



## VMRC to consider after-the-fact permit for groins on the Rappahannock River

NEWPORT NEWS—The Virginia Marine Resources Commission meets Tuesday, January 25, at VMRC Headquarters, 2600 Washington Avenue in Newport News.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and habitat permit hearings are addressed in the morning; fisheries hearings begin at noon.

The morning agenda includes an after-the-fact request from the Beach Cove Villas Condo Owners Association seeking authorization to retain three 90-foot-long T-head, concrete block groins installed at the site of three remnant stone groins on the Rappahannock River near Windmill Point.

The project is protested by a commercial waterman who fishes a pound net adjacent to one of the groins.

Fisheries hearings will address proposed amendments regarding the commercial bluefish quota for 2005, the proposed commercial rockfish quota for 2005, and a clarification to regulations concerning recreational possession limits.

Copies of the proposed amendments may be viewed at VMRC Headquarters Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Copies also may be requested by calling 757-247-2248.

## Golf course set for foreclosure sale

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—The Tartan Golf Course property near the former Tides Lodge is scheduled for foreclosure auction on February 2 at 11 a.m. in front of the Lancaster County courthouse.

The 115-acre property assessed at \$2.1 million was defaulted by East Coast Resorts L.C., whose registered agent is Lancaster County resident Robert L. Braun.

A 13.5-acre parcel near the golf course was auctioned at the courthouse last Friday after East Coast Resorts also defaulted on payment for that property. The noteholder, Robert Ritchie, Trustee, and Rudolph Associates LLC, retained the property with an unchallenged opening bid of \$920,000. The property is assessed at \$903,700.

A substitute trustee, Paul Bliley, informed about 20 people on hand for the auction that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has recorded a \$69,742 lien against the property.



Attorney Paul Bliley (right) starts the foreclosure auction of property owned by East Coast Resorts L.C. near the Tartan Golf Course. East Coast Resorts also owns the Tartan Golf Course, which is scheduled for foreclosure auction on February 2.

## Police Reports

Northumberland County Sheriff Wayne Middleton reported five arrests last week.

Chasity B. Galimore, 28, of Kilmarnock, was charged January 12 with failure to appear in the General District Court on a felony charge.

A 16-year-old juvenile was charged January 5 with possession of marijuana.

A Callao man, 25, was charged January 10 on an Essex County warrant with assault and battery of a family member.

A Lexington man, 40, was charged January 15 with writ-

ing a bad check in the amount of \$23 to a Burgess area business.

A Glen Burnie, Md., woman, 21, was charged January 15 with assault and battery of a family or household member.

The sheriff's staff also responded to reports of:

- a break-in January 11 at an Ophelia area residence. Taken were miscellaneous power tools with a total value of \$1,200.
- a gas drive-off January 11 from a Burgess area business. The case is under investigation and charges are pending.

## Del. Pollard introduces 'flush tax'

by Reid Pierce-Armstrong

If you flush a toilet in Virginia, you may be subject to a new tax.

Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr. of Lively last week introduced legislation that would assess a \$1 per week fee on all households in the Commonwealth, whether they are connected to a municipal sewer system, septic system or other wastewater treatment system.

The "Clean Streams Act" would require localities to assess a \$52 per year fee on residences and a \$1,200 per year fee on industrial facilities connected to a municipal sewer system.

The money collected would be deposited into the Water Quality Improvement Fund and be used to install state-of-the-art nutrient removal technology at older sewer treatment plants such as

the one in Reedville.

Each locality would be allowed to withhold up to \$50,000 or 3 percent of the money due to cover their administrative costs.

The bill would also create a 10-member Virginia Clean Streams Advisory Commission charged with reviewing, commenting and advising the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation on the implementation of the Clean Streams Act.

The act would require localities to develop criteria to exempt people with a financial hardship.

"The Chesapeake Bay Foundation was looking for a patron who serves on that committee but couldn't find one," Del. Pollard said.

So he volunteered to stick out his own neck for legislation that had already become a media hot-topic. New fees are almost always unpopular with constituents, so, not surprisingly, the bill

has no co-patrons.

"Water quality in the Chesapeake Bay is like the weather," Del. Pollard said. "Everyone talks about it, but nobody does anything about it."

The Lancaster board of supervisors recently adopted a resolution opposing a "flush tax." Northumberland supervisors have not decided whether

(continued on page B8)

## Virginia Senate proceedings to be available daily online

RICHMOND—Daily floor sessions of the Virginia Senate will be available through the internet during the 2005 General Assembly session.

"We are pleased with this exciting opportunity for both the Senate and the people of Virginia," said Senate clerk Susan Schaar. "Many of our citizens live six to eight hours from the Capitol and this brings the process to them."

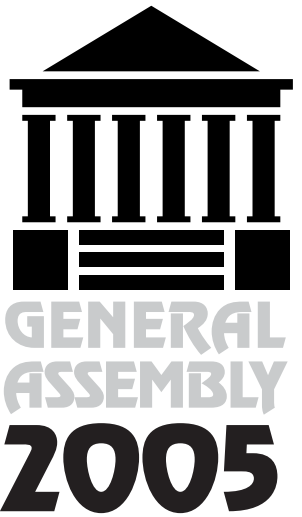
The proceedings will be covered through internet streaming and public television. Sessions will be broadcast in unedited form from noon to 2 p.m. daily on channel 57, WCVW. The length of the broadcast will vary depending upon the length of the session.

"This is a wonderful tool in the classroom for civics and government teachers," added Schaar.

Video streams are available on a first-come, first-served basis unless subscribing to a dedicated line. To link to the video stream, visit <http://sov.state.va.us/senate.htm>.

For information on subscriptions, contact the Senate clerk's office at 698-7460.

Daily coverage will continue through adjournment on February 26 and resume for the reconvened session April 7.



## Irvington council discusses streetscape enhancements

by Robb Hoff

IRVINGTON—The town council last week discussed potential plans for streetscape enhancements in Irvington through federal funds administered by the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Council member Kathleen Pollard reported that the Irvington Business Association (IBA) has discussed streetscape enhancement designs that would include underground utility lines, bike paths and traffic calming measures along Irvington Road.

"They hope to have two public

hearings between now and November 1," said Pollard.

The committee, which includes Pollard, town administrator Jack Fitzpatrick, architects William Prillaman, Larry Worth and Ralph Higgins, and Dudley Pateson of the IBA will be reviewing streetscape enhancement plans that exclude the Irvington Commons area, she said.

However, councilman Norm Mosher questioned whether plans for the Irvington Commons should be included in the review.

"I still believe we ought to

integrate plans for our commons area," he said.

**Town police**  
Councilman William Evans revisited the issue of whether the town should consider hiring a policeman.

"The more the area expands and the more businesses that start coming in here, I think it would be to our advantage," said Evans.

Evans suggested that council consider hiring a Lancaster County Sheriff's Department deputy for part-time service in the town. He also suggested a patrol schedule of five days per

week, two hours per day, and a visible presence in the higher traffic areas of town.

Mayor Alexander McDonald Fleet authorized Evans, with council consensus, to discuss the details of such an arrangement with Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett. Among the details cited by Fleet were the cost, manpower availability, insurance and liability issues for the town, and the use of county vehicles.

