTRIP (R)
7:25
50 FIRST DATES (PG13)
7:20
BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)
7:30
YOU GOT SERVED (PG13)
7:35

WED.-THUR 2/25-26
THE PASSIONS OF THE CHRIST (R)
4:30, 7:15
WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT (PG13)
4:45, 7:30
50 FIRST DATES (PG13)
5:00, 7:25

BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)
5:10-7:35
EUROTRIP (R)
5:20, 7:40

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Pickin' again on Saturday

The Dragon Run Bluegrass Band and the Saltmarsh Band are the featured entertainers at the monthly bluegrass jam at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building.

The pickin' begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 21.

Donations are accepted. Proceeds benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum. Concessions will be sold by the civic league.

The civic league building is on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island.

To book a performance date, call Richard or Diane Callis at 725-3495.



Ballet Hispanico dancers perform "Guajira"

'On Stage' series to welcome Ballet Hispanico February 29

The Ballet Hispanico will perform three selections from current repertory at the Lancaster Middle School Theater at 8 p.m. on Sunday, February 29.

The program marks the fifth installment in the 2004 "On Stage" performing arts series sponsored by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts.

The Ballet Hispanico also will conduct a school program on Monday, March 1, at LMS. The performances are made possible through assistance from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Trick Dog Cafe in Irvington.

The On Stage program opens with "Guajira," choreographed by Pedro Ruiz.

As a child, Cuban-born Ruiz heard his grandfather's stories about rural life, then experienced it himself working in the fields. His ballet portrays the guajira, the women of the Cuban countryside who spend their days toiling in the sun beside the men, enjoying a little rest and perhaps a bit of flirtation; and in the evening can forget their day of toil in a rousing guateque (party) with the other laborers.

The typical guajiro rhythm is heard. But, like the culture of Cuba, the music and the gestural

language of the piece hark back to Africa and to Spain.

Dancers will perform "Dejame Soñar." Choreographed by Alexandre Magno, "Dejame Soñar" was developed as part of Ballet Hispanico's "Nightclub." The audience is transported to a social club in Spanish Harlem in the 1950s.

The company will also perform "Ritmo Y Ruido." Choreographed by Tony Award winner Ann Reinking, the dancers are turned loose on an urban prowl, set to the irresistible pulse of hip-hop and Afro-Cuban rhythms. Hips swivel and heads pop in Reinking's signature style, as the dancers revel in her slinky choreography.

Ballet Hispanico founder Tina Ramirez is the artistic director. The company includes Ruiz, Irene Hogarth, Eric Rivera, Natalia Alonso, Chan Paik, Nicole Stoner, Rodney Hamilton, Sara Krappraff, Sarah Skoglan, C. Monét McCall, Sunilda Caraballo-Cueto, Bradley Shelver and Kurt Douglas. The rehearsal director is Gina Bugatti and the executive director is Verdery Roosevelt.

Tickets are \$22.50 for adults and \$10 for students. For tickets, call 435-0292. Season subscribers who won't be using their tickets are reminded to call the box office.



David Guerrier will be featured in a concert sponsored by the Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Music-in-the-Village community outreach program on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.

Young trumpeter to perform locally

It isn't often that an internationally acclaimed musician schedules a concert on the Northern Neck within a week of his United States debut, but French trumpeter David Guerrier is not exactly average.

Born in 1984, Guerrier has been racking up prestigious international awards since the age of 13. Some of his more recent awards include first prize at the Munich International Music Competition of the ARD, which had not been awarded to a trumpeter since France's famed Maurice André, some 40 years ago.

He has won first prize at the Maurice André International Trumpet Competition in Paris and the International Trumpet Guild Competition in New York.

What brings him to the Kennedy Center in Washington this weekend, and next week to Kilmarnock, are his wins in the Young Concert Artists European Auditions in Paris and the 2003 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York.

Young Concert Artists Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering and launching the careers of extraordinary young musicians. For each candidate selected through the audition process, YCA provides concert bookings, publicity, promotional materials, and career guidance until the artist is signed by commercial management, thus opening

the doors to a lifelong career. Stellar musicians Emanuel Ax, Murray Perahia, Dawn Upshaw and Pinchas Zukerman are some of the more than 150 alumni of the program.

Through a local connection to YCA, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian's Music-in-the-Village group has arranged for David Guerrier to perform a free concert at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m.

This is the first event of their 2004 series, which is designed to share the joy of music with the community at large.

Guerrier will open the concert with Hindemith's Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, a powerful and dark work. The full and varied program also includes pieces by Oskar Bohme, Thierry Escaich, Halsey Stevens, and Leonard Bernstein, all accompanied by pianist Lydia Brown.

Brown is an outstanding performer in her own right, having performed extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist.

Since her debut with the Toledo Symphony at age twelve she has played internationally, collecting awards and fellowships. She has studied at the Eastman School of Music, the Yale University School of Music, and the Academie Musicale de Villecroze and has performed for the masterclasses of Barbara Bonney, Jose Van Dam, and Marilyn Horne, among others.

She is currently working towards a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Accompanying at the Juilliard School under Margo Garrett.

In her concert with Guerrier, she will play a Schubert Impromptu and a waltz by Chopin.



From left, Neil Smart, Linda Douglas and Nina Buzby practice works by Mozart.

Trio to bring Mozart to Sundays at Two

The Lancaster Community Library Sundays at Two series features a change of pace program at 2 p.m. on February 22.

The performance, "Mozart: Music and Anecdotes" will be presented by pianist Neil Smart of Lancaster.

Beginning music studies in Vienna at age six, piano has been his life-long avocation. Smart builds replicas of historic keyboard instruments and performs on them. He also organizes and coordinates the Rappahannock Chamber Soloists, is president of the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band and director of music at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems.

He will be joined on cello by Nina Eastman Buzby of Mathews. She began cello studies at age 10, became a member of the Richmond Symphony, performs with Strings and Things, "Trio Con Brio," "The Festival Musicians" and the "Rappahannock Chamber Soloists."

Linda Douglas of Middlesex will play the violin completing the trio. She began her studies at age nine and has played with the Virginia Youth Symphony, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Neck Symphony, Strings and Things, the "Festival Musicians" and "Rappahannock Chamber Soloists." She also is a member of the Chesapeake Chorale and the Singers Ensemble.

The performance will consist of two pieces: a sonata for violin and forte-piano, and a trio for forte-piano, cello and violin. Smart will comment on Mozart: the man, his life and his music. The piano will be a replica of a 1784 Viennese fortepiano, the favorite instrument of Mozart and Beethoven, which ultimately replaced the harpsichord.

Refreshments will follow the performance. The final program in the Sundays at Two series on March 7 features Dr. Ali Abed with "Behind the Headlines

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Refreshments

Excerpts by Henry Lane Hull

In the Northern Neck one constantly encounters the term "come here" in all forms of conversation, whether it be social, business or church. Been heres identify newcomers with it and they, in turn, often refer to themselves by it. An old story goes that a resident of many years once asked Senator Robert O. Norris when people would stop calling him a come here. The senator replied, "Not in this life."

There is one especially noticeable local license plate which offers a third option, something between the two extremes of come here and been here. It simply states "RHERE-87," signifying that the vehicle's owners, Janet and Michael Palmiotto, consider themselves to be neither come heres nor been heres. The tag is proclaiming that they are "are here," albeit acronymically, and that they have been since 1987. Driving along the road one finds many eye-catching license plates, but theirs is one of the most memorable and noteworthy.

Janet and Mike came here, perhaps not to stay, but happily they did, contributing much to the life of the Northern Neck, from helping with their son's business to Janet's opera-quality Irish voice gracing church services and other occasions. She once said that she stopped singing lessons because the teachers wanted her to sing the way they wanted, and she knew she had a talent and how best to use it in her own way. Anyone who has heard her perform can appreciate the wisdom of that decision. Her voice is truly monumental and unforgettable.

Mike tended to be a quiet soul, but one gifted with a great dry wit, made all the more pronounced by his gentle demeanor. He often uttered simple aphorisms which were prescient and apposite, and

they inevitably were followed with a subtle smile while he awaited the listener's response. When it came to give and take, he truly could hold his own in a delightfully amusing manner.

Following service in the Navy during the Second World War, Mike had taught industrial arts as a career and he delighted in tinkering. His work had been with special education students, an area in which his vast reserve of patience and kindness could overcome what for others might have been pedagogical obstacles.

Nearly two years ago, he received a diagnosis of cancer which he struggled to defeat, but, alas, last week he peacefully passed from us. He did not complain, but seemed to take each day for what it was, a gift from God to be used and enjoyed. By no means surprisingly, in conversation his illness never was a topic. Mike always was more interested in other folks than in himself.

For much of the past year he had his sights fixed on living to celebrate with Janet and their family, who came from far and wide, the 50th anniversary of their having committed matrimony. He made it for their celebration the day after Christmas, and then more rapidly declined, but happily was able to stay at home with Janet until a week before he died.

Janet and Mike's license plate said it all; they "were here" and the Northern Neck is so much the better for it. "RHERE" summed them up quite well, and is a phrase, indeed a motto, from which we could all profit.

Michael John Palmiotto, June 24, 1925—February 8, 2004. R.I.P.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr.

A Day in the Life of a Pig

What a difference a day makes.

After weeks of saying that the budget can be balanced without new revenue, the House Republican leadership in a six-hour span introduced, presented and rammed through a bill which would raise \$521 million in revenue over the next two years.

"Boil the water and cook the pig!" was the cry of the chief patron, Del. Phil Hamilton, to the committee. The pig he was referring to were all of the corporate lobbyists who were hastily lined up against the bill.

Why? Because the way the \$521 million is raised is by getting rid of sales tax exemptions offered to mostly big businesses. Indeed, the rollback that was pushed through the House Finance Committee would affect

only a dozen businesses, mostly energy, railroad, telecommunications and airline industries.

Forty-four percent of the money it would raise, an estimated \$229 million over the next two-year budget cycle, would go to fund programs such as K-12 education, health care and public safety. An additional 44 percent, another \$229 million, would be sent back to local governments. The remaining \$62.5 million would be dedicated to road and transit projects.

The largest tax break targeted is a sales tax exemption for Virginia's public service industries, such as electric, telephone, railroad and gas companies. Tax exemptions for these industries alone are estimated to cost Virginia \$175 million per year in lost revenue.

Another provision would take away from the airline industry a sales tax break worth an estimated \$45 million a year on the

purchase of equipment used for baggage handling and ticketing.

Supporters of the measure said the rollback would generate over the next two fiscal years almost \$230 million for the state treasury, \$230 million for localities and \$62 million for transportation. About 84 percent of the new dollars would come from public service corporations and airlines.

That might be trouble for some. For instance, it could be devastating to U.S. Airways, the Arlington-based carrier struggling to emerge from bankruptcy. Indeed, a U.S. Airways spokeswoman, said, "Enactment of the bill would be devastating to all air carriers that provide service in the Commonwealth as we all strive to achieve financial stability."

Aside from the very real fact that there are potentially harmful increases on specific industries, it was a nice turnabout to see \$1,000-suit lobbyists being pushed around by a committee as opposed to vice versa. Additionally, from a policy standpoint there are some very strong arguments as to why we should close tax loopholes before we increase sales or income taxes. Certainly, it makes sense that before we ask Citizen Average Joe to pay more, we should first ask Dominion Resources to pay for more.

But, for now, we're rushed because of a procedural deadline which means the bill has to be out of the House of Delegates in the next 72 hours. There are a lot of nervous lobbyists who realize that the frost in the air might just mean that it's hog killing time.

Letters to the Editor

Community support is appreciated

To The Editor:

I thank the friends of the Rappahannock General Hospital obstetrics unit for their support.

I thank Cindy Clarke for setting up the community forum on February 6 and the many people behind the scenes. Thank you to Rev. Farmer for moderating and to Del. Albert Pollard for his tireless efforts to find a solution; you are a great advocate of women's health. I thank Sen. John Chichester, Rep. Jo Ann Davis, Del. Harvey Morgan and Dr. Rubin Varghese for their hard work to keep obstetrics in the Northern Neck. I thank the board of directors at RGH for long considerations on how to keep obstetric services in the Northern Neck. I could feel the pain the board felt while hearing Alice Blackstone's words at the forum.

The forum was good. I had to attend a delivery and so was only there for the second half. I was proud of our community. People came with a desire to be constructive and not abusive. Our community wanted to help. Yet the problem is so big and complex it may be beyond a small community. I enjoyed seeing and greatly appreciated our many patients that came and those that shared their birth experiences. One could feel the passion felt by patients and their concern about the maternity center closing. Our community stands out beyond all others in its concern for the patients that don't have the resources or abilities to get obstetric care further away.

Mr. Holmes has done his job. He has brought to the board what he feels is the best advice to secure the long-term survival of the hospital.

The board members have done their job. They have heard Mr. Holmes' view, researched the options, thought and prayed for what was best for the hospital. They then set a course for the hospital that will allow RGH to give the best service to the community for which it was built and ensure the hospital's longevity.

Thanks again to all for your support of obstetric services and in the bigger picture of women's health in the Northern Neck. I hope to be in this area a long time. I will be limiting my practice to gynecology. I will miss the nurses of the OB department. They are the ones who made the delivery special for each mom. Our outer appearance may not have had the gleam of the newer maternity centers, but the technology was as good as any and the nurses were better than anywhere else.

Being a part of your children's birth has given me great joy and pride. Not being able to do this will leave a great hole in my heart. Thank you for the last 11-plus years. I hope this will only be a pause in deliveries in the Northern Neck and not the end.

Matthew F. Vogel, MD
Kilmarnock

hospital or the Free Health Clinic, that any and all disputes will be adjudicated by binding arbitration procedures overseen by the American Society of Arbitrators.

The State Corporation Commission, Bureau of Insurance, should direct, in advance, that current companies doing business in the Commonwealth and wanting to continue same, will price insurance under the ground rules of binding arbitration and be in attendance at the meeting to explain their work and sign off on the memorandum of understanding. Del. Al Pollard can help on this.

Existing state and federal entities and processes that review quality of care would obviously not change. Additionally, patients not wanting to accept these provisions would be free to travel outside the Northern Neck. Having read some of the passionate letters, including those from people I know, I don't foresee many that would be unwilling to accept binding arbitration procedures if it would maintain the fine medical and hospital services that have been the history to date.

If you haven't read the fine print on all your credit card contracts recently, they all restrict dispute resolution to binding arbitration except for "small claims court" where, by definition, you don't need expensive legal representation.

I wouldn't worry about potentially endangering the profits of the legal profession; they'll make it up in class actions cases.

Dana J. Gilmour
White Stone

In appreciation of Pollard's actions

To The Editor:

Thank you Albert Pollard for trying to find a solution to the OB crisis at Rappahannock General Hospital. At a time when the Bush administration is cutting back on funds for rural health care, it is a breath of fresh air to find a politician willing to tackle this vital issue.

What a sorry state the country has come to when elected officials are willing to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring the Iraqi Olympic team to Colorado for training, but vote to cut back on funds for rural health care services. We can spend billions to bring democracy to Iraq in the form of Cheney and Halliburton, but cut money for hospitals.

I notice that our elected member of the House of Representatives, Jo Ann Davis, has little to say about the medical crisis in the Northern Neck. Perhaps when there is a champagne cruise to raise money for her reelection, she will take an interest in the critical problems we face.

Thank you again Albert Pollard. You are a ray of hope on a dismal, desolate political horizon.

