

February 19, 2004

KILMARNOCK, VIRGINIA



by Reid Pierce Armstrong  
 RICHMOND—The Virginia Senate prescribed an ounce of hope for doctors across the state Monday, providing for medical malpractice insurance to licensed doctors who are unable to obtain it otherwise.

The measure, which passed the Senate by a 40-0 vote, allows certain qualifying physicians and community hospitals to purchase medical malpractice insurance through the state's risk management plan.

The House of Delegates will consider the issue in coming weeks.

Senate Bill 601, as amended, is aimed to help doctors such as the obstetricians at Rappahannock General Hospital who were dropped from their medical malpractice liability plan after settling on four lawsuits in recent years. As a result, RGH plans to close the obstetrics unit at the end of February.

To qualify for the proposed program, physicians must hold a valid license issued by the Virginia Board of Medicine, participate in the Medicaid program or provide health care to patient clinics at least once per month, have active hospital privileges and have been refused medical malpractice liability insurance by at least two carriers.

The bill requires physicians who purchase malpractice insurance through the state to pay premiums that cover all the costs of the risk management plan, including administration costs. For most physicians, this would amount to a 25 percent increase over current premiums.

Physicians and hospitals purchasing coverage under the state plan would also have the option to purchase prior acts coverage or coverage for claims happening since the termination date of the

last policy. The bill has an emergency enactment clause, making it effective on its passage date.

A fiscal impact statement determined that the initial funding of the program would cost the state's general fund an estimated \$2 million to cover new staff positions, legal fees, insurance consultations and administrative fees.

The cost to the state in subsequent years is estimated at approximately \$460,000, which would occur due to insufficient premium revenue to cover all of the plan's expenses.

While there are currently 14 community hospitals and thousands of physicians across the state who could potentially qualify for the program, "The actual number of physicians and community hospitals to enroll in the plan is a significant unknown and indeterminable at this time," the impact statement reports.

West Virginia created a similar program in December 2001. During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2003, the program insured 1,193 physicians, 15 hospitals, 19 clinics and sustained an operating loss of nearly \$2 million, according to Virginia's fiscal impact statement.

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## Lancaster man gets life, ordered to pay \$750,000

RICHMOND—A Lancaster County man was sentenced last week to life in prison for his part in a conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in the Northern Neck, authorities reported.

Alexander J. Hardnett, 29, was also ordered to forfeit \$750,000, the value of the drugs prosecutors estimated he sold during a five-year period, according to U.S. Attorney Paul J. McNulty.

Hardnett began trafficking drugs in 1988 in New York City. Ten years later, he and others moved to Virginia and recruited associates, McNulty said.

The prosecutor said Kenneth Honor, Jerry Fontaine and Michael Woodson, also from New York City, and Cassandra Dam-

eron and Delores Duncan, both of Lancaster County, were also charged in the conspiracy.

In December, Honor was sentenced to 17 years and six months incarceration and Fontaine to 10 years and 10 months on convictions of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine.

A forfeiture order for \$1,296,000 was also entered against Honor for the proceeds of the cocaine sold through the conspiracy over a five-year period.

The cases were investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Virginia State Police in addition to officers from the sheriff's offices of Lancaster, Westmoreland and Northumberland counties.

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"It is struggling at this point to stay afloat," Latimore said.

He reported that a decrease of \$30,000 to \$40,000 is expected for liability insurance coverage through the Virginia Association of Counties.

(continued on page B8)

## Fugitive arrested in Georgia

LANCASTER—Sheriff Ronnie Crockett reported the arrest of fugitive Corey T. Thompson, 28, of Lancaster in Duluth, Georgia, on February 13. He was found hiding in a closet at about 4 a.m.

Thompson had eluded authorities since he escaped from Lancaster County Circuit Court January 9 just as he was about to be sentenced for multiple drug-related convictions.

At the time of his arrest, Thompson was in the company of his mother, Blanche M. Thompson, of Richmond. He falsely identified himself to Georgia authorities as Terry L. Thompson and claimed he was wanted for failure to pay child support.

Thompson remains in Gwinnett County jail pending extradition to Lancaster County, where he will face sentencing for convictions of crack cocaine possession, distribution, and conspiracy to distribute in addition to felony marijuana distribution and conspiracy to distribute convictions.

On January 23, a Lancaster County grand jury also indicted Thompson for felony obstruction of justice and five counts of felony failure to appear in court for each of his cocaine and marijuana convictions.

He also faces two charges for attempted capital murder of the Lancaster County sheriff's deputies who attempted to stop Thompson as he escaped by car.



Lancaster Community Library director Susanna Collins (standing) meets with Kevin Clayton, (from left) Annette Robinson, Louise Kelley and other parents and grandparents at a Lancaster Primary School CHIPS program to encourage the importance of reading as a family. The library and the CHIPS program have received funding from the Wiley Foundation.

## Community focus groups to target children's needs

IRVINGTON—In March, Lancaster County residents will have the opportunity to participate in community focus groups to discuss children's needs and make prioritized suggestions for improving the lives of children between birth and age seven. The Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation will sponsor the focus groups.

"Lancaster County is fortunate to have the opportunity to benefit from the vision Mrs. Wiley imagined for the young children of her native county" said foundation president Thomas A. Gosse who announced the Young Children Initiative on behalf of the board.

"With the involvement of concerned parents, grandparents, and professionals who understand the needs of young children today,

we have the potential to enhance the lives of all county residents by adding those services and educational opportunities not previously possible in a county of our size," continued Gosse. "The long-term nature of this initiative allows deliberate and careful thought in planning this vital portion of the county's future. The ideas, suggestions, and inspiration which result from these meetings of parents, educators, employers, and interested residents will deliver rewards for decades to come."

Established in 1981, the foundation is a perpetual gift from the late Mrs. Wiley to children who reside in or receive their education in Lancaster County. In its first two decades, the foundation has contributed to

a number of educational, day care, cultural enrichment and health care programs.

"We are so pleased the Nettie Lokey Wiley Foundation has supported the Curriculum at Home Involving Parents and Students (CHIPS) Program here at Lancaster Primary School for the past two years," said LPS principal Merle Stables. "Through this funding, we are able to provide additional early literacy assistance to pre-school and kindergarten parents and students."

Lancaster Community Library director Susanna Collins said "How important it is to the library, particularly to the children's program, to know the foundation's focus is on younger children. To have a local

(continued on page B8)

## School board considers \$5.2 million salary scale

by Robb Hoff

PITMANS CORNER—The Lancaster County School Board last week set the groundwork for a pay scale proposal that would boost the base salary for 137 teachers by some \$463,530 in next year's budget.

