Rappahannock Record

Thursday, January 26, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 16 • Three Sections • 50¢

Wal-Mart is coming to Kilmarnock

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—Ending weeks of speculation here, Wal-Mart announced Tuesday that it intends to build a 180,000-square-foot "Supercenter" in Kilmarnock on a 65-acre commercially zoned parcel off North Main Street with access from Lee Road.

"That is the property we are moving toward for a site," said Laurie Smalling, Wal-Mart senior manager for public affairs for Virginia and West Virginia.

However, as of Tuesday, Wal-Mart still had not applied for a zoning permit.

"We're in the beginning process," said Smalling. "The plan is to try to partner with the town to file an application with the town."

Smalling said Wal-Mart has submitted a site plan to the town for administrative review.

The attorney representing Wal-Mart locally, William J. Kopcsak of Hubbard Terry & Kopcsak in Irvington, said Wal-Mart is seeking input from the town about the development and plans to deliver a public presentation "at some point and time."

"It's still undetermined at this point," said Kopscak.

Town manager Lee Capps said applications for zoning permits must include three copies of plans for construction, advance payment of fees for administrative processing and plan review, and submittal of a utilities plan.

Capps said the entire permitting and construction process for such a commercial development could take anywhere from 14 to 24 months.

Additionally, Capps said large-scale development on large parcels could also be subject to other requirements, like the subdivision ordinance.

"If it's all under a single ownership and a master plan, nothing," said Capps. "But if the property is going to be subdivided and be activated, it needs to meet the requirements of the subdivision ordinance."

Meanwhile, Wal-Mart is actively seeking public support for a Kilmarnock store. An advertisement noting the chain's intention was placed with the Rappahannock Record this week. It appears on page A5.

Wal-Mart has made public its intentions to establish a "Supercenter" somewhere on this 65-acre tract beyond Lee Road off North Main Street in Kilmarnock. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Council meeting

Although the Wal-Mart plans were not announced at Monday's town council meeting, the Wal-Mart issue surfaced.

Councilman Fletcher Brown IV provided council with the text of a Prince William County zoning ordinance adopted in 2004 that requires big box store developments over 80,000 square feet of gross floor area to first obtain a special use permit that regulates features of the development such as architecture, landscaping, lighting, parking, pedestrian access and maintenance.

Brown said he wanted the ordinance to be considered to help the town prepare for the coming of Wal-Mart "versus what we're doing now, which is nothing."

Brown questioned why nothing was done when council authorized the town administration last month to research actions the council could consider to regulate large-scale commercial development like Wal-Mart.

Town attorney P. Christian Stamm Jr. said the council action should have specified exactly what council intended the research to be.

"I will not spend the town's money going through every exception," said Stamm.

Furthermore, Stamm summarized the Dillon Rule, which prevents Virginia localities from taking action that is not permitted in the town's charter by the Virginia General Assembly.

"If the legislature does not grant you the power to do something, then you can't do it," said Stamm, who also noted an exception to the Dillon Rule resides mainly in the wherewithal of towns to act

(continued on page A12)

Lancaster to embark on comp plan track

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—The planning commission last week scheduled an organizational meeting to begin work on revising Lancaster County's comprehensive plan.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1, at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster general district courtroom. Representatives of LandDesign of Alexandria, the company hired by the county to assist with the revisions, will participate.

During the initial meeting, dates will be set for future meetings to be conducted by LandDesign for gathering public input in each voting district.

The commission also recommended approval of a five-year capital improvement plan that budgets $425,513 and does not include any projects beyond fiscal year 2007.

Planning/land use director Jack Larson said no additional funding requests have been submitted for capital improvement projects beyond ones that were included in last year's plan for fiscal year 2007.

Two of the projects on the list already have funds allocated: a combination building for an athletic fieldhouse at the high school (listed at $175,000 in additional

(continued on page A12)

New CVS store opens

CVS opened a new 13,000-square-foot store on North Main Street in Kilmarnock January 22. Meanwhile, the pharmacy chain closed its former store in the Lancaster Square Shopping Center. CVS also installed a stoplight and turning lanes at North Main Street and James B. Jones Memorial Highway. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

At left, Sandy Ball delivers a prescription to a customer at a drive-thru window at the new CVS. The store is the first pharmacy in the lower Northern Neck to offer drive-thru service. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Town can impose land use regulations on big box stores

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—Town officials held a public meeting last Tuesday to shed light on what actions council can take to limit land use for a big box store like retail giant Wal-Mart.