David Cariens Jr.
Kilmarnock

Medical costs are too high

To The Editor:

Regarding the problems of Drs. Hamilton and Vogel in obtaining malpractice insurance and the closing of the OB unit of Rappahannock General Hospital, I feel the same mixture of concern, sympathy and indignation that many local citizens are expressing. My youngest son was born at RGH in 1991, just an hour after I arrived at the hospital, and I feel a lasting gratitude toward Jim Hamilton and the professional staff at RGH.

All this is just one part of a gigantic problem. Insurance premiums are too high, medical costs are too high, prescription medication costs are too high, administrative salaries are too high, and the amount of money that some lawyers and their clients are suing for is way too high.

My husband and I are currently paying \$810 per month in medical insurance premiums for ourselves and our children, ages 12 and 14. Each of us has a \$5,000 deductible per year, so conceivably, we could rack up medical bills of \$20,000 plus per deductible year, in addition to paying \$8,720 per year in premiums.

We are healthy people; none of us has ever had a really serious illness. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to look at these numbers and understand why many millions of Americans have no medical insurance, and why many declare bankruptcy due to overwhelming medical bills.

It's a complicated problem, but I am optimistic that it can be solved; after all, this country is still referred to as a "superpower." I plan to bombard our legislators with pleas, and if necessary, demands that the problems of health care and medical insurance be more closely addressed, and when I vote in November, my vote will be cast for the candidate who seems most willing to tackle the issue.

In the meantime, I want to express my support for the fine doctors and staff of Rappahannock OB/GYN, and my fervent wish that the OB unit at Rappahannock General Hospital be kept open.

Joanne Chewing
Wicomico Church

Designers need a wake-up call

To The Editor:

Where are you Tom Jefferson, Christopher Wren and the many other architects of the beautiful colonial buildings we have enjoyed in eastern Virginia over the years? We need you in the Northern Neck once more.

First the proposed Windmill Point horror, then the tasteless Hills Quarter folly and now those silly little chapel-like whatever behind the "white fence winery."

We'll complain about those tasteless builders "til hell freezes over" but to no avail. They'll never "get it."

Ginny and Hunter Wagener
Weems

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A nostalgic reprint from the February 26, 1904, issue of the Virginia Citizen.)

Local Mention

Capt. A. J. Hamilton and W. D. Wilder on Tuesday did some repairing to the local phone line. Mrs. F.P. McGinnis and little son, Ford, of Ottoman, spent a few days recently here with her brother, T. J. Dix.

Bertrand

Vivian Chowning has left us to resume his studies at V.P.I. This gay young cavalier is much missed in our neighborhood.

While T. I. Ratcliffe was in the Monumental City last week anxiously awaiting a return steamer, our honored ex-Judge handled the business at the oyster house here. We believe it is a real pleasure for Judge Ewell to get back into the ranks again, where he can dabble in business matters, his heart's delight.

V. E. Towles left on Sunday week for his far-away home in the Philippines. He carries with him the best wishes of a host of friends.

Weems

Three powerful tug boats—the ocean tug Sea King, the W.H. Yerkes Jr., and the new tug Hamilton—harbored here Sunday night. As a towing team it would be hard to find a stronger set for their size on the Atlantic Coasts, still it took their combined strength all day Sunday to pull a four-mast out of the ice on the Bay, after the mouth of

the Rappahannock River, to an anchorage off Mosquito Point, for which they charged \$300, to be divided between them. There was another large schooner in the same fix not far away that offered them \$400; but the towers wanted \$500, which the Captain refused to give and she is in the ice yet.

Tibitha

Miss Julia Williams, daughter of Capt. O. M. Williams, paid her home a visit on Friday afternoon last. Miss Julia is teaching the public school at Fairport.

Northumberland Notes

The Washington Literary Society of Randolph-Macon College will hold its annual debate April 8th. Starke Jett of this county, is one of the vice presidents of the Society.

Fourth quarterly conference of Heathsville circuit, Methodist Protestant Church, will be held at the parsonage at Burgess Store on Monday next, the 29th at 1 p.m. If the weather should be inclement it will be held the following Saturday.

Some Steamboat Notes

The magnificent lighthouse standing out in the Potomac opposite King George County is being battered to pieces by the ices. The huge lamp cost \$1,500 in Paris. The keepers have deserted the house.

(Transcribed by volunteers of the Genealogy and Research Center of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library.)

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Letters to the Editor

Infant outcomes could diminish

To The Editor:

It is with great concern that we learn of the pending closure of your delivery services. As you know, access to prenatal is imperative for healthy birth outcomes.

With the closing of the Rappahannock General Hospital delivery service, women from the Northern Neck will be forced to drive to Richmond, Newport News, Williamsburg or Fredericksburg for prenatal care and delivery of their babies.

For many of these women, this means a one- to two-hour commute. Many of the pregnant women in the Northern Neck rely on Medicaid transportation, which will greatly increase the costs of accessing prenatal care.

Our concern is that infant outcomes will diminish. It is our request that all solutions be considered for the health of your mothers and babies living in the Three Rivers Health District area.

Jennifer McMurray, RN, PNP,
program service chair
March of Dimes
Sara Long

Blood donations are appreciated

To The Editor:

How wonderful it is to live in a small community where people work together to do what is best.

After all preparations had been made for our February blood drive and announcements distributed, we learned that a Democrat Primary election had been scheduled for the same day. In that St. Stephens Episcopal Church is both the location of the blood drive and an official polling place, it looked as if we had a problem. However, as a light voter turnout was expected, thanks to the Board of Elections we were able to arrange for both.

Many volunteer hours are needed for a successful blood drive. Our thanks to Mary Byrd and Zeke Hurst who put up posters and distributed church fliers; George Kranda and Bill Kirby who put up posters; Sherry Fisher, Rick Skelton and Philip Smith for distributing church fliers; Eleanor Morris, Mary Cottrell, Grace Holley, Helen Taylor, Myrtle Jackson, Vernetta Hundley, Mary Caviness, Gwen Basker and Almeda McKinney for making reminder telephone calls; Ellie Knight, Janet Steelman, Mary Carter, Nathan Moore, Rick Skelton, Chriss Mills and Joan Clements for managing the stations during the drive; the members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church—Ruth Franck, Virginia Townshend, Langley Lewis, Aislinn Lewis, Eliza Lewis, Timmy Lewis, Margaret Radcliffe, Jane Henson and Lucy Logan—for the canteen service.

Seventy-four donors presented themselves resulting in the collection of 68 productive units, making it possible to help 204 patients. Our special thanks to those who donated only what they could give: Odessa Roane, Richard Wiley, Willie E. Fowler, Robert E. Holley, Elizabeth Cole, John Cash, Linda Weintz, Garland Dillard, Betty Wilcox, Sandy Saxer, William F. Rowe, Judith M. Clark, Patsy Headley, Charles Perry, Irene Haley, Nathan Moore, Spud Parker, J.E. Machew, Chris Mills, Susan Foxhall, Neal Foxhall, Len Kroll, Albert L. Jones, Larry Wagner, Rick Shelton, Kathryn Deihl, Eleanor R. Morris, Charles Daye, Charles Franck, Pat Bellas, Robert L. Headley, Kathy Pitts, Ellie Knight, Rockne Krebe, Margaret Radcliffe, Pamela Ellis, Raleigh Nutt, James Poore, Jane Michie, Joan Clements, Louis M. Swann, Patricia Newsome, Stan Marston, Herbert Fowler Sr., Kathy Shearin, Connie Godwin, Archer Wright, Susan Payne, Mark Payne, Earle T. Beane, M.C. Jackson, William E. Saunders, Margaret Williams, Susan Smith, Glen Fallin, George Smoot, Lois Jones, Philip Smith, Ruth Cooper, Terence Cooper, J. M. Lowery, Leonard Rock, Susan Christopher, Richard Schille, Jahnae Griffin, Jennifer Griffin, Robert M. Reamy Jr., Sally Fisher, Penny Baker, Max Knight, Howard Ray, Harold Diehl, C.R. McKerns, Dana Bryant.

The family of Bertram Winstead Williams Jr., in whose honor this drive was held and who has been the recipient of donated blood, has asked that we give a special thanks from them for the generosity of their neighbors.

Charles O. Franck Jr.
Chairman, Blood Services
Northumberland County ARC

All waterfront is not equal

To The Editor:

I approached a recent assessment hearing with confidence that when I left the courthouse the assessment of my property at 95 Branch Road in Lancaster County would return to a sane value I could live with.

I prepared my argument by researching the public record and comparing my assessed value to those of my neighbors. I noted glaring discrepancies in land value, some over \$100,000 per acre, on properties that should be close in value. This is a standard professional appraisal technique and became the basis of my challenge.

Even before I entered for my hearing, I knew that there could be trouble ahead for me and hundreds of others. I overheard the official handling my hearing explaining to the man ahead of me that his problem of having a 100-percent increase in his land value was that his property was waterfront. My property is also waterfront, so my concern grew. However, I regained confidence when I glanced down at my folder of comparable properties. They were all waterfront and the glaring discrepancies that defy logic could not be ignored by an impartial official.

When it was my turn I entered the room, introduced myself, requested information about the process and got to the business at hand. After introducing my evidence, the official, Mr. Marshall, made it clear that my logical arguments supported by documentation would not affect his decision. He suggested that perhaps my assessment was fair and that my neighbor's assessment needed to be raised.

Upon hearing this, I clammed up. The purpose of my visit was certainly not to affect a tax increase upon my neighbor. I mentioned to Mr. Marshall that I recently had my property appraised by a local professional with knowledge of fair market value and that my new assessment exceeds the bank's appraised value by 15 percent. He offered to lower my assessment if I could pro-

duce such a document.

The problem I have with my hearing and the reason I feel the county is acting irresponsibly is that the county claims no responsibility for the assessments since they were produced by an outside contractor. Mr. Marshall claims he has "no dog in the fight" since he doesn't live in the county, knows no one here, and could not possibly be biased. Unfortunately, his employer has been paid what I guess is a substantial fee for making an accurate, unbiased assessment. Obviously, if Mr. Marshall cares about continued employment, he will defend any assessment as accurate and unbiased, even in the face of conflicting evidence.

Those of us who would like to have sailboat depth and 400-feet of frontage, but had to settle for a two-foot depth, should brace ourselves because Mr. Marshall's assessments seem unable to make that distinction. Waterfront property is not all equal.

Ultimately, Lancaster County will decide whether to accept the assessed values and will be responsible for them. I fully expected a hearing with county representation and not an "Alderman's Court" with a decision rendered by a representative of the company paid to complete the assessment.

I suggest that having realty representation at these hearings would be a good idea. They can at least explain that creek-front canoe-depth water is not as valuable as sailboat-depth water and probably is not worth 100 percent more than it was three years ago.

I plan on submitting my appraisal to Mr. Marshall. However, as most people dealing with a mortgage lender and an appraisal would agree, you hope it comes in higher so that your out-of-pocket costs can be kept lower. I will undoubtedly end up paying taxes on an assessed value that exceeds the true market value. I wonder if Mr. Marshall will look at the "comparable properties" listed in my appraisal.

Dan Purcell
Fredericksburg

Any tax cut is a good thing

To The Editor:

Since tax time is looming again and Jim Curlin's rambling manifesto against people who earn good livings was printed two weeks ago, I thought I would voice my opinion on taxes.

First of all, any tax cut is a good tax cut. Rather than whining that one group pays less than another group, we should all be fighting to reduce taxes for everyone.

Be it 15, 20, or 40 percent of a person's income, it is far too much to pay to the wasteful beast with many heads known as the U.S. Government. The reason the Feds are sticking their noses into and ruining every aspect of our free economy is that we allow them to take far too much of our money.

For Mr. Curlin to imply that the wealthy, who have earned their money honestly and protected it wisely, are somehow cheats because they take time to figure out ways to avoid taxes is an absurd liberal distortion.

If he is such a poor boy, maybe he should start and run his own business and get an idea of how multi-layered taxes, fees, permits and insurance bills suck profit out of so-called rich business owners.

By the way, avoiding taxes is smart and legal. Trying to shift blame and responsibility to people who earn more and manage their money well is typical of fools and the lazy.

As to the estate or death tax, this is the most unfair and un-American piece of socialism ever forced on our capitalist system. This type of tax discourages people from getting ahead in life because they know big brother will steal their children's inheritance.

People like Mr. Curlin think that the government should be a cannon-toting Robin Hood stealing from the rich after they die and giving their hard-earned wealth to the bottomless pit called "the poor." This verges on communism. When Mr. Curlin says eliminating this tax is tearing the social fabric of our country apart, he means that it will cut into the money liberals use to buy votes through welfare and other give-away schemes.

The way to be fair, if we must

be taxed, is a flat 5 percent tax on all income no matter how much one earns. The more you make, the more you pay, but everyone pays the same rate.

Of course the poor oppose this because most of them pay no tax at all, plus they get earned income credits back. My answer would be that anyone making less than \$25,000 a year would pay no income tax, nor would they get free money back at the end of the year.

As to the huge deficit Mr. Bush is ringing up, I, for once, agree with Mr. Curlin that this is a disgrace. We need a Constitutional amendment stating that the government can not spend more per year than it receives in taxes, unless there is a real war declared by Congress.

Taking responsibility for oneself, living within one's means and not coveting what others have earned are what makes the capitalist system work. Expecting the government to solve all one's problems, spending more than one brings in and taking from producers and giving to non-producers are what is ruining our system.

No income tax on the poor, getting rid of capital gains, estate and high-percentage income tax on all Americans, wealthy, middle class and struggling, would go a long way toward reining in the overregulation and micro-management our government is forcing on us. Don't penalize the people who get rich and don't overtax those who are trying to get ahead. That's what made this country what is was before it became the semi-socialist nanny-state of the last 30 years.

To hear states and the feds crying about a budget crisis is a joke. The fact is, they spend too much trying to buy votes and power. Spend less, don't tax more. They already get far more of our money than they deserve for what we receive in return.

By the way, I am not rich. I own my own contracting business and struggle for every dollar my family gets to keep after Uncle Sam takes what he can. However, taking wealthy peoples' money and giving it to those that haven't earned it isn't my idea of how a fair game is run.

David Traylor
Lancaster

Let us welcome Light House towing to town

To The Editor:

On Thursday, February 12, the town council of Irvington, in a tie vote of which the mayor was the tie-breaker, approved a conditional use permit for Light House Towing to move its business to Irvington, a decision I disagree with.

While my initial concern was the ugliness caused by the sight of junked cars sitting in Irvington's historic district, as I researched I began to have serious concerns as to the pollution hazards of spilled fluids from the wrecked, broken cars that will be towed to and held on this property, only feet away from the headwaters of Sam's Cove. Oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze and coolant, battery acids and even windshield washer fluid are all strong pollutants. As they seep into the ground, they will contaminate our drinking wells, and as rains wash them away they will end up in the storm drains and ultimately Carters Creek. This is still a concern.

The resistance to their business was never a personal attack against Paul and Tammy Davis, by all reports honest and hard working business owners. It was always about the belief that a five-truck towing service doesn't belong in Irvington.

The citizens of Irvington had a chance to speak at an open town meeting. The town council listened, and the town council saw fit to approve the permit.

The town council placed some tough conditions on the granting of the permit. The Davises accepted all of them graciously and readily.

Now that Light House Towing has been approved, let us welcome the Davises to our town. Let's wish them success and show them the neighborliness that Irvington's citizens are known for. Let us help them to become a part of our town and I'm sure they will join us in helping to make Irvington a town we can all be proud of.

Duncan J. Bright
Irvington

Thanks for the lift

To The Editor:

We would like to say "Thank You" to everybody who gave their support in helping us to expand our business to Irvington.