Additionally, Fitzpatrick was authorized to discuss the possibility of cost sharing with the Town of White Stone for law

enforcement personnel to serve both towns.

**Closed session**

Council convened in a closed session to discuss the suit filed in 2003 against the town by Irvington resident Audrey Lowery. The suit is set for a two-day jury trial on April 6 and 7. It was amended in 2004 to seek a \$750,000 judgment from the town in addition to a mandatory injunction to undo a trespass on her property alleged by Lowery. The trespass involves the town-authorized installation of a pipe and the filling of a King Carter Drive drainage ditch in Decem-

ber of 2001 that crosses her property, which is adjacent to the Steamboat Era Museum.

Council also has a petition for appeal pending in Lancaster County Circuit Court against the town's board of zoning appeals. In the petition filed December 30, council seeks a court-ordered reversal of the BZA ruling that granted an after-the-fact variance for a business sign at The Local Eatery on Irvington Road. The sign exceeds the 36-square-foot maximum permitted by the town code.

No council action was reported after the closed session.

## A Closer Look

by Jane Tims

No self-respecting columnist would write twice in 10 weeks about the same commercial establishment, even if it had become her home away from home. So this is not another column about the Bay Window. It is another column about the kindness folks extend in the Northern Neck.

I just happened to be at the Bay Window trying to discern why the little cotton cap I was knitting for a curly blond head had grown into a helmet for Attila. It was Friday, the day we were hit with jet-propelled winds and rain.

Mary Ragland, co-owner of the Bay Window with Candy Terry, had just finished telling her version of the Northern Neck's infamous Christmas ice storm. Her husband was out of town when the ice hit, and because she was the youngest resident on her road, she took chain saw in hand to clear the fallen trees.

The lesson, perhaps, was that strong women needn't always lean on men in times of crisis.

With the story finished, a customer in the knitting store left for home. She was back inside in a few minutes. Inadvertently she had parked her front tires in the soft drainage ditch. Her car was stuck in the mud.

Mud for a former female chain saw wielder is not a problem. Mary and Candy would rescue Ditch Woman from her plight. Mary would man the wheel. Candy and Ditch Woman would push from the front. The fearless threesome would back that baby right out of its hole.

The wheels spun. The mud flew. The car did not budge. Undaunted by early failure, the women changed direction. If the two pushers moved to the rear, they could coax the car forward. An unsuspecting customer arrived at that moment and, like any good knitter, put down her bag and joined the team.

The plan worked. The car moved. The rejoicing, however, was tempo-

rary. On the next try, the stupid car sunk back into its old comfort zone. The tires were up to their necks in mud.

Someone mentioned the towing service, but the persevering women did not concede. Candy and Mary

**"The wheels spun. The mud flew. The car did not budge. Undaunted by early failure, the women changed direction. If the two pushers moved to the rear, they could coax the car forward."**

went behind the store, pulled sodden cardboard cartons from the trash, and placed them strategically under the front wheels. Traction would be the key.

Alas. Mary suggested that she could pad the front of her 4-wheel drive Jeep, attack the problem from the front, and push the stuck car out. That would be fine, Candy said, but it

would require driving across the neighbor's front lawn and plowing down two substantial shrubs. And that would create, if you will, another situation.

A man walking in front of the toothbrush building spied the disaster and crossed the street. He could pull the car out with his SUV, he said, if he could find some place on the disabled car to attach the rope. Fruitlessly he inspected the frame.

Surely there was some solution. Suddenly, as though on cue from the gods of ditch desperation, a second man turned into the parking lot, rolled down his window and offered to drive the car out. The women had been in the parking lot a good half hour. They were cold and wet and willing to let him try.

In half a second he plunged forward, then backed that car right out of the ditch. The women threw their hands in the air and cheered as

though he were a field goal kicker who had cleared the bar in overtime.

Modestly, without desire for fame or fortune, the man walked back to his own car where his beautiful blond daughter awaited the hero.

"How did you know how to do that?" asked Ditch Woman profoundly.

"I'm a redneck," he said as he drove off.

The SUV man also disappeared. Attacking the ruts like a seasoned mud wrestler, Mary readjusted the cardboard for the next hapless driver. Candy wrung the ooze from her backless clogs. Ditch Woman headed for the car wash.

None of them knew the names of the men who had stopped. No one could have identified the make or license plate of the rescuer's car. Both were just Northern Neck guys willing to help some dames in distress.

The three strong women would probably assert that they don't need men in crises, except every once in awhile.





## Jackson returns from Ethiopia

White Stone Church of the Nazarene missions pastor Jeff Jackson recently returned from a trip to Arba Minch in southern Ethiopia.

He was part of a volunteer team of seven men who helped construct a training center. The 60- by 80-foot block building will be a venue for training new pastors. Currently, church leaders in Ethiopia have plans to start 50 new Nazarene churches in the next year.

The team of seven worked in Ethiopia for two weeks and was able to complete all of the first floor walls. They also ministered in outlying villages. Jackson is looking forward to returning in March with another volunteer team to finish the



Jeff Jackson is flanked by church leaders in Arba Minch.

second floor walls.

The teams are part of a missions program called "Work

and Witness" which helps meet spiritual and construction needs around the world.

## White Stone Baptist Church to launch '40 Days' campaign

White Stone Baptist Church in White Stone will launch a "40 Days of Purpose Campaign" January 29, joining a worldwide network of thousands of churches.

Inspired by stories of spiritual renewal and growth, an estimated 13,000 churches from 60 denominations have experienced the purpose-driven phenomena inspired by a California pastor's best-selling book.

"I am excited about what God is going to do in these 40 days," said pastor Dr. Dennis Martin. "During this time we will be exploring the age-old question, 'What on earth am I here for?'"

The impact the campaign can have on the church and commu-

nity is immeasurable, he said.

The campaign will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. January 29. A national simulcast will air with Rick Warren presenting an overview. Participants will have an opportunity to sign up for a six-week Bible study group. At the center of the campaign is the book, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Warren.

Warren is senior pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

During the campaign, the truths about God's five purposes for people—worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism—will be communicated repeatedly in six ways, begin-

ning with the all-church simulcast seminar. The campaign includes a weekly message by the pastor, a personal or family daily devotional reading, a weekly scripture memory verse that everyone memorizes, a weekly small group or Sunday school lesson and a daily email of encouragement.

"People will hear about God's purposes for their lives in many different formats," said Dr. Martin. "This will allow for the truths to sink deeper into hearts, which is essential for any permanent life change."

For more information concerning the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign, contact White Stone Baptist Church at 435-1413.



Preparing for the pancake supper are (from left) Mariah Pollard, Lauren McCleery, Mears Pollard, Sarah Wells Pollard, Jamie Thorne and Eleanor Hayden.

## Trinity Church plans annual pancake supper

Trinity Episcopal Church in Lancaster will celebrate Fat Tuesday, the day before the Lenten season begins, by serving up stacks of pancakes.

On February 8, from 5 to 7 p.m., Trinity Church will hold its annual pancake supper.

In addition to pancakes and syrup, there will be stewed apples, sausage, juice and coffee.