The issue remains at the forefront in Kilmarnock as Wal-Mart this week announced its intentions to establish a "Supercenter" on 65 acres of property at the north end of town beyond the dead end of Lee Road near the Kilmarnock Animal Hospital.

However, it may be too late to impose new regulations on the proposed Wal-Mart store.

At the invitation of the town, Chesterfield County planning administrator Carl Schlaudt summarized how that county tackles large-scale development issues.

Schlaudt told officials and a roomful of interested people that the size of new commercial construction can be limited through a zoning ordinance that states a new commercial structure should not significantly exceed the height or floor area of nearby buildings.

Schlaudt also addressed other bulk standards, whereby he said the size of a big box store can be limited by establishing ratios that set allowable floor area and building footprint based on the size of the parcel.

Schlaudt added that commercial construction size could also be limited through land use classifications that identify property where a big box store could be located.

Kilmarnock businessman Joe Hudnall said the issue of limiting the size of a box store first surfaced several years ago when the 65 acres was rezoned for commercial use with speculation that Wal-Mart was involved.

Since then the issue of limiting size has been revisited but "nothing's been done with it" because town officials said no one knew how to do it or if it could not be done, he said.

However, Schlaudt said localities can limit the size of commercial construction within their jurisdictions if the will is there to do it.

"I think that the legal principle is there that you could do that," said Schlaudt.

Another limiting tool available to council would be downzoning, where a property is rezoned for a less intensive use than currently allowable.

Schlaudt said a "clear change" in the conditions of the community should exist to justify downzoning and that any such proposed change should be based upon the town's comprehensive plan for its ability to guide the zoning practices of the town.

"I would say tread lightly and be careful if you plan on down-

(continued on page A12)

Rate schedule projects hefty water and sewer fee hikes in Kilmarnock

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—The town council reviewed proposed new rate schedules Monday that would more than double the bimonthly bills customers receive for Kilmarnock's water and sewer services.

As proposed by consultant Draper Aden Associates, the new rate schedule would provide increased revenue needed by the town to pay debt service for existing and planned upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant and water system.

Sheryl Stephens of Draper Aden Associates presented two options that would both more than double the existing rate of $40 bimonthly for residential water and sewer service.

"We can keep the water rates pretty reasonable, but the sewer rates are where we're going to see the highest rates," said Stephens.

One option would set a base rate of $83.40 bimonthly for residential in-town customers who use less than 6,000 gallons of water/sewer over the two-month period.

For water customers who use more than 6,000 gallons, the additional charge per 1,000 gallons would increase from $2.63 to $4.60. The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons above the 6,000-gallon base would jump from $4.50 to $10.89.

Under the second option, the base rate for combined water and sewer would increase to $85 bimonthly. However, the base rate would include a lower gallon-usage maximum of less than 4,000 gallons. The usage rates per 1,000 gallons above the 4,000 gallon base would be $3.70 for water and $8.60 for sewer.

The Kilmarnock town council will hold a budget work session February 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the town office at 514 North Main Street for further consideration of the rate schedule projections.

Data compiled by Draper Aden shows that 67 percent of Kilmarnock's residential customers use less than 4,000 gallons of service.

Commercial rates would be double the residential rates (a base of $166.80 or $170 bimonthly) and out-of-town services would be 50 percent higher than in-town rates (a base of $125.10 or $127.50 bimonthly for residential, and a base of $250.20 or $255 bimonthly for commercial).

Stephens said $305,000 in annual sewer operation subsidy from the town's meals tax is factored into the revenues needed to operate the utilities.

The driving force behind the need for more revenues is payment of the debt service for existing system upgrades ($1.8 million over the next five years), planned upgrades to the sewage treatment plant needed to comply with metals levels in the discharge and the anticipated biological nutrient removal of nitrogen and phosphorous ($3.8 million), and a new water tank ($1.5 million).