To all of the council members who put the long hours and thought into this matter, it is well appreciated.

We have gotten numerous phone calls from people showing their support. And the people who showed up on our behalf, we are very grateful that we know such thoughtful people.

Last but not least, to John and Mike Christopher for being very supportive in our efforts to move to Irvington.

We just wanted to thank each one of you.

Paul and Tammy Davis
Light House Towing Inc.

'Come here' isn't going anywhere

To The Editor:

Every once in awhile I think about writing a letter in response to something I read in the paper, but I never do. Last week after reading the letter from the woman who takes offense to the term "come here," I find myself taking pen to paper.

I imagine the term "come here" was coined not long after the bridge leading from Tappahannock to the Northern Neck was opened and the outside world was introduced to this bit of paradise by the water. I write this letter as a "come here." I came here 12 years ago, met and married a "born here." I am the mother of two "born here's" (actually they are crossbreeds- products of a "born here" and a "come here").

I will remain a "come here" for the rest of my life on the Northern Neck. If my husband and I decide to move away and later

return to the Northern Neck, I will still be a "come here" and he will become a "come back here" (someone born here that leaves here then comes back here). Long before I became a "come here," my family and I were "boat people" (we lived in Richmond and traveled to our boat at the river every weekend).

With so many larger issues to worry about (the closing of the OB/GYN unit at the hospital and the attempt to put stronger regulations on the menhaden fishing industry), I feel like the term "come here" is the least of my worries. My father always said that there is no use complaining about something you cannot change, and I feel sure this is one thing we are not going to be able to change.

God willing, a hundred years from now the "born here's" of the Northern Neck will still be referring to people moving here as "come here's."

Cammie Smith
Kilmarnock

Pets need shelter

To The Editor:

If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet. Take your pets inside on these cold days and nights. As much as we hate to see animals outside in the cold, it is a reality.

We are again asking the community to donate dog houses; old blankets and comforters would be very welcome to keep these poor animals warm in their houses.

We are assisting many families at this time with dog and cat food, so any contribution would be welcome. One can, one bag, it doesn't matter for it all helps.

Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop at 44 Irvington Road in Kilmarnock Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 462-7541 regarding dog houses.

Judith Harvell
president, AWL

FEMA, county to meet with flood plain dwellers

LANCASTER—The Lancaster County departments of emergency services and housing have set a public meeting with representatives from the Virginia

Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The purpose of the meeting is to assist Lancaster County property owners who are interested in participation in the FEMA hazard mitigation grant program for removal, elevation, or relocation of dwellings within the flood plain that are subject to recurrent flooding during storm events.

The meeting is Saturday, February 21, at 10 a.m. in the Lancaster General District courtroom.

Also in Lancaster, the board of supervisors will meet in the general district courtroom at 7 p.m. on February 26. The only public hearing on the monthly agenda is the abandonment of a .05 mile-section of Route 1107 from the state secondary road system.

Letters Home

From those serving in Iraq

Hello from Kuwait:

I hope this e-mail finds everyone in good health and spirits.

I thank everyone for their e-mails, prayers and letters. As you know, mail from home is a very priceless item, but it helps lift the spirits.

Life at Udairi is still very busy. People are everywhere you go. They said the camp population is around 12,000, but it seems like more than that. There are 2-hour lines to get into almost everything. We are still seeing 80 to 100 patients a day, seeing everything from colds to major trauma. We just opened a new camp, which means more work with less people.

The good news is that time seems to be passing fast. Our replacements should be here around February 27. Their equipment should be in around March 10 and we should turn over sometime around March 15.

After that, we'll be here about two more weeks packing up our equipment, then it's off to Airjon to wash trucks and take everything to the port.

Our unit should get to leave sometime around April 10. When

we get back at Ft. Stewart, we will have to go through two weeks of out-processing before we get to go home. I should be a civilian again around the first of May if all goes well.

It will have been a long 16 months.

Ida and the kids are doing fine. Patricia is in the seventh grade and is an all "A" student. She plays the flute in the band and sings in the school choir. In her spare time she is a cheerleader for her school, swims on the swim team and is very involved with Girl Scouts and the youth group at church.

James is in the third grade and he is an "A" and "B" student. He is still very interested in animals and wildlife. In his spare time he plays soccer, is into scouting and drives his mother up the wall.

Ida stays busy just trying to keep up with the kids. She works full time for the Navy Exchange and takes care of the kids.

Well, a patient just walked in so I must go. Take care and I hope to see most of you real soon.

John Prince
Kuwait
(Prince is the son of Dr. and Mrs. James R. Prince of Weems).

Email your
NEWS to:



editor@rrecord.com



RAPPAHANNOCK GENERAL HOSPITAL

RAPPAHANNOCK HEALTH SYSTEM

IMPORTANT NEWS

Rappahannock General Hospital regretfully announces that

obstetrical services will be suspended effective February 25, 2004.

Patients scheduled to deliver after this date, should make other arrangements

with their obstetrician.

For a listing of hospitals offering these services, please call 435-8393.

Local News



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Alban Burke

Krumwiede, Burke speak vows

The marriage of Miss Sara Ann Krumwiede of Lafayette, Colo., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Krumwiede of River Falls, Wis., to Joseph Alban Burke of Lafayette, Colo., son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Alban Burke of Kilmarnock, took place August 31, 2003, at the Outing Lodge in Stillwater, Minn. The Rev. Joel Anthony Gibson officiated.

Jessica Krumwiede Gracyalny of New York, N.Y., sister of the bride, was matron of honor. James Johnson Burke of Atlanta, Ga., brother of the groom, was best man.

A dinner reception was held at

The Outing Lodge following the ceremony.

The groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Bashore of Kilmarnock and Mrs. Bertha Burke of Foxwells.

Prenuptial entertaining included a brunch and linen shower given by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell, Marshall Powell and Sara Board at the Powell's home in Kilmarnock.

The bride and groom are both 1998 graduates of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

After a honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple resides in Lafayette, Colo.

Mrs. Betty Janz of Virginia Beach was the weekend guest of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Joyce Janz, on Dividing Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bolle, Ms. June Duckworth and Don Conn are among those from here who enjoyed a 10-day Caribbean Cruise.

Mr. Hal Hall celebrated his 85th birthday on Sunday at the home of Mr. Bill Proctor with other family members present.

Mr. Jesse Dize hosted the Bluff Point Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Group on Sunday at his home with 17 members present.

Mike and Darlene Nonnemacker and children, Logan, Nick and Zoe, have returned after a week at Disney World, Fla.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spafford last weekend were his daughter, Ms. Lora Merryman of Sykesville, Md., and his son and family, Michael and Wendy Spafford and children, Zoe, Michael and Austen, of New Windsor, Md. The occasion was in honor of Tom's birthday.

Dr. Micah Houghton was one of a team of 12 young men and women, including a doctor and two dentists, of Hope Church in Richmond, returning last Saturday from a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. They supplied medical and physical aid to the natives and installed a water purification system. Dr. Houghton is the son of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. John Houghton.

Mrs. Linda Hudnall-Rinehart of Newport News and Mrs. Mary Kay Bunch of Chesapeake were with their mother, Mrs. James Hudnall, last weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Petty and Mrs. Joanne Pheris were among 68 Eastern Star members of Virginia who enjoyed a cruise from Miami, Fla., to Cozamel, Mexico, Grand Cayman Island, Jamaica, and the Mayan Ruins in Mexico.

Mrs. Joe Hammond returned home on Monday after visiting her son, Pfc. Joseph Hammond III, U.S. Marine Corps., at Miramar Marine Air Station in California. Marine Hammond will be leaving soon for his next assignment in Iraq.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kidwell were her son and nephew, Andy Owen and John Keys, both of Virginia Beach. The Kidwells hosted a farewell party for John, U.S. Navy Reserve, who will be leaving for Baghdad.

Mrs. Betty Covington is now a resident at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury, Room 173, Irvington, VA 22480 for therapy following hip surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Lipsteuer and children, Bradley and Ella, of Charlotte, N.C., were with her parents and grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Proctor and Mr. Bill Proctor, on Jarvis Point last weekend.

Mrs. Sammy Webb is a patient at Medical College of Virginia in Richmond where she underwent surgery last Thursday.

Engagements



Insley Elizabeth Haynie

Haynie-Koehler

Mr. and Mrs. F. Warren Haynie Jr. of Lottsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Insley Elizabeth Haynie of Alexandria, to Mr. Justin F. Koehler of Edison, N.J., the son of Mr. Volkmar Koehler of Northport, N.Y., and Mrs. Homa Koehler of Florham Park, N.J.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. Moody of Buena Vista and the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred Warren Haynie Sr. of Reedville.

The prospective groom's maternal grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Akbar Tavakoli of Jersey City, N.J., and his paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Koehler of Glendale, N.Y.

Miss Haynie graduated from the University of Virginia and received a master's in special education from George Mason University.

She was presented at the Holly Ball in Kilmarnock. She is employed by the Fairfax County Public Schools as a special education teacher.

Mr. Koehler graduated from Rutgers University and is employed by Eagle Rock Capital Management in Manhattan, N.Y.

A June 2004 wedding is planned.

Curran-Fearing

Retired SHCS and Mrs. Mark A. Curran of Heathsville proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Malisa Ann Curran, to Mr. Sean Brendan Patrick Fearing of Weems, the son of retired Major and Mrs. John W. Fearing of Weems.

Miss Curran is the granddaughter of the late William and Charlotte Curran of Golden Beach, Md., and of the late John and Doris Gotch of Bladensburg, Md.

Mr. Fearing is the grandson of the late John Fearing and of Myrtle Fearing of Zephyrhills, Fla., and of Glenn and Patricia Wilsey of McKinleyville, Calif.

Miss Curran is a dental assistant to Dr. Stephen S. Radcliffe, D.D.S., in Burgess. Mr. Fearing is a chef at Piper's Pub in Kilmarnock.

A traditional Irish wedding is planned for September.

Shrub and fruit tree pruning clinics offered

The Master Gardeners are presenting two pruning clinics in February for homeowners who would like to learn techniques for pruning a variety of shrubs and fruit trees. The clinics are a part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension program to provide educational instruction in horticultural activities.

Participants will receive instruction on proper pruning techniques, observe applications and engage in "hands on pruning" with a Master Gardener.

The first clinic on pruning shrubs will be held at the Dreamfields near Kilmarnock on Saturday, February 21, at 10 a.m. Pruning techniques will be demonstrated for the butterfly bush, Rugosa rose, viburnum, crepe myrtle and others.

Wine tastings to support scholarships

Bruce Watson, owner of the White Stone Wine and Cheese, will host three wine tastings for the Northern Neck Medical Association Alliance (NNMAA) scholarship fund for the sixth year.

Watson will share hand-selected, domestic and imported wines and hors d'oeuvres, while explaining the wines' character and qualities.

The tastings are on Sundays at 5 p.m. February 22, March 21 and May 2.

The scholarship fund is presently supporting Kristi Bryant, Candace Hines, Robin Parker and Terrie Sheppard, all of whom are completing their senior year at Rappahannock Community College.

Shirley C. Dodson-McAdoo, RN and president of NNMSF, said that the fund supports Northern Neck students wishing to enter the medical field. Since the nursing shortage has developed, scholarships have been primarily awarded to those entering the nursing field. The wine tastings are limited to 26 persons per event. The fee is \$30 per person per event.

Reservations are required; call McAdoo at 435-3504, or Watson at 435-2000.

Reservations due for 'South Pacific'

Christchurch School will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" on February 26, 27 and 28.

Performances are free and open to the public.

To reserve tickets, call 758-2300 ext. 178. The box office staff will take reservations by phone or by email at mmcneal@christchurchschool.org.

Phones will be manned weekdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. At other times, leave a message. Tickets will be available for pick up from the box office in



Bruce Watson

oped, scholarships have been primarily awarded to those entering the nursing field. The wine tastings are limited to 26 persons per event. The fee is \$30 per person per event.

Reservations are required; call McAdoo at 435-3504, or Watson at 435-2000.

the school's post office lobby beginning at 7 p.m. the night of the play. Doors to the David and Wendy Charlton Fine Arts Center in Marston Hall will open at 7:15 p.m.

Ticket holders will be guaranteed a seat, but the seating is open, not reserved. Guests who arrive on the night of a performance without a reservation will be able to get any remaining tickets on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reservations not picked up by 7:45 p.m. will be made available to others.

NAPS plans annual meeting

The Northumberland Association of Progressive Stewardship will hold its annual meeting Saturday, February 21, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church Meeting Hall in Heathsville.

Coffee and cookies will be served at 9:30 a.m.. At 10 a.m. Beth Baldwin, senior planner with the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department, will present a seminar entitled "Enforcing the Bay Act."

Information will be presented on how the agency is tracking compliance, its authority for enforcing the Bay Act among localities, and the role and rights of citizens with regards to enforcement. A business meeting will follow.

- Wedding Invitations
- Bridal Accessories

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JOSEPH & DAWN BIDDLECOMB

BIG BROTHER:
DAVIS

WEIGHT:
7 LBS. 14 OZ.
22" LONG

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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The Galeria Antique Mall



Mrs. Kevin Hamilton Brenner

Brenner-Jones vows exchanged

The wedding ceremony of Miss April Lynn Jones to Kevin Hamilton Brenner took place Saturday, February 14, 2004, at Bethel United Methodist Church in Lively with Rev. Brian McClain and Rev. Evan Dawson officiating the double-ring candlelit service. Rev. Dawson of Bradenton, Fla., is a cousin of the bride.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Paul Jones Jr. of Burgess and the granddaughter of William A. Dawson of Kilmarnock and the late Peggy Hale Dawson, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Paul Jones Sr. of Reedville.

Mr. Brenner is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney C. Berry III and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brenner, all of Richmond. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney C. Berry Jr. of Hopewell and the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alderson, formerly of Beckley, W.V., and the late Mr. and Mrs. John Brenner, formerly of Franklin.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents. Mrs. Kathy Vanlandingham of Edwardsville was the bride's matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Ms. Amber Worsham of Reidsville, N.C., Mrs. Whitney Hathaway and Mrs. Jennifer Gough, both of Burgess, Mrs. Meshell Hairfield of Chesterfield and Ms. Samantha Marks of Richmond.

Cousins of the bride, Miss Tiffany and Miss Kristen Dawson of Virginia Beach, were junior bridesmaids. Miss Hannah L. Ingram of Farmville was the flower girl.

Rodney C. Berry III of Richmond was best man. Groomsman were Kristopher and Corey Berry, brothers of the groom, Benjamin Paul Jones III of Richmond, brother of the bride, Jeffrey Vanlandingham of

Edwardsville and John R. Allison of Haynesville. Serving as ring bearer was Kristopher Berry of Richmond, nephew of the groom.

The organist was Debbie Beuchelt. Soloists were Kara Harmon of Richmond and Kathryn Ball of Wicomico Church. Ms. Kelly Near greeted guests at the attendance register. Mrs. Marie Dawson served as mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Karen Burke was the wedding coordinator. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Festival Halle in Reedville. Harpist Olivia Cockrell of Reedville performed. DJ Curtis Walker of Lively provided music. Soloist Kara Harmon sang "The Power of Love" and "Because You Loved Me." Serving the wedding cake was Mrs. Anne Jones and Mrs. Kathy Humphreys of Burgess.