"It's a delicious last splurge before Ash Wednesday, the start of the contemplative Lenten season," said Mariah Pollard, organizer of the event. "And it's a great way for the church to feed the community once again. Trinity really is a little church with a big heart."

The cost of a supper is a donation. Proceeds will benefit the Episcopal Relief and Development fund for tsunami relief work in southeast Asia. Already Trinity has raised approximately \$140 for tsunami relief by selling loaves of homemade sourdough bread. The bread will also be for sale the night of the supper.

Additionally, the night of the supper, there will be an open house

for the Godly Play program, a Montessori inspired, hands-on approach to Sunday School. The public is invited to the children's area for a more in-depth look at this innovative program.

## Missionary to Zambia will speak at Fairfield

Gerri Helton, a missionary to Zambia, Africa, will be the guest speaker at Fairfield Baptist Church in Burgess Sunday, January 23, at 11 a.m. She works through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Helton, a native of Bristol, decided to become a missionary in 2000 following her retirement as a teacher and the death of her husband. It was then that she prepared to go to Zambia as an associate missionary.

She is on furlough this year

and plans to return to Zambia as a career missionary. She trains youth to evangelize and disciple and she teaches Bible lessons—all in the Siloze language. She also trains new Christians in newly established churches and then encourages them as they take over.

About a year ago, the Woman's Missionary Union of Fairfield "adopted" Helton. It shares her prayer requests and corresponds with her. The WMU is hosting a reception in her honor following the worship service.

**Get your kids involved!**  
Local church listings are updated weekly. There's something to do for every member of your family!

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## Church Notes

### Revival planned

The youth ministry of Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock will host a revival April 5 to 7. Prayer and praise will begin each evening at 7 p.m. Worship will begin at 7:30 p.m. The evangelist will be Rev. Dwight Riddick of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Newport News.

### Men's breakfast set

The Men's Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock will host an all-one-can-eat breakfast in the fellowship hall February 5 at 8 a.m. The menu includes hake fish, potatoes and onions, sausage, eggs and bacon, coffee, tea and water.

Tickets are \$10 each. Call Burton Moody at 462-7220, Leonard Scott at 435-9673, or any member of the Men's Ministry.

### King breakfast set

Queen Esther Baptist Church will hold its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Sunday, January 23, beginning at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Ernest W. Palin Jr.

### Meditate at Freeshade

Meditation services are offered by the Center for Spiritual Awareness, Sundays at 9 a.m. at Freeshade Community Center in Syringa. Orientation starts at 8:30 a.m. This week's guided meditation, "The Spark of God Within," will be conducted by Walt Zeller.

### Two will be ordained

An ordination service for minister Jackson D. Blackstone and minister Dorothy A. Johnson, associate ministers of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Wicomico Church, will be held at the church on January 23 at 4 p.m. The guest minister will be the Rev. Claude M. Tate, moderator of the Northern Neck Baptist Association.

### Food giveaway set

White Stone Baptist Church EMMAS group will host a Supplemental Food Giveaway, Saturday, January 22, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The church is at 517 Chesapeake Drive in White Stone.

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### Students recognized

Northumberland school board chairman Lee Scripture commends Northumberland High School students of the month Francis Tucker and Ethan Harding during the board's January meeting. From left are Tucker, Scripture and Harding.

## Atlantic Boat and Yacht Trades School to offer first courses at RCC in Warsaw

The first course offerings for marine trades have been scheduled by the Atlantic Boat and Yacht Trades School (ABYTS) in conjunction with the Workforce Training Center at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.

The ABYTS was created in 2004 to initiate sustainable marine trades training in the mid-Atlantic region.

With a partnership of local and national industry, the school has garnered endorsements from the National Marine Manufacturers Association and is retaining the nation's leading marine trades training and certification organization, the American Boat and Yacht Council, to implement its first courses.

Local sponsors include the Tidewater Marine Trades Association, Virginia Sea Grant Pro-

gram, marinas and boat yards. The initial courses are based on industry priorities reported in a regional workforce training survey conducted on behalf of ABYTS by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Sea Grant marine business program.

Courses include basic marine engines, January 24 to 26; diesel engine and support systems certification, January 27 and 28; gasoline engine and support systems certification, January 31 and February 1; introductory outboard, February 7 to 11; advanced outboard, February 14 to 18; and electrical certification, March 7 to 10.

For details on the courses, registration and fees, contact Terry Drumheller at ABYTS, Rappahannock Community College, 52 Campus Drive, Warsaw, VA 22572; or call 804-333-6828.

## Chesapeake Academy to renovate early childhood center with two grants

Due to the generosity of The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and the Nettie Lokie Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation, Chesapeake Academy is undergoing renovations in the Nettie Lokey Wiley Early Childhood Center.

"We are pleased to have the vote of confidence from both foundations," said division head Beth Clark. "We are using the grants for building enhancements to be responsive to parent and student needs."

Improvements include an upgrade to a hallway which

acts as the tornado shelter away from windows, water supply in the classrooms, playground enhancements, wheelchair accessible access ramp and bathroom and modifications to other facilities.

"We are excited about the community's strong interest in Early Childhood programming," said head of school Seth Ahlborn. "Our opportunities for positive impact in the region seem boundless and we are grateful for the foundation and community support to better serve our families."

## Scholarships available through Grace Church

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. The scholarships will be offered again this year.

Candidates applying for 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 of Lancaster High School are also eligible and will be considered as funds permit.

Applications for graduating seniors are available through the guidance counselor at the high school or the church office, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications need to be received at the Grace Episcopal Church by June 1. The address is Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1059, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

## McCulloch scholarship applications due by March

The Mary Winston McCulloch Scholarship was established at Grace Episcopal Church in December 2004. The scholarship is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Alan McCulloch Jr., in memory of his mother in May 2003. The terms of the bequest state that the scholarship is to be awarded without consideration of financial need.

The Mary Winston McCulloch Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior and is renewable for up to three successive years for a total of four years. The scholarship is for undergraduate studies at an accredited college, university or post-secondary technical

school.

Applicants must be residents of Lancaster County, graduates of Lancaster County High School, or members of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. The recipient must demonstrate academic responsibility and/or special gifts or talents, but no specific grade-point average will be required.

Completed applications must be received by March 1. The recipient will be announced by May 2005.

Applications are available from high school counselors or Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1059, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

## State's First Lady spreads "Read to Feed" message

First Lady Lisa Collis encourages schools across Virginia to participate in the Read to Feed program.

"Read to Feed encourages our children to read, increases their understanding of other countries and cultures, and gives them the opportunity to express their concern for others," said Lisa Collis. "Lakeview's participation in this program sets an example that schools across the Commonwealth would be wise to follow."

Students participating in the Read to Feed Challenge read books and participate in group discussions about hunger, world population, global food distribution, cultural diversity, sustainable development, the environment, and other important issues. The students collect

pledges from sponsors based on either the number of books or the units of time they will read. These proceeds go to Heifer International, a charitable organization that provides livestock to impoverished families around the world.

The program provides a way to help children understand and appreciate the complex web of relationships between people, actions, and environment. Heifer International's Read to Feed program has been implemented in hundreds of schools across the country and hopes to involve more this year in Virginia.

