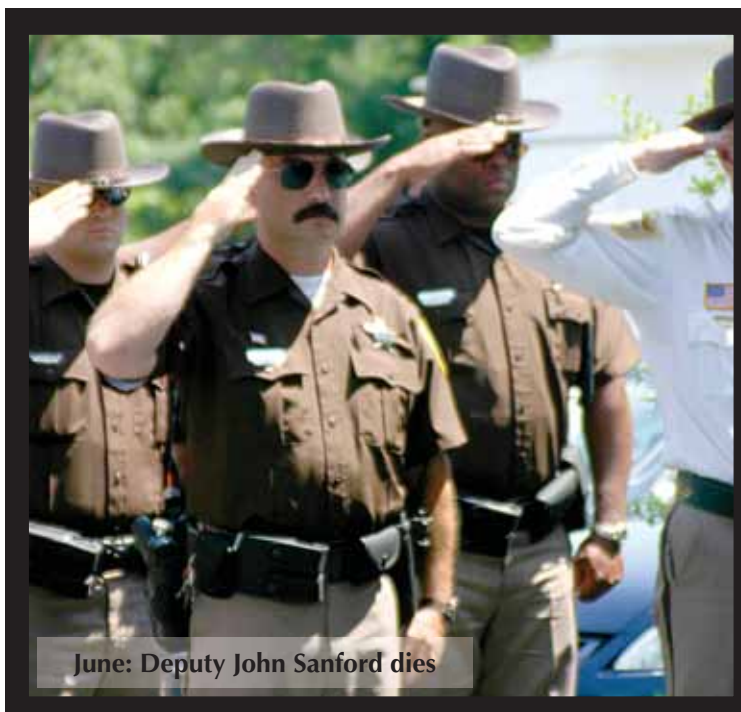
Rappahannock Record

Thursday, January 5, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 13 • Three Sections • 50¢



June: Deputy John Sanford dies

December.: Handshake ban lifted

July: Greenpeace protests Omega

November: Rob Wittman elected delegate

2005
A Look Back

In the line of duty

Northumberland County Sheriff's Deputy John Sanford was killed in a fiery crash while responding to a call June 19. An estimated 900 people attended his funeral in Kilmarnock, making this the largest funeral the area has seen in recent history. Sanford was also a volunteer fireman and a mechanic. He left behind his wife, Eleanor.

Shake on it

Football players from Washington & Lee and Lancaster broke a controversial ban on handshaking among Northern Neck District schools last fall during a Region A playoff game. The ban was enacted at the start of the 2005 school year and included all sports. It drew statewide media attention and was opposed by so many parents and fans that the district principals decided to withdraw the ban in December.

Menhaden challenges

Omega Protein and Virginia's menhaden industry came under attack from environmentalists and sports fishermen twice in 2005, first in the General Assembly where legislation to put the menhaden industry under the jurisdiction of the VMRC was shot down, and later as federal regulators debated whether to limit the catch in the Chesapeake Bay. Greenpeace joined the fight in July, staging a waterfront protest in front of Omega's Reedville plant. Ultimately, regulators decided to set a roughly 105,000 metric ton per year cap and to initiate a study into the health of the menhaden stock in the bay.

Oyster hopes

Oyster restoration efforts continued in 2005 as a partnership of five private, state and federal agencies joined together to initiate the largest seeding effort in Virginia history. More than 15 million disease-resistant, native oysters were destined for the Great Wicomico River reefs in hopes of jump-starting the ecosystem to give the oysters hope of survival. Despite protective netting, cow nosed rays and oxygen deprived water took a heavy toll on the effort.

PUD fizzles

Lancaster County's consideration of planned unit development (PUD) ordinances that had proposed cluster development of residences along waterfront and inland property was halted at the planning commission stage. The proposed PUD drew significant public opposition.

The 'Big Dig'

Construction for the Kilmarnock Main Street enhancement project began in 2005 and continues into 2006. The $3.9-million project drew criticism from Main Street business owners for its delays in phase completions, which disrupted pedestrian accessibility during the holiday shopping season and caused detours around downtown Kilmarnock throughout the latter half of the year.

PSA halted

The Lancaster board of supervisors and town councils of Irvington, Kilmarnock and White Stone all entertained a proposed public services authority (PSA) that would have provided a separate governmental entity for the development of centralized water and sewer services. While the supervisors eventually declined to participate in the PSA based on the draft agreement between the county and the towns, the White Stone town council approved a memorandum of understanding that authorized a town committee to continue the pursuit of those services. The Irvington town council tabled the PSA indefinitely, and the Kilmarnock council did not formally consider the PSA agreement for a vote. All of the jurisdictions were involved in some form in a related feasibility study funded by the Lancaster County Industrial Development Authority. Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury and the New Tides LLC, which owns the Tides Inn, the Golden Eagle Golf Course and the former Tides Lodge, also were involved.

Big box retailing

Growth and development issues that surfaced in 2005 and continue into 2006 include the speculation that a WalMart or other retail giant plans to locate at the north end of Kilmarnock.

Steroid case

Former Lancaster Middle School wrestling assistant coach Ben W. Hunter, 37, of White Stone was indicted on charges of multiple counts of steroid distribution to a middle school student wrestler. The case is set for a three-day jury trial beginning February 7.

Raising skipjack

The Claud W Somers rose again this summer after capsizing at the Turkey Shoot Regatta in October 2004. The restoration required many hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars in donations.

(continued on page A16)

March: Oysters planted

April: Community fights to save FFA

September: Kaine campaigns in Lively

May: Skipjack rededicated

September: New YMCA opens

Compiled by Record staff • Page design by Reid Pierce Armstrong

6 56525 10491 6

Crowning Holly Ball royalty: B1

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■ Holiday lights:
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January

5 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meets at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The Marine Corps League Detachment meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 580-3803.
The Wetlands Board for Northumberland County meets at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.
The White Stone Town Council meets at 7 p.m. at the town office at 433 Rappahannock Drive in white Stone.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Airport Club of Hummel Field meets at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting at The Pilot House at Topping. 758-5500.

6 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
Bingo is played at the Mid-County Rescue Squad Building in Heathsville at 7 p.m.
The RFM Stitchers meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The RFM Quilters meet at 1 p.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock from 6 to 10 p.m.

7 Saturday

The "Win With the Library" Lottery drawing for $15,000 will be held at 10 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. 435-1729.

8 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at T&T's in Burgess immediately following church services.
Photographer Bonnie Ramsey will open the Sundays at Two series at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock at 2 p.m.
The Rappahannock Art League will host a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts exhbit, "Goshen: Lessons from the River."

9 Monday

The Lancaster School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock.
The Northumberland School Board meets at 5:30 p.m. at the school board office in Lottsburg.
Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. at Gloucester High School for the Court House Players' production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare." 694-5050.
The Northern Neck Kennel Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock.

Tickets available

Michael and Tabitha Foulkes check out their weekly supply of books from the Lancaster Community Library. They want to remind everybody to buy a "Win With the Library" lottery ticket. Proceeds go a long way in paying for children's programs and general operating expenses. The drawing for the $15,000 prize will be held Saturday, January 7, at 10 a.m. at the library. Tickets are still available at the library, or by calling 435-1729.

9 Monday

The First-Place Weight-Loss Class meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive. New-member orientation will be held. 435-5701.
Flotilla 33 meets at 7:30 p.m. at Grace House at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.

10 Tuesday

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Kilmarnock Museum Board of Directors will meet at 2 p.m. at the museum on North Main Street.
The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club will meet at 7 p.m. at the Northside Branch of the Bank of Lancaster in Kilmarnock. 435-2143.
Boat Talk, an exchange of ideas on classic and wooden boats, will be held at 4 p.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 462-9829.
Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. at Gloucester High School for the Court House Players' production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare." 694-5050.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington. Dr. Robert Westbrook will speak on "Our POWs Left Behind."

10 Tuesday

The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.

11 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
The Virginia Watermen's Association meets at 7 p.m. at the Pilot House in Topping.
The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District meets at 7 p.m. at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission Headquarters in Warsaw. 333-3525.
The Rappahannock Community College Board meets at 1 p.m. on the Glenns campus.
The Potomac River Fisheries Commission will hold a public hearing on the Draft Addendum 1 Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel at 6 p.m. at the PRFC building at 222 Taylor Street in Colonial Beach. 202-289-6400.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men as well as women, and newcomers, are invited. No reservations are needed. 435-2755.
The RFM Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
"Tigers" will be featured at Storytime with Tonya Carter from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The program includes story, crafts and refreshments.

11 Wednesday

The Friends of Lancaster County meets at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. the speaker is Mary Louisa Pollard, president of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy.

12 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmar-nock.
The Wetlands Board for Lancaster County will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
The Board of Supervisors for Northumberland County meets at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m. in the courts building in Heathsville.
The Irvington Town Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the town office
The Interfaith Service Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.
The Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Ruritan Center in Lively.
American Legion Post 117 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the post home in Reedville.
The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad building in Heathsville.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at Ferebee's Restaurant in Tappahannock from 6 to 10 p.m.

Raffle winner claims quilt

Judy Jim of Pittsburgh visited the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville last Saturday to claim a quilt she won in a recent Friends of the Library raffle. From left are library director Jayne McQuade, friends vice president Lien Groenwold and Jim. The quilt was designed by Nancy Brannon.

Dining Guide

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

THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S GUILD & CAFÉ LOTTÉ : Great BBQ Ribs, chicken, homemade salad, delicious desserts & more. Homemade desserts by order. Serving lunch, 11 am - 4 pm, Mon. - Sat. Closed Sundays. 529-5938 Lottsburg, Va.

LANCASTER LANDING RESTAURANT: Seafood, Steaks and daily dinner specials. Located at the foot of the White Stone Bridge. Hours: Main Dining Room: 5:00–10:00 Tues.–Sat; Lounge Dining Room: 4:00–12:00 Tues.–Thursday & 4:00–1:15 Fri. & Sat. Entertainment Friday & Saturday (in the lounge). 436-9060

THE MOUNT HOLLY STEAMBOAT INN: Overlooking beautiful Nomini Creek in historic Westmoreland County. Winter Hours Dinner Wednesday to Saturday. 5:00-9:00 Grand Sunday Brunch Buffet 11:00-2:00. 804-472-9070. 3673 Cople Highway (Rt. 202 at Nomini Bay)
www.mthollysteamboatinn.com

SANDPIPER REEF RESTAURANT: 4 Star Dining on the Piankatank. Friendly, local atmosphere. Fresh seafood, prime beef. Thurs-Sat. 5-9. Sun. 4 - 8 p.m. Special Parties-Off Nights. Reservations accepted. Off Rt. 198 in Mathews County. Under new ownership. (D). 725-3331.

PAPERBACK WRITER: 367 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone 804-436-9339. Open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., Noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. Fresh Arabica Coffees, espresso, cappuchino, fresh baked pastries and sweets, reading rooms, music, free WiFi for customers.

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

THAI POT: Authentic Thai cuisine. Serving lunch and dinner. Dine in and carry-out. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday Lunch: 11:30am-3pm. Dinner: 5:30pm-9pm., Catering available. 238 N. Main St., Kilmarnock, 436-Thai.

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

THE TAVERN RESTAURANT: In the heart of Heathsville, Va. Chef Branden Levine serves a pleasing Progressive American Cuisine. Enjoy steak, seafood, chicken, lamb, and gourmet desserts. Open for lunch: Wednesday - Saturday 11:30 - 2:30, Dinner: 5:30 - 9:00 and Sunday Brunch 10:30-2:00. Call 804-580-7900 for reservations.

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

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Sun. (4:30) 7:45
Mon. – Thurs. (2:45) 6:00, 9:15

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 1HR 41 MIN
Fri. (4:15) 6:15, 8:30
Sat. (2:15, 4:15) 6:15, 8:30
Sun. (2:15, 4:15) 6:15
Mon. – Thurs. (4:15) 6:15, 8:30

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FRI. JAN. 6
GRANDMA'S BOY (R) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 5:15, 7:15, 9:25
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 5:25, 7:25, 9:35
KING KONG (PG13) 4:20, 8:00
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

SAT. JAN. 7
GRANDMA'S BOY (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:25
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:35
KING KONG (PG13) 1:00, 4:30, 8:00
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

SUN. JAN. 8
GRANDMA'S BOY (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25
KING KONG (PG13) 1:00, 4:25, 7:45
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00

MON. JAN. 9- THUS. JAN. 12
GRANDMA'S BOY (R) 7:30
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 7:15
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 7:25
KING KONG (PG13) 7:00
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 7:10

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BRKIG (10/01)

Concert will showcase Falletta and Friends

JoAnn Falletta returns to the Lancaster Middle School Theater January 17 for an "On Stage" concert sponsored by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. For ticket availability, call the box office at 435-0292.