Pre-nuptial events included an engagement party hosted by Mr. and Mrs. John Hathaway and Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Vanlandingham; a linen shower hosted by Mrs. Anne Jones and Mrs. Kathy Humphreys of Burgess, a cocktail party and formal dining shower given by Mr. and Mrs. David Lowery of Lottsburg and Mr. and Mrs. John Hathaway of Burgess. A luncheon and wishing well shower were given by the bride's aunt, Mrs. Jane Williams of Heathsville and Mrs. Donna Winfree of The Plains. Bridesmaids Jennifer Gough and Kathy Vanlandingham gave the bride a lingerie shower and with the other bridesmaids, honored the bride with a miscellaneous shower. A bridal luncheon was given by Mrs. Marie Dawson and Ms. Samantha Marks.

After a honeymoon to St. Lucia, the couple will reside in Burgess.

Workshop to explore program evaluation

A free training session regarding alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention programs will be offered by the Rural Virginia United Coalition (RVUC) and the Prevention Services Division of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board (CSB). "Making Your Programs Better Through Evaluation" will be held March 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Cook's Corner Office Complex in Middlesex County. Dinner is included.

Following an RVUC meeting, the training will be conducted by Cheryl Matteo-Kerney, CSB director of prevention services. She has worked in the prevention field for 20 years and

is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University where she completed all coursework and exams for a doctorate in educational theory and policy studies.

The training will give a thorough overview of the importance of evaluating prevention programs. The primary goal of the training is to familiarize participants with the "language of evaluation." Participants will learn the basic steps involved in evaluating programs and how to understand the requirements of grant funders as they relate to the process of evaluation.

To register, call 758-9398 by March 16.

Service Notes

United States Marine Corps Cpl. Christopher W. Franklin was honored with the Joint Service Achievement Medal for individual meritorious service while serving with CJ-6 Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, a multi-national multi-service unit formed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The citation accompanying the award stated, "Cpl. Franklin's steadfast devotion to duty, leadership, and professionalism while serving in the CJ-6 Directorate as Field Wiremen significantly contributed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa's mission success and will

have a long lasting and positive impact on the Global War on Terrorism."

Cpl. Franklin and the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., are deploying to Iraq. This will be Cpl. Franklin's fourth overseas deployment since September 11, 2001.

He is the son of Fred and Linda Franklin, new residents to Lancaster County. He is the grandson of William and Margaret Bauknight of Blowing Rock, N.C., and the late Rev. Frederick Franklin of Auburn, Calif., and Elizabeth Franklin of Mount Vernon, Wash.

RCC series continues with local musician

The Rappahannock Community College board lecture series continues in March with two concerts by Shane Cooley, 16, of Lancaster, who has written over 100 "acoustic rock" songs which he performs and records with The Shane Cooley Band.

He will appear at RCC's Glens Campus lecture hall on Wednesday, March 3, and at the Warsaw Campus lecture hall on Thursday, March 18. The concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Cooley, a sophomore at Rappahannock High School in Warsaw, began playing guitar at age 10. He is mostly self-taught. His musical style, which appeals to all ages, has been described as "rock with an acoustic flair."

With his band, which includes Jim Gallon on bass, Cooley's father, Jack, on drums, and Spider Cole on djembe, he has performed at numerous local venues as well as in Fredericksburg and in Ocracoke, N. C. In December 2003, he was interviewed on Fredericksburg's "Rockin' Oldies" radio station,

95.9-WGRQ.

Following the 9/11 disaster, Cooley donated all proceeds from his song "Live on U.S.A." to the Red Cross in the name of the Rappahannock Beta Club. Cooley's songs have been recorded on five compact discs. The most recent, "Positive Reinforcement," was produced commercially at Wintersound Studios. Cooley has been nominated for Ninevolt Magazine's Virginia Music Awards in the category of folk/acoustic artist of the year.

The concerts at RCC have been designated as Cooley's "Up Close and Personal" series.

"This is the roots of it," said Cooley. "It won't be fancy with any fuzz tones, guitar effects and drums. . . basically just words and music. If you go. . . you'll leave with an idea of what I'm all about. . . I'll do some new renditions of some of my early songs, and the band will quietly be accompanying me as well."

All songs will be acoustic versions of Cooley's original tunes.

Lancashire Lines

by Joan M. Foster

Residents focused on the joys of love during the second week of February. On Monday, they created hearts and roses placemats with sponge painting and artwork. In the afternoon, they helped make chocolate and cherry trifle which they sampled upon completion. The "O's" team won several rounds of tic tac toe later in the day with sharp recollections of clichés like "Smart as a steel trap" and "Don't go against the grain."

Jay entertained us on Tuesday, playing electric guitar and singing songs and lighthearted ditties. A group of residents enjoyed lunch at Lee's Restaurant on the monthly outing. Thanks to Ora Fisher, Gloria Revere and Terry Keyser for helping make this outing possible.

Col. Wright led residents in Bible study on Wednesday morning, following giving and receiving hugs. Residents filled the main dining room for bingo in the afternoon. Louise Dunaway won seven games.

Residents named well-known couples during couple guess on Thursday, then enjoyed upbeat songs like "Jailhouse Rock" by Elvis Presley during Joan's Music. Sandra Barnes got double-ringers during horseshoes in the afternoon along with lots of applause. Animals bring joy to residents and T.J. the dog visited with us again in the afternoon, bringing smiles to residents' faces. We appreciate T.J. and his owner for sharing their time with us each Thursday.

The sound of praises rang through the halls of Lancashire on Friday during the hymn sing. Residents sang many songs about God's love. In the afternoon, resi-

dents participated in a Valentine's tea, with a reading of "How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count The Ways" and other odes of love. Cookies were served with hot tea, as residents listened to love songs by Nat King Cole.

Bingo was the highlight on Saturday morning where just about every resident won at least one game.

Residents took part in a worship service led by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon. We thank the local churches for their continuing ministries to the Lancashire family. Residents especially appreciate the four youth of Grace Episcopal Church who made a beautiful love wreath which now adorns the main dining room. Residents and staff thank Leland James, William Somers, Hannah Newman and Katelyn Keyser for a gift that brings smiles each new day.

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Museum to 'Can It'

On March 17, the Richmond County Museum will open "Can It," an exhibit featuring the many canneries which were an important part of local life and the economy from the late 19th to late 20th centuries.

The museum is seeking identified photographs, artifacts, labels, documents and other memorabilia that will help tell the story.

Old canneries, or parts of them, are of particular interest as are stories, anecdotes and lore.

The museum would be grateful for any information that would make it possible to highlight this very important aspect of Richmond County heritage. Call 333-3607.

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Birth

Trevor, Tre' and Thomas Johnson announce the birth of their baby brother, George Tyler. Born February 14, 2004, at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, he weighed 7 lbs., 9.2 ozs. and was 21.5 inches long.

His parents are George H. and Gina S. Johnson of Virginia Beach.

Paternal grandparents are George and Maxine Johnson of Warsaw;

great-grandparents are Joe C. and Lucille Parker of Heathsville and Jamie Johnson of Westmoreland.

Maternal grandparents are Phyllis and Edwin Efford of Farnham and Richard and Cathy Savalina of Lively; great-grandparents are Stanley and Shirley Lewis of Ottoman and Sophie Savalina of Lively.

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The Latin Ballet of Virginia will perform at St. Margaret's School on March 2.

SMS offers an evening culutral series to public

St. Margaret's School students and faculty will host a series of informative, entertaining evening presentations beginning February 23. There is no charge to attend the hour-long programs, all of which begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Programs are:
- Monday, February 23, in the Woolfolk Center with Wake Forest University field hockey Coach Jennifer Averill. A four-time All-American, Averill will share the formula for success that resulted in Wake Forest's multiple NCAA and ACC championships.
 - Tuesday, February 24, in Ball Memorial Gymnasium with William the Conjuror. Magician William Penn Russell will display his talents, which have been enjoyed by heads of state and celebrities worldwide, and discuss the history of magic.
 - Wednesday, February 25, in the Woolfolk Center, with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Biologist Dr. Louis Verner. He will speak on "The Unseen Wildlife of Essex County" and offer audience members an opportunity to become wildlife mappers.
 - Thursday, February 26, in the Woolfolk Center, with healthcare administration graduate student Elizabeth Taliaferro, of the SMS

Class of 1995. Taliaferro will discuss her work experience in corporate America and new career in the growing healthcare field.

- Friday, February 27, in Ball Memorial Gymnasium with mezzo-soprano Bekah Hughes of the SMS Class of 1990. Accompanied by her mother, pianist Kathy Hughes, the soloist will present a program of arias, spirituals and sacred and popular songs.

- Monday, March 1, in the Woolfolk Center, with Richmond newspaper columnist Jann Malone. The popular Richmond Times-Dispatch home and garden columnist will discuss her work and the creative process.

- Tuesday, March 2, in Ball Memorial Gymnasium with The Latin Ballet of Virginia. The lecture-demonstration will include excerpts from the ballet's productions of "NuYuRican" and "Mujeres," and will involve the audience in learning about dance, music and culture.

- Wednesday, March 3, in the Woolfolk Center with poet and historian Carrie Allen McCray. McCray will share her journey in reconciling her grandfather's role as a Confederate general with her mother's life as an early African-American civil rights activist.

Garden club again offers project grant

In 2000, the Garden Club of the Northern Neck established a grant program available to citizens and non-profit organizations in the Northern Neck.

The grant program was instituted to aid projects which promote beautification, conservation, preservation, education, or horticulture. Awarded annually, the grant is made possible by a fundraiser which members plan, organize and participate in every two years. Applications for the 2004 grant will be accepted through April 1. Applicants should call Bonnie Morris at 333-5192.

In April 2003, the Foundation for Historic Christ Church received a grant for the purchase

of materials to establish a colonial flower border at Christ Church. Using the Colonial Williamsburg 18th century plant list as a guide, a border was designed and installed by volunteers.

While adding beauty to the grounds of Christ Church, the border also serves as a "classroom" for the many school groups visiting to learn about life in the 18th century and as a cutting garden for the volunteers who arrange flowers for the altar table in the church.

Past grant recipients include the Northern Neck Audubon Society, Richmond County Museum, Lancaster Roller Mill, and Blake Newton Public Library.



From left are Karen Harding, Dr. John H. Harding Jr. and Sylvia Ball.

Hardings are welcomed at woman's club meeting

Local author Dr John H. Harding Jr. and his wife, Karen, were recent guests of the Northumberland County Woman's Club.

Education chair Sylvia Ball introduced Dr. Harding who was born in Northumberland County, attended local schools, graduated from the College of William & Mary and from The Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry.

He returned to Northumberland County where he practiced dentistry for 31 years. After retiring, he published two books,

Shortchanged about a boyhood friend who confronts the challenge of battle and is short-changed in the end.

His second book, *Alvin Recollections & Reflections* focuses on a black navy man, farmer and fisherman from the Northern Neck.

Both books are available at the Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern store. Anyone wishing more information about the Northumberland Woman's Club should call Peggy Roberts at 580-8205.

Stouffer to lead workshop

Artist Jane Stouffer will teach several workshops this spring at the Rappahannock Art League Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock.

A longtime RAL member, Stouffer was president when the group established the Studio Gallery on Main Street in the 1990s. She has organized out-of-town bus trips to art museums and events and is curator of the exhibit room.

She also leads a Monday morning drawing group and is active in an experimental group.

On the last Friday in February, March, April and May, Stouffer will conduct separate "open studio" workshops for people who have had some experience in acrylics, or advanced acrylic artists.

The concept is to keep the group small, with only 12 participants. Each artist will work at their own level of development. The open studio concept means personal attention from the teacher, working individually at all levels of experience. Group critiques will be featured the last hour of each session.

Participants may register for one or more one-day sessions; the fee is \$40 per session. Sessions are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 436-9309 to reserve a space.

Stouffer also will teach a basic drawing class on Fridays, May 7, 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for those who wish to develop skills in perspective, value rendering, training the eye through exercises



Jane Stouffer

in contour drawing and figure drawing. The third week will develop skills in proportion of the figure, quick sketching, action and shading with a live model. The fee is \$120 for the 3-day class, with a \$20 deposit to hold a space. The maximum class size is 15. Call 436-9309 to reserve a space.

Stouffer has been teaching adults for 50 years. She graduated with a B.S. in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin and spent five years at the Boston Museum School where she received a fellowship to live in Italy for a year.

She had her first of many one-person shows in Florence, Italy.

She displays her art at Hang Ups Gallery and the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. She is a member of many art associations, including The National League of American Pen Women, Chesapeake Bay Branch.

She was just accepted into the National Pen Women Biennial Juried Art Exhibition this spring in Washington, D.C.

Digital photo club organizes

The Photoshop SIG (Special Interest Group) of the Northern Neck Computer Users Group recently organized.

The Photoshop SIG will focus on taking photos with digital cameras and the editing of the photos using Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0.

The group will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10

a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock.

The March meeting discussion topic will be digital cameras and accessories. Anyone planning to attend the meeting is asked to bring their digital camera.

The meeting is open to any PC or Mac user. For more details, call Jim Sapione at 462-5831.



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"Bed & Breakfast" by Art LaMay

Four new artists to exhibit at 25th waterfowl show

The 25th annual Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show is March 20 and 21 in White Stone. As in past years, the White Stone firehouse and school building will be filled with a variety of wildfowl art by artists and carvers from all over the east coast. Songbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey and waterfowl will be featured in original paintings, prints, decorative carvings, folk art carvings, gunning style decoys, jewelry and hand-painted clothing and accessories.

Each year new exhibitors are selected to enhance the show. This year four new exhibitors will be participating. Mark Finisey of Faulkner, Md., has been carving for about 20 years. Finisey has entered his award-winning carvings in most major waterfowl carving competitions in the mid-Atlantic area and has exhibited in art shows throughout the area. He specializes in detailed carvings of ducks, some with a smooth finish and others with each feather burned into the wood.

Ron Holyfield of Dayton, Tenn., has been painting full time since 1982, when he resigned his position in the Nuclear Engineering Department of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Over the years he has become nationally recognized as a wildlife artist. His paintings look almost tangible; the wildlife appears to move.

Holyfield and his wife, Kay Williams, another new exhibitor, spend much of their time researching their subjects and habitat, from the barrier islands on the east coast to the rugged mountains of the northwest. Holyfield and Williams exhibit at numerous shows around the country including the Southeastern Wildlife exposition in Charleston, S.C., Easton, Maryland's Waterfowl Festival and the Florida Wildlife Exposition.

They had a highly successful two-person show for the National Wildlife Federation.

Some of his awards include first place in painting at the Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show International Competition, Best of Show awards at the 24th Virginia Beach Wildlife Art Show and the 8th Nautical and Wildlife Art Festival in Ocean City, Md. He was the Artist of the Year for the Northeastern Wildlife Exposition in Albany, N.Y., and is an artist member of the American Society of Marine Artists.

Williams started her career in art as an art teacher in a Portland, Oregon, community college. After 12 years, she made the decision to paint full time.

Middlesex library to sponsor bluegrass show

The Middlesex County Public Library is sponsoring a fundraiser entitled "Bluegrass, Blue Jeans, and Swift Stories" on March 13 at 7 p.m. at St. Clare Walker Middle School.

The bluegrass band, "Haley and the Boys," is led by Haley Stiltner, a 16-year-old banjo prodigy. Mack and Joan Swift, tandem storytellers from

While Williams' paintings are open to interpretation, her adept hand guides a visit through each image where senses take over and one feels the rough bark, smells the resin of the pine, or perhaps sees footprints in the frosted grass. Some of Williams' accomplishments include being juried into the annual Society of Animal Artists "Art and the Animal" exhibition in 2002 and having her painting selected for a national tour; juried into the artstravaganza at the Hunter Museum of American Art in 2001; selected for the prestigious Leigh Yawkey Woodson "Birds in Art" exhibit in 1992 and 1999 and selected for their "Wildlife: the Artist's View" national tour. She was Artist of the Year at the Patuxent Wildlife Art Show in Maryland in 1996 and selected into the Society of Animal Artists in 1993.