Coupled with a projected \$375,000 increase in social security, Virginia Retirement System and group life insurance benefits, additional funding for teacher salaries and benefits for 2004-05 would total about \$840,000.

"My goal was to make our scale competitive, which it certainly is," said board chairman William Smith, who drafted the pay scale after reviewing a version submitted by the school administration.

Smith said the 25-step scale would be competitive with salaries in area counties that have drawn teachers from Lancaster, where step increases on the pay scale have been frozen for the past four years and less than cost-of-living percentage raises applied instead.

"In the future we will see consistent salary increases across the board where there are steps," Smith said.

Years of experience are consolidated into steps at 10 of the 25 levels on the pay scale. Beginning teachers and teachers with one year of experience would earn a \$31,000 base salary at the first step. Teachers with three, four, and five years of experience would earn \$32,500 at the third step.

The projected 81 teachers with 14 or fewer years of experience would earn \$2.6 million in base salary for 2004-05.

The projected 56 teachers with more than 14 years of experience would account for \$2.5 million in base salary. Of these, 26 teachers with 28 or more years of service would account for \$1.3 million, including six with 35 years at the scale maximum of \$53,762 in salary.

The base figures do not include additional pay for masters or doctorates or supplemental salaries for additional work.

School superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore said \$105,000 in additional funds would also be sought for new textbook adoptions, pay raises and benefit increases for 93 other employees, the purchase of

one or two buses, an increase in the contribution toward health insurance benefits from \$225 monthly to \$285, and additional pay for substitute teachers.

He said additional expenses could be required for another vehicle and driver for two special education students.

Latimore added that no county funding is currently received for school cafeteria services, which some other localities do provide.

"It is struggling at this point to stay afloat," Latimore said.

He reported that a decrease of \$30,000 to \$40,000 is expected for liability insurance coverage through the Virginia Association of Counties.

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## A Closer Look

by Jane Tims

A walk alone lasts forever; equal distance with friends flies by. Up to 14 friends in the neighborhood of Little Bay Road walk four miles a day, five days a week, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The only components unquantified are the words that flow among them and the strength of the bonds that have grown.

The group started one-by-one in 1996, when Joycelyn Gilmore, a recently retired educator from Fairfax County, wanted to re-establish her walking routine here. She saw fellow church member Fran Ware walking by herself down Little Bay Road and asked if she'd like company.

Doris Brown, who has since moved away, joined them. Then Cecily Watson (now Kelln) moved here to be with her newly widowed mother, saw Fran walking, and fell into step. Cecily ran into Ginger Philbrick and Stephanie Schoppe at the White Stone Pharmacy and asked them to walk, too.

Like that, casually and one at a time, the number grew, just as snowballs roll gradually into snowmen. Snow,

by the way, doesn't stop them. Nor do morning appointments, late nights, or snooze buttons. Only rainfall keeps them home.

Mostly neighbors who live or have lived in the areas of Tabbs Creek, Antipoison Creek and Little Bay, these women are committed to the morning routine. Although not all the women come every day, each knows that when she gets to the starting point at the field off Dameron Road, others will be there, too. They are missed if they don't show up and too many absences bring phone calls of concern.

Appropriately, they have dubbed themselves the Little Bay Walkers and Talkers. It's the walking that tones and energizes them physically, but the talking feeds their souls.

They talk of volunteer work, church projects, recipes and gardening, personal concerns, current issues. They talk in clusters of two or three that shift like kaleidoscopes by the topic or at

the turnaround. They do not gossip.

From entwined activities, shared interests and intersecting histories, threads develop. Music and theater are recurring themes. Joycelyn and Ruth McClean sing in the Chesapeake Chorus. Fran was a Julliard-trained trum-

peter and her husband, John, was a professional musician. Joycelyn's husband, Don, was a high school band director. Cathy Baumhardt relishes classical music. Her husband, John, serves on the boards of the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts and the Northern Neck Orchestra and directs productions for the Lancaster Players, where Ruth's husband, Don, is board president.

Volunteering at Christ Church connects them. Cathy, Ruth and Karin

Lamb coordinated the docents last year and conducted informal meetings on foot. Ann Harris is a docent, Vickie White is a receptionist, and Joycelyn is in charge of special groups.

The walkers are strongly church-

ed. Many worship at Kilmarnock United Methodist or Grace Episcopal, where Ruth is director of Christian education. Fran and Millie Jodrey are Stephen ministers. Ginger is a preacher's kid, and Ruth, a pastor's wife.

They're global. Ruth was a missionary in Japan, Karin grew up in wartime Germany, Cecily was an early Peace Corps member in Latin America and studied later in Mexico, updating her Spanish. Jane Hall taught Latin at Mary Washington College and chairs the National Latin Exam.

Steph helps teach the YMCA's tai chi class and models and paints at the Rappahannock Art League's Main Street Gallery. Ruth, Cathy, Ann and Ginger play mahjongg together. Kim

Bizell, the youngest, who works with her husband at Morning Star Associates, shares familiar tales of adolescents still at home. B.J. Kight has the newest job, at Jim and Pat Carter Real Estate in Irvington.

There are hometown ties. B.J.'s husband's grandfather delivered Joycelyn a few years ago in Norfolk. Fran and Jane grew up in neighboring New York towns of Poughkeepsie and Irvington.

The group helped Steph through the illness and death of her husband, and Cecily through the romance and marriage to hers. They had a bridal shower for Vickie's daughter, married Saturday. They pick up trash thrice yearly on Little Bay Road, host an annual Christmas party for couples, and some organize the Fourth of July celebration on Antipoison Creek.

Had enough connections? The Walkers and Talkers have not. They'll be hoofing again in the morning, next week, next year. You can count on it, and that's the point.

(I, meanwhile, woke up this morning and deemed it too windy to walk.)







Gordon Winfield (right) passes van keys to Healthy Beginnings director Patricia Hein.

### Van donated to family program

The Community Mission Program of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church recently donated a Pontiac Montana van to Healthy Beginnings enabling the organization to expand its outreach to young families.

Healthy Beginnings serves those who face difficulties meeting the multiple demands of family life. Its focus is improved health for children and parents, school readiness and increased

family stability. Healthy Beginnings is working with 40 families, including 65 children. The program provided over 850 home visits in 2003.

The Community Mission Program makes grants throughout the year to community organizations serving the needs of others. To contact Healthy Beginnings, call 333-4999. To contact the Community Mission Program, call 438-6875.

### Lenten Community Noon-day Services begin on Wednesday

Beginning February 25 at 12:05 p.m., the Lancaster County Ministerial Association will sponsor annual Lenten Community Noon-day Services at Grace Episcopal Church at 303 S. Main Street in Kilmarnock.

The services will be from 12:05 to 12:30 p.m. followed by

a luncheon in the Grace Church parish house. A donation of \$4 is requested to cover the cost of the lunch.