For more information, call 1-877-275-7323, or visit [www.readtofeed.org/virginia](http://www.readtofeed.org/virginia).

### School Notebook

#### Earning honors

April M. Pinkard of White Stone made the Honors List at Virginia State University for the Fall 2004 semester. She is majoring in computer science.

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## Weekend Cloverbud camps open Feb. 11

Even in the winter, 4-H Camp is a happening place.

Coming February 11 through 13, children ages 5 to 8 can attend a weekend session of 4-H Cloverbud Camp.

To participate, youth must reach their fifth birthday between October 1, 2004, and September 30, 2005, and not have reached their ninth birthday.

The first session of 4-H Cloverbud Camp will be from 7 p.m. on Friday, February 11, through 11 a.m. on Sunday, February 13.

4-H Cloverbud Camp is held

at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center in Williamsburg. Activities will include archery, canoeing, marine science, forestry, dance, art, theater, games and songs.

There will be two more sessions of Cloverbud Camp later this year. The next session is in June and the last session is in August.

The cost of camp is \$75.

For a registration form, stop by the Virginia Cooperative Extension office or call Wendy Herdman, 4-H Extension agent, at 580-5694 or 462-5780.

### School Menu

Chilled milk is served with each meal.

#### LANCASTER

Monday, January 24:

Teachers' Work Day

Tuesday, January 25:

French Toast w/syrup or Cereal & Toast

Apple juice

Chicken nuggets w/roll or Hot dog on bun

Potato wedges

Vegetable Cup

Spiced Apples

Fresh fruit

Wednesday, January 26:

Scrambled eggs & toast or Cereal & Toast

Orange juice

Steak w/cheese sub or hot pocket

Tater tots

Steamed broccoli

Pear halves

Fresh Fruit

Thursday, January 27:

Ham biscuit or Cereal & toast

Grape juice

Salisbury steak w/roll or Chicken patty on bun

Mashed potatoes

Green beans

Mixed Fruit

Fresh fruit

Friday, January 28:

Chicken biscuit or Cereal & toast

Fruit Juice

Pepperoni Pizza or Cheese pizza

Garden salad

Spiced applesauce

Fresh fruit



Northern Neck Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Fathers have a responsibility to teach safety to their children.

Children's safety is an important part of your local electric co-op. Northern Neck Electric Cooperative employees present electric line safety programs in the classrooms of local schools. Teaching children safety is one way your co-op serves the community.

Only your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always there with you, reinvesting in your community. That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.

## Recipe book proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels

The Bank of Lancaster recently donated \$2,300.00 to Bay Aging's Meals on Wheels program, from the sale of the Bank's 75th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook - "Recipes to Bank On."

Anniversary chairperson Hazel Farmer said the anniversary committee approved the cookbook as one of many endeavors related to the celebration of this special milestone. She saluted bank employees and Bay Trust Company employees, who headed the cookbook project: Barbara McNeal, Sylvia Saunders, Sylvia Vanlandingham and Brenda Wilmer.

"With the hard work of these ladies, our book has 548 recipes and we're pleased to report that we had 100 percent participation from our staff and great participation from our boards of directors, advisory boards and our retirees," said Farmer. "It is truly a labor of love and contains recipes that we have enjoyed together as a part of our many fellowships at the Bank and Trust Company and those we have shared with our



From left are 75th anniversary chairperson Hazel S. Farmer, committee member Brenda Wilmer, committee member Sylvia Saunders, Patsy Taylor of Bay Aging, bank president Austin L. Roberts III and committee member Barbara McNeal.

own families and friends over the years."

McNeal recommended the proceeds go to Meals on Wheels and the committee unanimously agreed, said Farmer.

Bay Aging vice president of care coordination Patsy A. Taylor said meals are provided five days a week to individuals 60 years

and older who are homebound and unable to prepare meals for themselves safely or those who have no other resource for adequate meal preparation.

The program serves 10 counties, including four where the bank has nine offices. For fiscal year 2003-04, 738 individuals were served 222,288

meals, which was accomplished through the assistance of a tremendous volunteer base, said Taylor. In the Northern Neck, 342 individuals received 112,282 meals.

Farmer thanked the customers, family members and friends who purchased the cookbooks and made the donation possible.

Cookbooks can be purchased at any of the bank's offices and at Bay Trust Company.

"These books are great to keep for yourself or to give as gifts," said Farmer. "They truly are a gift that keeps on giving. We hope that with the help of our neighbors and friends, more cookbooks will be purchased and that very soon we'll be able to provide the Meals on Wheels program with additional monies to help this worthwhile endeavor continue its good work in our communities."

Farmer also invites everyone to stop by a bank office and pick up a copy of the 75th commemorative calendar. The 13-month calendar displays the art work of local students.



Artist D.E. McDermott eyes the finished sculpture at his foundry.

## Lively artist finishes sculpture for hospital

Local artist D.E. McDermott of Lively recently completed and installed an eight-foot-high sculpture commission in bronze for the Central DuPage Hospital Complex in Chicago, Ill.

The sculpture, entitled "Dance for Life," depicts a mother and child at play. The bronze was cast at the artist's foundry in Monterey, Calif., and shipped to Chicago for the installation.

The sculpture, set upon a granite pedestal, rises 15 feet in the center of a four-story atrium and is the artistic centerpiece of the new Women and Children's Pavilion.

## At least 17 farm fatalities occurred in state last year

Overtaken tractors topped the list of farm-related fatality causes in 2004, taking the lives of eight Virginians, according to unofficial records kept by Virginia Farm Bureau.

"We think the primary reason for these fatalities is the complacency of the operator," said Bruce Stone, Farm Bureau safety manager. "Tractors move slowly, so sometimes you don't feel there is risk involved. Then you're in trouble before you know it."

Five people died of other farm equipment-related injuries; one death was ATV-related; one person was run over by a piece of farm equipment; and two fatalities occurred under other circumstances, for a total of 17 deaths due to farm-related accidents. The total increased by three from 2003.

"We had an extraordinary growing season last year," Stone said. The more activity there is, the more accidents can happen."

He has kept unofficial farm fatality and injury records for Virginia since 1994 that indicate 77 people have died when their tractors overturned; 37 died in other tractor or equipment mishaps; and 31 died after being run

over by tractors or equipment. Remaining fatalities were attributed to operating farm equipment on public roads, animal-related incidents and other unspecified events. Stone has recorded a total of 182 farm fatalities since January 1994.

He noted that rollover protective structures, and seat belts on tractors are the most effective safety devices to have in the event of an overturn, with seat belt users having a far better chance of walking away unharmed.

"It's human nature to drift off into the next job and get sidetracked," Stone said. "But the most important thing is to have safety equipment in place, because when you are not focusing on the job at hand and an accident occurs, you are more likely to walk away from an overturn."

Farm Bureau safety staff travel throughout Virginia presenting farm safety seminars and inspecting farms for potential safety risks.

"We are working to reduce the number of farm fatalities," Stone said. "If you operate a tractor, we need your help."

## Virginia crops soak up the precipitation to set record harvests

Virginia crops thrived under blanket of wet weather in 2004.

The growing season started off warmer than normal.