Williams and Holyfield were selected to exhibit in the "Animal and Animal Kingdom" show at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Vermont.

Mary Jager of Richmond is recognized for her realistic watercolor and oil paintings. She begins each painting by observing, sketching, and photographing the scenes she wants to capture on canvas. By balancing art with illustration, her paintings chronicle the details sometimes missed by others.

The Artist of the Year is Art LaMay of Palm Coast, Fla. Color prints of his new painting of Widgeon will be given away to show visitors each day. The show print is sponsored by W. F. Booth Furniture Inc. of Kilmarnock.

The Preview Night door prize is an original carving by William Bruce of White Stone and the weekend door prize is an original painting by Ned Ewell of Cockeysville, Md.

Contributors to the Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show are W.F. Booth Inc., Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust, Connemara, Rappahannock Rentals, B.W. Wilson Paper Co., The Business Press, Bank of Northumberland and Currie Funeral Home.

Show hours are Saturday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Children under 12 are free. Advance tickets are required for the Preview Night Gala on Friday, March 19.

The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department sponsors the Waterfowl Show as one of its major fund-raisers.

Call 435-6355 for an invitation to the Preview Night Gala, or visit www.rwvs.org.

Staunton, will share stories appropriate for ages 10 and up.

Concert tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students at library branches in Deltaville and Urbanna, Cyndy's Bynn, Hartfield Medicine Shoppe, Nauti Nell's, Twice Told Tales, River Birch Gifts, Hartfield Southside Bank and Wilton Cottage.

Volunteer training set at Christ Church

The 2004 training for volunteers at Christ Church begins March 2 and continues on March 4, 9 and 11. The programs begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon. Coffee and refreshments are served beforehand.

The theme is "Who We Are and What We Do at Historic Christ Church." Highlights include "Changes in the Wind," a presentation on site developments planned for the historic complex, scheduled for the first session; and on March 9, "Hands-on History," an interactive exercise using documents and artifacts related to the history of the 1732 church. Also on March 9, historical architect Nat Neblett will lead a

tour of the church emphasizing its architecture and preservation.

The training program is open to new and experienced volunteers. To become a volunteer, contact the foundation office at 438-6855. Volunteers are needed to serve as researchers, docents in the adult and children's programs, receptionists in the museum and store operation, and "green thumbs" in the flower and herb gardens.



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Fleeton sewer project backs up

by Reid Pierce Armstrong
FLEETON—Connection notices for the Fleeton sewer project are expected to hit mailboxes in the coming weeks.
 Northumberland County, meanwhile, is trying to scrape up enough money to finish streets that the sewer lines have not yet reached.
 One of the wettest years on record has put the project over budget, depleting all but \$35,000 of the county's \$150,000 contingency fund for the work. Saturated soils were the primary culprit, requiring extra backfill along the freshly dug lines at an additional cost to the county.
 Residents of Hopedale, Taskmaker and Deep Water are still awaiting the sewer lines that have been promised. But with so few homes stretched along such long roads, the cost per customer is expected to be between \$6,000 and \$7,000.
 Project coordinator Charlie Redlinger of Resource International has tried to encourage the county to take out a \$115,000 loan to complete the project and repair crumbling sludge drying beds at the plant, which must

be fixed at an estimated cost of \$30,000.
 "The last thing I want to do is have you in the hole," Redlinger told county supervisors last Thursday. "We need to leave money for other things," noting that the Reedville plant has been all but subsidized by the county, leaving no money for much needed repairs and maintenance.
 "If you borrow \$112,000 to \$115,000, we can do everything we've been asked to do," Redlinger said, adding that the county would still have \$100,000 left in the bank for emergency maintenance and repairs to the plant.
 "Why borrow the money that we have left over?" asked supervisor Joe Self. "Why not use the leftover contingencies and tap fees to complete the project?"
 "The county needs a depreciation account to cover things that are going to blow," Redlinger said. "I am trying to leave money for the rainy day. Some day the county is going to be flooded with major repairs (to the plant). If we were not doing this project, where would you get the

money to repair the sludge drying beds?"
 The \$32 per month paid by Reedville sewer customers barely covers debt retirement and operations, Redlinger noted.
 The supervisors remained hesitant to take out a loan, however, while the county has \$150,000 from tap fees in the bank plus the \$35,000 contingency remaining.
 The county decided to use those funds to complete Hopedale and Taskmaker with vacuum systems at an estimated cost of \$55,000.
 "I think we need to give those people what we promised," Self said.
▼ Supervisors (continued from page A1)

The board will then reevaluate Deep Water, which was not part of the original plan. The estimated cost of connecting that road is \$62,000.
 Redlinger said he expects the entire project, including Hopedale and Taskmaker, to be finished in another 30 days.
 The whole project has cost roughly \$4 million and is about \$80,000 over budget.
 Meanwhile, a survey for the Callao sewer project has been completed and easements and permits are being obtained. The county is trying to secure some additional property near the proposed plant site before proceeding.
 "We would recommend, if the board of supervisors chooses to approve the exception, that some vegetative plantings in the undisturbed portion of the buffer be required so that the remaining buffer can provide some water quality protection and to compensate for the additional impervious coverage on the small lot," wrote Baldwin.
 "To deny this request would be an unconstitutional taking of property," Kilduff argued.
 Supervisor Joe Self abstained from the discussion and vote, although he explained that his company, Joe Self Realty, is a completely separate company from Self Realty.
 "I have no interest or financial stake in this company, but, to prevent any misunderstandings, I will not participate in this discussion simply because of the similarity of names," said Self.
 By a 4-0-1 vote, the board approved a motion to carry the request over until its March 11 meeting.
 "We just got this material from CBLAD today," said chairman Ronnie Jett, who made the motion.
 The board will use the coming weeks to look into the matter further and gather what information is needed to "help us make a good decision," Jett said.

agency responsible for regulating the Bay Act—the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLAD)—said it realizes there are exceptions, and this situation is one of them.
 "We recognize that this particular lot, which is relatively limited in area, was recorded before the Bay Act and therefore an encroachment of some degree would most likely be required to allow for a 'reasonable buildable area,'" stated Beth A. Baldwin, CBLAD's Northern Neck Liaison, in a letter to the board.
 "This interpretation opens the door for complete disregard to the goals of the Bay Act," said Mike Harwood of Wicomico Church. "It doesn't ring true to me that this is the intent of the law."
 "There is something deeply wrong with this proposal," agreed Tom Stevens of Heathsville. "Northumberland is known among the counties for being ultra-liberal in allowing encroachment on the Chesapeake Bay Act."
 "The time has come to bite the bullet and enforce the Bay Act," said Lynton Land of Heathsville.
 "We have not learned as individuals to accept responsibility to promote the health of our local waters," said Mary Kier of Lottsburg.
 Wonda Allain of Lottsburg asked why the board was being rigid on the required front and side setbacks and not on the waterfront buffer.
 CBLAD also suggested the board relax the setback from the road.
 "In our brief review of the site plan and proposed encroachment, we would recommend that some reduction in front yard setback be considered so that the proposed encroachment could be reduced from 80 feet to perhaps 70 feet," Baldwin stated.
 Other concerns regarded the replacement of vegetation in the

area.
 "We would recommend, if the board of supervisors chooses to approve the exception, that some vegetative plantings in the undisturbed portion of the buffer be required so that the remaining buffer can provide some water quality protection and to compensate for the additional impervious coverage on the small lot," wrote Baldwin.
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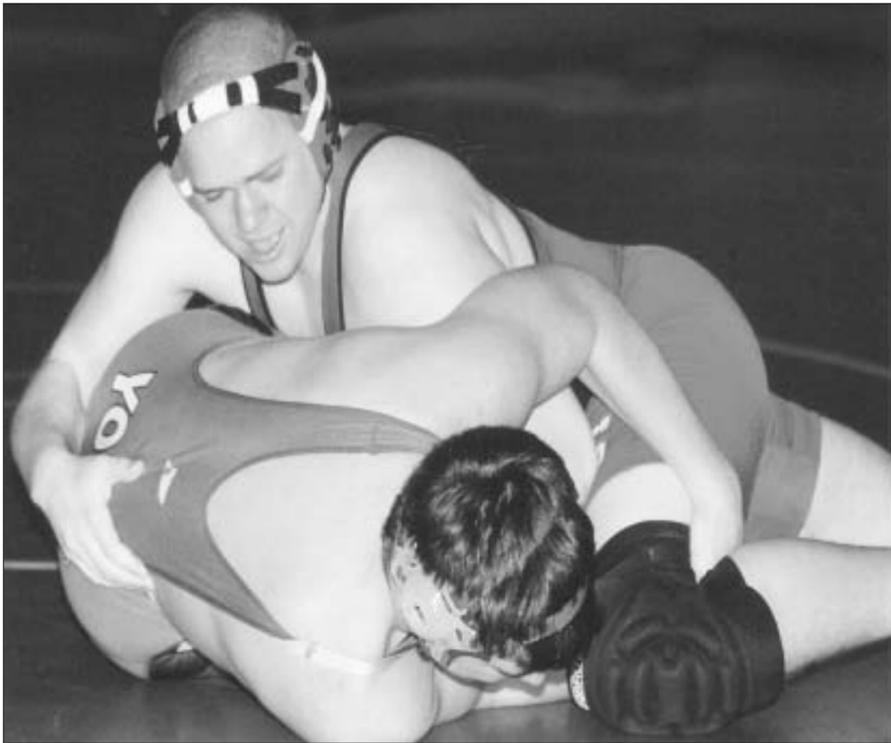
▼ Bay Act
 (continued from page A1)
 "For the purposes of this section there shall be no presumption that a 100-foot-wide buffer will achieve a 75 percent reduction in sediment or a 40 percent reduction in nutrients," the article states.
 To reduce point-source pollution, the article requires that, "Nitrogen and phosphorous application rates shall not exceed the greater of crop nutrient needs or crop nutrient removal."
 Dr. Lynton Land of the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) called the amendment "brilliant," because it effectively addresses the county's ability to regulate the application of sludge.
 Others in the audience applauded the county's amendments and urged the board to follow up by enforcing the new laws.
 The changes are available through the planning department or at www.co.northumberland.va.us.

Gardening lectures set in Middlesex
 The Middlesex Master Gardeners will sponsor three lectures beginning March 6. All lectures will be held at the Church of the Visitation on Route 33 at Harmony Village. Lectures start at 10 a.m.
 The first lecture will be on "Herbs and the Garden." Wendy Wells of Mathews will discuss the production of herbs from seed to harvest.
 On April 10, Robert Annet of Hampton will speak on "Moles, Voles and other Garden Invaders." Annet has taught several Master Gardener classes.
 The final lecture will be May 1. Bob Owens will discuss Bonsai. The lectures do not require reservations.

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Lancaster's Brian Jarvis pinned Davey Adams of York in 2:55.

Red Devils dominate the mat

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Coming off wins over Northumberland and Essex two weeks ago, Lancaster's grapplers continued their march through the region last week, beating Arcadia and York.

The Devils finished the regular season with a respectable 14-6 record and prepare this week to face eight teams in the subregion tournament at Mathews Saturday, February 21. Mathews and Essex are the only two Region A teams to beat Lancaster this season, and the Devils later avenged the loss to the Trojans.

"Ideally you want to peak at the end of the year," said coach Craig Oren, "and I feel as though we're doing just that. We're hoping we've created the momentum we need to help us finish second at the region tournament next week."

Four Red Devil wrestlers recorded pins Friday as LHS defeated Group AA York, 58-21.

Tim Blake took down Bryan Glover in the 140-pound weight class in a quick fall, just 1:20 into the match.

Conrad Wineland, wrestling at 160, pinned his opponent 2:35 into the match, while Patrick Oliver was the only LHS wrestler to win by decision against York, beating Brent Robinson 12-3 in the 119-pound class.

Lancaster's two seniors, Travis Rice and Brian Jarvis, recorded a pair of pins each in their final home match. Against York, Rice pinned Chun Lu in 3:25 in the 189-pound match and Jarvis pinned Davey Adams in 2:55 in the 215-pound division.

It took Jarvis just over 3:50



Travis Rice of Lancaster gets the advantage over Chun Lu of York.

to take Shawn Baggers down for the count as Lancaster beat Arcadia, 48-30.

Rice pinned Dustin Coffman in 3:35 and Wineland pinned Clement Biet in 3:22.

Wrestling at 103, Ross Kellum pinned Brooks Marshall in 5:02 and Thomas Frere took down Adam Tatum in 5:23 in the 125-pound match.

Oliver won by disqualification over Steve White.

"Arcadia was probably the best match we've wrestled since the Waynesboro tournament at the start of the season," said Oren. "And that's what we were hoping for, a strong finish going into the region tournaments."

JV Indians advance to championship game

Devils close at 5-5, 7-8

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Northumberland secured a spot in the Northern Neck District boys JV championship last Friday by beating Lancaster, 66-49, in the regular season finale for both squads.

Finishing in second place, the Indians will vie for the title against first-place James Monroe at 6 p.m. Saturday night (February 21) at Lancaster High School.

Kyle Jones scored 18 points and Troy Starks chipped in 15 to lead Northumberland.

Starks paced the Indians in the first half, scoring 11 points to help give NHS a three-point advantage (29-26) at the break.

Northumberland blew the game open and put it out of reach with a 19-7 third quarter run that included 12 points from Jones.

Jones and Starks led nine Indian scorers.

Lancaster got scoring from seven shooters. Curtis Henderson paced the pack with 17 points, including 10 in the first half. Andre Henderson, with 15 total, did most of his work in the latter quarters, scoring 10 in the second half.

The Devils ended the year at 5-5 in the district and 7-8 overall.

Northumberland... 15 14 19 12 -- 66
Lancaster..... 13 13 7 16 -- 48
Northumberland -- Boyd 7, Seymour 2, Melton 5, Jones 18, Starks 15, Rich 9, Newton 2, Thomas 2, Parker 2. Three-point goals: Boyd 2.
Lancaster -- A. Henderson 15, T. Henderson 0, Saunders 5, Williams 6, Taylor 0, C. Henderson 17, Smith 0, Rice 2, George 2, Jones 0, Wilson 0, Owens 2, Laws 0. Three-point goals: A. Henderson 2.

James Monroe 41, Lancaster 40
Lancaster Monroe successfully defended its first-place status last Tuesday, edging Lancaster, 41-40.

The Devils gave up a 15-12 halftime lead in the third when James Monroe went on a 22-8 run to go up by 11. C. Henderson scored all of Lancaster's eight points in the third.

A. Henderson sparked a Devil rally in the fourth, scoring seven points as Lancaster outran the Jackets, 17-7, in a comeback attempt that fell short.

A. Henderson and C. Henderson led the LHS scorers with 14 points each.

Lancaster..... 8 7 8 17 -- 40
James Monroe... 6 6 22 7 -- 41
Lancaster -- A. Henderson 14, T. Henderson 0, C. Henderson 14, K. Jones 4, T. Jones 2, Wilson 2, Williams 0, R. Laws 0, M. Laws 0, Taylor 0, George 2, Saunders 2. Three-point goals: A. Henderson. James Monroe -- Poole 4, Hopkins 10, Atkins 10, Carter 2, Jackson 6, Bunch 4, Thomas 2, Johnson 0, Peyton 0, Hardesty 3. Three-point goals: Jackson.