The Rev. Dr. John Houghton will be the preacher on February 25.

The services continue each Wednesday through April 7.

## Church Notes

### ■ Gospel Chorus turns 24

The Mount Vernon Baptist Church Gospel Chorus will celebrate 24 years of singing God's praise on Saturday, February 21, at 5 p.m.

The guest will be the Gospel Tones of Williamsburg.

### ■ Concert to benefit scholarship fund

The Rappahannock Chapter of Virginia State University Alumni Association will present in concert Sister Cora Harvey Armstrong and the "Full Deliverance Singers" on March 7, at 5 p.m. at Zion Baptist Church in Lottsburg.

The concert will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

### ■ Cultural Program set

The annual Cultural Program sponsored by the Northern Neck Women's Commission will be March 20 at 6 p.m. at Hartswell Baptist Church in Ottoman.

A pageant entitled, "Women of Crowning Qualities and Good Works" will be presented. The pageant will be narrated and members of the Northern Neck Missionary Societies will portray

Biblical women and an African-American woman with similar attributes.

### ■ LCMA to meet

The Lancaster County Ministerial Association will meet Monday, February 23, at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock at 8:30 a.m. County clergy are encouraged to meet for this special time of fellowship and gathering.

### ■ Concert is Sunday

The Ebenezer Gospel Chorus will have its annual program on Sunday, February 22, at 3 p.m. The Zion Knights of Caret will be in full concert. The program will be at Ebenezer Baptist Church at 1768 Sharps Road in Warsaw.

### ■ Musical noted

Bethany Baptist will present a church musical on February 28 at 7 p.m.

Participants include Justified of King George, Faron and Gary Hamblin of Callao, Diane and Wayne Brann of the Bethany church family and the Bethany church children.

### Soup, sandwiches and saints to share the Lenten spotlight

The Episcopal Churches of Richmond County will observe the Lenten season with a series of soup and sandwich suppers, studies of the saints, and the office of Compline.

Scheduled for March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, the suppers, saints studies and service will take place in the T. Dabney Wellford Parish Hall at St. John's Church in Warsaw.

Soup and sandwich suppers begin at 6 p.m. and will be hosted by the Episcopal Church Women of St. John's Church and Farnham Church.

"For All The Saints," a study of greater and lesser, ancient and modern saints will be led by the Rev. Michael J. Malone of St. John's and Farnham Churches.

The evening will end with the office of Compline.

### Rev. Cerar recognized for service

The Northumberland Ministerial Association recently honored the Rev. Jeffrey O. Cerar, rector of St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Heathsville, for six years of service as secretary and treasurer from 1997 through 2003.

He begins his seventh year of service in 2004.

Rev. Cerar has served as the rector of St. Stephens Episcopal Church since 1996. Prior to that, he served St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Woodbridge. He is a member of the "Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia" for the Episcopal Church and was the area delegate to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2003, which met in Minneapolis, Minn. Rev. Cerar and his wife, Lynne, have two grown daughters, Heather and Melissa.

The next meeting of the NMA is March 4 at 7:45 a.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Rev. Gayle Fowler will present a brief program on community building and service.

### RW-C sets Black History Celebration

The Rev. Dale Bunns of Weems will be the guest speaker at a Black History Celebration at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury on February 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Rev. Bunns is the pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Newland.

The RW-C staff choir, led by Patricia Laws, will perform under the direction of Jackson Blackstone, guest accompanist and director. Tom Rohacek will sing a solo.

The Rev. Genita Maiden and Chaplain Davis Smith are coordinating a service of readings and other contributions by staff members.

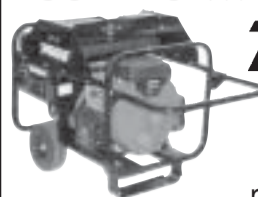
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## Obituaries

### Vivian J. A. Washington

CALLAO—Vivian Jeanette Askins Washington, 88, died February 10, 2004.

Mrs. Washington was born in Callao May 16, 1915, to Henry and Bettie Askins. She was the second of nine children. She attended Northumberland County public schools and joined Lively Hope Baptist Church in Callao where she became a member of the Progressive Club, Usher Board, Missionary Circle, the Cemetery Club and the Willing Workers Club.

She was a longtime cook at local restaurants. She also worked at local factories.

She married John Henry Washington December 15, 1937.

She was predeceased by her husband, four children and a grandson, Kervin "Jim" Burrell.

She is survived by a daughter, Fannie Washington Burrell of Callao; a brother, William Askins of Baltimore; Burnett Woodson, who was raised as a sister; two sisters-in-law, Polly Askins and Mary Ann Askins of Baltimore; a brother-in-law, Clifton A. McCoy of Callao; four grandchildren, Wreatha Washington, Rhonda Wonsom, Richard Washington (whom she raised) and Carrington Burrell; 11 great-grandchildren, Rochelle, Tiffany, Caroline, Danielle, Nicole, Donte, Colby, Richard Jr., Carrington, Rayvon and Drayfus; five great-great-grandchildren, Brandon, Maurice, Janea, D'ovion and O'Reiona; a great-granddaughter-in-law, Rosilyn Burrell

of Washington, D.C., and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral service was held February 15 at Lively Hope Baptist Church with Dr. Lawrence B. Samuels officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Clifton McCoy Jr., Henry Thompson, Wallace McCoy, Tony Stevenson, Sylvester Maith and Willie Wiggins.

### Lucille B. Wilson

LIVELY—Lucille Brooks Wilson, 78, died February 6, 2004.

Mrs. Wilson was born December 26, 1925, to Alice and Robert Brooks in Morattico. She attended Lancaster County public schools and joined Beulah Baptist Church in Lively.

She married Henry Wilson of King and Queen County.

She resided at Ravenswood Convalescent Home in Baltimore for 46 years due to several strokes.

She is survived by two sisters, Hattie Brooks and Victoria Brown of Baltimore; a niece, Beatrice Gaskins; a nephew, Charles Weaver; four great-nieces, Sandra, Faith, Sherry and Cathy; six great-nephews, Stanley, Mathews Jr., Terry, Vincent, Charles Jr. and Carl, and great-great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral service was held February 11 at Beulah Baptist Church in Lively with Rev. Ronald Dunaway officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.



## We've added a few new feet in Kilmarnock.

In fact, 11,000 feet to be exact. Mayfair House Kilmarnock has added a new 11,000 square foot wing to our beautiful assisted living home. The new expansion includes 12 deluxe private rooms and 8 studio rooms plus a large solarium/sun room, activity room and a large living room with a fireplace to keep residents cozy. Call or visit us soon.



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SPECIAL MOVE-IN ALLOWANCE FOR FIRST 10 NEW RESIDENTS!