However, by mid-August hurricanes Bonnie and Charley left Virginia wet and cold.

Temperatures quickly recovered to near normal, but heavy rains persisted throughout the rest of the growing season.

Near record-breaking corn and record soybean yields forced many farmers to find additional storage facilities, according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service's year end report.

Virginia corn

Corn producers harvested an average of 145 bushels per acre for grain this season, 30 bushels higher than the previous year and the second highest yield on record.

Corn for grain production is estimated at 52.2 million bushels, up 38 percent from the 2003 production.

Corn silage production at 2.7 million tons, was up 14 percent from last year. Acres harvested for silage totaled 135,000, with a yield of 20.0 tons per acre.

U.S. corn

All U.S. corn for grain production is estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up less than 1 percent

from the November forecast and up 17 percent from the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 2003.

The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 160.4 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushels above the November forecast and up 18.2 bushels from 2003.

Both production and yield estimates are the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre.

Virginia soybeans  
Soybean yields averaged a record 39.0 bushels per acre from 530,000 acres.

Soybean production is estimated at 20.7 million bushels, 27 percent above the 2003 production.

U.S. soybeans

U.S. Soybean production in 2004 totaled 3.14 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop in history. This is down slightly from the November forecast, but 28 percent above the 2003 level.

The average yield per acre is estimated at a record high 42.5 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast, but 8.6 bushels above the 2003 final yield.

Planted area for the nation, at 75.2 million acres, is up 2 percent from 2003. Soybean growers harvested a total of 74.0 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

For more agriculture statistics, visit [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).

## Lemmon joins local Long & Foster office

Byrl Phillips-Taylor, manager of the Bay/River office of Long & Foster Real Estate Inc., last week announced the addition of Rebecca C. Lemmon as a sales associate in the White Stone office.

Last year, Lemmon permanently relocated to Reedville from Arlington. Lemmon is active in several community organizations throughout the Northern Neck.

She is a graduate of Florida State University and earned a master's in art history and museum administration at George Washington University. Her background includes extensive experience in sales, marketing, and arts/antiquities management.

Lemmon also jointly owned an international textile design company based in London, England, and the Washington, D.C., area. After managing her own properties in the Northern Neck and in Northern Virginia, Lemmon chose to pursue real estate as a full-time career.

"Long and Foster's reputation



Rebecca C. Lemmon

for excellence, position in the market place, unsurpassed training program, and wide array of support services are the main reasons why I am honored to be a member of the team," Lemmon said.

This month, she will launch [www.nnkpremierproperty.com](http://www.nnkpremierproperty.com), where visitors will be able to preview all of the available properties throughout the Northern Neck.

## Free legal advice offered

John R. Rellick, managing attorney of Rappahannock Legal Services in Tappahannock, will be available at First Baptist Church at 3585 Courthouse Road in Heathsville on Thursdays: January 20, February 10, February 24, March 10 and March 24.

Rellick will meet with persons from Northumberland and Lancaster counties seeking free legal services. Appointments will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 443-9393 or 1-800-572-3094 to determine eligibility for services and schedule an appointment.

## Business Brief

### Seminars planned

The Rappahannock Region Small Business Development Center in February will conduct two seminars at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission headquarters at 483 Main Street in Warsaw. Advance registration is required; call 333-0286.

"First Steps to Starting a Business" will be offered February 9 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The fee is \$20. "Business Plan Workshop" will be offered February 15 and 16 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The fee is \$40.

## Shop 'K-town' during Kilmarnock Days promo

"Shop K-Day in K-town" is the slogan for Kilmarnock's 49th annual townwide Kilmarnock Days "Salebration" February 4 and 5.

Sponsored by the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce, "The 2004 version of the popular two-day sale promises to be the best

yet with bigger and better sales, more bargains, and many more free offers than ever before with most town merchants participating," said promoter Carroll Lee Ashburn. "Plan now to come early and stay late and be sure to register for the many valuable prizes that will be given away."

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William W. Cooke



Charles R. Rice Jr.

## Cooke and Rice join bank advisory board

The Bank of Lancaster recently named William W. Cooke and Charles R. Rice Jr. to the Richmond County Community Reinvestment Advisory Board.

"We are excited to have William and Charles join our advisory board," said bank president and chief executive officer Austin L. Roberts III. "With their knowledge of our communities and their years of experience in their respective fields, we look forward to their valuable input as we continue to meet the financial needs of our neighbors and friends in Richmond County."

Cooke and Rice join members William E. Duncanson, Robert E. Knight, Carolyn S. Packett, James E. Poates and chairman Richard A. Farmar III.

Cooke, of Essex County, is president and owner of Essex Concrete in Tappahannock, a corporation he began in 1965. He is also president of The C Development Corporation and president of the Essex Development Corporation. Hobbs Hole Golf Community in Tappahannock, which opened in 1996, is also the culmination of a dream of Cooke's.

He has a bachelor's in economics from Randolph Macon

College.

Cooke has been a member of the Essex board of supervisors for 16 years, serving as chairman and vice-chairman, and is a member of the Essex County Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Essex County Welfare Board for eight years. Cooke is a member of Howerton Baptist Church where he is chairman of the Board of Deacons.

He and his wife, Betty Anne, have two children, Keith and Kent, and two grandchildren, Meghan Anne and Logan.

Rice, of Richmond County, has a bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia. He is a licensed professional engineer and a member of the Tam Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society. Rice served active duty from 1965 to 1968 as a Navy lieutenant in the Civil Engineer Corps.

In March 1972, he joined Northern Neck Electric Cooperative as an engineer and was promoted in 1981 to assistant manager. In 1986, he became president and chief executive officer.

Rice is a member and past president of the Warsaw Rotary Club, a member of the Citizens

## Farm Bureau to celebrate Food Freedom Day Feb. 7

By mid-February, the average American will have earned enough money to pay his or her food bill for the entire year. Because U.S. consumers spend considerably less for food than people in other developed countries, Virginia Farm Bureau will celebrate February 7 as USA Food Freedom Day.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, American families spend on average 10 percent of their disposable income on food.

The date is observed nationwide each year by state and local Farm Bureaus. Across Virginia, county Farm Bureau women's committees mark the event by taking part in some type of food donation effort. This year, Farm Bureau women will collect non-

perishable food items and monetary donations for the Roanoke and Norfolk Ronald McDonald House charities.

Ronald McDonald Houses offer services for families of children who are hospitalized with a serious illness, including lodging for families whose children have to receive treatment far from home.

"USA Food Freedom Day reminds us that we as a nation are very blessed to have such a safe and affordable food supply," said Janice Burton, chairman of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Women's Committee.

By comparison, the average American earns enough income to pay federal, state and local taxes for the year at least a month later than Food Freedom Day.

## LeFon elected president of local Realtors group

Barbara Jean LeFon was installed as the 2005 president of the Northern Neck Association of Realtors.

She is the principal broker and owner of Rivah Realty in Montross which she opened in 1999. She also is a member of the Virginia Association of Realtors and sits on its policy board of directors, of which she currently serves on its strategic planning committee.

LeFon serves on the board of directors for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children and the Westmoreland/Richmond Counties Habitat for Humanity. She is also president of the Warsaw Rotary Club and Montross town council.