Devils, Yellow Jackets to play for JV girls' title

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The Lady Devils are hoping for a different outcome when they play James Monroe this week for the Northern Neck District JV championship.

The Yellow Jackets routed Lancaster by 25 points, 54-29, last Tuesday to finish in first place for the regular season.

Lancaster finished in second place at 8-2 in the district and 10-6 overall, gaining a berth in the tournament title game Friday, February 20, at 6 p.m. in Montross.

Brittany Shepherd scored 17 points and Taquana Beenum

chipped in 11 for the Jackets, which jumped to a 17-7 first quarter lead and never gave up control.

The Devils got eight points from Madison Smith and seven points each from Rayna Randle and Katia Betts.

Lancaster..... 7 12 7 3 -- 29
James Monroe... 17 15 11 9 -- 54
Lancaster -- Landers 0, Betts 7, Wiggins 4, Smith 8, Randle 7, Green 0, Jones 0, Bishop 1, Mason 2, Smith 0. Three-point goals: Betts.
James Monroe -- Lee 2, Preston 5, Blevins 2, Antuzzi 2, Byrd 0, T. Brown 5, Beenum 11, K. Brown 7, Preston 3, Shepherd 17. Three-point goals: Preston, Beenum.

Lancaster 35, Northumberland 27

Katia Betts scored 11 points last Friday as Lancaster downed Northumberland, 35-27, in the regular season finale for both teams.

Northumberland jumped to a 12-4 first quarter lead and maintained the seven-point lead at the half before Lancaster went on a 14-5 run to gain the lead for good in the third.

The Devils kept the Indians' scoring in single digits in both the third and fourth quarters.

Curtains close on Lady Devils' 2-18 cage season

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The basketball season ended Monday for the varsity Lady Devils.

Lancaster lost to Rappahannock, 62-35, in the first round of the Northern Neck District tournament to finish 0-10 in the league and 2-18 overall.

The struggling Devils scored just three points in the final quarter of the year as the Raiderettes expanded a 14-point lead with a 16-3 run in the waning minutes.

Clare Clements had a game-high 21 points to lead four double digit scorers for Rappahannock. Patrice Barber and Mary Short chipped in 12 points each and Jennie Packett added 12 for the Raiders.

Ashley Henderson was the only double digit scorer for Lancaster, putting up 15 points in a losing

effort.

With the win, Rappahannock advanced to play second-place Northumberland in a semifinal game. Washington & Lee, which beat Essex in the opening round, was scheduled to face first-place James Monroe in the other semifinal. The two winners will meet tomorrow night, February 20, at 8 p.m. in Montross for the championship.

Lancaster finished in last place, ending a winless district campaign last Friday at home against Northumberland. The Indians hit triple digits, whipping the Devils 100-34 in the regular season finale for both squads.

Lancaster..... 12 8 12 3 -- 35
Rappahannock... 16 15 13 16 -- 62
Lancaster -- Taylor 0, Saunders 0, Henderson 15, B. Smith 3, R. Smith 4, Brown 2, Robinson 6, Bradley 5. Three-point goals: B. Smith, Henderson 2.

Rappahannock -- Self 0, Packett 10, Lucas 9, Clements 21, WEbb 0, Barber 12, Short 12.

James Monroe 89, Lancaster 20

The unbeaten Yellow Jackets wrapped up their third straight Northern Neck District regular season championship last Tuesday with an 89-20 rout of Lancaster.

Tameka Christopher scored 14 points, had seven rebounds and five steals to lead the Jackets over Lancaster as JM improved to 16-2 overall and 9-0 in the league.

Shylan Bumbrey and Lauren Garland contributed 13 points each for the Jackets, who jumped to a 39-14 halftime lead then scored 17 unanswered points in the third quarter. JM held the host Devils scoreless in the third period and outscored them 33-6 in the fourth.

Ashley Henderson did most of the work for Lancaster, scoring over half of her team's total with 13 points. She scored nine of the Devils' 14 first-half points. James Monroe... 16 23 17 33 -- 89
Lancaster..... 5 9 0 6 -- 20
James Monroe -- Williams 5, Barnwell 0, McMorris 9, Bumbrey 13, Christopher 14, Garland 13, Lenel 2, Washington 8, Williams 6, Lucas 8, Hevner 5. Three-point goals: Christopher, Garland, Hevner. Lancaster -- Henderson 13, Smith 3, Robinson 2, Bradley 2. Three-point goals: Henderson.

LHS varsity boys trail district foe

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The Lancaster High varsity boys basketball team finished regular season play Friday without a win in Northern Neck District play.

The Devils capped an 0-10 league campaign with a 79-68 loss to Northumberland to finish in last place for the regular season.

Lancaster, which went 2-16 overall, is scheduled to play third-place Northumberland in the first round of the district tournament tonight (February 19) at LHS. The Devils and Indians will meet at 8 p.m.

Rappahannock and Essex will play in the first game at 6 p.m.

The winners tonight will move on to face first-place Washington & Lee and second-place James Monroe in the semifinal games tomorrow. The championship game will be played at 8 p.m. Saturday at Lancaster.

Javon Gordon scored 18 points to pace Northumberland in its season finale win Friday. Gordon put up nine points and Nathaniel Payne scored eight in the first half when the Indians jumped ahead

46-24. Payne and Michael Stevens each finished with 10 points for NHS.

Lancaster made a late-game run, outscoring the Indians 26-10 in the final period. Jamie Veney scored 10 of his game-high 20 points in the fourth quarter.

Veney led four double digit scorers for the Devils, who got 16 points from Ge'Ron Wiggins, 13 from James Scott and 11 from Montell Mitchell. Scott scored nine points in the third quarter when he hit three times from the cheap seats.

Lancaster..... 7 17 18 26 -- 68
Northumberland... 23 23 23 10 -- 79
Lancaster -- Mitchell 11, J. Scott 13, Wiggins 16, Robinson 5, Veney 20, Lee 0, Jones 0, Means 0, Armstrong 3. Three-point goals: J. Scott 3, Mitchell, Wiggins.
Northumberland -- Payne 10, Gordon 18, Veney 2, Stevens 10, Stables 5, Carter 7, Sutton 5, Swift 6, Veney 8, Seymour 8. Three-point goals: Gordon 2, Stevens, Stables.

James Monroe 63, Lancaster 54

Delano Green scored nine points in the opening minutes and went on to lead the Yellow Jacket scorers last Tuesday as James

continued on page A13

Scoreboard

Varsity boys basketball

James Monroe 63, Lancaster 54
Northumberland 79, Lancaster 68
W&L 74, Colonial Beach 57
W&L 79, Essex 45

JV boys basketball

James Monroe 41, Lancaster 40
Northumberland 66, Lancaster 49

Varsity girls basketball

Northumberland 65, Essex 28
James Monroe 89, Lancaster 20
Northumberland 100, Lancaster 34

JV girls basketball

Lancaster 35, Northumberland 27
James Monroe 54, Lancaster 29

—Upcoming—
Varsity basketball

Northern Neck District Tournaments

Boys at Lancaster High School

February 19:
Rappahannock vs. Essex (6 p.m.)

Northumberland vs. Lancaster (8 p.m.)

February 20:

Semifinals
W&L vs. winner of Rappahannock-Essex (6 p.m.)

James Monroe vs. winner of Northumberland-Lancaster (8 p.m.)

February 21:

JV championship-
James Monroe vs. Northumberland at 6 p.m., varsity championship at 8 p.m.

Girls at Washington & Lee High School

February 18:

Semifinals
James Monroe vs. W&L (6 p.m.)

Northumberland vs. Rappahannock (8 p.m.)

February 20:

JV championship- Lancaster vs. James Monroe at 6:30 p.m., varsity final at 8 p.m.

Wrestling

February 21:
Subregion tournament at Mathews

Little League registration schedule set

The Lancaster County Little League will hold registration for boys and girls who wish to play ball for the 2004 season on February 27 from 5 to 7 p.m.; February 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and March 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration will be held at Dream Fields in Kilmarnock. Parents are required to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate plus two forms of proof of residency. Examples of proof of residency may include a utility bill, parent's driver's license or voter registration card.

* RAPPAHANNOCK ALMANAC *

White Stone/Grey's Point Tides, Sun, & Moon - February, 2004

Day	Time	Sunrise	Moonrise	Sunset	Moonset	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	2/20	6:50	7:21	5:50	6:15	5:32	11:37	6:06	11:53
		-0.2	1.7	-0.2	1.5				
Sat	2/21	6:49	7:50	5:51	7:22	6:20	12:21	6:47	12:02
		-0.2	1.6	-0.2					
Sun	2/22	6:47	8:15	5:52	8:26	12:36	7:07	1:03	7:27
		1.5	-0.2	1.6	-0.1				
Mon	2/23	6:46	8:39	5:53	9:28	1:18	7:51	1:42	8:05
		1.5	-0.1	1.5					
Tue	2/24	6:45	9:03	5:54	10:29	1:59	8:35	2:21	8:42
		1.5	0.0	1.4	0.0				
Wed	2/25	6:43	9:28	5:55	11:30	2:40	9:19	3:01	9:22
		1.5	0.1	1.3	0.1				
Thu	2/26	6:42	9:56	5:56		3:22	10:06	3:43	10:04
		1.4	0.2	1.2					
Fri	2/27	12:30	6:41	10:27	5:57	4:10	10:58	4:30	10:52
		1.3	0.3	1.1	0.2				

Corrections
Plankatank River, Cherry Pt. -1:42 -1:44 86%
Great Wicomico River Light 0:30 0:20 76%
Smith Point Light 1:01 0:44 86%

PM times are in boldface type.
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Coast Guard Auxiliaries seeking more volunteers

The Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded in 1939 to assist in safe boating programs and to be the eyes and ears along the coastline during WWII.

With the recent inclusion of the U. S. Coast Guard and its civilian volunteer arm in the Department of Homeland Security, the auxiliary has picked up the pace to match the needs of the Coast Guard. The auxiliary does not do law enforcement missions. But patrol, search and rescue, waterway watch, radio watchstanding and civilian augmentation of Coast Guard Stations, has increased dramatically since September 11, 2001.

The traditional missions of public education and vessel safety checks have not suffered as a result. Working side by side with the Coast Guard and undergoing Coast Guard training and certification, makes the auxiliary qualified to teach public education courses and conduct vessel safety checks.

The auxiliary is an all-volunteer organization. Members from all walks of life join the auxiliary to contribute to boating safety initiatives including the teaching of boating safety courses, conducting free vessel safety checks, visiting marinas and marine supply dealers, conducting safety and harbor patrols, searching for vessels in distress, verifying federal, state and private aids to navigation, and augmenting active personnel at local Coast Guard stations.

Dedicated individuals in the Northern Neck have responded to the call and joined the two Northern Neck flotillas to keep pace with the Coast Guard's demands for support. Their com-

bined efforts in 2003 resulted in nearly 30,000 hours of volunteer member activity.

Flotilla members pay dues to help defray costs. The only income of this non-profit organization comes from charges from some safe boating courses, none of which can be used for social purposes, and from unsolicited donations from the public and from flotilla members. Government regulations prohibit the auxiliary from soliciting funds.

Auxiliary members buy their own uniforms and the special equipment required by the Coast Guard. Auxiliary boat owners who go on patrol or on search and rescue missions receive reimbursement for fuel consumed during the mission. The expense of boat ownership and fulfilling the equipment requirements of the Coast Guard rests with the boat owner. This includes boat payments, boat maintenance, equipment purchase and special personal safety items and clothing. The costs of uniforms, required safety equipment and mileage and travel may be income tax deductible per IRS regulations.

In the Northern Neck, Flotilla 33 and its predecessor, Unit V-4, have served the boating public and the Coast Guard for over 60 years. Flotilla 3-10, formerly part of Flotilla 33, has operated in the lower Potomac River for 27 years. Flotilla 14-05 in Colonial Beach has operated for over 20 years in the Middle Potomac.

Those interested in joining may call the Flotilla 33 commander Gerald Hawley at 436-1030, Flotilla 3-10 commander Oliver Knight at 529-6039, or Flotilla 14-50 commander John Putnam at 540-653-2434.

Coast Guard honors auxiliary accomplishments

At a recent Chesapeake Division awards ceremony in Richmond, the United States Coast Guard turned out in record numbers and rank to acknowledge the auxiliary's 2003 accomplishments.

Capt. Ben Thomason, chief of staff of the 5th Coast Guard District, Lt. Ralph Anguiano, executive officer of Group Hampton Roads, Lt. j.g. Sherrie Chamber-

lain, assistant operations officer of Group Hampton Roads, Lt. j.g. Jessica Styron, sea marshal of Group Hampton Roads, and BM1 Jeff Graham, operations officer and MK2 David Rose of Station Milford Haven, all turned out in full dress uniform to acknowledge—and thank—the flotillas that support them.

Seven flotillas from Petersburg, the Richmond area, and the Northern Neck comprise the Chesapeake Division and devoted over 42,000 hours in support of the Coast Guard's 5th District in 2003. Division 3 is one of the top 2 of 20 divisions in the district, which includes Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Washington D.C.

The Chesapeake Division of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force that supplements the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve. The division's 240-member force teaches boating safety courses, conducts free vessel safety checks, conducts safety patrols and search and rescue missions, radio watch stands, and civilian augmentation of Coast Guard Stations. All this is in support of the United States Coast Guard and the recreational boating public.

In terms of hours contributed per member, the top three flotillas were Flotilla 33 of Kilmarnock with over 20,000 total hours, and Flotilla 3-10 of Callao and Flotilla 35 of Richond, each with over 6,000 total hours.

Flotilla 33 award recipients include Andy Ernst, crew person of the year; Ted Tulus, coxswain of the year; member training instructor of the year, Frans Kasteel; and vessel examiner of the year, James Thomas.

Thomas also was awarded the outstanding achiever award.

In a special award ceremony,

Norman Heller of Flotilla 33 was presented the Coast Guard "award of operational merit" from the 5th Coast Guard District Commander, Rear Admiral Sally Brice O'Hara.

Heller serves as a search and rescue controller and command duty officer at Group Hampton Roads and is an instructor at the International Search & Rescue School at the Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown. He coordinated the response to over 25 distress cases, saving numerous lives and thousands of dollars in property. Heller also organized the successful escort of five U.S. Navy high value assets and ten commercial vessels, ensuring their safe transits through the port of Hampton Roads.

He enhanced professionalism throughout the United States and the international SAR community by teaching planning and execution to over 800 Coast Guard, DOD, and foreign students. His reputation as an instructor led to his deployment to Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, to deliver the search coordination and execution course to cutter, station and aviation crews.

Heller's dedication, perseverance, and devotion to duty were cited as being in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Coast Guard.

Capt. Thomason stressed the importance of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and praised the division for its essential support of the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard.

Division Captain Richard Cook of Ashland urged members to actively recruit new members.

To join the auxiliary, call Flotilla 33 commander Gerald Hawley at 436-1030, or Flotilla 3-10 commander Oliver Knight at 529-6039.



From left, Lt. Ralph Anguiano, executive officer of Group Hampton Roads, presents a Coast Guard "award of operational merit" to Norman Heller.



From left, Oliver Knight, Joe Riley, Rick Cook and Jim Thomas display the first and second Flotilla trophies.

Window on Wildlife

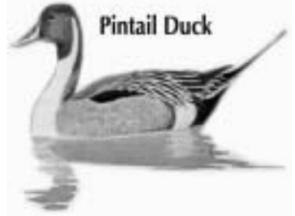
by Joyce Fitchett Russell

VSO Birdwatching

The Man I Married and I spent last weekend in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We joined other members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) for our annual field trip to see wintering waterfowl. The weather was perfect. Birds were plentiful: leaders (Jerry and Bill) were energetic experts and birdwatchers, eager.