Music director of the Virginia Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic, Maestra Falletta will step off the podium this visit to perform with Falletta and Friends. The trio will feature Falletta on classical guitar, Robert Alemany on clarinet and Debra Wendells Cross on flute.

Falletta recently received a Grammy Nomination in the category of Instrumental Soloist Performance with Orchestra. The nomination, which she shares with English horn soloist, Thomas Stacy, is for their recording of "Eventide, Concerto for English Horn, Harp, Percussion, and String Orchestra," by Kenneth Fuchs, performed by Thomas Stacy and the London Symphony Orchestra. Eventide is included in Kenneth Fuchs: An American Place, issued on the Naxos American Classics label (2005, Naxos 8.559224).

The Grammy Awards will take place in Los Angeles on February 8 and will be broadcast on CBS.

Falletta previously graced the local stage directing the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Alemany has performed internationally on clarinet. His recordings of "Schubert's Guitar" and "The Viennese Guitar" received an award from Classic CD magazine.

Cross holds the position of principal flute with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Virginia Opera Orchestra.

The On Stage program will include the Rossini Overture to La Gazza Ladra, a Beethovan Serenade, Bartok Rumanian Dances and a Dreutzer Trio. Hills Quarter will serve as corporate sponsor for the concert.

Season subscribers who won't be attending are reminded to call the box office.

Bonnie Rumsey visits with villagers in a remote corner of China.

Photographer to open 'Sundays at Two' series

The Lancaster Community Library's 11th season of Sundays at Two will open January 8 as Bonnie Rumsey will relate her experiences and show slides of her recent visit to a remote area of ethnic China.

A dedicated traveler, Rumsey has previously visited Nepal, Tibet, India, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Mali, Myanmar and Laos. She shares her stories and slides as her "passion for travel to remote places continues to feed her spirit."

Rumsey has studied at the Santa Fe Workshops with award-winning photographer Nevada Wier. In March 2005 she joined Nevada's group of photographers to explore Guizhou Provence, a little-known corner of China.

Much time was spent with the Miao, one of the province's largest ethnic groups, whose clans live in relative isolation most of the year. However, during their colorful spring festivals, the Miao dress in their finest embroidered costumes, often decorated with pounds of silver, and the young people court prospective partners from other clans.

The travelers' adventure took them to a number of different villages, festivals, markets and homes. Welcomed by the Miao, they were greeted with shouts, music and rice wine. At times, the travelers hiked steep trails for hours to reach a destination where there were only the most basic and rustic accommodations.

On January 15, Brian Latell will discuss "After Fidel: the Inside Story."

On January 22, Albert Pollard Jr. will talk about "Bay pollution sources: Our best guess."

On February 12, author Phyllis McClure will discuss "Rosenwald Schools in the Northern Neck."

On February 19, Bill Gurley and Friends will present "Bluegrass Fiddling, Rhythm and Roots."

On March 8, professor Margaret Devinney will discuss "Mythology: How the ancients explained the world."

Programs begin at 2 p.m. at the library in Kilmarnock.

Area Events

■ Cruz concert

Arts Alive Inc. will present guitarist Edgar Cruz January 15 at 3 p.m. at the W. T. Robinson/Sture G. Olsson Civic Auditorium and Fine Arts Center in West Point. For ticket prices or reservations, call 843-3475. Cruz has been named Oklahoma's Best Performing Artist and Best Acoustic Guitarist for the last three years by the Oklahoma Gazette.

■ Lose weight

The White Stone Church of the Nazarene will host a new session of "First Place," beginning with new-member orientation Monday, January 9.

The 13-week, faith-based weight-loss program will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive, off Route 3 a mile north of White Stone. To join, call Brenda Brinn at 453-5701.

■ Comp plan hearing

A public hearing will be held January 17 on the Town of Kilmarnock's Comprehensive Plan final revision. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the town office at 514 North Main Street.

Art league to host reception

The Rappahannock Art League will host a reception Sunday, January 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock for a special exhibition from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. "Goshen: Lessons from the River" features a collection of works by Jack and Judy Witt.

In an unusual pairing of media, the exhibition presents watercolors of forest scenes by Judy Witt and nature-based small wall bronzes by Jack Witt. The works are based on their visits to Goshen. Each work is a reflection of hours and days spent in communion with the natural world and with each other.

Residents of Ashland, the Witts have articulated their vision in a collaborative collection of books, sculpture, watercolors, prints, and greeting cards that celebrate the sacred, the magic of everyday life, and the healing power of art.

The exhibition continues through January 21.

Players announce auditions

The Court House Players will hold auditions for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" Monday, January 9, and Tuesday, January 10, at 7 p.m. at Gloucester High School.

This romp through Shakespeare is hosted by three actors who attempt to do justice to each of Shakespeare's 32 plays in less than two hours.

Needed are three actors and various specialty acts to perform during the themed dinner: strolling minstrels, jugglers and magicians.

Actors will be asked to read from the script with other actors, and participate in some improvisations. Specialty acts will be asked to deliver a demo (under two minutes).

Production dates are March 16, 17, 18 and 19 at Gloucester High School and March 24 and 25 at Thousand Trails. Call Paul Aubrey at 694-5050, or email Karyn Haywood at karyn_haywood@yahoo.com.

Weight-loss class to meet

The White Stone Church of the Nazarene will host a new session of "First Place," beginning with new-member orientation Monday, January 9.

The 13-week, faith-based weight-loss program will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive, off Route 3 a mile north of White Stone.

Supported and endorsed by nutritionists and physicians, the program provides instruction, encouragement and support to members who follow a dietary, fitness and Bible study regimen.

To join, call Brenda Brinn at 453-5701.

THE RECORD ONLINE
www.rrecord.com

Lancaster, PA
April 5, 6 & 7
Join our group
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St. Andrews Presbyterian,
and St. Francis de Sales Catholic
Invite you to the First Annual
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Worship Service
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Sunday Afternoon
January 15, 2006
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Food & Fellowship
(Lancaster Middle School Cafeteria)

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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Ten years ago today, at 10 a.m., the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge from White Stone to Gray's Point was rededicated after three years of reconstruction and renovation. It was a bitter cold day, but despite best-laid plans, I missed the event.

I had served for three years, from its inception, on the Citizens Advisory Committee and had never missed a meeting. We worked with VDOT to keep the bridge open, following an arbitrary decision made in l993 to close the bridge at night to allow for the work to be done more swiftly.

The local boards of supervisors and town councils along with hundreds of citizens protested, correctly claiming that the bridge was the lifeline between the two peninsulas, and its closing, even for eight hours a day, would adversely affect all the people who lived in the region. Of particular concern was the necessity for access to Rappahannock General Hospital for those who lived in the Middle Peninsula.

As the work progressed, our committee met regularly, monitoring the situation and working to diffuse the resentment brought about by the abrupt decision. A plan came about whereby the bridge stayed open 24 hours a day, and the work of resurfacing was conducted incrementally. It all worked very smoothly, and rather than being a divisive action, it became a unifying one which brought both sides of the Rappahannock together in good fellowship.

On the previous October 28th, the committee met to decide a date for the rededication. We discussed several times, and settled on 10 a.m., January 5, l996. At the time my good wife and I were expecting the arrival of the second B.E. sometime between Christmas and early January. After the unanimous vote was taken to hold the dedication on the 5th, I went home and told my wife. "The baby will be born on the morning of January 5th." She asked how I knew, and I replied, "Because that is when we decided to hold the bridge ceremony."

My prognostication proved right on the mark. We went to RGH on the evening of the 4th, and at 7:40 a.m., l5 months after the arrival of our first, 30 months after we had committed matrimony, and 39 months after we first met, we were a family of four. This time some things were a little bit different from the arrival of the first B.E.; most notably, the new B.E. was female, and now for the past decade I have experienced the joy of having a daughter.

The day after her arrival, the worst blizzard in years hit the Northern Neck, stranding the elder B.E. and me at home by the wood stove. When we all got home together, the snow was encircling our house, and remained until the next blizzard two weeks later, which raised its depth appreciably.

Now, 10 years into having a little one of the feminine persuasion, I realize how she has changed this former old bachelor's life. I never grew up with little girls except as schoolmates and cousins I saw infrequently. Now it is a daily experience, and I am able to see things from entirely new perspectives. I have found that little girls are born lawyers, proto-Ph.D.s in logic, experts in the depths of analysis, and utter bundles of joy.

A female B.E. knows how to present her case both delicately and persuasively, which is not to say that a male B.E. does not, but rather that the female variety seems to have a unique way with words and gestures. Although our female B.E. once said when she was six, "I am not a gesturist," when I made a retort to one of her comments, I see a definite sense of the dramatic in her demeanor.

Animals, both live and stuffed, mean much to her. Apparel is very important also. Reading, both directed and self-motivated, is part of her way of life, an attribute particularly encouraged by my good wife in both B.E.s. Last year, after a good while of wanting to have her hair cut, she did so, but only when assured that it was sufficiently long to be useful to Locks of Love, the organization which makes wigs for children suffering from cancer.

Along with my faith, marriage and fatherhood have made me the person I am more than any other developments in my life, and I am grateful for this somewhat belated opportunity to be a child again with them. That is why my good wife thinks she has three children, but she does not call me a B.E. Yet.

This Side of 60

by Marie Snider

Play Scrabble for the brain

After four decades, the scores are still written in the bottom of the yellowing Scrabble box. Five hundreds and six hundreds mostly, although one score reaches all the way up to the grand number of 769.

If you remember playing Scrabble during its heyday in the 1950s, you'll recognize just how magnificent those scores are.

That grand score came from our honeymoon. There we were at Lake Placid in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of northeastern New York. Visiting the North Pole and Santa Claus, traveling the hairpin curves up Whiteface Mountain, sightseeing in the land of mountains and scenic lakes created long ago by glaciers.

And who in the world would play Scrabble in a setting like that?

We would. We did, in fact. Because 1954 was the height of our Scrabble mania, and the chance to top all those high scores that had been previously written in the box simply couldn't be passed up.

Both before and after our wedding, we worked in a church publishing house in western Pennsylvania. By day all of us were writers and editors together. And by night, we continued sparring with words as we played Scrabble.

Oh, but those editors knew their words. Nobody needed a dictionary, even if it had been allowed. Everybody's favorites were "em" and "en" - printer's terms you might never have met in another crowd.

Elizabeth was the best. But she had one fault. She claimed she had high blood pressure and simply couldn't stand waiting for the slowest of us to finish our turns.

Her solution was to plug in the toaster. When she pushed the handle down, that toaster would tick... tick... tick... tick. Like a time bomb. And when the handle popped up, your turn was over.

That's how I remember Scrabble from the 1950s.

But that was a long time ago, and people rarely play Scrabble anymore. An article in the "Mayo Clinic Health Letter" made me think we should pick it up again.

The Mayo article instructed those of us this side of 60 to "work crossword puzzles or play Scrabble" to keep our minds sharp. The researchers explained, "Mental abilities don't inevitably decline with age. 'Use it or lose it' applies to your mind as well as your body."

Other writers have said the same thing in recent years.

Take Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, the Florida centenarian who was a powerful lobbyist for saving the Everglades. Writing in her middle 90s, Stoneman said, "There's nothing inherently wrong with a brain in the 90s. If you keep it fed and interested, you'll find it lasts very well."

Eric Pfeiffer, a psychiatrist who led a long-term study of older Americans, discovered that the people who are most likely to age successfully are those who "stay in training."

There appears to be a great deal of truth to the old adage "use it or lose it." And when it comes to the brain, you can't take any chances.

So as you prepare for 2006, consider resolving to exercise your brain. And why not begin by getting out the dusty Scrabble board tonight? If that's all it takes to keep your mind sharp, how can you justify not doing it?

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Letters to the Editor

David Jones is exceptional

To The Editor:

On behalf of my four brothers and the grandchildren of Burt and Carolyn Reed, I would like to extend a warm thanks to David Jones.

Mr. Jones is truly an exceptional altruistic citizen in this area, and his kindness and generosity should be recognized by all. My father, Burt Reed of White Stone, suffered a terrible fall during this past Thanksgiving weekend. He was sent by helicopter to a hospital in Richmond where he had his spleen removed and stayed for 11 days. The fall also broke three ribs, making it difficult for him to move on his own.