Fred Pribble of Draper Aden explained why the upgrades, and increased rates, are needed.

One reason is that the town has to comply with a consent order from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to reduce levels of silver, copper and zinc in the sewage system discharge. Pribble said compliance has to be met by November of 2007.

One option for meeting compliance is construction of a sludge de-watering and chemical feeds facility at a cost of $1.8 million, "which we feel like can certainly meet the limits but there's no guarantee there," said Pribble.

The other alternative would be to relocate the outfall of the wastewater discharge from the headwaters of Boathouse Cove to the deeper water of Indian Creek. At an estimated cost of $1 million, the outfall relocation would eliminate any further measures toward metals reduction because the maxi-

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Northumberland seeks input on banning boathouses

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland planning commission is bracing itself for a big crowd next month in response to the proposed banning of residential boathouses from the county's shoreline.

"This isn't a small issue, this is a huge issue," said member Allen Webb.

While the details of any proposed ordinance have not yet been released, the commission spent nearly an hour discussing the topic last Thursday and trying to get more specifics from assistant county administrator Luttrell Tadlock.

Residents of Tipers Creek asked during the last board of supervisors' meeting that the topic of banning boathouses be addressed in a public forum. They noted that boathouses have been banned from residential shorelines in neighboring Lancaster County and in Maryland.

Planning commission chairman Al Fisher said it has only been a few years since the county relaxed some of the boathouse regulations.

Fisher was particularly concerned by how the ordinance would deal with commercial boathouses and replacing existing boathouses that are damaged or destroyed by acts of nature.

Several planning commission members also noted that boathouses are good for land values and, if they are banned, the value of property already containing a boathouse will skyrocket.

Opponents of boathouses have stated that a creek cluttered with boathouses will reduce property values.

Webb asked Tadlock for statistics regarding boathouses, such as how many requests have been made in the last five years and how many have actually been built.

Supervisor Pamela Russell, who also sits on the planning commission, said she would like to hear from the public on the issue – both for and against. She asked that people call her at 580-2632 with comments.

The public will have an opportunity to speak on the issue at the commission meeting February 16.

January

26 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 the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
Exercise is the topic for The Basics of Healthy Living Workshop at Northern Neck Family YMCA at 6 p.m. $20.
Mahjong will be played at 10:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert provided. Tables of three or more. $2 per person. 438-4152.
The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts board of directors meets at 10 a.m. at Bay Trust Company at 1 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

27 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.

28 Saturday

A Free Throw Contest for boys and girls ages 10 to 14 will be held by the Knights of Columbus, Council 11667, at the YMCA in Kilmarnock. The contest begins at 8:30 a.m.

29 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Kilmarnock immediately following church services.

30 Monday

The First-Place Weight-Loss Class meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.

31 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.
The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.

February

1 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 Kil-marnock. 438-5127.
A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
The RFM Quilters meets at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.

1 Wednesday

The Woman's Club of White Stone meets at the clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. Bring a brown bag lunch.
The Irvington Town Council will hold a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the town ofice at 235 Steamboat Road in Irvington.
The Planning Commission for Lancaster County will hold an organizational meeting on the comprehensive plan revision process. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster General District courtroom.

2 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 the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.