Divided into groups, we covered Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. In all, we spotted 97 different species.

Easy to see beside the road were ducks, like colorful shovellers with broad spatulate bills, and sleek black and white pintails with needle-like tail feathers. With binoculars we could



study Canada and snow geese and lots of mute swans. With luck we could see a peregrine falcon and large graceful white ibises, my favorite.

At the Oregon Inlet Coast Guard station, we saw black-crowned night herons resting in dense shrubbery. One bird had a faint yellow dusting of oil and wax remaining from his recent preening. Here we also saw a dark blue

tri-colored heron that posed for us to study him. Jerry showed us the hurricane's salt water damage to shrubs where small birds usually seek shelter all winter long. Berries for them to feed on are also gone, like the birds.

Back home, I refill our feeders and stand at the kitchen window to watch my little birds come in. Suddenly, a big red-shouldered hawk sweeps in and lands on the suet post. Golden streaks of the setting sun filter through his outstretched wings; his white breast has cinnamon-colored flecks. I blink and he's gone.

Next I go to the back living room window beneath which are two ugly turkey vultures eating stale bread crumbs. With nature, we have to take the homely with the lovely.

Registration continues for the 2004 VMS Season

The 2004 Virginia Motor Speedway (VMS) schedule features 24 weeks of Dirt Series action beginning April 3 and ending September 25.

VMS also will hold an open practice for all divisions on March 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All cars must be registered and inspected prior to practice runs.

The BB&T Super Late Model Dirt Challenge and Victory Lap Late Model \$25K Challenge series return. Both are four race series.

The BB&T Super Late Model Dirt Challenge will pay a \$10,000 bonus to anyone winning two of the four events, \$35,000 if a driver wins three of four events and \$50,000 if a driver sweeps all four events. It is possible for one driver to gain \$90,000 for winning all four events.

Speedway officials announced that the MACS Late Model Series will sanction the BB&T Super Late Model Dirt Challenge.

"The BB&T Series was a great success for us in 2003, but we want to take it to the next level and to do that we have brought in the MACS Series to sanction our four big events," said VMS owner Bill Sawyer.

"We are pleased to have the Geesey brothers involved with us once again here at VMS," continued Sawyer. "Being that we are a family owned and operated organization, it felt right bringing in another family operated organization to help us in our quest to make the BB&T Series one of the best in the country. The Geesey's work ethic mirrors that of our own and only strengthens my belief that we will accomplish that task."

Jeff Geesey, MACS public relations liaison and event coordinator, expressed his excitement about returning to VMS and to the level of commitment of these four high-profile shows.

"Are we excited? That would be an understatement," said Geesey. "The BB&T Challenge Series is

a great mini-series of four events with almost \$50,000 being posted for each show. The icing on top of that huge piece of cake is the bonus program. These four shows add an additional quarter million dollars to the series events schedule this year, and that is just awesome for the drivers, fans, and sponsors of the series."

All four of the BB&T Super Late Model Challenge Series races will be 50-lap events paying \$10,000 to the winner and \$700 to start the "A" Main. Tentative dates for the four races are April 17, June 19, July 17 and September 18 as part of the 35th Annual Fall Classic.

The Victory Lap Late Model \$25K Challenge for steel head Late Models will pay a \$5,000 bonus to anyone winning two of the four events, \$15,000 if a driver wins three of four events and \$25,000 if a driver sweeps all four events. Track rules for the Victory Lap Late Model Division will apply.

A Summer Showdown for the All Star Circuit of Champions 410 Sprints will be held June 24. Also on that night the Speedway will hold a 40 lap, \$3,000 to win Thurston Spring Service Super Late Model event.

"This will be an awesome weekend for Sprint Car fans as we bring in the 410 Winged Sprints for the first time," said VMS general manager Clarke Sawyer.

"Adding to the excitement of the weekend is the added benefit of Richmond International Raceway bringing in the USAC Sprint Cars on Friday of that week which should bring us a few more competitors and the Silver Crown cars on Saturday making it a wonderful weekend of Sprint car action," added Sawyer.

Driver registration forms can be obtained at www.va.motorspeedway.com or at the track Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

VMS is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda and 25 miles south of Tappahannock.

YMCA News

The following programs are planned by the Northumberland Family YMCA. Financial assistance is available. To register, call 580-8901 or visit the YMCA office at 59 Monument Place in Heathsville.

Jazzercise

Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at NES, and Mondays at NMS. To register, call 435-7064.

Dance classes

The course meets at the rescue squad building in Callao. Classes include ballet, jazz, lyrical, yoga, pilates, tap, tiny tots, rhythm aerobics and improv. Contact the YMCA or Renaissance in Motion Dance Studio at 529-5949.

Basketball camp

A basketball camp for children will be held Fridays and Saturdays beginning March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. The fee is \$35.

Mens basketball

League basketball for ages 18 and up will be held on Tuesdays at NHS beginning March 30. Team registration begins March 8; \$300 per team. First six teams.

After-school program

The after-school program continues from the first day of school to the last, including half days, snow days and teacher workdays. \$30 per week, plus a one-time registration fee of \$40.

Field hockey

An indoor six-on-six field hockey tournament will be held February 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at NES. \$100 per team. First six teams.

T-ball

Bam-Bam tee-ball for boys and girls ages two to five. Games to be played at NMS beginning March 25. Registration is March 8, \$25.

RPRC elects 2004 officers

At the February meeting of the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc., officers were elected to lead the club for 2004.

Bob Berry will serve as president; Malcolm Schantz, vice president; Dave Fulmer, secretary; John Bentley, treasurer; Ron Lang, executive officer, and Larry Taylor, chief instructor.

Charley Adams will continue to serve as official photographer and refreshment person.

Members gave a round of applause to past president Fred Ajootian for his leadership during the past two years.

A schedule of 2004 events will be published shortly. Regular monthly meetings are every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the northside branch of the Bank of Lancaster.

Bowling Results

Men's League

On February 12, H&W Painting and Lenny's Auto Repair each won two games against each other. For H&W, Wayne Candry had the high set of the week 404 with games of 155, 134 and 115. Kasey Kacperki bowled a 110 game and Dusty Hendershot rolled a 109 game. For Lenny's, Curly Lewis had the high set of 360 with games of 128, 114 and 118. Lenny Dawson bowled a 132 game. Chuck Morris rolled a game of 130. Steve Edwards had a 117 game.

Evans Bowling Center won three games and lost one against The Oaks Restaurant. For Evans, Johnny Evans had the high set of 358 with a 154 game. Bunks Mitchell bowled a 134 game in a 349 set. John Forrester rolled a 117 game and Woodie Evans had a 115 game. For The Oaks, Louis Coates bowled the high set of 362 with games of 119 and 132. Jim Coates rolled a 143 game. Bob Huff had a game of 140.

D&L Marine Construction won three games and lost one against Cap'n John's. For D&L, Gary Hodges had the high set of 369 with a 143. Steve Hinson bowled games of 117 and 124. Doug Hundley rolled a 125 game. For Cap'n John's, Ernie George had a 113 game and Joe Hinson a 107 game. Benny Balderson bowled two games of 103 and Harry Donovan rolled a game of 103.

High game: Lee Gill, 161; Wayne Candry, 158; Johnny Evans, 154; Lacy Rose, 148; John Forrester, 147.

High set: Lacy Rose, 408; Wayne Candry, 404; Lee Gill, 400; Gary Hodges, 369; John Forrester and Woodie Evans, 367.

High team game: The Oaks, 512; Evans, 506; H&W, 484; Lenny's, 478; D&L, 475; Cap'n John's, 441.

High team set: The Oaks, 1,456; Evans, 1,429; D&L, 1,365; H&W, 1,355; Lenny's, 1,326; Cap'n John's, 1,264.

High average: Wayne Candry, 127; Lee Gill and Lacy Rose, 117; Curly Lewis, 114; Woodie Evans and Gary Hodges, 113.

Standings

	W	L
The Oaks Restaurant	14	6
Evans Bowling Center	13	7
D&L Marine Const.	11	9
H&W Painting	10	10
Lenny's Auto Repair	7	13
Cap'n John's	5	15

Ladies League

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against R. P. Waller when Myrtle Royall bowled a 380 set with games of 107, 126 and 147. Corinne Beauchamp rolled a 108 game. Gladys Sisson had games of 101 and 102. Sis Ransone bowled a 101 game and Clara Yeatman had a 104 game. For R. P. Waller, Bea Hodges rolled a 107 game and Ilva Jett had a 109 game.

Callis Seafood won three games against Northern Neck Surgical Services when Donna Thomas bowled a 351 set with games of 112, 118 and 121. Gayle Conrad rolled a 349 set with games of 100, 120 and 129. Mary Savalina had a 318 set with games of 109 and 110. Sharon Price bowled a 303 set with a 115 game. For N.N. Surgical, Bev Benson rolled a 335 set with games of 107, 109 and 119. Betty Steffey had a 309 set with games of 100 and 119. Elsie Rose bowled a 106 game. Julia George had a 105 game and Terry Stillman a 104 game.

Young Country won two games against Lively Oaks Girls when Joanne Paulette bowled a 332 set with games of 109 and 127. Linda Lake rolled a 322 set with games of 108 and 122. Janie Withers had a 337 set with games of 107 and 145. Theresa Davis bowled a 315 set with games of 113 and 114. Cathy Savalina had a 105 game. For Lively Oaks Girls, Lynn Gordon rolled a 402 set with games of 127, 128 and 147. Nancy Carter bowled a 343 set with a 146 game. Jean Reynolds had a 313 set with games of 106 and 120. Becky Thrift rolled games of 107 and 111.

J.C. Marsh won two games against Cap'n Red's Seafood when Vivian Callaway bowled a 309 set with games of 118. Vicki White rolled a 103 game and Marie Piccard had a 100 game. For Cap'n Red's, Ruth Moore bowled a 112 game and Alma George rolled games of 103 and 105.

High set: Lynn Gordon, 402; Cathy Savalina, 399; Theresa Davis, 395.

High team game: N.N. Surgical, 598; Young Country, 589; Lively Oaks Girls, 579.

High team set: Young Country, 1,734; Lively Oaks Girls, 1,622; Callis, 1,602.

High average: Lynn Gordon, 113; Theresa Davis, 112; Donna Thomas, 110.

Standings

	W	L
Callis Seafood	6	0
Young Country	4	2
Lively Oaks	4	2
Cap'n Red's	4	2
Yeatman's Forklift	2	4
J. C. Marsh	2	4
N.N. Surgical	1	5
R. P. Waller	1	5

Preseason racing workshops begin

Sailboat racing season got off to a lively start at Yankee Point Yacht Club last Saturday with a racing rules seminar conducted by John McCarthy, commodore of the Cruising Club of Virginia. McCarthy is a United States Sailing Association certified race officer. He also is a certified judge and has served as primary race officer for national regattas.

He explained the arcane but important rules of the on-the-water conduct for racing sailboats. Most of the rules have to do with what boat has the right-of-way in every situation and must be very specific to avoid collisions. An analogy would be the rules for cars that would be required if there were no traffic signals or roads. Sailors new to racing may find the rules overwhelming, but McCarthy's presentation and style highlighted important elements and the logic followed to apply them.



John McCarthy leads local workshops on sailboat racing.

Lin McCarthy, John's wife who authors and edits The Southern Bay Racing News, a weekly newsletter about sailboat races and racers of the Southern Chesapeake, accompanied McCarthy to Yankee Point. They are experienced racers who spread their infectious enthusiasm up and down the bay with their seminars.

On February 28, they will visit the Rappahannock River Yacht Club in Irvington where McCarthy will conduct a workshop on race committee management. The workshop, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will help prepare for races that begin in April. Reservations may be made at racing@rryc.org. A \$7 fee covers the cost of lunch.

Sport Shorts

Sign-up for sandlot

Northumberland County Little League player registration is set for Sunday, February 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Little League ballpark. First-time players are

required to provide an original or state-certified copy of their birth certificate.

The registration fee is \$25 and \$15 for each additional player within a family or household.



The Seahorse wrestlers (from left, front row) are Matt McCormick, Julian Ramirez, Jonathan Black, Matt Wolfe, Griffin Williford and Jack Argiropoulos; (next row) Chase Monday, Khouri Howard, Pat Lynch, John Williford, Russell Trione and Pedro Corniel; (next row) manager Angela Lewis, Josh Wysocki, manager Carolyn Davis, Shawn Erwin, Ross Patchin, Andy Wilson, Walter Craigie, Peyton McCann, Andrew Carver, Scott Lowry, coach Stefan Harris and coach Dean Hall.

Seahorse Roundup

Wrestling

The varsity wrestling team competed in the Virginia Prep League wrestling tournament last Saturday. Ten wrestlers from Christchurch School participated.

Seahorse wrestlers receiving All-Prep honors are Julian Ramirez, third at 103 pounds; Scott Lowry, third at 160 pounds; and Andy Wilson, third at 189 pounds.

The team finished the tournament in sixth place.

Coach Dean Hall said he is "extremely proud of these boys. They have worked so

hard this year, and dealt with some unfortunate adversities. But through it all, they have worked hard, and I couldn't be prouder."

Walter Craigie, Andrew Carver and Ross Patchin all picked up wins for the Seahorses.

The team will travel to Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg on February 20 to compete in the Virginia Independent School wrestling state tournament. Start time is 10 a.m.

Girls' basketball

On February 10, the girls' varsity basketball team lost to

Brunswick Academy, 36-29. Guard Jessie Shields finished the game with 10 points and forward Courtney Faudree had 11 points.

On February 11, The Lady Seahorses fell to Tidewater Academy, 29-26. Center Ann-Gordon Bennett led the team with 10 points and guard Taylor Harris added 8 points.

The VCC Tournament is two weeks away. Meanwhile, the Seahorses host Kenston Forest School on February 17 and visit Southampton Academy on February 19.

Safe boating course set

A boating skills and seamanship public education course will begin March 3 at the Flotilla Training Center on Ball Park Road in Deltaville.

The eight-week boating skills and safety course was written by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and is co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The class will meet on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. The fee is \$30.

To enroll, contact Donald Burnett at 804-776-0727 or NWBurnett@aol.com; hearing impaired, 367-1278.

Varsity Boys . . .

(continued from page A11)

Monroe beat the Devils, 63-54.

JM outscored Lancaster 20-12 in the opening period then gave up eight unanswered points for a halftime lock at 29.

The Devils, with a 15-13 third quarter, took a two-point lead over the favored Jackets.

TC Cook and Corey Pratt, with six points each, rallied JM in a fourth-quarter comeback as the visitors outscored the Devils 21-10 in the final eight minutes.

Green scored 18 points, Pratt 13 and Chaz Robinson 10 to lead the Jackets.

William Noel led Lancaster with 14, Cavell Robinson scored 12 and Montell Mitchell put up 10.

James Monroe . . . 20 9 13 21 -- 63
Lancaster . . . 12 17 15 10 -- 54
James Monroe -- Cook 9, Green 18, Johnson 4, Robinson 10, Plummer 2, Scott 2, McDowell 0, Cralle 2, Pratt 13, Thorpe 4. Three-point goals: Green.
Lancaster -- Mitchell 10, Scott 7, Wiggins 2, Robinson 12, Veney 5, Noel 14, Scott 0, Lee 2, Weeks 2, Armstrong 0. Three-point goals: Scott, Noel.

Bridge Results

Six-and-a-half tables of duplicate bridge were in play February 10 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Charlie Miller and Doug Small; second, Arden Durham and Jane Hughes; and third, Ilva Doggett and Sheila Babcock.