As many people know, my father has worked for Connemara Construction Corporation and David Jones part-time since he retired from the insurance industry. When Burt was ready to come home from the hospital, Mr. Jones traveled to Richmond with my mother to help get Burt back to White Stone.

In today's world, I think such a giving and selfless person is very rare. Although he is a very busy man, he spent the entire day caring for my parents. He even avoided answering his cell phone so he would not be distracted from Burt's needs.

The community is lucky to have Mr. Jones as a resident and business owner. I would just like him to know how much he is appreciated by our family. We are so grateful.

Maggie Silfee,
McMurray, Pa.

Bringing joy to new subscriber

To The Editor:

I run a daycare service in Goochland County and one of my children is Blair, the daughter of Rodney and Dana Bussells. Rodney is the son of Doris and Jimmy Bussells of Lively and Dana is the daughter of Joe and Linda Kellum of Weems.

For Christmas this year the Bussells gave me a gift subscription to the Rappahannock Record because we have a place on the Rappahannock that we go to each weekend.

The December 22 paper was the third one I received and I didn't get around to reading it until December 28. Having only two children that day I decided to look at my paper and what a joy. The first page let me know it was Christmas. It told me of nutcrackers, Christmas festivals, Communion, Mass and I even saw the words "Merry Christmas."

After such a commercial and "Happy Holidays" Christmas this was very exciting to read.

Turning the pages I saw "It's All Because of Jesus," the words Lord, God and many more Merry Christmases. Finally I got to section B to be greeted by a Dove and "Joy to the World," a star with the saying, "the wise still seek Him."

I knew there was a special section called "Greetings of the Season" that I still had to look at, but when I turned to page 11 and saw the ad from Lancaster Auto and Marine, I stopped and said thank you Lord for such wonderful people, and a paper that is not afraid to show what community is all about, and people that are not afraid to tell the world about Jesus.

I have been reading about the "big box" perhaps coming to your community, but if it does your neighborhood will survive because it is filled with God-fearing people who know that family, friends and Jesus will see them through life's problems.

Jo Ann Johnson
Goochland

Remembering Deputy Santa

To The Editor:

For as long as I can remember, the people of our United States have given generously of their time, talent and monies to help those in need.

Within the past year, this generosity continued with help for victims of a tsunami, victims of mudslides in South America, and our own citizens who were devastated by hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. The events themselves will be talked about for years to come, but the generosity of each individual will soon be forgotten.

And, for as long as I can remember, our local community has given generously of time, talent and monies to help the less fortunate here at home. Recently, local children benefited from this generosity through the Deputy Santa program. Individual donations, too numerous to list, were used by members of the Sheriff's Advisory Council to obtain warm clothing and other gifts for the children.

The Sports Centre, Northern Neck Insurance Company and Geo-Products donated bicycles; Adia Insurance Company, Wachovia Securities, Grace Episcopal Church, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church donated clothing and other items through their angel trees; and the Bank of Lancaster donated a very large assortment of toys, games and other gifts.

Helper Elves included Wes McAdden, Tom Coye, Randolph Lattimore, Van Vanlandingham, Tony Waring, Bitsy Conley, Dorsey Ficklin and Jim Kenner, along with Vivian Abbott, Ashley O'Bier and other members of my staff. These and others collected, sorted, tagged and helped load all the gifts for delivery.

Thanks to the help of everyone involved, Christmas 2005 was a little brighter for 125 children here at home.

Let's not forget the names of the businesses and individuals here at home that are part of our generous community.

Ronald D. Crockett
Lancaster County Sheriff
Irvington

Taking a plunge

To The Editor:

I thank all the people that made the New Year's Day "Polar Plunge" to benefit the YMCA Guardian Scholarship Program a success.

The program assists families or individuals to afford the great programs and services the YMCA offers. Last year, the YMCA was able to give financial assistance in excess of $72,000 to those in our community who could not have participated otherwise.

There are many people who gave time, energy and financial support to make the event possible. Specifically, I want to thank Lisa Shivers and Susan Richardson for organizing the event, Frank and Bill Burke of the Lancaster Landing Restaurant for providing food and beverages, and Albert Pollard for roasting the oysters. With the help of these volunteers, the "plungers" and their supporters were able to raise over $1,500.

On behalf of the YMCA, thank you again for making this event a success. With your support in 2006, we'll continue to make the YMCA an organization committed to building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities in the Northern Neck.

Thomas Richardson
YMCA board member
Irvington

Thanks for support

To The Editor:

This year was filled with devastation and disaster around the world. The Lancaster County Service Unit of the Salvation Army exhausted most of it's funds helping victims of hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Many families were displaced and a few even relocated to the Northern Neck.

Every year we help underprivileged and single-parent families at Christmas time. This year we were unsure if we would be able to provide assistance, but thanks to the community, we were able to help at least 70 families.

This letter is to publicly thank all the individuals and organizations who made this Christmas memorable for so many families. We thank The Pleasure Riders Motorcycle Club for the coat and clothes drive they sponsored and God's Property for buying Christmas dinner for a family. We thank the many people who sent checks by mail and those who put money in the kettle when we were at Tri-Star and Food Lion ringing the bell.

We also want to express our appreciation to Sheila and John Savoy for delivering toys and clothes to several families. If we have left anyone out, we are sorry. We thank you all; know that no matter how large or small your gift or donation was, it means more than words can express.

Dianna Carter, chairman
April Smith, secretary
Michelle Fulcher, treasurer

Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

What a long strange read it's been.

That's the only way to describe the additions to my personal library in 2005. Of more than 40 books I read last year, a few stand out.

Crusader's Cross, by James Lee Burke; *Coyote Moon: A Novel of Love, Baseball and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle*, by John A. Miller; *The Stupidest Angel,* by Christopher Moore, and *A Salty Piece of Land,* by Jimmy Buffett, earned spots on the top shelf.

Among the honors were:

• Best detective: *Crusader's Cross.*

• Best prose: (tie) *Crusader's Cross* and *Coyote Moon*.

• Best-storytelling: *Crusader's Cross*.

• Best music: *Crusader's Cross*.

• Best love story: (tie) *Crusader's Cross* and *Coyote Moon.*

• Best sports book: *Coyote Moon*.

• Weirdest: *The Stupidest Angel.*

• Best holiday book: *The Stupidest Angel*.

• Best demons: *The Stupidest Angel*.

• Best angels: *The Stupidest Angel*.

• Best miracles: *The Stupidest Angel*.

• Best fantasy: *A Salty Piece of Land*.

• Best sailing: *A Salty Piece of Land*.

• Best fishing: (tie) *A Salty Piece of Land* and *Crusader's Cross*.

• Best scenery: (tie) *A Salty Piece of Land, Crusader's Cross* and *The Old Ace in the Hole*, by Annie Proulx.

• Best storm: (tie) *Coyote Moon* and *Crusader's Cross*.

• Funniest: *The Stupidest Angel.*

• Saddest: *A Salty Piece of Land.*

• Best ending: (tie) *A Salty Piece of Land, The Stupidest Angel* and *Crusader's Cross*.

• Cruelest: *Crusader's Cross.*

• Recommended for Riverneck reading: *Crusader's Cross.*

• Best fist fights: (tie) *Crusader's Cross* and *Hugger Mugger,* by Robert B. Parker.

• Best biography (male): *American Scoundrel: The Life of the Notorious Civil War General Dan Sickles,* by Thomas Keneally

• Best biography (female): *Strength and Honor: The Life of Dolley Madison,* by Richard N. Cote.

• Best history book: (tie) *American Scoundrel* and *Strength and Honor.*

• Best billiards: *American Scoundrel.*

• Best politics: *American Scoundrel.*

• Best collection of short stories: *New Stories from the South 2005: The Year's Best*, edited by Shannon Ravenel.

• Best short story: *The Burning of the Flag*, by James Lee Burke.

• Most inspirational: *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats,* by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry.

• Best book adapted to a major stage production: *Crowns.*

• Best hats: *Crowns*.

• Most works by a single author: (tie) *Hugger Mugger, Double Play* and *Bad Business,* by Parker; and *Be Cool, The Hot Kid* and *Mr. Paradise,* by Elmore Leonard.

• Best overcoming the odds: *Double Play.*

• Best horse racing: *Hugger Mugger.*

• Best dog: *Hugger Mugger*.

• Best book by a Pulitzer Prize winner: *The Old Ace in the Hole.*

• Best diner: *The Old Ace in the Hole.*

• Best exercise book: *Basic Pumping Iron*, by Grant Breese and Dean White.

• Best health/self-help book: (tie) *First Place Members Guide,* by Carole Lewis, Kay Smith, Nancy Taylor and Diane Cox; *Giving Christ First Place, a First Place Bible Study* with forward by Carole Lewis; *Pathways to Success, a First Place Bible Study* with forward by Carole Lewis; and *Pressing On to the Prize, a First Place Bible Study* with forward by Carole Lewis.

• Best memoir: *Time Beyond Time: A Magical Memoir of Rural England,* by Hope Tod.

• Best children's book: *D'Arcy,* by Donna Doe Southall.

• Best trivia: *Why does Popcorn Pop? And 201 Other Fascinating Facts About Food,* by Don Voorhees.

• Best nature book: *Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge: An Ecological Treasure*, by Irene Hinke-Sacilotto.

• Best photos: *Chincoteague*.

• Most suspenseful: *Hidden Prey,* by John Sandford.

• Best work-related book: *Managing a Weekly Newsroom Staff,* by Don Heinzman.

Letters to the Editor

Upcoming season prompts reflection

To The Editor:

On Monday, January 9, The Academy of Performing and Creative Arts (APCA) will begin registering for the 2006 winter/spring semester.

I wish to thank the dedicated teachers and all of the parents and students who have continued to support the programs that have been offered over the years at APCA. This year's programs of dance, karate and music instruction marks the 15th year that APCA has offered classes to children and adults in The Arts Building in Kilmarnock.

For three years prior to The Arts Building's opening, classes were held in a little building in Kilmarnock at Augusta and Church streets. That building has been torn down and now a parking lot occupies that space. I have many fond memories of earlier classes in that leaky building.

Many of the original students of almost 20 years ago have returned to enroll their children in APCA's programs; my thanks to them for their continued support. It has been my pleasure to be part of the cultural development of these families and to be able to open a world of affordable training, fun and diverse experiences for them to explore.

Also, it is my pleasure to know and work with the dedicated teachers at APCA who do such a marvelous job of introducing their particular talent to their students and help them to continue to learn and grow in their selected field of the arts.

I hope that APCA will continue to be part of this community for years to come. Thank you all for your support.

Mary Alice Eubank
APCA owner and teacher

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the January 5, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen.)

The coming legislature

The Virginia Legislature convenes Wednesday next, January 10th. The furniture for the remodeled Capitol has not arrived, and the Legislature may have to meet and adjourn over to a later day.

It is a foregone conclusion that Hon. W. D. Cardwell will be chosen speaker without serious oposition.

Petitions will go up from tongers in Tidewater asking the right to work patent tongs.

A movement is also on foot looking to the changing of the Baylor survey.

Among the more important measures will be a bill looking to the improvement of highways. The public school system will also receive favorable consideration. A bill will in all probability be introduced looking to the regulation of insurance companies doing business in the State. A bill to redistrict the State will be introduced, taking of the city of Newport News out of the Second district and putting it in the First district, owing to the inequality of population and interests to be cared for.

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

GOP women plan Legislative Day events

The members of the eleven districts of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women will hold their annual Legislative Day at the Richmond Marriott at 500 East Broad Street in Richmond January 12.

Registration will begina at 9 a.m. with Del. Terri Suit and Attorney General Judy Jadgman will moderate a training session at 10 a.m. Delegates and senators of the Republican Party have been invited for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Lt.-Gov.-elect Bill Bolling and Attorney General-elect Bob McDonnell have been invited to attend lunch as special guests.

VFRW Legislative Day coordinator Jennifer Nolen is in charge of the event.

Email your ADS to:

@

mail@rrecord.com

Clinic nurse practitioner Christina Slavin presents a holiday meal to clinic patient Sheila Hudnall.

Free clinic fills another unmet need

The Northern Neck Free Health Clinic exists to fill unmet medical, dental and pharmacy needs in the community.

Unfortunately, nurse practitioner Christina Slavin recently realized there was something that her patients needed that the clinic was not supplying.

"This year I had several patients ask me where they could get help with obtaining food," said Slavin.