LeFon has been a resident of the Northern Neck for approximately 10 years and lives in Montross with her husband, Charlie.

Other officers and directors elected for the year 2005 are president-elect Kathryn Murray of River to River Realty in Callao; vice president Linda Withers of Anchor Realty in Callao; director Donna Medlin of Landmark Properties in Tappahannock; director Joey Self of Joe Self Realty in



Barbara Jean LeFon

Callao; director Beverly Shultz of River Towne Properties in Kilmarnock; director Tom Kimmitt of Middle Bay Realty in Wicomico Church; director George English of United Country/Bay River Real Estate in Callao; director Becky Packett of Irving D. Packett Real Estate in Warsaw; and director, and past president 2004, Sandra Hargett, River Towne Properties in Kilmarnock.

## CPAs offer tax assistance

It's tax time again and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants (VSCPA) offers free tax assistance to Virginia taxpayers at VATaxHelp.com.

Launched in January 2003, the website provides citizens and business professionals with tax and personal financial planning resources, information and services.

Anyone filing federal or state tax returns in the Commonwealth can get free online tax advice by submitting e-mail questions through VATaxHelp.com. Experienced, licensed certified public accountants (CPA) will provide answers to the tax questions within three business days. Tax questions can be submitted online from January 31 to April 8.

"The Virginia Society of CPAs and our CPA members are thrilled to offer this valuable community service to Virginians," said Thomas M. Berry Jr., CAE, VSCPA president and chief executive officer. "Reaching out and assisting the public is an integral part of our organization's mission."

The site also contains useful facts about CPAs, including the services they provide, how to choose one and what they charge. A list of internet links for consumers is also provided

for information on personal finance, small business, tax, technology and government.

Online guides are available for not-for-profit organizations. The guides contain information about important tax issues, liability and responsibility of board members, budgeting guide and tool kit for nonprofit auditing committees.

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## Keep resumes short, simple

by Bonnie Roberts Erickson

An employer sits down to begin the painstaking chore of sifting through dozens of resumes for that one coveted position in the company. Page lengths vary, and type sizes and styles take off in several directions. The employer's time is valuable. They want to know educational and previous employment information and skills.

Don Sampson, a professor of English at Radford University, says it is important to focus on content: there is no substitute for relevant education and experience. A common mistake is to dress up the appearance of the resume in an effort to offset insufficient educational and work experience, he said.

The most common mistakes in resumes include using uncommon type styles and fonts, inflating previous work experience, lacking enough detail to fill a page and assuming that submitting a resume is enough to pique the interest of the company.

Research the company before submitting a resume and refrain from telling the employer what they already know about themselves, he said.

"Show that you've done research," said Sampson. "Talk about how you are prepared through your education and experience to do what the company needs someone to do."

Remembering even the simplest methods of presentation can make a huge impact on a resume screener. For example, professionals in the field of printing and publishing suggest never folding a laser-printed sheet on a line of text. The ink is likely to flake or smear, giving the appearance of a hastily done resume. If the resume has been printed on a press, let the ink dry before folding and mailing.

For effective resumes:

- use Times New Roman 12-point type and print the resume on #20 bond paper.
- don't revise your resume for different positions within the same field.

"Your resume describes you, and you don't change you to fit a particular job that you are interested in," said Sampson. "Tailor your letter of application to the position, not your resume," he says.

- age, height, weight, health, marital status, nationality and

race should not be included.

- describe education and work experience in reverse chronological order. "What you have done most recently is most important," said Sampson.

- use action verbs. Say "tested" instead of "responsible for testing."

- be simple and straightforward.

- career objective should only be included if they would really help. "If you state a career objective broad enough for most positions you apply for, it will be too general," Sampson said. "Most experts recommend using an objective only if you are looking for work in a different field from your present one."

Most importantly, proofread and proofread again. Typographical and grammatical errors do a lot of damage.

"Make no mistakes. You want to suggest that you can do an important job well," said Sampson. Before submitting the resume and letter of application, ask an experienced proofreader to review them.

(Bonnie Roberts Erickson is a professional writer in the Radford University Office of Public Relations.)

## Tax law changes to be addressed

The Northern Neck chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will meet February 9.

The guest speaker will be Loren Johnson of the Internal Revenue Services. Johnson will address changes to the tax laws. All members will have an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. at the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative Building at Belle Ville Lane and Pine Street in Warsaw. Following the meeting, there will be a brief social period including refreshments.

Email your NEWS to:



editor@rrecord.com

## When it comes to insurance, 'knowledge is the best policy'

Rising premiums and a rash of devastating natural disasters in recent years continue to keep insurance in the forefront of the public consciousness in Virginia and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, some consumers realize too late that they do not have the insurance coverage they need. Others are left holding the bag when they find they have not purchased legitimate insurance products.

Insurance can provide a valuable safety net when disaster strikes. For many Americans, a large chunk of their household budget goes toward ensuring that they are protected financially should a crisis arise. Despite this fact, Americans still do not know enough about their own insurance policies.

The State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians that knowledge is their best policy when it comes to getting the most out of insurance coverage.

"For many Virginia households, insurance is one of the biggest expenditures each year," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Alfred W. Gross. "You need to know what you are getting for your money. Failure to do so may prove costly."

Although 72 percent of Americans believe they have about the right amount of insurance coverage, only 33 percent say they understand the details of the coverage "very well," according to a recent survey by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

In an effort to help Americans

become more savvy insurance consumers, the SCC's Bureau of Insurance, NAIC and state insurance departments throughout the country have teamed up for the fourth annual Get Smart About Insurance Week January 24-28.

Virginians with questions or concerns about their insurance coverage are urged to call 1-877-310-6560, or visit [www.scc.virginia.gov/division/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/division/boi). "Many people are content to have insurance, but they do not necessarily understand the details of their policies. That lack of knowledge sometimes leads to too much or too little coverage, or even worse, fake policies," Gross said.

"The time to get smart about your insurance is now," Gross said. "Too often, people buy an insurance policy and then forget about it or they do not make any changes to it over the years until it is too late."

He urges Virginians to schedule a yearly insurance checkup to review their coverage and adjust it, if necessary, to reflect their changing needs.

We encourage Virginians to determine what kind of insurance coverage they need before they begin to shop around. He cautions against falling victim to scams involving bogus insurance products and companies in the quest for affordable coverage.

"Make sure you are purchasing legitimate insurance products from licensed insurance companies. The SCC's Bureau of Insurance is here to give consumers information to help them ensure that their families are properly

## Commodities producers have until Jan. 31 to petition USDA for relief due to foreign imports

Farmers, fishermen and other producers of raw agricultural commodities have approximately two weeks to take advantage of financial and technical training benefits offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if their commodity suffered a significant price decline in the past year, due to foreign imports.

Through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program for Farmers, impacted producers of such commodities must file a formal petition with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to establish eligibility for assistance. "The petition - available through the USDA web-site or by calling a toll-free number - is a relatively simple process," said TAA coordinator

Jean-Louis Pajot.

To be eligible for trade adjustment benefits in the current fiscal year, farmers and fishermen or their representatives must file petitions no later than January 31, he said. Fax and email submissions are recommended, he added.