Winners east/west were first, Peggy Dent and Terry Taylor; second, Margaret Livesey and Marilyn Reed; and third, Grace Nagel and Iris Panzetta.

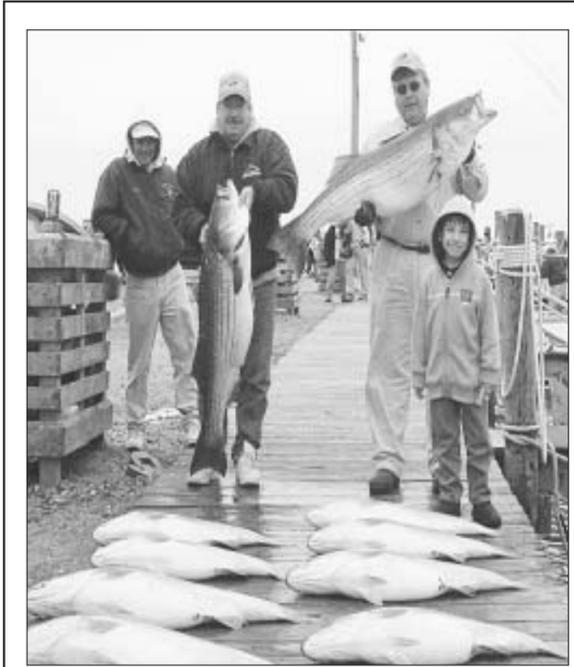
The next bridge for this group is February 24 at 1 p.m.

Four-and-a-half tables of duplicate bridge were in play February 11 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners north/south were first, Ilva Doggett and Mary Andrews; and tied for second were Terry Carter and Dick Huffman and Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham.

Winners east/west were first, Margaret Livesey and Marilyn Reed; and second, Charlie Smith and Al Jodrey.

The next bridge for this group is Thursday, February 19, and Monday February 23, at 1 p.m.



Landing citation rockfish

From left are Captain Benjie Stansky of the Sea Note, Gerald Pruett, Steve Newton and Caleb Pruett at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center after a February 15 voyage. The rockfish the men hold are 42- and 47-pound citation catches. The Pruetts are part-time residents of Kilmarnock; Newton is a part-time resident of White Stone.

Scotty Sports Corner

The St. Margaret's School varsity soccer team defeated every team in the league en route to the regular season championship and finished second in the league tournament as the winter sports season ended last week.

SMS entered the League of Independent Schools tournament play on February 10 with the best record (3-2) of any team. The Scotties faced St. Anne's-Belfield in the first round a week after SMS ended STAB's four-year winning streak.

Sarah Weakley of Montross scored early with an assist from Catherine Chilton of Lancaster. St. Anne's answered a few minutes later with a goal to tie the score at 1-1. SMS regrouped and with support from the midfield, Chilton immediately put a second goal on the board for the Scotties.

Control of the game wavered back and forth for the entire second half, but runs from right wing Rebecca Dickinson of Loretto kept pressure on the STAB goal. Co-captain Sarah Copeland of Tappahannock held down the midfield's defense and continued to make offensive plays. Sweeper Ashley Leake and stopper Annie Arnest of Kinsale effectively ended St. Anne's runs on the SMS goal. With help from goalkeeper Meredith Walsh, the Scotties kept STAB scoreless through the final minutes of the game to clinch a 2-1 victory.

Coach Louise Cook named Dickinson, Copeland, Leake and Arnest as SMS players of the game.

The win against STAB advanced the Scotties to the LIS championship game on February 11 against Steward, which defeated Trinity Episcopal



Catherine Chilton (#8) of Lancaster demonstrates the drive and determination that led the Scotties to the League of Independent Schools tournament championship match.

in the first round.

The Scotties tweaked their strategy in anticipation of Steward's goalie, a top prep player capable of dominating the entire field. In the first half, SMS looked to its forwards as an important component of this strategy, and SMS peppered the Steward goal with shots. Steward managed a few break-aways, but defenders Leake and Neillee Katona of Dunnsville turned the ball around repeatedly.

Play became more physical as the game wore on. At the end of the first half, the score remained tied at 0.

The second half saw a further increase in physical play and still no goals. Each team made inspired runs, yet neither managed to put one in. Walsh tallied a game total of 10 saves, while

SMS made 18 shots on Steward's Lauren Malizia. After two 35-minute halves, the score was still tied at 0.

Two five-minute overtime halves followed, with more jockeying for control of the ball and scoreboard. SMS continued to play hard and fast, but could not get a ball past the Steward goalie, and Steward did not control the ball long enough for a successful shot on Walsh.

At the end of the overtime, each team chose five penalty kickers, and the shootout began. Steward missed the first shot, but made the next three. SMS missed the first three shots, and the game was called at 3-0 in favor of Steward.

"We'll be back next year and we'll get that tournament banner, too," said Cook.

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Golden Eagle project set for consideration

LANCASTER—The county planning commission will meet tonight (February 19) at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster General District courtroom to consider a rezoning request and development plan for the Golden Eagle Golf Course by the New Tides LLC.

A related public hearing was held in December; no hearings are set for tonight's meeting.

The Golden Eagle proposal involves the rezoning of 430 acres for a 400-unit multi-family dwelling development.

Commission action was previously tabled pending additional information about traffic impacts, sewage service, and the percentage of developable land at the site minus the golf course, the lake on the prop-

erty and sites for amenities.

The applicant seeks to rezone the property from agricultural (A-1) to multi-family dwelling use (R-2).

Another rezoning and development request by the New Tides LLC concerning a proposal at the Tides Lodge has been reset for a public hearing on April 15. It was originally set for hearing in December, but was deferred.

The Tides Lodge development, The Pointe at Carters Creek, proposes 75 residential condominium units in three, three-story buildings. The request seeks to rezone the Lodge's 9.43 acres from general residential use (R-1) to R-2 for condominium development at a residential unit density of 7.95 units per acre.

▼ Council action . . . (continued from page A1)

district (B-1), in part because the nature of the business does not require frequent and direct public access for its operation.

"I don't believe it complies with B-1 literally or with the intent of it," said Pittman.

Fitzpatrick maintained that the permitted use of auto services in B-1 includes towing and was assumed to be part of the business that previously operated at the site.

"The argument (against approval) is that because it's not specifically set forth that it's not a part of the business use," Fitzpatrick said.

Terry agreed with Fitzpatrick. "Auto services covers an array of functions, as does the term retail store and wholesale store," he said.

Council members Pollard and Mosher had reservations about safeguards against pollution and hazardous materials.

"This is a case where the council's authority is here with respect to pollution," said Mosher.

Among the environmental concerns addressed were disposal of the plastic used to catch leaks from wrecked vehicles, waste oil collection and disposal, septic system and drain functions, hydraulic leaks from the garage vehicle lift, and biohazards as well as odor from biological material in wrecked vehicles in which a fatality or serious injury occurred.

Light House Towing owner Paul Davis said the plastic drop cloths would be rolled up and put inside the wrecked vehicles when they are removed from the site. Waste oil would be stored in drums on site until emptied by waste handlers and removed for disposal elsewhere, he said.

He would put the wrecked vehicles "in Ziploc bags" to contain fluid leaks if the bags were made that size, added Davis. Additionally, he said he would do his utmost to ensure that hazardous materials are contained and the appearance of the site safeguarded.

▼ Towing comments . . . (continued from page A1)

continued operation if the character of that use changes considerably from the original business operation.

"The grandfathering goes away," Stephens said.

The appropriateness of a towing service in the town's B-1 business district was also questioned by Stephens. He cited a locality that had designated towing service as an industrial use, which he contended is more consistent with Irvington's industrial M-1 zoning district because the town's B-1 zoning intends to permit businesses "for which the public requires direct and frequent access" without clashing with the residential character of the town.

Stephens questioned the towing service's viability with the town's 2001 comprehensive plan in which the town's philosophy of development is expressed as being in line with Irvington's residential character as well as the intent to maintain traffic calming and pedestrian safety.

"If you had to pick a bad place that would cause further congestion, it would be that site," Stephens said.

Stephens further cited hazardous material and surface water quality issues. He recommended pollution prevention guidelines with best management practices such as bio-filter strips be implemented if the permit was approved in order to contain industrial wastewater that could contain leaking or drained automotive fluids.

Concern about hazardous material pollution at the site was also voiced by resident Sam Monroe and Chesapeake Academy headmaster Seth Ahlborn. They questioned the effect of any potential runoff pollution on a stormwater stream that parallels

"I'll plant roses if that's what they want to make sure there's no smell," Davis said.

Mike Christopher said the property owners absorbed the cost of a septic system inspection, which he reported showed no flow back-ups and a drainage rate of 12 gallons per minute. Additionally, he refuted Mosher's contention that the vehicle lift was leaking hydraulic fluid.

Mosher said the proximity of the wrecker service operation to Chesapeake Academy is also an issue.

"Is this the kind of stuff we want to have going on within a stone's throw of a hundred and some children?" Mosher asked.

He offered a motion to form a committee that could assess the technical restrictions for hazardous materials better than council. The committee would report its findings to the town planning commission for consideration, said Mosher.

However, Fleet countered that the matter has already been considered for two months and he encouraged council not "to let others do our business for us."

Mosher's motion failed to gain the required second to advance for a vote.

In prefacing his decisive vote, Fleet said he had weighed the arguments for and against the request that he had heard over the course of public hearings during two planning commission meetings and two council meetings. The original application for the request heard in January listed the use as a towing service. The use was amended for the second round of hearings this month to include minor auto repair.

The request was twice not recommended for council approval by the planning commission. A summary of the planners' decision, read by Fitzpatrick, included statements that the town residents opposed the nature of a towing service and that the use for a towing service was inconsistent with the philosophy of town development.

Name this bird!

The Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Seafood Festival mascot needs a name. Name the pelican and win \$100. The name will appear with the pelican on all advertising materials. Name suggestions may be sent to Bay Seafood Festival Logo, P. O. Box 1573, Kilmarnock, VA 22482, or www.kiwsrotary.org. Include your name and phone number. The deadline for submitting names is March 16. Only one name per contestant.



Irvington adopts special events schedule for 2004

by Robb Hoff

IRVINGTON—By a 6-0 vote, the town council last week endorsed a 2004 schedule of events to be sponsored by the town, the Irvington Chamber of Commerce and the Village Improvement Association. The events are based at the Irvington Commons on King Carter Drive.

Events coordinator David Raffetto told council Thursday that two concert dates remain to be determined, in May or June and August or September. The U.S. Air Force Band concert has been set for July 1.

The Irvington Farmers' Market resumes April 3 and will be held on the first Saturday of each month through the remainder of the year. The July 3 Farmers' Market will coincide with the town's annual Fourth of July Hometown Parade.

Other events set for 2004 are a Halloween costume contest on October 31, the annual Turkey Trot on November 25 and caroling under the town Christmas tree on December 24.

Dates have also been set in May and November for spring and fall fix-up and clean-up tasks in the town.

Public hearings

Following a public hearing, council unanimously approved a conditional use permit for Leah

B. Markis to operate a home occupation barber salon in a residentially zoned dwelling at 128 Steamboat Road.

Town administrator Jack Fitzpatrick informed council that of nine adjacent property owners notified about the request, three approved of the business use and one opposed it due to concerns about parking and driveway width.

Makris said her barber salon will be geared toward providing hair styling services for men but would also be available for women. She said her business would be primarily handled by appointment with the tentative hours of operation being 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. four days per week.

She was apprised of ordinance provisions that allow her to post a two-square-foot business sign at the property.

Following another public hearing, council also approved a conditional use permit for Candy and William Howard to construct an inground swimming pool at 84 Rowe's Point Road. Fitzpatrick said the project complies with Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requirements. No other public comment was presented.

Other action

In other matters, council accepted a bid by Kilmarnock Enterprises for grass cutting services at town property including the Irvington Commons, the triangular median at Irvington Road and Steamboat Road, and the town office grounds. The three-year contract sets the service fee at \$1,200 per year.

Council also unanimously approved a dues payment of \$75 for membership in the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Alexander McDonald Fleet issued a reminder that town vehicle tags are now on sale at the town office at 235 Steamboat Road. The tags cost \$20 and residents are required to bring their vehicle registration and social security number identification. Tags are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.



Jane Alley addresses the Lancaster Woman's Club.

Tutoring program explained

Guidance counselor Jane Alley recently explained the Lancaster Middle School Volunteer Tutoring Program to The Woman's Club of Lancaster.

"Tutoring students in our community is not only an excellent public service, but also it gives participants a great feeling of accomplishment," said Alley. "Our motto is 'together we make a difference' and it really happens in the Volunteer Tutoring Program."

The tutoring program is looking for men and women who can spend an hour a week to help students in grades four through eight in English or math. It's a one-on-one environment. Volunteers receive training; they are provided a handbook of teaching aids and lesson plans, and they have access to the teaching staff to assist in their tutorial efforts.

More students need help than there are tutors available. To learn more about the program, call Alley at 435-1681.

"No, you don't have to be a certified teacher," said Alley. "All you need is a strong commitment to help students develop their skills."

The next meeting of the Lancaster Woman's Club is March 10. To attend and hear about the Steamboat Museum in Irvington, call Anne Hanchey at 462-0133. The club welcomes its newest member, Joan Henderson.

▼ RGH . . . (continued from page A1)

tinues to lose money, with about 65 percent of its 270 births last year being to mothers on Medicaid. The cost per delivery to the hospital is about \$3,500. Medicaid reimburses the hospital \$1,900 per delivery.

Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr. is currently championing a budget amendment that would increase the Medicaid payments to rural Virginia hospitals.

Del. Pollard and Sen. John Chichester are also supporting an amendment to Senate Bill 601 to offer liability insurance to doctors and hospitals under the same policy umbrella that insures state hospitals like the University of Virginia. Insurance would be available through the risk management division of the Department of the Treasury.

Drs. Hamilton and Vogel would definitely fit the criteria for physician coverage because they have been refused liability insurance by one or more insurance carriers.

The bill, as amended, was passed by the Senate on February 16 and is en route to House of Delegates committees this week, but will not likely pass the legislature prior to the February 29 deadline.

However, according to Del. Pollard's aide, Carmen Kilduff, the bill includes an emergency clause which would put it into effect as soon as the governor signs it. Most bills do not take effect until July 1.

The Woman's Clubs of Lancaster and Northumberland counties adopted resolutions last week thanking the staff at RGH for its

continued care and calling on other womans' clubs in the state to contact the governor regarding medical insurance and Medicaid reimbursements. The clubs also endorsed the related legislation. Copies of their actions were forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

In the meantime, said Holmes, the hospital is continuing with its plans to suspend obstetrics services at the end of February.

However, RGH plans to employ Dr. Vogel so that he may continue to offer prenatal and gynecological care and be available for emergency deliveries only.

"We'd also like to have Dr. Hamilton on our staff as well," said Holmes, "and we are continuing to work on that."

The two doctors would not be able to routinely deliver babies at RGH.

Their practice will likely become part of the larger Chesapeake Medical Group (CMG), which falls under the umbrella company, Chesapeake Health Services, a holding company for RGH, CMG and the Chesapeake Pharmacies.

"This board truly has the best interest of the community and the citizens at heart," said Hubbard, "and we're trying to do what is best and what is right."

Legally, RGH cannot deny service to an expectant mother. However, if an emergency delivery is necessary, mother and child will be transported to the nearest obstetric facility once both are stabilized.

RGH's emergency room staff is currently undergoing neonatal resuscitation courses.



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