Every year the Lancaster County Lions Club provides meals for Lancaster residents. This year, they were able to provide meals for 19 clinic patients and their families. The Lancaster High School Leo Club also donated two meals for clinic patients in November. But because the clinic covers five counties, there was still a need for some patients.

On November 28, the clinic began posting flyers asking volunteers and staff to donate food for holiday meals. On the same day, the clinic began entering interested patients in a free raffle to win "All the Fixins for a Holiday Meal." In the three weeks that flyers were posted, enough food and money was collected to provide another 15 meals for clinic patients.

Meals included canned vegetables, potatoes, juice, stuffing mix, cookies/cakes, diabetic treats, fresh fruit, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and a ham. The food was dropped off December 19. It was sorted and boxed up by Slavin and Yvonne Williams, a clinic volunteer. Janie Burton, a volunteer in the medicare medication area of the clinic, drew winning names.

"This was a great success. We hope to do it again next year, start earlier, give more reminders to volunteers and staff, and collect and distribute even more meals," said clinic director Jean Nelson.

The clinic is constantly trying to expand its health care services and relies on community donations. Monetary donations may be sent to Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, P.O. Box 1694, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Rep. Davis to chair subcommittee

Rep. Jo Ann Davis recently was named the new chairman of the House intelligence subcommittee on terrorism, human intelligence, analysis and counter-intelligence.

The subcommittee, which is the intelligence committee's second largest, will focus on bolstering human intelligence and strengthening America's national security.

Rep. Davis becomes chairman of the human intelligence subcommittee after chairing the subcommittee on intelligence policy and National Security.

"It is an honor to serve as chairman of the House intelligence subcommittee on terrorism, human intelligence, analysis and counter-intelligence, and I would like to thank Intel committee chairman Pete Hoekstra for selecting me for this chairmanship," said Rep. Davis.

She also serves on the House Armed Services and International Relations Committees.

"This subcommittee deals directly with our nation's human intelligence and counterintelligence efforts, and it is my goal to strengthen our intelligence abilities and bolster our national security," said Rep. Davis.

"The subcommittee on terrorism, human intelligence, analysis and counterintelligence will focus on enhancing our nation's intelligence capabilities as well as our counterintelligence operations in an effort to strengthen our national security in the war against terrorism," said Davis. "Over the past 15 years, our capabilities in the field of human intelligence has greatly decreased, and it is vital that we strengthen these capabilities, including increasing our number of personnel in the field and improving our counter-intelligence. It is important that we lessen our dependency on foreign intelligence, including human intelligence, which has been a problem in operations over the years. We need more intelligence coming directly from our own people, and this means expanding our capabilities," Davis said.

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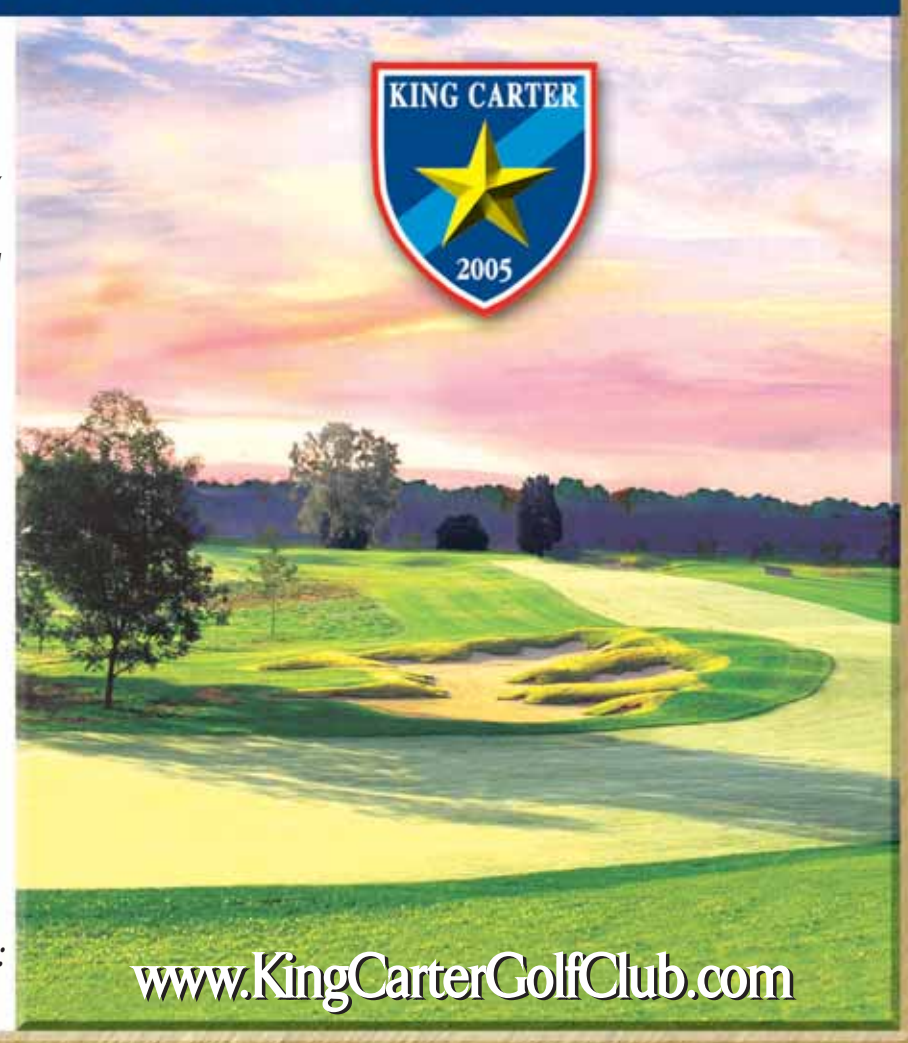

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Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ray Balderson

Balderson, Burian-King nuptials held

Susan Marie Burian-King and Timothy Ray Balderson were united in holy matrimony December 3, 2005, at Totuskey Baptist Church in Haynesville.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Irene Burian of Reedville. The groom is the son of James "Pop" and Sue Balderson of Warsaw.

The bridal party included maid of honor Ashley King of Callao and bridesmaids Rebecca Burian of Montross and Taylor DiStefano of Gloucester.

James Balderson served as his son's best man. The groomsmen were Gerald Balderson of Haynesville and Westly Woolard of Callao.

Brianna Balderson of Haynesville, was the flower girl and Blake Balderson, also of Haynesville, was the ring bearer.

Rev. Chance Mace, pastor of Totuskey Baptist Church, officiated the late afternoon ceremony. The bride's father, Larry Burian, associate pastor of Rehoboth Parish United Methodist Church, read scripture. Ashley King, the bride's daughter, sang a solo in honor of the bride and groom.

Heather Woolard of Callao provided photography services and Jessie Ptucha of Montross videotaped the event.

Following the ceremony, a reception for the couple was held at the Montross Moose Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Timberlake

Timberlake-Walker vows exchanged

The marriage of Stefanie Jean Walker of Richmond, daughter of Carl and Pamela Walker of Millenbeck, to Patrick Edwin Timberlake of Richmond, son of Richard and Sandy Timberlake of Milford, took place September 24, 2005, at Corrottoman Baptist Church in Ottoman. Rev. Frank Schwall Jr. officiated.

The bride is the granddaughter of Eugene and Janice Walker of Millenbeck, Sarah Sanford of Ottoman and the late Thomas Sanford.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents. She wore a white strapless, full-length bridal gown with detailed embroidery throughout its length and carried a bouquet of white roses.

Mrs. Amber Greene was the matron of honor, friend of the bride and groom. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Kristy Higgins, friend of the bride, Miss Mandy Ransone and Miss Dara Ransone, cousins of the bride. The flower girl was Miss Salima Driss, cousin of the bride. The mistress of ceremonies was Ms. Sherry Ransone, aunt of the bride.

John Timberlake, brother of the groom, was the best man. Groomsmen were Richard Timberlake, father of the groom, Everett Walker, brother of the bride, and D.J. Greene, friend of the bride and groom. The ring bearer was David George, cousin of the bride.

The groom wore a black tuxedo with silver vest and tie. He had a boutonniere of a white rose.

The bridesmaids wore tea-length dresses in Victorian lilac and carried a single pink rose. The flower girl wore a white dress matching the bridal gown and carried a basket of rose petals. The father of the bride wore a black tuxedo with black vest and tie and had a pink rose boutonniere. The groomsmen wore black tuxedos with Victorian lilac vests and ties and had boutonnieres of pink roses.

The mother of the bride wore a sleeveless, full-length gown, butter-cream in color. The mother of the groom wore a tea-length ivory gown.

Music was provided by organist Sherry Vanlandingham and soloist Joel Lewis who sang "Cross My Heart." The guest book and program attendants were Misses Victoria and Tiffany Love, cousins of the bride. The cake server was Mrs. Meriam Driss, aunt of the bride.

The rehearsal dinner was given by the groom's parents and catered by Smokin' Joe's. The reception was given by the bride's parents at Corrottoman Civic Center and catered by Country Gourmet. The wedding cake was made by Sharon Anthony. Video and photography were by Waterford Photography of Glen Allen. Music was provided by DJ Curtis Walker.

The bride is employed at Henrico Doctors Hospital. The groom is employed by Anderson Trucking.

After a honeymoon in Freeport, Bahamas, the couple resides in King William.

Local News

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Marsh on Christmas day were members of their family—Mr. and Mrs. James Moss, Neal, Andrew and Timothy Marsh, Alison Bishop, Sherry and Brad Vanlandingham, Mr. and Mrs. David Marsh, Morgan and Steven, Donna, Stacey, Heather and Carol Davis, Clifton Bowles, Robert Wilkins, Mr and Mrs. David Humphreys and Phillip and Miss Inease Marsh.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Marsh were in Powhatan on Sunday, January 1, for the Christmas gathering of her family, the Grubbs family. There were about 45 in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Innis Wood moved last week into their new home on Natty Point Cove.

Mrs. Sharon Estabrook of Annapolis, Md., spent Christmas weekend in Kilmarnock with her mother, Mrs. Paul Ticer.

Wayne and Karen Mullins traveled to Northern Virginia to celebrate the Christmas holidays with friends and family. Christmas Eve they attended an annual party at the Miller home in Linden. They traveled from there to Bunker Hill, West Virginia, to spend the night with their youngest son, Douglas. Christmas morning they were off to Amisville to be with their son and his family, Chris and Karey Mullins and Tanner and Benjamin. A wonderful day was spent opening gifts and eating delicious foods prepared by their daughter-in-law, Karey.

Family members of Mrs. Shirley Bellows spending Christmas with her were Mr. and Mrs. William Bellows and children, Margaret, Nathan and James, and Ms. Judy Bellows, all of Richmond, and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bellows and children, Amy, Abby and Hunter, of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Carter at their home, Bondfield, were his son and family, Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Carter, Sam, Sarah and Steve of Bridgewater.

The Rev. and Mrs. Doug Forrester and daughter, Grace Ellen, of Crozet and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Forrester and children, Caroline and Henry, of Rocky Mount, N.C., spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Forrester.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Butler of Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury were Christmas dinner guests of a son, daughter and grandson, Dr. Jeffrey Butler of San Diego, Calif., Dr. Barbara Butler of Bedminster, N.J., and Bryan Butler of New York City at the Butler home on Jarvis Creek. Other guests were David Parrish of Arlington and Bluff Point and Ms. Ida Hall of Bluff Point.

Christmas guests of Mrs. Agnes Lee at her home in Fleets Bay were James and Twila Lee and Kate Fowlks and children, Ellie and Jacob, of New Market, Kelley Jett and children, Keegan and Caleb, of Richmond and Donna and Drew Gulbranson of Kilmarnock.

New Year's Eve dinner guests of John and Betty Jane Taliaferro were Jim and Ginger Philbrick and Harry and Anne Owen.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Braatz have returned to their home on Indian Creek after spending the holiday in Westport, Conn., with their daughter and her family, Tom and Karin Smith and their children, Ryan and Kate.

Jesse and Sheila Dize of Prentice Creek and daughters and families, Ms. Jessica Dize of Williamsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Anderson of Ocean View and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sturtz and son, Jackson, of Portsmouth enjoyed several days of skiing last week at Silver Creek Ski Resort in West Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Taylor were at the Hampton Inn in Hagerstown, Md., for several days during the holiday where they hosted dinner for their daughters and families, Barbara and Clarence Horst and Laura Allen of Clear Spring, Md., and Janice and Michael Parrish and Taylor and Hunter of Boonesboro, Md.