2 Thursday

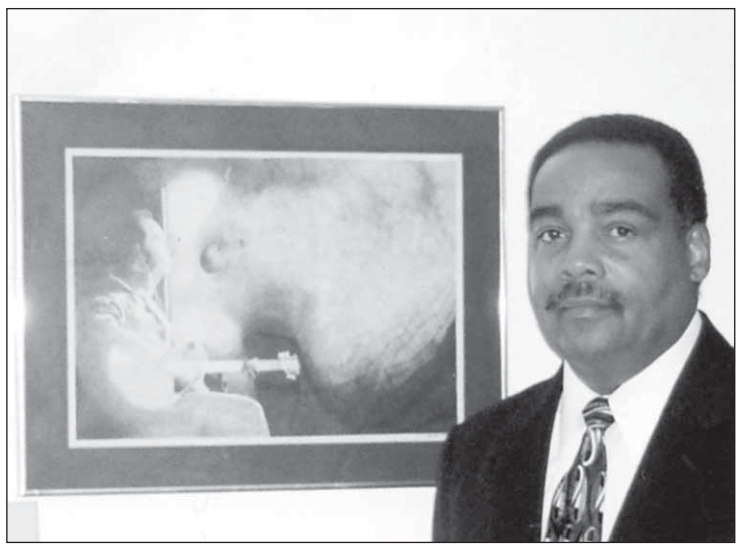
The Marine Corps League Detachment meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 580-3803.
The Wetlands Board for Northumberland County meets at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.
The White Stone Town Council meets at 7 p.m. at the town office at 433 Rappahannock Drive in White Stone.
The Airport Club of Hummel Field meets at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting at The Pilot House at Topping. 758-5500
Bingo Night will be held by the Mathews Boys and Girls Clubs at the Piankatank Ruritan Club at 7 p.m.
Attitude is the topic for The Basics of Healthy Living Workshop at Northern Neck Family YMCA at 6 p.m. $20.
(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor.)

Students to present 'Grease'

The Christchurch School Fine Arts Department will present the musical "Grease" February 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. in Marston Hall on the school campus. Admission is free. However, reservations are required. Starting on February 6, call the box office at 758- 2300 ext. 144 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. or email boxoffice@christchurchschool.org.

Pictured above, from left, cast members are (front row) Elizabeth Prillaman of White Stone, Jonathan Walker of Hayes, Kathleen Sinagra of Locust Hill, Tyler Reeves of White Stone, Molly Banfield of Wake, Laura Nost of Irvington, Ashley Trotter of Irvington, Eleanor Smith of White Stone, Harrison Willis of Annapolis, Md., Molley Hardin of Stormont and Grace Schroeder of Irvington; (next row) Peyton McCann of Virgina Beach, Ashby Arvin of Hartfield, Cole Sullivan of Wake, Patrick Lynch of Irvington, Julian Cornwell of White Stone, Natalie Tacke of Rheine, Germany, Jess Crabill of Irvington, Kelsey Robusto of Urbanna, Gavin Warren of Brentwood, Tenn. and Will Ingles of Gloucester.

Bandmembers (right) include Michael O'Shaughnessy of White Stone, Arvin, Bradley Walker of White Stone, Jack Roebuck of Christchurch, Landon Clark of White Stone, Max Farnum of McLean and Charles Johnson of Saluda.



The artwork of Ron Cox (above) will be featured during February at the Lancaster Community Library.

Ron Cox to display drawings at library

Drawings by local artist and photographer Ron Cox will be displayed at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock during February.

"One morning last summer, I awoke at 3:39, opened the door and looked out on a beautiful full moon-lit night," said Cox. "It seemed to compel me to come out and enjoy its essence, so I told my sleeping wife that I was going ouside.

"'Be careful' she says and I hold the storm door to keep it from slamming. I retrieve my 12-speed and helmet from the shed and I ride for four miles... no traffic, the world is asleep... all except me, my bike and the inviting glow of the moon. I remember thinking how good it can be to be alive, to enjoy moments like this.

"Moments like that are what influence my drawings, experiences in my life—some good, some not so good—but everyone has their story."

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Sun. (2:30, 4:30), 6:30
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 7:00

HOODWINKED (PG) 1HR 25 MIN
Fri. (4:00) 6:00, 7:45
Sat. (2:00, 4:00) 6:00, 7:45
Sun. (2:00, 4:00) 6:00
Mon. – Thurs. (5:00), 6:45

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FRI. JAN. 27
BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2(PG13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 4:45, 7:25, 9:35
HOODWINKED (PG) 5:10, 7:10, 9:20
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 4:20, 7:00

SAT. JAN. 28
BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2(PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:35
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:10, 9:20
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:20, 4:15, 7:00

SUN. JAN. 29
BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2(PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:25
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:10
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:20, 4:15, 7:00

TUES.-THURS. JAN. 30 FEB-2
BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2(PG13) 7:30
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 7:25
HOODWINKED (PG) 7:15
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 7:20
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 7:10

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Area Events

■ Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed at Healthy Beginnings for childcare, transportation, administrative assistant and more. A volunteer training class will be held February 8, 15 and 22 at the Northern Neck Electric Community Meeting Room in Warsaw from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 333-4999.