Once the petition is filed, the agency will spearhead an investigation to determine if the commodity meets the criteria for the TAA. If a petition is certified, producers then have 90 days to contact the nearest Farm Service Agency office to apply for assistance.

According to Pajot, all eligible producers receive technical training and may receive cash benefits up to \$10,000, depending on the amount of production

marketed and if they meet certain income criteria. Technical training benefits help producers and fishermen explore additional commodities, marketing opportunities and alternative enterprises.

The petition form is available online at [www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/FAS0930.pdf](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/FAS0930.pdf). It may also be requested by phone at 202-720-2916 or by email at [trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov).

Completed petitions may be faxed to 202-720-0876. Petitions may be filed by a group of three or more producers or an authorized representative, and they may be made on behalf of a state, region or the nation.

Direct all responses to: [kbohen@bwfcom.com](mailto:kbohen@bwfcom.com)

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## Staton and Teese retire from highway department

FREDERICKSBURG—Two top officials have retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Warsaw residency after more than 40 years.

Resident engineer Joseph Staton will retire effective February 1. He began his career in the Bowling Green residency as an inspector trainee and was assigned to the construction of Interstate 95 in Caroline County. After working briefly as an inspector in the Fredericksburg residency, he was promoted to project engineer in the Saluda residency and managed the Route 17 four-laning project.

In 1978, Staton was promoted to assistant resident engineer in the Warsaw residency and in 1990 he was named resident engineer. At the time of his appointment, he had approximately 114 employees in the four-county residency. He currently has 84.

"Over the years I have seen a lot of changes and have been faced with many challenges, including the most recent budget cuts that have forced the department to do more with less," said Staton. "Fortunately, I have always had a good group of dedicated employees that have managed to maintain the level of service to which the citizens of this area have grown accustomed. They take pride in their job and they diligently live, work and practice the VDOT values. The successes that I have had in my career were due to the people that have worked for me. I learned early in my management career that a manager is only as effective as the people that work for him."

He also noted "the local governing bodies contributed to my success in the community. They have been patient, understanding and supportive of VDOT's efforts over the years. I sincerely appreciate the working relationship that we have and I hope that they will be as supportive of my successor."

Staton has worked on countless projects throughout his career. Among the high profile projects are the:

- Route 360 four-laning from Callao to Reedville.



Joseph Staton

- Route 3 four-laning in Richmond, Lancaster and Westmoreland counties.
- Totuskey Creek Bridge Project.
- Tipters Bridge Project.
- Hampton Hall Bridge Project.
- Warsaw bypass.

He also has worked on numerous secondary road projects and maintenance projects that include the rehabilitation of the Downing Bridge. "Throughout my 40-year career, I have been involved in everything from multi-million dollar maintenance and construction projects, blizzards, ice storms, hurricanes, ditching, mowing, litter pick up and even dead animal pick up and disposal," said Staton.

He also participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program as a member of the Richmond County Ruritan Club and the Menokia Hunt Club. Both groups have been participating in the program since its inception in 1989.

Staton's last public hearing was held this week for a project he has lobbied for for more than 10 years. "The Cat Point Creek Bridge Project has been a challenge for me," Staton said. "I have worked with the public and board of supervisors for years to develop a design that would meet the needs of the community and the traveling public, including marine and recreational water vehicle traffic. It is rewarding to know that the project is now on the accelerated list for new construction when funding is available."

Staton and his wife, Mae, who recently retired as vice president of Southside Bank, plan to spend more time with their three grandchildren. They live in Warsaw.

Maintenance operations manager Stephen "Steve" Teese's retirement was effective January 1. He began his career in the Saluda residency as a rodman assigned to the survey party. Six months later he transferred to the Warsaw residency as an inspector trainee. He was assigned to the original Downing Bridge construction project.

From 1963 to 1965, Teese was on educational leave and military leave with the Virginia Air Guard. When he returned, he began work on the maintenance side of the house instead of construction.

He was responsible for managing permits, budgets, paving schedules, subdivision construction and easements. He was later responsible for overseeing the construction of box culverts and other bridge maintenance projects including the four-laning of Route 360 from Warsaw to the Downing Bridge.

In 1976, he was promoted to maintenance operations manager. He was responsible for the maintenance operations in the four-county residency.

Teese, over the last 14 years, has been faced with many challenges including work force



Stephen "Steve" Teese

reductions, changes in policies and state laws and requirements involving the environment, but through it all he has remained committed to the community, his employees and superiors to do the best job with the resources that were available. "I always tried my best to make a difference to the people that I served," said Teese.

Teese and his wife, Mickey, live in Richmond County. They have three children and five grandchildren. He plans to spend more time with his family and get more involved with volunteer work in the community.

Clifton Balderson has been named maintenance operations manager for the Warsaw residency.

## NASCAR and farming share need for safety

Auto racing and farming are more alike than the casual observer might think, speakers at a January 9 seminar at the 86th annual meeting of American Farm Bureau Federation suggested.

A former NASCAR team manager and farm safety experts from Utah and Virginia Farm Bureaus spoke on their area of expertise—auto racing, farm tractor

and all-terrain vehicle safety, and safety awareness—during an educational seminar.

According to Richmond Gage III, program head of Motorsports Management Technology at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College of Concord, N.C., and a former manager of several NASCAR teams, the auto racing industry's adoption of new safety measures has been largely reac-

tive until recently.

"In the last 15 years, at least six incidents caused the majority of safety (advances) in the racing industry," Gage said.

Most of the incidents were fatal accidents, such as the 2001 Daytona 500 tragedy that killed Dale Earnhardt, or near misses.

Gage noted that NASCAR is embracing technology and mandating safety rules, to the point

that the organization now has a 65,000-square-foot research-and-development center to focus mostly on safety.

Bruce Stone and A.J. Ferguson, safety managers with Virginia and Utah Farm Bureaus, respectively, indicated that farmers traditionally have been slow in adopting safety measures. For example, the rollover protective structure for tractors has existed for many years, but has only

recently become more accepted. ROPS and seat belt retrofits are available for many older-model tractors.

"Tractors are the most dangerous thing on the farm," Stone said. "Overturns are the largest cause of on-farm fatalities."

Ferguson, whose organization is active in emphasizing ATV safety, noted that farm safety depends largely upon farmers' attitudes. The equipment might

have warning labels all over it, but if they are not heeded, they make no difference, he said.

According to the speakers, both the farm and racing industries increasingly rely upon technological advances. Both have to fight complacency. The difference, however, is that racing authorities can compel participants to implement safety practices. Agriculture has to convince itself to be safe, the experts said.



### Supervisors re-elect Jett to serve as chairman

The Northumberland board of supervisors re-elected supervisor Ronald Jett of District 5 to serve as chairman and supervisor Richard Haynie of District 2 to serve as vice-chairman for the 2005 session. From left are supervisor Jim Long of District 3, supervisor Joe Self of District 1, Haynie, county attorney Les Kilduff, Jett and supervisor Pamela Russell of District 4.

## CIT exceeds fiscal 2004 goals

Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) recently released a report on its fiscal year 2004 performance that shows a return on investment totaling \$230.2 million, more than 30 times the Commonwealth's appropriation of \$7.15 million.