Guests of Capt. (ret.) and Mrs. Red Tolbert for Christmas were daughters, Ms. Susan Tolbert of Washington and Ms. Jane Tolbert of Fairfax. Another daughter, Mrs. Carol Hardin of Lynchburg, was with them the week before New Year's.

Tom and Lucy Spafford were in Frederick, Md., several days before Christmas with his family, Mike Spafford and Lora Merryman and daughter, Emily. They spent Christmas with her family, Ms. Betty Brown and Danny and Debbie Masterwich in Springfield. Dr. Judy Powell-Ramey and Gene Ramey and Frank Ramey of Woodstock joined them.

Holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Blankenship were their children, Miss Sara Blankenship of Ridgewood, N.J., and David Blankenship of Flint, Mich. David remained for a longer visit. New Year's holiday guests were her brother and sister-in-law, David and Carole Sutton of Hayes, and their daughter, Kathryn, a sophomore at VCU.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Somervell and children, Connor and Emma, of Portland, Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Somervell and daughter, Carley, of Gloucester and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Somervell and children, Lenora and Jesse, of Brasstown, N.C., spent the holiday with their mother, Ms. Maxine Somervell.

Guests of Ms. Judy Bellows for dinner at The Tides Inn on Christmas Eve were Mrs. Shirley Bellows, Ms. Bernice Shelley and Raffaello Licheri.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Taliaferro and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Taliaferro and son, Will, all of Richmond, were with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Taliaferro, for the holiday. Dr. James Harnsberger of RW-C joined them for Christmas dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Enoch and Mrs. Gladys Carlson spent Christmas in Richmond with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Enoch Jr. Steve Enoch of Atlanta, Ga., visited his parents, the Jack Enochs Sr., before Christmas.

Mrs .M. B. Lamberth joined Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lamberth and Ms. Mary Lamberth of Richmond for part of the holiday in Moorestown, N.J., with her granddaughter's family, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Joyce and sons, Jackson and Nathan.

From left are Capt. Sergiy and Carol and Bert Reed at the wheel of the Royal Clipper.

Reeds celebrate 50 years

Carol and Burt Reed of White Stone celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary aboard the Royal Clipper, the largest sailing ship in the world, with five masts and 42 sails.

They sailed in five seas and visited ports in Italy, Sicily, Greece and Turkey.

As the crew set sail from the island of Mykonos, Greece, heading for Athens, Capt. Sergiy invited the Reeds to the helm to honor them.

Carolyn Olive Blake and Lt. Burton Douglas Reed Jr. USAF were married December 27, 1955, in a candlelight service at South Church in Andover, Mass. They soon moved to Moultrie, Ga., where Lt. Reed was in pilot training.

The Reeds have four sons and two daughters-in-law, Robert and Sue Reed of Longmont, Colo., Chuck and Debra Reed of Hubbardston, Mass., Larry Reed of Brandon, Fla., and Douglas Reed of Knoxville, Tenn.; a daughter and son-in-law, Maggie and Paul Silfee of Pittsburgh; 11 grandchildren, Bradley, Michelle and Andrew Reed of Colorado, Natalie Barrera and Melanie, Jonathon and Alexander Reed of Massachusetts, Jacqueline and Valerie Pike of Pittsburgh, Tiffany Reed of Florida, and Austin Reed of Tennessee; and a great-grandchild, Aurora Mae Barrera.

Family members have been visiting the Reeds in White Stone during the last two weeks.

Births

Liam and Connor Bridge announce the birth of their baby brother, Hayden Joseph Bridge, born December 10, 2005, at 2:41 a.m. in Hanover at Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.75 inches long.

He is the son of Patrick and Laura Bridge of Palmyra. He is the grandson of Bill and Janice Young of Weems, and Judy Bridge of Kilmarnock and the late Joseph Bridge.

He is the great-grandson of Jeanne Bridge of Kilmarnock.

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Events to celebrate Washington's birthday

On a Friday morning in February 1732, a baby boy was born into a world where expectations of wealth, social standing and career were determined by who one's parents were and not by individual merit or efforts.

Americans were citizens or subjects of an old world country that they may or may not have ever seen. Few people settled any further than a few miles from the place of their births. As the boy learned to walk, he could make the short stroll to the homesteads that were established by three previous generations of his English ancestors. As the boy became a man, he would use large strides to march his new country to political, social and geographical places that his parents could never imagine on this late winter morning in the far reaches of the British Empire.

Marion Nelson Winship, instructor of American History at Virginia Commonwealth University, will be giving her talk, "George Washington's Sense of Place," at George Washington Birthplace National Monument February 18 at 2 p.m.

Until the 1700s, most Americans got their sense of geographical and social place by looking backwards. Washington became the leader of those who looked forward to great shifts in the physical, political and social movement of the United States.

"The physical motion perhaps came naturally to someone whose father had moved house and home three times before the boy was seven-years-old," said Winship. "The social distance young Washington would traverse seems (even) greater."

Winship's talk will focus on the first 20 years of Washington's life.

The talk will be the start of the monument's celebration of the 274th birthday of Washington. On February 20, costumed interpreters will portray plantation activities throughout the day and the George Washington Birthplace National Memorial Association will serve complimentary gingerbread and hot cider at the Log House.

On February 22, the public is invited to a birthday party for Washington complete with a specially decorated cake and punch. The party starts at 1 p.m.

Admission to the monument will be free February 20 and 22. Admission to the talk on February 18 will be free. Regular admission fees will apply for those wishing to tour the historic area on February 18 and 19.

The monument is on Route 204, two miles off of Route 3 near Montross. Admission fees are $4 per adult, and visitors under 16 are free. The site is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Betty B. Taylor hangs art for the month of January at the Lancaster Community Library.

Taylor's watercolors featured at library

Watercolors by Betty B. Taylor will be displayed through January at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock.

A native of Arlington County, Taylor moved to Maryland in 1955 when she married Larry Taylor.

An interest in watercolors developed after seeing some of her grandfather's paintings. After her daughters were in their teens, she enrolled in a Montgomery County Adult Education class with watercolor teacher, Joanne Sullivan.

When the Taylors moved to Ditchley in 1981, they joined the Rappahannock Art League and she was taken instruction from several local and out-of-state teachers. Her first in this area was Bernice Neuman.

Taylor has continued to study with, among others, Jim Hazel and Jane Stouffer. Recently she enjoyed a collage workshop with Stouffer and several years ago was introduced to acrylics in Stouffer's workshop, said Betty Taylor.

"Jane encourages her students to stretch and play outside the box, which is very good for some of us who are reluctant to try something different," said Betty Taylor.

Betty Taylor paints everything from boats to flowers. She paints on location, or from her photographs.

The Taylors have two daughters, three granddaughters and three step-grandchildren who reside in Maryland. The Taylors are active in several community activities and sports.

When she's not painting flowers or other subjects, Taylor may be found tending to her flower or vegetable gardens, providing the weather cooperates, she said.

Bay Aging awarded grant

Bay Aging recently received a $5,000 grant award from the Rite Aid Foundation in support of the agency's MedCarry program. MedCarry is entirely volunteer driven and the funds received for the program go directly to mileage reimbursements.

The MedCarry program began in 2000 to provide non-emergency transportation for people who might otherwise seriously compromise their health and well being through their lack of transportation, explained development director Jean M. Duggan. The program, which is not based on age, serves those who are underinsured, uninsured and the elderly.

From October 2004 through September 2005, Medcarry provided 290 transports totaling 22,085 miles, said Duggan. Drivers voluntarily use their personal vehicles to transport people to their weekly dialysis treatments and cancer treatments; they transport people to doctors, hospitals, clinics and pharmacies.

Residents of all ages, who have no other means of transportation, are referred to Bay Aging by human service agencies, community groups, churches and concerned individuals. Bay Aging then makes the link between the person(s) needing the transportation and a volunteer driver.

To become involved in the MedCarry program, or to refer someone who could benefit from the service, call 1-800-493-0238.

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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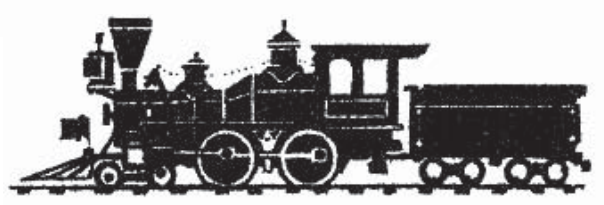

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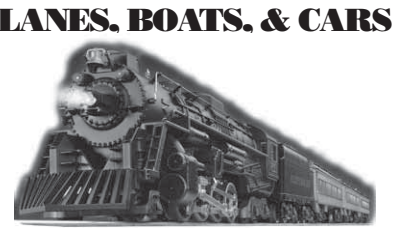

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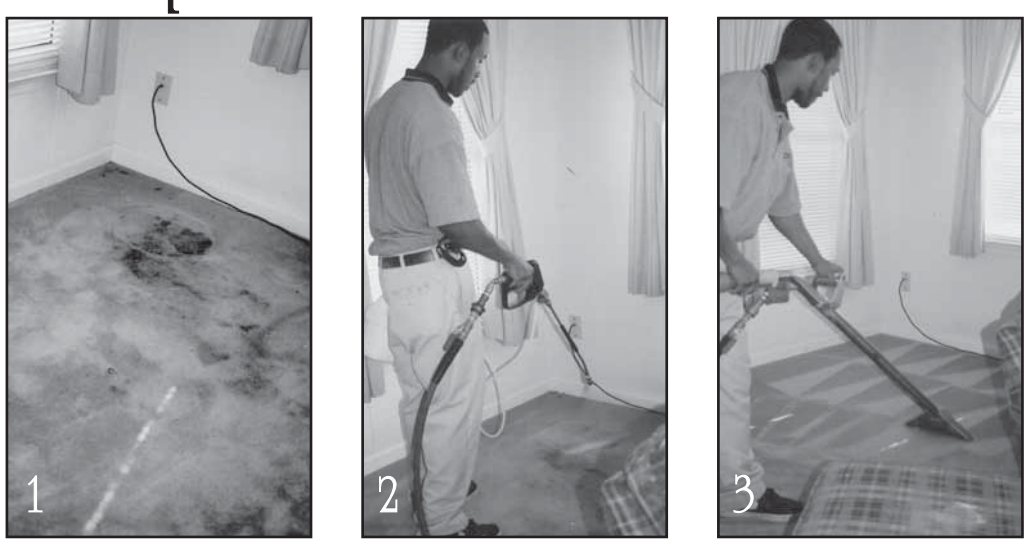

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Dr. Westbrook to address military officers association

Dr. Robert Westbrook, a dentist in Irvington and a former helicopter pilot during the Vietnam conflict, will address the first 2006 meeting of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Military Officers Association luncheon January 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. His topic will be on "Our POWs Left Behind."

Dr. Westbrook was drafted into the Army in 1970, a year after graduating from The University of Richmond. He applied for helicopter pilot training and after earning his wings as a warrant officer aviator, he was assigned to Vietnam where he served in two assault helicopter companies. In 1972, as the war was winding down, he was granted an early release in order to pursue advanced education leading to a dental degree.

Dr. Westbrook will address the possibility that some American POWs remain in Vietnam long after the war has ended. He will discuss the evidence to support the claim and comment on the controversial nature of the topic from both a political and humanitarian viewpoint.

Dr. Westbrook's interest and involvement in this topic began in the mid-1980s when he met several people who had a personal interest in trying to influence federal government officials to investigate the matter.

One of these people was retired U.S. Navy Capt. "Red" McDaniel, a former attack pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam and was a POW for five years. Capt. McDaniel was a strong proponent of an official investigation.

Dr. Westbrook's presentation includes a videotape containing eyewitness accounts and photographs.

Mary Louisa Pollard (left) welcomes advisory board member Carter Wellford to the volunteer event.

Pollard hosts reception for conservancy volunteers

Northern Neck Land Conservancy president Mary Louisa Pollard recently held a reception at her home to honor the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the fledgling conservation organization.

Some 30 invitees from five counties gathered to share lunch. Several guests brought contributions to the meal.

Founded in 2004, the NNLC is largely dependent on volunteers to organize and promote activities.

Five founding members have been joined by some 60 volunteers who contribute time and talents in many areas, from clerical support to educational presentations and onsite visits to properties where owners are contemplating easement agreements. The volunteers are concerned citizens, whose interests range from hunting, fishing and farming, to historical research and wildlife protection.

Pollard reflected on the group's successes in a short address. She assured the volunteers that their efforts are producing results and that the movement has the potential to have a significant impact on the development of the region.

NNLC expects to join with other nonprofit organizations eager to see the beauty and quality of life of the Northern Neck protected.