■ Medicare workshop

Iris Treakle will lead a workshop on Medicare Part D at White Stone United Methodist Church on February 7 and 11.

The identical workshops begin at 2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at 435-3555.

■ Speak up

The Northern Neck Farm Museum recently announced that it has speakers available for presentations to organizations.

Members of the board will come and speak about the efforts being taken to build the new museum and what it hopes to accomplish for the agricultural community. Call 333-1819.

Kilmarnock Days coming soon

Kilmarnock Days 2006 will be held February 3 and 4.

The event features town-wide sales and a chance to win a two-night stay for two at the Ramada Oceanfront Plaza on the Outer Banks, plus $100 cash. Other prizes include free lunches for two at local restaurants.

Sponsored by the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce and WKWI, the grand prize trip is open to everyone over 18, excluding store owners and their immediate families. Participating merchants will display "register here" signs. Only one registration per store is permitted.

The drawing will be held February 7 on the WKWI morning show with Tawney Hayes.

■ Art festival set

The Middlesex Art Guild will present the annual "Art on the Halfshell" Fine Art and Crafts Festival May 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show will include performing arts, demonstrating artists, food, a children's hands-on art center and more than 80 exhibiting artists.

■ Give blood

The Northumberland County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive February 14 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Heathsville.

■ Bingo night

The Mathews Boys and Girls Club will sponsor bingo night at the Piankatank Ruritan Club Thursday, February 2. Gaming begins at 7 p.m.

Cash prizes will be awarded and food and drinks are available. No children under 10 allowed. The event will benefit the Mathews Boys and Girls Club.

■ Arts meeting

The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts board of directors will meet Thursday, January 26, at 10 a.m. at Bay Trust Company at 1 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

Space talk to launch Viewpoints

NASA engineer Donner Grigsby will speak at Viewpoints February 6 at 11 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. His presentation, titled "Space Exploration," is the first in RW-C's fifth season of Viewpoint seminars.

Grigsby speaks often for NASA, conveys sophisticated material in laymen's terms, and was named NASA speaker of the year in 2004. He will show remarkable images from the powerful Hubble and COBE telescopes and will include information about the history of the space program, the inner and outer planets, and the opportunities for mining energy resources on Mars.

A civilian, Grigsby has worked at NASA Langley Research Center for 20 years. He has designed hardware for wind tunnels, developed and integrated new technologies to improve global air transportation, and teaches students worldwide on NASA's interactive Digital Learning Network.

He received a master's in applied physics and computer science from Old Dominion University in December and will begin his doctoral studies in the fall. His thesis was the development of a micro-gravity strength training system intended for use aboard the International Space Station.

"People lose their muscles in space because there is no gravity," said Grigsby. "I've designed the strength training machine and have built a prototype. I'm going through the process of making it better. Making new things or making existing things better is how I define engineering."

Grigsby and his wife have recently moved into the house they built in Williamsburg. They have two Jack Russell terriers and a dachshund.

A complimentary buffet luncheon will follow Grigsby's presentation. Call 438-4000 for reservations.

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Steamboat era stories go online

Starting with a blast from a real steamboat whistle, internet users can return to the time when steamboats plied the Chesapeake Bay.

The Steamboat Era Museum of Irvington recently launched a website,www.steamboatexplorer.org, that provides users with a series of short, streaming video stories extracted from the museum's video-based oral history archives, a collection consisting of 60-plus hours of interviews with eyewitnesses to the steamboat era. All the segments have been edited and enhanced with archival stills and B-roll.

Story titles include Introduction to Steamboats, The Steamboat is Coming, Activity on the Wharf, Dockside Adventure, Steamboat Traveler, Accommodations and Services, The Captain and the Crew, The Adams Floating Theatre, and The End of an Era. There are three additional oral histories—Cannon Hill, A Good Deed, and A Close Call – that are third generation. They provide a glimpse of the region during the Civil War, and will be used in the museum's upcoming exhibit, The Bay At War.