Attending the recent Nurses Day rally in Richmond were (from left, front row) Ceciley Haynes, RCC nursing program coordinator Catherine M. Courtney, RN, Erin Nelson-Goodwyn, Carrie Townshend, adjunct nursing instructor Elsie Mangano, Julie Paugh, (standing on steps), Laura Deskins, Taylor Ellis, Alena Martinez, Skip Rowe, Jennifer Holland and Jane Loftis.

## Nursing students call on General Assembly

"Unless we increase the number of registered nurses in Virginia within the next ten years, we will not have enough nurses to care for Virginia's citizens."

So states a position letter from the Virginia Nurses Association (VNA) to members of the General Assembly.

Virginia's already critical nursing shortage is projected to worsen and concerned Rappahannock Community College nursing students joined VNA members February 4 at the 19th annual "Nurses' Day" at the General Assembly.

Legislation promoted by the VNA is calculated to ease the critical shortage now and in the future and address other public health issues.

Students came from throughout RCC's service region, and were accompanied by associate professor Catherine Courtney, coordinator of RCC's nursing program; their attendance was funded by RCC's Educational Foundation.

After being welcomed to the day's events by VNA president Florence Jones-Clarke, attendees heard Lt. Gov. Timothy Kaine on "Health Policy and Funding." Lt. Gov. Kaine said that while there are 85,000

registered nurses licensed in Virginia, only 44,000 of them are working and the present situation can only get worse.

By 2020, if current trends continue, there will be a shortage of 20,000 nurses in Virginia. In order to address this shortage, he said, Virginia's eight state-supported university schools of nursing and the Virginia Community College System's 14 nursing programs must increase enrollment and graduations by 50 percent by 2010.

Budget amendments designed to bring about this outcome are supported by the VNA.

"I was impressed," said Catherine Courtney. "Mr. Kaine did his homework."

A workshop on "Health Issues in the General Assembly" was conducted by Judy Irvin, the VNA's commissioner on government relations. In addition to those emphasizing increased funding for nursing education, bills that the VNA supports would increase state contributions to the Medicaid program to provide better health care for uninsured Virginians and would ban unsafe 15-passenger vans. Several bills related to the tobacco tax

are also included.

In the afternoon, Virginia Secretary of Education Belle Wheelan spoke on "The Future of State-Funded Nursing Programs in Virginia." She sees ample room for improvement in funding programs. All the Commonwealth's nursing programs suffer from a shortage of faculty, a shortage likely to worsen due to the retirement of current nursing faculty, and the effects of the general shortage of nurses.

In its legislative position letter, the VNA states that the projected shortage of nurses "will mean that hospitals will have to close beds and emergency rooms, long-term care facilities will not be properly staffed, and the health of Virginians will suffer."

RCC's attendance at the General Assembly Nurses' Day concluded with visits with legislators and a rally on the Capitol grounds.

## Public may scrutinize textbooks

Lancaster County public schools have completed a textbook review process for reading K-5 and science K-12.

The public is invited to view the recommended textbooks at Lancaster Primary School parent resource center; Lancaster Middle School, front lobby; and Lancaster High School, media center.

Recommendations to adopt the texts will be given to the school board at its March 8 meeting.

## LHS names Honor Roll

Lancaster High School has announced its "A" average, "B+" average and "B" average Honor Rolls for the first semester. The "A" average requires a GPA of 4.0, the "B+" a GPA average of 3.5, and the "B" average a GPA of 3.0.

Named to the "A" Honor Roll in the ninth grade are Luke Bessler, Nathan Blake, Amanda Dreylich, Thomas Frere, Cleon Rice, Kylie Robbins, Sarah Robertson, Emily Shrader, Paul Vest and Rebecca Wineland.

Named in the 10th grade are Jessica Barefoot, Timothy Blake, Rebekah Conboy, Roxann Francis, Jacob Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Therese Killion, Jessie Love, Leif Mieras, Brianna Oltermann and Erica Patton.

Named in the 11th grade are Maria Bessler, Jennifer Combs, David Hurdall, Scott Pruitt, Louise Santangelo and Katherine Shrader.

Named in the 12th grade are Bobby Collier, Catherine Dameron, Stacey Davis, Stanley "S.W." Dawson III, Laura Hughes, Catherine James, Jacquelyn Murray, Susan O'Shaughnessy, John Robbins, Heather West and Elizabeth Wilkins.

Named to the "B" Honor Roll in the ninth grade are Loreese Ball, Solita Beale, Morgan Bishop, Devin Brown, Taylor Clark, Benjamin Conboy, Sarah Davis, Kori George, Brandy Gilbert, Quintese Henderson, Emily Hines, William Jackson, James Kellum, Joshua Lewis, Brian Luckham, Lucy McCann, Kari Mitchell, Franklin Moore, Shannon Rasmussen, Steven Reid, Tabitha Rinehart, Etoyia Roane, Daniel Robertson, William Saunders, Alexandra Sherrill, Amber Smith, Madison Smith, Miles Smith, Charles Stetson and Christopher Wyvill.

Named in the tenth grade are Jacqueline Broughton, Courtney Carter, Brittany Dodson, Keyonda Frederick, Autumn Gaskins, Ashley Gibson, Megan Headley, Erin Kellum, Bethany Revere, Mary Louise Sanders, Candice Selph, Tiffany Smith and Kimberly White.

Named in the 11th grade are Daniel Armstrong, Jaimie Ashburn, Elizabeth Bedell, Nicole Broughton, Reisha Carter, Erin Fearing, Tasha Foster, Stephanie Hottle, Joshua Hudson, Elizabeth Jackson, Kristen Mitchell, Seth Ramos, Melissa Santangelo, Giles Scott and Nathaniel Stichel.

Named in the 12th grade are Kato Carter, Matthew Guthrie, Kavey Henderson, Michelle Joyall, Rebekah Revere and Dominique Robinson.

Named to the "B" Honor Roll in the ninth grade are Sheneak Ball, Christopher Clark, Chamaria Dillon, Tiffany Eanes, Emily Elbourn, Jessica Erceolino, Eric Fallin, Chad Forrester, Jonathan George, Kristen Harding, John W. Lut-

## Dulcimer workshop scheduled

The Hammer Heads, a Hammered Dulcimer Society of Southeastern Virginia, is sponsoring workshops on hammered dulcimer, guitar, and mountain dulcimer, on March 13 and 14.

"We're looking for musicians from the Northern Neck area to join us for a fun day of instruction and camaraderie," said Sandy Barton.

Beginner- to intermediate-level hammered dulcimer workshops will be presented by Karen Ashbrook and Jody Marshall. Paul Oorts will give intermediate/advanced guitar classes on Saturday and a mountain dulcimer class for all levels on Sunday.