To learn more about volunteering with NNLC, or about the process of establishing an easement on one's property, call 435-2814, email nnlc@kaballero.com, or visit www.nnconserve.org.

Family program seeks volunteers

Healthy Beginnings will hold its first formal volunteer training classes February 8, 15 and 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative Community Room in Warsaw.

Healthy Beginnings provides in-home support and education services for at-risk pregnant women, young children, and their families throughout the Northern Neck.

Healthy Beginnings provides services and support to families who may be experiencing difficulties with the transition to parenthood, need additional information about community services, child health or related matters.

Volunteer training will include information regarding the status of children in the Northern Neck, the mission and goals of Healthy Beginnings, as well as listening skills, confidentiality, child development, and cultural competency. Volunteer roles will include administrative assistance, childcare, driving, fund raising, and group leadership.

To register, contact Healthy Beginnings at 333-4999, or hbeg22572@yahoo.com.

Christmas decoration winners are announced

Winners of the Christmas decoration contests in Irvington, Kilmarnock and White Stone have been announced.

In Irvington, Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett won first prize and $75 in the residential category. The other winners in the residential category were Mike Molineaux, who won second prize and $50, and Tim and Stephanie Self, who won third prize and $25. Honorable mention was given to Kevin McGrath.

In the business category in Irvington, Select Properties won first prize and $75 for decoration of the Irvington Center and Northern Neck Insurance won second prize and $50.

In Kilmarnock, the residential winners were Roxy and Randy Moubray for first prize ($75), Sue Mitchell second prize ($50), and George Yeatman third prize ($25). Honorable mention was given to Fannie Clingan.

The commercial winners in Kilmarnock were Nobletts Inc. (first place), Northern Neck State Bank (second place), the Main Street Gift Company (third) and Heads Up (honorable mention). No prize money was given in the Kilmarnock commercial category.

In White Stone, residential winners were Kelly Sullivan Moss for first place and $50, Romulus M. Sanders for second place and $35, and Dennis and Melinda George for third place and $25. Honorable mention was given to Scott Grenier.

In the business category in White Stone, Magnolia's of White Stone won first place and $50. The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department won second place and $35, and Ashton's won third place and $25. Honorable mention was given to The River Market.

From left are Woman's Club of Lancaster County president Anne Hanchey and Carolyn Jett.

Jett describes a colonial Christmas

At the December meeting of the Woman's Club of Lancaster County, Carolyn Jett, author of *Where The River Meets The Bay,* described how Christmas was celebrated in the early days in Virginia.

Jett said the native greens were collected by the villagers and used to adorn the churches during advent. It was not until the 12 days of Christmas that family and friends gathered and festivities ensued, including dances and children's programs. Gifts were given by those of means to those without.

The Christmas tree, Jett said, did not become a tradition until German immigrants brought the idea from their homeland many years later.

Following the meeting, toys donated by club members were delivered to the Bank of Lancaster for distribution to county children.

The next club meeting is February 8. Those interested in attending may call Ann Rau at 462-0712.

'The New World' opens nationwide Jan. 13

The countdown to "America's 400th Anniversary—Jamestown 2007" began December 21 as Colonial Williamsburg and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation rolled o`ut the red carpet for New Line Cinema's East Coast premiere of "The New World."

The movie, filmed primarily in America's Historic Triangle, is director Terrence Malick's interpretation of the relationship between Pocahontas, John Smith and aristocrat John Rolfe during the 1607 settlement of Jamestown, America's first permanent English settlement.

"This film will help raise awareness of Jamestown and its pivotal role in the nation's development as we prepare to launch America's 400th anniversary," said Colin Campbell, chairman and president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. "As a major sponsor of the commemoration, Colonial Williamsburg is proud to work with New Line to premiere this film within a few miles of the Jamestown sites."

"We believe this film will have international impact for Virginia. It will spur visitation to the sites where the story took place and was actually filmed," said Sen. Tommy Norment, co-chairman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

The adventure stars Colin Farrel as Capt. John Smith, Christopher Plummer as Capt. Christopher Newport, Christian Bale as John Rolfe, August Schellenberg as Chief Powhatan, and introduces O'orianka Kilcher as Pocahontas.

Malick and his production staff filmed scenes at Historic Jamestowne and nearby locations; they also incorporated into the sets many of the concepts revealed by recent archeology and research. Jamestown Settlement's re-created 1607 ships—Discovery, Godspeed and Susan Constant—were used in the filming. "The New World" opens nationwide January 13.

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Lancaster cagers suffer two losses

The varsity Red Devils continue to struggle with their regional schedule, losing to both Surry and Middlesex before the break to fall to 2-5 overall.

Andre Fells scored a game-high 24 points to lead the Chargers over Lancaster, 55-52, on December 21.

Fells got help from teammates Rashawn Bowen and Antonio Hodges, who added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

After allowing nine unanswered points in the first quarter, Lancaster cut the gap to three with an 11-5 run in the second period. The Devils overcame the halftime deficit and took an eight-point lead with a 17-6 third quarter before Fells and Bowen sparked a fourth period comeback.

Fells and Bowen scored nine apiece in the 25-14 Middlesex run.

Lancaster got 15 points each from Montel Mitchell and Andre Henderson and another 10 from Jamie Veney.

Surry had three players score in double digits December 16 as the Cougars beat Lancaster, 61-55.

Mitchell with 11 points and Veney with 10 led the Devils.

Lancaster will host Middlesex in a rematch tonight (January 5). The Devils host Essex in their first Northern Neck District game January 13.

JV Red Devils beat Middlesex; fall to Surry

Lancaster's JV boys basketball team improved its record to 3-2 before the Christmas break after splitting regional games against Surry and Middlesex.

Quenton Henderson scored 15 points to pace 11 Lancaster scorers on December 21 as the Devils routed Middlesex, 63-26.

Lancaster held the visiting Chargers to eight points in the first half and had a 28-point lead at the break.

Henderson did most of his scoring in the opening half with 12 points, including eight in the second quarter when the Devils went on a 23-4 run.

Lancaster's only other double-digit scorer, Marcus Betts, put up seven of his 10 points in the first half.

Surry outscored Lancaster 10-4 in the third quarter on December 16 to break a halftime tie and edge the Devils, 35-32.

Nick Gibson scored 13 points and Henderson 12 to lead Lancaster.

The Cougars used a balanced attack with seven players scoring.

The JV Devils will host Surry tonight (January 5).

Ray Funkhouser (above) won a silver medal in the 55 to 59 age group at the race-walk championship event.

Funkhouser wins silver

Ray Funkhouser of White Stone won the silver medal at the recent USA Track and Field National One Hour Race-walk Championship in Jacksonville, Fla.

Funkhouser won his medal in the 55 to 59 age group.

The National Championship was held during the annual meeting of USA Track and Field.

Funkhouser, vice president of USA Track and Field Virginia and chairman of the Race Walk Committee, attended the meeting as a delegate representing Virginia.

Arrests made following courtside 'riot' at RHS

WARSAW—Three people were arrested last week following a melee at a basketball game between Rappahannock and King William high schools December 19.

Richmond County Sheriff Douglas Bryant said this week that Kevin O'Neil Fauntleroy, 20, of Warsaw was arrested on the felony charge of inciting a riot during the make-up game between the Raiders and Cavaliers at Rappahannock High School.

Apparently, a little trash talking between players got out of hand and some physical contact took place between the students before the bleachers cleared, according to Douglas.

"It started on the court," before parents and fans got involved, he said.

Fauntleroy was a spectator.

Two others have been arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct in a public place. A third has been charged but has not been arrested, said Douglas.

Arraignment for all the individuals involved has been set for Friday, January 6.

The fight erupted with about two minutes to play in the first half. King William was leading 28-17.

Fortunately, said Douglas, no one was injured in the incident.

Ironically, the brawl occurred a week after Northern Neck District principals voted to lift a ban on handshaking between opponents after games.

The league of principals had unanimously decided in August to ban the traditional handshaking between players at all district athletic events except for volleyball and wrestling, which require handshaking as part of the sports' rules.

Principals in support of the ban said the meet-and-greet following heated competitions could lead to fights.

Opponents of the ban said it showed a lack of good sportsmanship.

Power squadron plans boating safety course

The Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron will offer a Boat Smart course January 14 and 21 from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Andrews Fellowship Hall on Church Street in Kilmarnock.

Boat Smart introduces boaters to boat types, hull forms and propulsion systems. It covers boat-handling skills such as docking and anchoring in both normal and adverse conditions, tying basic knots and hitches and coping with a variety of wave conditions. It satisfies Virginia requirements for a safe boating certificate.

The first session offers an extensive discussion of the required and recommended equipment needed for safe boating. Participants learn how to select life preservers and fire extinguishers for their type of boating, determine the navigation lights for their boat size and type, and satisfy US Coast Guard safety standards. They also review legal issues such as alcohol and drug use, pollution and discharge, and noise limits.

The second session includes a thorough presentation on aids to navigation. Participants learn how to distinguish the various types of marks and their use in the lateral system and as non-lateral devices. The navigation rules of the road and the specific steering responsibilities of power and sailing craft are covered. The class concludes with a discussion of how boaters can prepare for and overcome situations such as grounding, capsizing, man overboard, and hypothermia.

The $30 fee includes a text and other educational materials. To register, contact Twy Williams at 529-5093, or twynan@msn.com; or Chris Wynkoop at 462-5137, or chrismaya@toast.net.

Flotilla 3-10 to offer new-member training

Flotilla 3-10 staff officers for operations and member training recently met to outline a program called "Boat Crew Academy" to ensure the newest members receive the training they need to become fully qualified as crew and coxswains.

"We have recruited several new members this past year and several more in 2004," said commander Wayne Ploger. "We want the new members who are interested to get 'water qualified' the same as the Coast Guard and to offer all the training opportunities possible and hands-on experience alongside our qualified members to make that happen. This is an area where we are different from other boating organizations. We train with the Coast Guard, do it the Coast Guard way, and are, therefore, part of TEAM Coast Guard. To be viable team members, our members must be given the training opportunities; these are available only within the auxiliary."

Oliver Knight and Tom Courtless outlined a program of internal courses and practical exercises in navigation, search and rescue and patrol opportunities for trainees.

Carroll Barrack organized a schedule of boating safety courses. The one-day America's Boating Course will be held March 25 in Montross, May 20 in Kinsale, June 24 in Tappahannock, August 26 in Callao and September 23 in Reedville.

To enroll, call Ploger at 472-3835, or Barrack at 445-0541.

Pistol and rifle club meets

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club of White Stone met December 13.

Club president Bob Berry noted that bylaws and rules have been finalized and will be mailed in the near future.

Every member should read the new bylaws, he said. There have been many changes made to bring the club into compliance with governmental requirements and laws. The bylaws will be voted on during the February meeting.

The club meets Tuesday, January 10, at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch at 7 p.m.

For more information, write to Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc., P.O. Box 391, White Stone, VA 22578, or visit www.rpr-club.com.

From left, Jerry Hawley, Rita Theisen and Don Gallagher complete plans for boating education courses in 2006.

Flotilla 33 posts course calendar

Members of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock have prepared a comprehensive program of boating education in 2006.

"Boating education and boating safety are fundamental missions of the auxiliary," said commander Rita Theisen. "Our plan is to make boating education available to local boaters of all skill levels, from beginner to advanced. Our goal is to enhance the skills of the boating public, help them become safer boaters, reduce accidents and save lives."

The instructors for all courses are experienced boaters. They understand local conditions and are knowledgeable about boating safety, boat operations, navigation and legal requirements. Program leadership will be provided by Bill Johnson, staff officer for public education in 2006.

Boating Skills and Seamanship is a comprehensive course suitable for the novice and the experienced boater. Topics include boating terminology, boat types, boat handling, boating laws, personal safety equipment, navigation rules and aids, use of nautical charts, knots, marine radio, trailering, personal watercraft, and weather. The course will meet for 14 sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. February 2 through March 21. The fee is $45 per individual, $65 per couple (sharing text). Call Don Gallagher at 435-2084.

America's Boating Course is an eight-hour, one-day course for hunters, anglers, personal watercraft operators and other boaters. Topics include an introduction to boating, boating laws, personal safety equipment, safe boat handling, navigation, boating problems, trailering, carrying hunting gear or weapons in a boat, fishing from a boat, waterskiing and PWC safety. The course will be offered April 22 and June 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee is $25. To enroll, Call Gallagher.