"CIT is charged with capitalizing on the business of innovation in the Commonwealth," said board chairman Dr. Charles W. Steger, president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. "This year's results demonstrate a continued commitment to a Virginia-focused mission, while accessing new avenues for program funding."

CIT's fiscal 2004 operating plan set a target of \$185 million in total economic impact, which CIT exceeded by 24 percent. The \$230.2 million total includes \$3.1 million in revenue from federal and private grants and contracts.

CIT pursues and manages federal programs in which the research and development partners are Virginia's colleges, universities and small technology businesses, as well as programs that tap into CIT's services to technology businesses through-

out the Commonwealth. CIT provides the necessary state match of cash and in-kind services to leverage these external funding sources for the Commonwealth's benefit.

The additional \$227.1 million of economic impact reported by CIT clients statewide comprises:

- \$49.9 million in federal research and development awards and resulting sales and employment gains.
- \$20.9 million in private capital raised and resulting increases in sales and employment.
- \$153.5 million in all other revenue increases and job creation/retention by small high-tech firms served by CIT's regional offices throughout the Commonwealth.

- \$2.8 million in federal and private funding for projects to accelerate broadband access in rural areas of Virginia.

CIT's statewide programs and specialized field office services translated into benefits for every region of Virginia including:

- \$36.9 million for Roanoke Valley/Southwestern Virginia.
- \$8.5 million for Region 2000/Southside.
- \$70.2 million for Hampton Roads/Northern Neck.
- \$14.0 million for Piedmont/Shenandoah Valley.
- \$46.7 million for Greater Richmond.
- \$50.8 million for Northern Virginia.

"We've transformed CIT into a revenue-driven enterprise that pays substantial dividends on the Commonwealth's investment, including leverage of appropriation dollars to secure external revenue," said CIT president Peter Jobse.

Beginning in fiscal 2004, the Warner administration and the General Assembly challenged CIT to diversify its funding sources, while maintaining the functions set out in the Virginia code and the goals outlined in Gov. Warner's Strategic Plan for Technology.

"With its new model for performance measurement, CIT has achieved a higher level of accountability in its use of public funds to fulfill its legislative mandates," said Secretary of Technology Eugene J. Huang. "This clarity instills confidence in CIT's leadership of Virginia's technology-based economic agenda."

### ▼ Del. Pollard introduces 'Flush Tax' . . . . . (continued from page B1)

to support or oppose it.

Del. Pollard's bill is countered by a bill introduced by Del. Allen Louderback of Luray that establishes a clean-water fund using existing revenues. The money would be used to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous discharges from municipal sewage systems and agricultural land.

The fund would be created by setting aside a twelfth of the state's two percent sales and use tax. It is expected to generate up to \$160 million annually.

Louderback's bill also establishes a 10-member commission to advise DEQ and DCR on the disbursement of this fund.

The main difference between the bills, Del. Pollard said, is that Del. Louderback's takes the money out of the existing revenue stream.

"My bill has the advantage in that it doesn't nip away at any existing programs," Del. Pollard said. "Its disadvantage is that it requires the implementation of a new fee."

If one bill moves forward, Del. Pollard said he guesses it will be Del. Louderback's rather than his.

"Everybody agrees on the problem but nobody agrees on the revenue source," Del. Pollard said.

If the bill does go forward, it will need a significant amount of work on the implementation side of things, he said, "but I don't think we are going to get to that stage."

### Non-native oysters

Del. Terrie Suit of Virginia Beach last week introduced a bill that would authorize the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to allow the placement of non-native *Crassostrea ariakensis* oysters on state-owned bottom.

The bill states that oysters placed on state-owned oyster beds must originate from a hatchery located in the Chesapeake Bay Region and certified by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Prior to 2007, the non-native oysters must be sterile (producing not more than one diploid per 1,000) and shall be deployed to protect against inadvertent fertilization. After July 1, 2007, the bill allows the VMRC with the support of VIMS to authorize the placement of diploid or fertile *C. ariakensis* oysters on state-owned bottom.

The VMRC may directly over-

see or undertake the actual placing of non-native oysters on state-owned oyster beds, even if the oysters belong to a private or commercial oysterman. It may charge a reasonable fee to the licensee to cover the cost of administration.

### Menhaden bills

Three pieces of legislation concerning the regulation of menhaden are now on the General Assembly docket.

Del. Suit introduced House Bill 1795 allowing the VMRC to adopt regulations governing the fishing of menhaden. The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is backing the bill.

Omega Protein opposes it largely because the CCA backs it, said Toby Gascon, the company's government affairs coordinator and spokesman.

"This same group has publicly stated a number of times that they support the elimination of the menhaden industry in Virginia," Gascon said. "It's hard not to question their motives in backing this bill."

This is the ninth piece of legislation brought forth by the CCA against the menhaden industry in the last 10 years, Gascon said. All have been defeated.

The VMRC already has the power to enforce the menhaden regulations created by the ASMFC, Gascon argued. The General Assembly has the power to regulate any aspect of any agency's domain. Anything not specifically named in the code as being addressed by the General Assembly, however, falls back to the VMRC.

Gascon also argues that Del. Suit's bill creates no standards as to how they can regulate the industry.

Most legislation involving the VMRC requires that its decisions be based on the best scientific evidence and management practices possible.

"There is no burden of proof to show that their regulations need to be put in place," Gascon said. Meanwhile, Del. Harry R. Purkey of Virginia Beach introduced a joint resolution establishing a subcommittee to study the most appropriate means of regulating the fishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Omega also opposes this resolution, Gascon said.

"The points seem to have been

lifted wholesale from the same incorrect information," Gascon said.

The study would cost tax payers an estimated \$7,200. Gascon called the study redundant.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission met 14 times in 2004 to discuss the best management of the menhaden industry, he explained. This culminated in a three-day workshop that was attended by more than 25 fishery scientists who sat down together at a table to study whether any more menhaden regulations were needed.

The three-day workshop alone cost taxpayers \$40,000.

The study concluded that no more regulations are necessary at this time.

Omega sees Purkey's resolution as, "just another study at taxpayers' expense," Gascon said.

Del. Allen Louderback of Luray introduced a bill on behalf of Omega attempting to address the concerns of the CCA. It authorizes the governor to adopt regulations handed down from the ASMFC while the General Assembly is not in session.

The ASMFC currently requires its regulations to be enacted prior to the start of a fishing season in May. It has never passed down a mid-season regulation. This leaves a two-month window when ASMFC regulations addressing aspects of the industry over which the General Assembly has jurisdiction could be put on hold.

There has been only one instance in 25 years when the ASMFC has passed down a regulation in the two months between the General Assembly's adjournment and the start of fishing season. That new rule mandated that menhaden fishing vessels must report their daily catch.

It was adopted and put into place by the VMRC.

This was an example of how anything not specifically addressed by the General Assembly falls under the jurisdiction of the VMRC.

"There is nothing in the law stating the VMRC doesn't have the authority to manage menhaden," Gascon said.

The proposed bill allows the governor to adopt regulations specifically addressed by the General Assembly when the legislature is not in session.