Saturday classes are at Virginia Beach Central Library at 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard in Virginia Beach. Sunday workshops are at Tidewater Tech at 932 Ventures Way in Chesapeake.

A concert Saturday evening at the Virginia Beach Central Library features the three instructors and Bill and Pam Gurley of Regina.

Early registration discounts may apply, and advance sale concert tickets are discounted. Call 757-312-9696, or email hammerheads@cox.net.



### Curry earns Dean's List

Erika R. Curry of Weems was named to the Dean's List at Tidewater Technical College where she is majoring as a computer administration specialist. She is a member of the Lancaster High School Class of 1995. She is the daughter of Darlean Curry of Weems and Cleveland Curry of Edwardsville. She is the granddaughter of the late Frances and Lee Williams of Nuttsville and Shirley and James Curry of Kilmarnock.



### 'Smart Dogs' win Brain Bowl

Fifth-grade Brain Bowl winners for week four of the SOL review at Lancaster Middle School are (from left) Kevin Cutting, Keith Veney, Anthony Bruno and Marcus Mondy of the "Smart Dogs."

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## Grace Church scholarship applications are available

Since 1986, Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock has had an established scholarship aid program for Lancaster High School graduates who plan to attend Virginia state-supported colleges or universities.

Candidates applying for scholarship aid should have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Students planning to attend community college should have a grade point average of 2.25 or higher. All applicants must have completed a Federal Financial Aid form.

Grants are made after the end of the school year. Returning college

students who are graduates are also eligible and will be considered as funds permit.

Applications for graduating seniors are available through the guidance counselor or the Grace Episcopal Church office.

Applications need to be received at the Grace Episcopal Church office no later than June 1. The address is Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1059, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Applications for returning college students who are graduates are available only through the church office.



Lancaster High band members participating in All District Band are (from left) Laura Hughes, Jackie Murray, Chris Robbins, Jeffrey Darden, Jessie Love, Jacqui Broughton, Ricky Cockrell, Nikki Broughton, Katie Shrader, Paul Polk and Courtney Carter.

## LHS band members compete for All District and All State honors

Last December, 700 band students from the 25 high schools in District 15, which includes all of the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Stafford, all converged on Brook Point High School in Stafford County to audition for judges.

Their goal was to be selected to All District Band, and travel to Spotsylvania High School February 13 and 14 to perform together as a select band. Only 100 students were selected for this honor.

Lancaster High School had 11 students selected (the most ever selected from LHS). They are Laura Hughes, Jackie Murray,

Nikki Broughton, Katie Shrader and Courtney Carter, all on clarinet; Jessie Love on French horn; Jacqui Broughton on trumpet; Ricky Cockrell and Paul Polk on tuba; Chris Robbins on oboe, and Jeffrey Darden on bassoon.

For the audition, the students were required to play three scales of the judges' choosing, and sight read two selections they had never seen before. The students who scored the highest were selected. Two of our students, Jessie Love and Jackie Murray, scored so high, that they are now eligible to travel to James Madison University on February 28 to try out for All State Band.

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**Future teachers club organizes**

A chapter of the Future Teachers of America has been organized at Lancaster Middle School. The club is open to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students, above, and is advised by Rosemary Moody, at right. The club promotes careers in education, excellence in members' academic achievement and developing a positive self image. The club selects two teachers a month as "showcased teachers" who are highlighted in a display. Club members are also working on a display celebrating Black History Month.

**Academy names Headmaster's List, Honor Roll**

Chesapeake Academy has named its Headmaster's List and Honor Roll for the second nine weeks and the first semester. An asterisk denotes all "A's."

Named to the Headmaster's List for the second nine weeks are \*Cyrus Jett, Natalie Kohlhepp, Jackson Neal, \*Patrick Best, Hannah Newman, \*John Radcliffe and \*Rachel Wyvill.

Named to the Honor Roll are Carter Sutton Aines, Alexis English, Alexis Hayden, Ivy Perkins, Elizabeth Rogers, Sammy Somers, Teddy Szyperski, Jamie Ahlborn, Kasey Ashburn, Austin Brown, Alexander Crittenden, Emma Hollowell, Ford Kirkmyer, Whitney Spence, Robbie Brent, Mikey Faulkner, Kaitlyn Hand, Leland James, Timothy Johnson, Weston Johnson, Jenny O'Shaughnessy, Stephen Blunt, Livvy Gill, Sarah Jones, Taylor Nelson, Laura Nost, Laura Ransone, Tyler Reeves, Eleanor Smith, Michael Harris, Ryan Holbrook, Sarah Hollowell and Matthew Newman.

Named to the Headmaster's List for the first semester are \*Cyrus Jett, \*Kasey Ashburn, Jackson Neal, \*Patrick Best, \*John Radcliffe, \*Rachel Wyvill and Taylor Nelson.

Named to the Honor Roll are Carter Sutton Aines, Alexis English, Alexis Hayden, Natalie Kohlhepp, Ivy Perkins, Elizabeth Rogers, Sammy Somers, Teddy Szyperski, Jamie Ahlborn, Austin Brown, Alexander Crittenden, Emma Hollowell, Ford Kirkmyer, Whitney Spence, Robbie Brent, Kaitlyn Hand, Leland James, Timothy Johnson, Weston Johnson, Hannah Newman, Jenny O'Shaughnessy, Stephen Blunt, Livvy Gill, Sarah Jones, Laura Nost, Laura Ransone, Tyler Reeves, Eleanor Smith, Michael Harris, Sarah Hollowell and Matthew Newman.



Kenneth Sadler Meyers

**Meyers remains on top of grades**

Kenneth Sadler Meyers recently completed his third consecutive semester at Virginia Commonwealth University with a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average. He is a sophomore in V.C.U.'s pre-med honors program with plans for a career in neurosurgery.

In 2003, Meyers was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma, National Freshman Scholastic Honor Society, and is listed in The National Deans List Registry, 26th edition. A 2002 graduate of Woodberry Forest School, he attended Chesapeake Academy.

Meyers is the son of Cheryl Sadler Pugh of Kilmarnock and George W. Meyers Jr. of Fredericksburg.

**WSHS reunion now organizing**

Plans are in progress for a reunion of all former White Stone High School students of the 1950s. The date is tentatively set for June 19 and 20. Schedule and location will depend on the amount of interest shown.

Input is needed on the White Stone High School history of the 50s, particularly on the Class of 1950.

To register interest in attending the event or to share information, contact Florence and F.S. Turlington at 435-7263, or John and Betty Taliaferro at 435-3475. Written replies may be sent to Reunion, P.O. Box 31, White Stone, VA 22578.