How To Read A Nautical Chart will provide the boater with the knowledge to interpret the information found on a nautical chart to navigate to their destination and return safely to port. Topics include latitude and longitude, aids to navigation, water depth, bottom type, magnetic variations affecting the compass, chart scales and bridge clearances. Text and training chart are included. The course will be offered May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Wally Dawson at 462-7701 or wallacedawson@rivnet.net.

GPS For Mariners will provide boaters a better understanding of their GPS equipment, its operation, limitations, and how to use it more effectively. Setting and using waypoints also will be covered. The course will be offered May 27 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Dawson.

Basic Coastal Navigation will introduce the advanced boater to methods used to safely pilot a boat. The course will begin September 14 and continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four weeks. Topics include the earth's coordinate system and how to use it for navigation, compass variation and deviation, the nautical chart, plotting instruments, maintaining a dead reckoning plot, lines of position and how to obtain a fix.

Advanced Coastal Navigation will begin October 10 and continue for four weeks with eight sessions. Topics include determination of set and drift, tide and current tables, radionavigation, use of the Coast Pilot and Light Lists, Fuel and Voyage Planning.

All courses will meet at the Lancaster Community Library on School Street in Kilmarnock.

Scoreboard

Varsity boys basketball
Surry 61, Lancaster 55
Middlesex 55, Lancaster 52

JV boys basketball
Lancaster 63, Middlesex 26
Surry 35, Lancaster 32

Upcoming Games

Boys basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
January 5:
Surry at Lancaster
January 6:
Northumberland at West Point
January 7:
Lancaster at Middlesex
January 10:
Northumberland at Rappahannock

Girls basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
January 9:
West Point at Northumberland
January 10:
Rappahannock at Northumberland

Wrestling
January 10:
Northumberland and Woodberry Forest at Christchurch Triangular
January 11:
Northumberland, Lancaster and Christchurch at Mathews Triangular

Sports Shorts

Lose weight

The White Stone Church of the Nazarene will host a new session of "First Place," beginning with new-member orientation Monday, January 9.

The 13-week, faith-based weight-loss program will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive, off Route 3 a mile north of White Stone. To join, call Brenda Brinn at 453-5701.

Ocean haul

Rob Duffer of White Stone caught a 39-inch striper while fishing December 28 aboard the Less Stress with Capt. Glenn Hubbard. The crew (above) left Rudee Inlet around 7 a.m. and headed south until they saw birds, reported Bob Graham of White Stone. They landed the fish in the photo. From left are John Graham of Amelia, Bob Graham, Duffer, Bobby Duffer of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Robbie Hawk of Gum Spring.

✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

White Stone/Grey's Point Tides, Sun, & Moon – January, 2006

Fri	**1/6**		Sunrise	7:21	High	4:20	1.5′	**Tue**	**1/10**		Moonset	4:15	Low	2:02	-0.1′
			Moonrise	11:36	Low	10:58	0.0′				Sunrise	7:21	High	8:26	1.5′
			Sunset	**5:02**	High	**4:44**	1.3′				Moonrise	**1:43**	Low	**3:12**	0.1′
1st Q. - **1:57**					Low	**11:12**	-0.1′				Sunset	**5:06**	High	**8:44**	1.1′
Sat	**1/7**		Moonset	12:51	High	5:21	1.5′	**Wed**	**1/11**		Moonset	5:19	Low	2:57	-0.1′
			Sunrise	7:21	Low	**12:04**	0.0′				Sunrise	7:21	High	9:20	1.5′
			Moonrise	**12:02**	High	**5:45**	1.2′				Moonrise	**2:29**	Low	**4:04**	0.0′
			Sunset	**5:03**							Sunset	**5:07**	High	**9:36**	1.1′
Sun	**1/8**		Moonset	1:59	Low	12:08	-0.1′	**Thu**	**1/12**		Moonset	6:18	Low	3:48	-0.1′
			Sunrise	7:21	High	6:24	1.5′				Sunrise	7:20	High	10:09	1.5′
			Moonrise	**12:31**	Low	**1:10**	0.1′				Moonrise	**3:21**	Low	**4:50**	0.0′
			Sunset	**5:04**	High	**6:47**	1.1′				Sunset	**5:08**	High	**10:23**	1.1′
Mon	**1/9**		Moonset	3:07	Low	1:05	-0.1′	**Fri**	**1/13**		Moonset	7:09	Low	4:36	-0.1′
			Sunrise	7:21	High	7:26	1.5′				Sunrise	7:20	High	10:53	1.5′
			Moonrise	**1:04**	Low	**2:14**	0.1′				Moonrise	**4:20**	Low	**5:33**	0.0′
			Sunset	**5:05**	High	**7:48**	1.1′				Sunset	**5:09**	High	**11:06**	1.2′

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

PM times are in **boldface type**.
Unusually high & low tides are also in **boldface**.
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	Hampton	Luter	Newport News	Williamsburg	Victory	Mathews	Middlesex	Northern Neck	Northumberland	Richmond County
Multipurpose Gym	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Indoor Track	▼				▼					
Outdoor Track	▼		▼							
Cybex Equipment	▼		▼			▼	▼	▼		
Nautilus Equipment		▼						▼		▼
FitLinxx		▼			▼			▼		
Atlantis Equipment			▼		▼					
Free Weights	▼	▼	▼		▼		▼	▼		
Hammer Strength Equipment	▼				▼			▼		
Cardio Theater	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Exercise Bicycles	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Treadmills	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Stairclimbers	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Crosstrainers	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Rowing Machines	▼		▼					▼		
Whirlpool					▼			▼		
Sauna			▼		▼			▼		
Swimming Pool	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Racquetball Courts			▼		▼			▼		
Rock Climbing Wall	▼				▼					
Locker Rooms	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Yoga	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Group Exercise Classes	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	▼	▼		▼
Child Watch	▼	▼	▼		▼		▼	▼		▼
Teen Center		▼	▼		▼		▼	▼		
Preschool			▼	▼				▼		
Infant Care				▼						
Toddler Care	▼		▼	▼						
School-Age	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼	▼	▼
Teen Club | Middle School	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Leaders Club	▼		▼		▼			▼		
Preschool Camp	▼		▼					▼		
Day Camp	▼	▼	▼		▼		▼	▼	▼	▼
Teen Camp	▼	▼	▼		▼		▼	▼	▼	▼
Teen Extreme Camp					▼			▼	▼	▼
C.I.L.T.	▼		▼		▼		▼	▼	▼	▼
Specialty | Sports Camps			▼		▼			▼		
Indoor Soccer	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		▼
Outdoor Soccer	▼		▼			▼		▼		▼
Volleyball	▼	▼			▼			▼	▼	
Basketball	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼		▼	▼	▼
T-Ball	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼	▼	▼
Coach Pitch	▼					▼		▼		▼
Softball	▼	▼				▼		▼		
Parent-Child Sports	▼	▼		▼				▼		
Teen Basketball			▼		▼	▼		▼	▼	▼
Leaders Club	▼		▼		▼			▼		
Teen Nights			▼		▼			▼		
Teen Club	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Kids/Parents Night Out	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼	▼	▼
Aquatics / Swimming / Lessons	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼		
Martial Arts	▼	▼			▼			▼	▼	▼
Flag Football	▼				▼	▼		▼		
Family Nights	▼	▼	▼		▼			▼	▼	▼
Community Outreach Programs	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

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Northern Neck Family YMCA · 804.435.0223
Richmond County Family YMCA · 804.333.4117
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From left are tournament winner Douglas D. Monroe III, Taylor Monroe, Reilly Monroe, Mark Monroe, Douglas P. Monroe Jr. and Mark Monroe.

Richmonder wins invitational

For the fifth consecutive year, the Williamsburg Invitational Golf Tournament was held in Southern Pines, N.C., at the Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club December 18 and 19.

The coveted "Hatchet" trophy was held as the reward for the best golf competitor on both the Pine Needles and Mid Pines golf courses. The "Hatchet" symbolizes integrity, endurance, athletic skills, concentration under pressure, leadership, "gimmies" within the leather, capitalism and the celebration of Christmas.

After a somewhat lackadaisical tournament first day, the winner, Douglas D. Monroe III of Richmond, displayed accurate driving skills averaging over 260 yards off the tee to win the tournament by five points. "I am just overwhelmed and thrilled by winning this honor in such a competitive tournament," said Monroe. "Everyone played well. My putts went in the hole at the right time."

Tournament scoring is based on handicap with the winner of each hole earning two points; should several players tie for the low score on a hole, each receives one point. The golfer winning the most total points for the two-day tournament wins the "Hatchet."

As part of the activities, prizes were awarded for insignificant competitive endeavors. Ping-pong champion for 2005 was Reilly Monroe and his brother, Taylor, 2004 tournament winner, was recognized for creating the most beautiful strawberry Belgian waffle and whipped cream breakfast plate.

The invitational was played concurrently with the North Carolina Juniors competition. A total of over 125 golfers were on the courses during the weekend. Pine Needles Lodge again requested that the Williamsburg Invitational return to Southern Pines in 2006 for its 29th tournament.

Auto show is March 10-12 in Richmond

The 2006 Virginia Motor Trend International Auto show will be held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center March 10 through 12.

The show features hundreds of the latest cars, trucks, minivans and sport/utility vehicles and offers the public an up-close look at several new models, high-performance vehicles, eye-catching sports cars and fuel-efficient hybrids.

From Ford to Toyota, the auto show offers enthusiasts of all ages the opportunity to view a variety of 2006-model vehicles under one roof, in a non-selling environment.

March 10 is "College Two-fer Night." Students with valid college IDs are eligible to receive two tickets for the price of one. March 12 is "Kids Day" and children 12 and under will get in free when accompanied by a paid adult.

The show is presented by the Greater Richmond New Car Dealers Association, sponsored by The Richmond Times-Dispatch and produced by Motor Trend Auto Shows Inc.

The convention center is at 403 North 3rd Street in Richmond. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. March 10 and 11 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 12.

Admission is $8 for those age 13 and older, $5 for senior citizens, $2 for those ages 7 to 12 and free for children ages six and under. Discount coupons can be downloaded at www.motortrendautoshows.com/richmond.

Bridge Results

Six-and-a-half tables of duplicate bridge were in play December 20 at the Woman's Club of Lancaster.

Winners north/south were first, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham; second, Norma Drinnon and Judy Hagerstrom; and third, Mary Andrews and Barbara Hubbard.

Winners east/west were first, Judy Peifer and Ginger Klapp; second, Peggy Dent and Jim Hazel; and third, Carol and Bob Rosicky.

The Woman's Club of Lancaster held its regular Sandwich Bridge Wednesday, December 21, amid lots of Christmas cheer and decorations. After lunch, guests played bridge and mah jong.

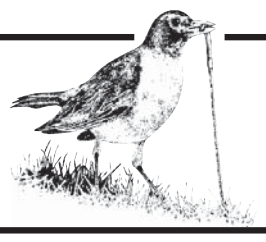
Bridge winners were first, Ilva Doggett with 3,520 points; and second, Emily Hudnall with 3,100 points.

The next sandwich bridge will be January 18. Call Betty Thornton at 462-0742 for reservations or to be placed on a waiting list.

Four-and-a-half tables of bridge were in play December 27 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Ginger Klapp; and second, Mary Andrews and Shirley Crockett.

Winners east/west were first, Terry Taylor and Jim Thompson; and second, Tot Winstead and Liz Hargett.



Window On Wildlife

by Joyce Fitchett Russell

From the inside looking out

When the weather is not inviting for nature hunting, I check outside our windows.

First, a pair of bluebirds sweep into our bird feeding station. The male flashes his bright orange breast, while his mate measures their birdhouse farther back. They are thinking spring. Behind them, the neighborhood cat is thinking breakfast.

Later, when we are riding down on the farm, we surprise a large flock of turkey vultures on the roadside. They have white concentric circles on their heads and necks. In seconds, they are flying high above us.

A little later at lunch with friends who live on the creek, we watch a family of six handsome mute swans swim past.

Back home, we sit in the car and watch a family of squirrels playing around their home in a tall tree.

When we are back inside, we hear the phone ring. It is Ron Jones calling to report having a large flock of robins in his yard. The birds are singing, scratching, occasionally pecking and surely forecasting the coming of spring.

Northern Flicker

Happy New Year to everyone.

State seeks protection for roadless areas in national forests

Gov. Mark R. Warner recently asked U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns to issue rules protecting all of the roadless areas in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia.

Gov. Warner's petition, filed December 22, asks the federal government to follow the terms of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule in Virginia, which generally restricted road construction and commercial activities unless needed to protect public health and safety.