**School Menu**

Following are next week's breakfast and lunch menu in Lancaster County. Chilled milk is served with each meal.

- LANCASTER**
- Monday, February 23:** Sausage biscuit, apple juice. Hot dog on bun, French fries, peas & carrots.
- Tuesday, February 24:** Egg w/cheese omelet, hot bun, orange juice. Chili w/corn bread, baked potato, spiced applesauce.
- Wednesday, February 25:** Chicken biscuit, grape juice. Turkey w/lettuce & tomato sub, potato wedges, fresh fruit.
- Thursday, February 26:** Cereal, hot bun, orange juice. Salisbury steak w/gravy, mashed potatoes, peach cobbler, hot roll.
- Friday, February 27:** French toast sticks, w/syrup, fruit juice. Fish on bun, tater tots, green beans.

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## Local agency will develop bank's marketing campaigns

McFadden Clay Marketing Group in White Stone announced recently that Chesapeake Bank has joined its growing roster of clients.

As Chesapeake Bank's agency of record, McFadden Clay will develop marketing campaigns centered on print and radio advertising, lobby promotions, and collateral materials promoting products and services offered by the bank's nine offices.

McFadden Clay founder and president Susan McFadden, noted that the agency's "strong track record in regard to

marketing financial services combined with our in-depth knowledge of the lower Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Williamsburg" played a key role in Chesapeake Bank's decision.

She cited McFadden Clay's work for local historical and cultural attractions, community organizations and its success in promoting local clients to regional and national markets.

McFadden said her entire staff was impressed with Chesapeake Bank's integrity and professionalism and management's determination to be

responsive to their customers' needs.

"We knew right away that this was a client whose story needed to be told," McFadden said. "And we're pleased to have the opportunity to tell it."

Chesapeake Bank president Jeff Szyperski said, "The McFadden Clay team made a strong presentation and convinced us that they have the creative flair and marketing know-how to get the word out about the way we do business. We're launching our first campaign right now and looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship."

## Farmers could be spared from rising medical costs

While everyone feels the effects of pricey health care, those with high-deductible insurance, including many farmers, feel the spike quicker. Because they're often self employed, farmers are forced to purchase high-deductible insurance plans because they're more affordable.

In 2002, health care spending in the United States tallied \$1.6 trillion, up from \$1.3 trillion in 2000, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This marked the sixth consecutive year health spending grew at an accelerated pace. Health spending grew 5.7 percentage points faster than the overall economy during 2002.

Fortunately, according to the

American Farm Bureau Federation, there's a silver lining in the new Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 for those with high-deductible health insurance plans. Authorized late last year, the act includes legislation for a new program that creates health savings accounts (HSA).

"This is good news for farmers. Health care costs for our nation's ag producers have been skyrocketing. We need every idea that we can come up with to help farmers get affordable health care, and health savings accounts will be a big help," said Pat Wolff, a tax specialist for Farm Bureau.

Starting immediately, farmers with high-deductible health

plans will be able to set aside money each year, tax-free, in an HSA. The accounts can be used to pay for medical expenses, and money in the account gains tax-free interest, just like an individual retirement account. There are no income-related eligibility requirements, and at death unused balances can be passed tax-free to a surviving spouse.

"We should see insurance companies start to offer new products and new kinds of health care coverages that will save farmers money," Wolff said.

To qualify, participants must have health insurance with a deductible of at least \$1,000 per individual or \$2,000 per family. For more information, visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or call 800-633-4227.

## Extension agent receives award

Samuel M. Johnson of Warsaw, a Virginia Tech agricultural and natural resources extension agent, received the university's 2003 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension.

The award was presented at a recent ceremony. The annual convocation honors the most distinguished faculty and staff at the university whose exceptional academic and service achievements warrant the highest commendation of their peers. Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger and Provost Mark McNamee preside at the annual event.

Established in 1976 by the alumni association, the award is presented each year to recognize outstanding members of the Extension faculty.

In his 25 years as an agent, Johnson has supported the farmers and community of Westmoreland. He was instrumental in developing the Northern Neck Vegetable Growers Association, which helped to establish the Northern Neck Farmers' Market. Thirty-nine farms participated in the wholesale market in 2001, selling millions of dollars worth of produce. He serves on a regional migrant council that has established educational programs for migrant workers and their families, and works with them on agriculture, health, nutrition and housing issues.



Samuel M. Johnson

In his Extension work, Johnson also has worked to protect the Chesapeake Bay and improve water quality. He has helped reduce the amount of pesticides in the area by teaching integrated pest management to farmers.

Johnson is active in publicizing the efforts of the Westmoreland Extension Office by publishing a newsletter, providing articles for the Westmoreland News, and provides weekly radio spots. He also promotes nutritional programs, such as a "five-a-day" vegetable-consumption nutrition program with 4-H campers.

## Meetings set on SBA certification

Rep. Jo Ann Davis last week announced two town meetings to discuss the Northern Neck HUBZone program, which seeks to stimulate economic development and job creation in urban and rural communities by providing federal contracting preferences to small businesses that qualify.

The two meetings will be conducted by Rep. Davis' district staff will bring representatives from the Small Business Administration to discuss what firms in the Northern Neck qualify for the program.

"These meetings will discuss which small businesses in the Northern Neck can obtain HUBZone certification," said Rep. Davis. "The lower four counties of the Northern Neck qualify as HUBZone counties. The Small Business Administration can provide assistance and guidance to market Northern Neck firms' products and services to the appropriate federal agencies. I would encourage small business owners and even county staff to attend one of the meetings to learn more about HUBZones."

She noted that for businesses to qualify, they must be a small business by SBA size standards, owned by a U.S. citizen, and at least 35 percent of its employees must reside in a HUBZone.

A meeting will be held February 24 at the Colonial Beach town center at 116 Washington Avenue in Colonial Beach from 10 a.m. to noon.

On February 25, the meeting will be held at the Kilmarnock town hall at 514 Main Street in Kilmarnock from 10 a.m. to noon.

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| CSX Corporation .....          | 31.60  |
| Chesapeake Financial ....      | *30.75 |
| Chesapeake Corp .....          | 24.93  |
| Davenport Equity Fund ...      | 12.45  |
| Dominion Resources .....       | 63.02  |
| Eastern VA Bank Shares .       | 25.82  |
| Exxon Mobil .....              | 41.91  |
| IBM .....                      | 99.71  |
| Kraft Foods .....              | 32.94  |
| Omega Protein .....            | 7.95   |
| Sun Trust (Formerly Crestar) . | 73.78  |
| Union Bankshares .....         | 32.70  |
| Verizon .....                  | 37.65  |
| Wachovia Bank .....            | 47.52  |
| Zapata Corp .....              | 56.76  |

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From left are training director Ann Graziano, Edie Johnston, Shirley Haynie, Terri Thaxton, Charles Braun, Gloria Duggin, Linda Barnes, JoAnn Ableiter and Maria Laqueur.

## Hospice trains eight new volunteers

Eight new volunteers recently completed a winter hospice volunteer training class.

The three-week class introduced the new volunteers to the many aspects of providing hospice care to patients and their families.

The program was again organized and conducted by Ann Graziano, who for the 12th year has served as training director. Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck is extremely grateful for her ongoing support.

Thanks also go to Dr. Rocky Tingle, hospice medical director; to Rev. Richard Headley, chaplain for Mary Washington Hospice; to Del Hinman of

Rappahannock Home Health; to Connie Deagle, director of the Cancer Unit at Rappahannock General Hospital; and to Frannie Langford of Riverside Hospice, for their contributions to the training program.

Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, helping patients and their families on a non-medical basis. The new volunteers are a welcome addition, since currently over 80 patients with terminal or life-threatening illnesses are being assisted with such services as giving respite to caregivers, running errands and providing transportation for the patient or the family caregiver.

Hospice also arranges the loan of medical equipment including hospital beds, wheel-

chairs and walkers. There are no charges to the patient or the family for any of these services. This is made possible because of the generous giving by the people of the Northern Neck through charitable donations and memorials, as well as their support for Hospice's only fund-raising event, the Turkey Shoot Regatta.

Those interested in helping others to cope with one of the greatest challenges to confront a family should know that their help is truly needed. There will be another volunteer training class in the fall. Anyone who may have a need for the Hospice services, or are interested in becoming a volunteer, should contact Linda Hinson at 333-0084, 888-333-9110, or by e-mail at [hospicen@innanet.net](mailto:hospicen@innanet.net).



Louise Mohardt

## Louise Mohardt attends geriatric care workshop

Louise Mohardt, president of Geriatric Support Services, recently attended the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (GCM) Advanced Practice Retreat in Miami. GCMs are trained in nursing, social work or gerontology, and are specialists in elder care.

Mohardt has been providing services to families in the Northern Neck and Essex County for five years.

Families often struggle with elder care issues. A consultation can provide preventive maintenance. The first step is an assessment of a client's physical, mental and home safety status.

"Elder care can be complicated and confusing," said Mohardt. "An assessment can give a family direction. Informed decisions save both time and money."

### Business Briefs

#### Childcare class set

A workshop for childcare providers in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck will be held Saturday, February 21, at the Cooks Corner office complex in Middlesex County.

Registration is from 8:30 to 9 a.m.; the workshop is from 9 a.m. to noon. The fee is \$3. For more information, call Kathy Sauter of the InterCounty Childcare Connection, at 693-9446 or 866-336-9181 PIN 8484.

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Volunteers contribute thousands of hours each year performing a variety of jobs. Running the circulation desk, maintaining the stacks, and assisting

patrons are the most visible jobs. Behind the scenes, volunteers catalog new material, repair books and tapes, serve on committees and help out in a myriad of ways whenever the need arises.

Responses given when asked why they volunteer at the library include: "I love books. Giving something back to the community. Getting to know new people. Having fun."

We're always looking for new volunteers and are having a Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Tuesday, February 24, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please join us and learn more about the many ways you can get involved at the Lancaster Community Library.

## Lions hold oyster roast

The Lancaster Lions Club held its annual Oyster Roast on February 10 at Northern Neck Marine in White Stone. The facilities were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Brien Treacle.

Forty Lions and guests attended the event which was open to the public.

Club secretary Judy Kellum reported that a wonderful time was had by all and the evening was a great success.

The club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Willaby's Restaurant in White Stone at 7 p.m.

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▼ **Police . . . .**

(continued from page B1)

drunkenness. A River Road man, 23, was charged February 15 with issuing a bad check on September 20, trespass on February 15, and resisting arrest.

**Accidents**

Five accidents were reported. Response was made with the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department on February 13 for a weather-related single-vehicle accident on the Norris Bridge. Response was made with the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department on February 15 for a single-vehicle accident at Court House and Beanes Road.

Three of the accidents involved collisions with deer. They occurred in Ottoman on February 9, the White Stone area on February 13, and the Old Mill Cove and Irvington Road area on February 15.

**Other responses**

On February 9, response was made to the 3500 block of Weems Road for a civil dispute over a repossession. The staff also received a burglary complaint in the 2300 block of Devils Bottom Road.

On February 10, response was made for a dispute on Sunset Drive and Western Branch and Clover Lane during an investigation of complaints about suspicious persons. Traffic complaints were received on Johns Neck Road and Oak Hill Road involving construction vehicles. The staff received a larceny report on Tabbs Cove Lane.

On February 12, response was made for a reported fight in the 2300 block of Merry Point Road, the attempt to locate a wanted person in the White Stone area, a complaint about a reckless driver in the Lively area, and a complaint of a suspicious vehicle in the 5700 block of Mary Ball Road. The staff also received a complaint about drunk driving in the Lively area.

On February 13, response was made with Kilmarnock police to a drunk and disorderly conduct complaint on Irvington Road. Response was also made for a disorderly conduct complaint near High Bank and Mary Ball Roads and a child custody complaint on Lumberlost Road.

On February 14, the sheriff's staff assisted White Stone police with a traffic stop on Windmill Point Road and responded to a domestic disturbance on Leetown Road.

On February 15, responses were made to investigate a reported injury at the Rappahannock General Hospital emergency room, a traffic complaint about juveniles operating go-carts on Chestnut Point Road, and a domestic disturbance in the 3400 block of River Road.

On February 16, response was made for a child custody complaint on Mosquito Point Road, and a burglary was reported in the 2900 block of Merry Point Road. The staff also received complaints of larceny from a vehicle in the 5900 block of Irvington Road and vandalism on Duckbill Road.

Additionally during the week, the sheriff's staff made 10 inmate transports, made nine traffic stops with five summonses issued, provided motorist assistance seven times, and responded to two building alarms.

In additional calls for fire department service during the week, the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department responded to Redwood Lane for a report of smoke at a residence.

**Northumberland County Sheriff Wayne Middleton** reported eight arrests last week.

Scottie Joe Martin, 27, of Reedville was charged with a probation violation.

Christopher Thomas Ristich, 24, of Ophelia was charged with a probation violation.

Joseph M. Sanderson, 43, of Reedville was charged with grand larceny.

A Reedville man, 42, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, the second such offense within five years, and refusal to submit to breath test.

A Wicomico Church man, 39, was charged with failure to appear in the General District Court.

A Burgess man, 24, was charged with failure to appear in the General District Court.

A Callao man, 40, was charged with transporting a loaded shotgun in a vehicle on public highways.