The 2001 rule was repealed last May and replaced with a process in which individual governors must prepare a petition asking for greater or less protection than is called for under existing forest management plans. If the Forest Service accepts the petition, it will negotiate a detailed plan with the state.

Gov. Warner is believed to be the first governor to file a petition since the Bush Administration implemented the new procedure. Virginia has the most roadless acreage–more than 380,000 acres—of any state in the eastern half of the country. Since taking office in 2002, Gov. Warner has consistently urged the federal government to restore protections offered by the Roadless Areas Conservation Rule of 2001, including advocating for unsuccessful legislation introduced by Sen. John Warner that would have codified the 2001 rule.

"Roadless areas in Virginia's national forests are critically important for wildlife habitat and help safeguard drinking water for thousands of Virginians. Our forests also present really outstanding opportunities for recreation and tourism," Gov. Warner said. "I have determined it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to have these areas protected in their current undeveloped state for current and future generations."

Gov. Warner's petition notes that the U.S. Forest Service has received approximately 90,000 comments from Virginians supporting full protection of roadless areas.

The filing also cites a U.S. Forest Service estimate that demand for backcountry recreation in the national forests is projected to increase 170 percent by 2050. The petition also notes that Virginia's national forests already have 3,000 miles of roads, with an accompanying maintenance backlog estimated at $20 million.

Bowling Results

Ladie's League

TCH Oil won three games against the Abby team when Vivian Callaway bowled a 300 set with a 117 game. Vicki White rolled a 303 set with games of 100 and 113. Marie Piccard had a 305 set with games of 103 and 123.

Young Country won two games against Lively Oaks when Betty Steffey bowled a 404 set with games of 130, 130 and 144. JoAnne Paulette rolled a 301 set with a 118 game. Theresa Davis had a 302 set with a 117 game and Cathy Savalina rolled a 120 game. For Lively Oaks, Nancy Carter bowled a 344 set with games of 127 and 131. Jean Reynolds rolled a 337 set with games of 107, 116 and 114. Debbie Dodson had a 305 set with games of 101 and 106.

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against R.P. Waller when Alma George bowled a 401 set with games of 150 and 158. Pat Harris rolled a 329 set with games of 121 and 134. Clara Yeatman had a 119 game. For R.P. Waller, Marsha Nash bowled a 330 set with games of 112 and 120. Dee Atkins rolled a 329 set with games of 103, 109 and 117. Ilva Jett had a 106 game and Ola Nash rolled a game of 124.

Callis Seafood won three games against Northern Neck Surgical Services when Donna Thomas bowled a 332 set with games of 101, 113 and 118. Mary Savalina rolled a 111 game and Gayle Conrad a 103 game.

High game: Alma George, 158; JoAnne Paulette and Cathy Savalina, 154.

High set: Betty Steffey, 405; Alma George, 401; Marie Piccard, 387.

High team game: Young Country, 612; TCH Oil, 586; Yeatman's, 569.

Standings

	W	L
Young Country	34	8
TCH Oil	27	15
Callis Seafood	27	15
R.P. Waller	23	19
Lively Oaks	23	19
Yeatman's	18	24
N.N. Surgical	17	25
Abby	0	42

Men's League

On December 22, Sal's Pizza won two games and lost one against Cap'n John's. For Sal's, Wayne Candrey bowled the high set of the week of 394 with games of 160 and 125. Justin George rolled games of 155 and 121 in a 368 set. Bob Huff had a 137 game and Dusty Hendershot a 121 game. For Cap'n John's, Herbert Hammock bowled the high set of 344 with a 116 game. Harry Donavon rolled a 133 game and Joe Henson bowled games of 124 and 123.

Evans Bowling Center won three games against D&L Marine Construction. For Evans, Bunks Mitchell bowled the high set of 369 with games of 140 and 133. Woodie Evans rolled a 129 game and John Forrester had a 119 game. For D&L, Steve Hinson bowled the high set of 329 with a 112 game. Mark Obsharsky rolled a 118 game and Doug Hundley had a game of 109.

J&J Construction won three games against H&S Printing when Frank Perkins bowled the high set of 367 with games of 129 and 128. Steve Edwards rolled a 126 game. Curley Lewis had a 122 game. For H&S, Bill Hayden bowled a game of 90. George Lee rolled a game of 85. H&S had two dummy bowlers.

On December 29, Evans Bowling Center won three games against J&J Construction where John Forrester bowled the high set of the week of 382 with games of 131, 125 and 126. Woodie Evans rolled games of 120, 123 and 135 in a 378 set. Richard Savalina had a 136 game. For J&J, Frank Perkins bowled the high set of 368 with games of 121, 127 and 120. Curly Lewis had a 132 game and Chuck Morris a 113 game.

Sal's Pizza won two games and lost one against H&S Printing. For Sal's, Bob Huff bowled the high set of 378 with games of 134 and 139. Wayne Candrey rolled games of 122 and 131 in a 366 set. Bill Hendershot had a 127 game and Justin George a 124 game. For H&S, James Hayden bowled a 382 set with a 100 game. Bill Hayden rolled a game of 104.

Cap'n John's won two games and lost one against D&L Marine Construction when Joe Hinson bowled the high set of 357 with a 139 game. Ryan Dawson rolled a 129 game and Herbert Hammock had a 118 game. For D&L, Steve Hinson bowled the high set of 351 with games of 120 and 129. Mark Obsharsky rolled a 127 game and Dana Stillman had a game of 120.

High game: Herbert Hammock, 167; Bob Huff, 166; Ryan Dawson, 165; Wayne Candrey, 160; John Forrester, 158.

High set: Wayne Candrey, 413; Bob Huff, 404; John Forrester and Curley Lewis, 396; Ryan Dawson, 395.

High team game: Sal's, 523; Cap'n John's, 515; Evans, 495; D&L, 494; J&J, 493; H&S, 448.

High team set: Sal's, 1,471; Evans, 1,427; Cap'n John's, 1,413; J&J, 1,396; D&L, 1,348; H&S, 1,293.

High average: Bill Hendershot and Wayne Candrey, 119; Curly Lewis and Wilson Evans, 118; Herbert Hammock, John Forrester and Bob Huff, 116.

Standings

	W	L
Cap'n John's	31	14
Sal's Pizza	30	15
Evans Bowling	28	17
J&J Const.	23	22
D&L Marine	15	30
H&S Printing	8	37

Sports Shorts

■ Kennel club

The Northern Neck Kennel Club will meet at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock Monday, January 9, at 7 p.m. Member Cyndi Salesky will speak on puppy mills and dog auctions.

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July: Taylor's Creek construction project downscaled

January: Tornado rocks Bluff Point

May: Windmill Point resort goes belly up

June: Students required to pass SOL exams to graduate

September: Athena Vineyard stabilized

2005: A Look Back

(continued from page A1)

Elections
Following November elections Democrat Tim Kaine was elected governor of Virginia; Republican William T "Bill" Bolling, lieutenant governor; Republican Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell, attorney general; and Republican Rob Wittman, District 99 delegate. In Lancaster, F. W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., Jack S. Russell and B. Wally Beauchamp were elected to the board of supervisors; Carl Failmezger and William C. "Bill" Smith were elected to the school board. In Northumberland, Richard F. Haynie and James M. Long were elected to the board of supervisors; Dean W. Sumner, Myrtle L. Phillips and John M. Jett were elected to the school board.

Humphreys passes
Longtime Kilmarnock businessman Hanna Raymond "Peck" Humphreys Jr., 88, of Weems died July 3. He was the former president and chief executive officer of Standard Products Co. in Kilmarnock. A state Democratic party leader, Humphreys served on several state committees and boards including the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Tornado alley?
The year 2005 got off to a bad start for many Bluff Point and Ditchley area residents after an F-1 tornado tore through lower Northumberland County. The twister damaged about 30 homes and was one of three that touched down in Virginia on January 14.

Plan progresses
Northumberland's planning commission spent all of 2005 updating the county's comprehensive plan. Attendance grew with each meeting and, in December, the commission sent a draft to the board of supervisors. The board will spend the first half of 2006 examining the revisions. Once adopted, the new comprehensive plan will pave the way for a complete overhaul of Northumberland's zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Celebrating 75
In December 2005, Kilmarnock launched a year-long 75th anniversary celebration of town incorporation in 2005. As part of the "Diamond Jubilee" celebration, Kilmarnock Mayor Mike Robertson unveiled the 75th anniversary portrait of recent mayors past and present as past mayors Edward J. Davis and Brainard Edmonds watch. The portrait features Edmonds, Robertson, Davis, and the late H. R. "Peck" Humphreys Jr. who died in 2005.

Greener vineyard
Athena Vineyards met the requirements of a state corrective order after nearly six months worth of restoration work by several contractors. Angler Environmental came to the rescue when several other contractors failed to remedy extreme erosion into the nearby Great Wicomico River. Lots of grass seed and grading as well as several new sediment ponds seemed to solve the problem. Construction has not yet begun on the planned winery since the county placed a stop-work order on the building until the rest of the property is stabilized.

Radio reception
National Public Radio station WCEV out of Richmond announced the opening of a substation in Heathsville. The new station, scheduled to be on air late next spring, will operate under the call letters WCNV.

Last resort
The 100-seat restaurant at Windmill Point Resort was under construction until a work stoppage in May signaled financial troubles that eventually led to over $3 million in mechanics liens filed against resort ownership, which had bought the resort in 2003 prior to Hurricane Isabel. Prior to the change in ownership, the Lancaster board of supervisors had rezoned the resort property for redevelopment that included the 100-seat restaurant, a four-story hotel, and 28 condominium buildings with 147 units. The redevelopment of the property remains to be seen.

Phone service
Relief came to Northumberland residents by way of a new cell phone tower in Burgess. Four more are planned to go up in the county next year. New towers will be going in on county-owned land in Lottburg, Heathsville and Horsehead and on private land in Mount Olive.

Expanding borders
The towns of White Stone and Irvington continue to pursue boundary line adjustments as a means of expanding their jurisdictions beyond existing town limits.

School cuts
Budget constraints in Northumberland forced the school board to put the high school agriculture program on the chopping block after longtime teacher Dale Sanders announced his retirement. Current and former students, teachers and community members rallied to save the program and the schools ultimately hired Charles Thiemann to replace Sanders. Parental support also saved the middle school choir program but failed to save the popular multi-age program at the elementary school, which was eliminated to make way for classrooms based on the Standards of Learning and a new reading program.

Trial set
In 2005, Maurice O. Brown, 23, of Warsaw was indicted for the charge of murder of his five-month-old daughter Kashayla T. Brown on April 7. The case is set for trial in Lancaster County Circuit Court on January 9.

Plugging the dam
More than 800 people signed a petition to save Gardy's Mill Pond, a 75-acre reservoir on the Northumberland-Westmoreland county line line. The fishing hole was slowly draining while a leaking dam undermined the safety of the road that crosses it. With the urging of citizens, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries finally agreed to fix the problem, rather than abandon the road and pond.

Family fun
Guests rushed to join the Northern Neck Family YMCA last summer during membership drives before the grand opening of its new facility in Kilmarnock. The opening in September of the 36,000-square-foot building, which also houses the River Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross, completed the final phase of the Virginia Quality Life campus, which includes the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic and the Rappahannock General Hospital Rehabilitative Services and Sports Medicine Center.

Reassessment
A reassessment of Northumberland County properties for tax purposes concluded in November. Even with average land value spikes of 200 to 300 percent on the waterfront and 120 percent inland, only 500 of the county's 19,000 property owners scheduled hearings with the assessor. More citizens may choose to appear before the board of equalization when it is formed in January. The board of supervisors further agreed to adopt a property tax relief ordinance to assist the elderly and disabled, although the exact terms of that ordinance have yet to be hammered out.

School construction
Discussion over replacing Northumberland's middle school became even more urgent as another year passed without action from the board of supervisors. Meanwhile, the high school began to fall into disrepair, but the supervisors refused to fund $1 million worth of repairs to the roof and HVAC system there. As 2005 drew to a close, superintendent Clint Stables ushered through a new ordinance that will allow the school board to review construction proposals without a large cash expenditure on architectural drawings from the county. The school board went an extra step, requesting proposals to replace both the middle and high school, possibly at a single campus. Initial proposals are due back in February.

May: John M. Jett sworn onto Northumberland school board

July: Judge clears Jett on conflict of interest accusations

July: Joan McKinney retires

November: Local oystermen report banner year

August: Main Street construction begins