A Hague man, 39, was charged with failure to appear in the General District Court.

The sheriff's staff also responded to reports of a larceny in the Ophelia area, during which an outboard motor propeller valued at \$500 was taken, and a larceny in which \$1,500 in cash was taken from a residence in the Heathsville area.

▼ **Community focus groups . . . .** (continued from page B1)

foundation that focuses on that is a great gift."

Gosse noted "The CHIPS Program and the library's Children's Program are two concrete examples of the types of benefits we could begin through the Young Children's Initiative. The Wiley Foundation has, with others, helped new initiatives in the past and, after gathering community input from the upcoming community meetings, can help begin or expand other useful programs for the children."

The foundation is seeking community input as it develops a five-year plan for its Young Children's Initiative. In the community focus group meetings, parents and grandparents of young children and representatives of many public and private agencies that serve young children and their families will have the opportunity to identify and prioritize specific suggestions for improving the quality of life and for

supporting school readiness for young children.

The foundation understands that the quality of life for young children is directly related to the economic development potential of the county and encourages participation in the meetings. The foundation will announce the five-year plan by end of summer.

Five public community meetings are scheduled. The foundation appreciates the five churches where the meetings will be held for graciously donating the use of facilities. The meetings are Tuesday, March 2, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock; Wednesday, March 3, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at White Stone Baptist Church in White Stone; Wednesday, March 17, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Irvington Baptist Church in Irvington; Thursday, March 18, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Queen Esther Baptist Church in Mollusk; and Saturday, March 20,

from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Lebanon Baptist Church in Alfonso.

Other foundation board members are B.H.B. Hubbard III, Gloria C. Conley, Peggy E. Lawson and Catharine B. Moore.

To register for one more of the meetings, contact Conley at 462-0819 or via e-mail at wileyfdn@crosslinkl.net.

"While registration helps with planning, it is not a requirement," Conley said. "Participation in the meetings by a cross-section of the community is important to us. Together we can plan to improve the quality of life for young children."

## Tree offer extended

Ten Colorado blue spruce trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during February. The trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Colorado blue spruces have silver blue-green color and a compact conical shape. They can be used as individual ornamentals, an energy-saving windbreak, a privacy screen, or as living Christmas trees.

The trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with instructions. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29.

▼ **School budget . . . .** (continued from page B1)

The board set another work session for February 24 at 6 p.m. in the school board office at Pitmans Corner. A tentative joint meeting between the school board and board of supervisors was set for March 9 at 6 p.m. at the school board office.

The school board has set a public hearing on its budget for March 15 in order to submit the school budget to county supervisors by March 21.

**Other action**

The board unanimously approved a resolution for reimbursement of \$153,000 through the sale of state bonds for education. The resolution seeks the funds from the county for reimbursement by the school division once the division receives its share of bond proceeds from the state.

Latimore said school division technology coordinator Frank Klein has estimated that between \$50,000 and \$60,000 of the funds would be used for the Standards of Learning testing lab at Lancaster High. The remainder could be used throughout the school

division. Previous bond issues in the series have funded computer labs at the primary and middle schools.

Board member Karen Doyle was appointed to a 2004-05 school calendar committee.

At its regular monthly meeting on February 9, the board approved the closing of school on April 15 and 16 to enable a full week of spring break vacation.

The board also approved a policy change that will allow seniors to be exempt from final exams in non-SOL bearing classes provided the students attain a 90-percent or greater grade for the course, have parental consent to skip the exam and meet the criteria for minimum unexcused absences, tardies and suspensions.

Additional approval was given for the high school band to participate in a New Year's Eve parade in London, England. Under the direction of band director Robbie Spiers, about 150 students and 35 to 40 chaperones are planning the trip.

▼ **Legislature . . . .** (continued from page B1)

Newly passed legislation will end West Virginia's program under the state's risk management plan, effective July 2004. All the insured physicians, hospitals and clinics will be transferred to a newly-created mutual insurance company.

The West Virginia statute that makes the change declares that the state-run program is a substantial liability to the state. Mutual insurance companies have worked well in other states, and West Virginia is providing the budding non-profit with a capital budget loan to get it started.

Virginia's proposal requires a Senate subcommittee to study the

availability and affordability of professional liability insurance for physicians and hospitals in the Commonwealth.

Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr. said he believes this bill will have a positive long-term impact even if it won't change the March 1 deadline at RGH.

"It's just a tough situation," Del. Pollard said. "We are trying to fix 30 years of a failing health care system in two months."

As to how the bill is expected to fair in the House, Del. Pollard said, "It's going to have at least one vote, and I think it will have quite a few more."

## Answers on Aging

**I suffer from extremely dry skin during the winter months. Can you give me some basic tips on how to keep my skin hydrated?**

We have several suggestions for you:

- Do not take hot showers, use tepid water.
- Use a cream cleanser instead of soap.
- Don't bathe every day unless you have to do so.
- If you have any housework to do that involves water, wear gloves.
- Wear gloves whenever you

go outdoors.

- Find an emollient cream that you like and apply to the skin frequently.

- Rub petroleum jelly into skin after shower and then put on long johns, cotton gloves and socks.

- Use a humidifier in your home.

- Drink plenty of water unless you have a medical condition that restricts intake of water.

To learn more about how to care for dry or irritated skin or to view local health and aging resources for seniors and caregivers, visit [www.seniornavigator.com](http://www.seniornavigator.com)

## At Gloucester Women's Clinic, Dr. Klink is making sure his patients receive the best care available.



By partnering with the physicians at Riverside Womens Health-Care and Riverside Regional Medical Center's Birthing and Family Health Services, Dr. Klink is making changes that will put you in the best hands possible for the delivery of your baby.



Robert Klink, M.D.



Janet Dehoux, Certified Nurse Practitioner

Robert Klink, M.D., board-certified OB/GYN and Janet Dehoux, certified nurse practitioner, along with the trusted and compassionate physicians of Riverside Womens HealthCare, will continue to see obstetric patients in Gloucester up until the time of delivery.



Jeff Herke, M.D.



Lisa Casanova, M.D.



David Wagar, M.D.



William Woessner, M.D.

When you deliver at Riverside's Birthing and Family Health Services, state-of-the-art services and a team of caring and expert professionals are available 24-hours a day, including:

- Board-certified neonatologists for the critical care needs of your baby.
- Board-certified perinatologists for high-risk pregnancies.
- The latest medical equipment available.
- All private rooms with ample seating for family.
- Sophisticated infant security system
- 24-hour anesthesiology coverage with a comprehensive pain management program.

For more information about our practice, please feel free to contact us.



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Gloucester Women's Clinic

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Free CD available to introduce you to our practice and to the Birthing and Family Health Services at Riverside Regional Medical Center.