"The overall goal of the website project is to pass on real-life experiences that bring the history of this region 'up close and personal,'" said museum director Terri Thaxton. "Using the internet is a good way for a small regional museum to share resources and make an impact."

The site also contains educational support materials for teachers of grades K through 12. The materials meet the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

"We faced a number of challenges in creating the archives," said project director Grayson Mattingly. "As with many oral history projects, getting first person accounts is becoming more difficult. Plus we need to provide the public with recorded materials that are accessible, usable, and educational. Not everyone will watch an entire one-or two-hour interview. Editing and visually enhancing the stories provides a solution to this challenge. But researchers who want more in-depth information can consult thorough logs of the entire interviews."

The project has received funding from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, The Verizon Foundation and the Scott Opler Foundation.

"Our work has just started." said Mattingly, "We are still in the process of collecting interviews, and in the upcoming months will be adding to the number of stories provided online. Keeping the past alive is what it is all about."

ACT 4 to stage comic review in February

The Lancaster Players recently announced it will host "You Must Remember This.." at The Playhouse in White Stone.

The show will play Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for three consecutive weekends beginning February 9. The dinner theater production will feature a meal catered by Carried Away Cuisine of Kilmarnock.

Reservations may be made by calling 435-3776. The price for dinner and show is $30.

The theater doors will open at 6 p.m. The show will begin at 8 p.m.

A special $7 show only preview night will be held February 8 at 8 p.m.

A cash bar will serve wine, beer and spirits at each performance.

"You Must Remember This..." is a comic exploration of the light-hearted side of memory and the loss of it. In a series of blackout skits, monologues, revues and one act plays, the audience will delight in the foibles of a multitude of characters experiencing recognizable lapses in memory and recovery.

Nostalgia also plays a part with segments like "Memory Jukebox" with comedy, songs and a door prize as well as a game show parody entitled """"Down Memory Loss Lane."

The cast features ACT 4, a local company of four actors. Each actor portrays several different characters, young and old as well as themselves in 16 diverse sketches.

Group to resurrect near-death experiences

The Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula friends of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (LANDS) welcomes Lono Ho'ala to speak at its first meeting on Sunday, February 5, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington.

In the spring of 1982, when Ho'ala was 34 years old, he was in a flooded crawl space under his home when he was caught in the grip of 30 amps of electricity powered by 220 volts from an electric hot water heater that had shorted out in the water.

His 'lifeless' body was pulled from under the house. His back was broken in six places, and his hips, shoulder joints, heart and brain were all severely damaged. Although he was eventually revived, Ho'ala had a second Near Death Experience a year later when the electrical damage to his heart caused him to suffer a heart attack. Both times he experienced events that changed his life, and now through him, thousands of others are being influenced by his inspired message.

Those who have had a near-death experience or other spiritually transformative experience and those who are interested in learning more about these types of experiences are invited to join the meeting to share and learn.

The suggested donation is $5 at the door. No one will be turned away.

For more information, call Linda Small at 438-4822.

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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

In most cases we think of an angel as a spiritual being who serves the Lord by protecting his creatures on earth. A more secular meaning refers to the silent backer of a Broadway play, the one who makes it all possible. A third, more colloquial, meaning comes from a loose interpretation and fusion of the above two, namely, a human being who acts like an angel dispensing mercy and making possible something otherwise beyond the range of possibility.

In the history of the Northern Neck there have been many of the latter type of angels, people who have done extraordinary good deeds, often unsung, but whose contributions have been profound. Recently one of those most deserving of that accolade, a native who spent over eight decades here in her homeland, moved to South Carolina to be nearer her son and his family. I speak of Frances George, who spent most of her life in Bluff Point, and who has been an angel of mercy to many in their special times of need.

Frances has cared for countless individuals in need of her care and companionship. She has nursed many through terrible illnesses, and provided support to their families in time of sorrow. She always put the needs of others above herself, despite on several occasions having to undergo challenging medical situations of her own. Each time she looked with optimism and serenity to getting back to the state where she could help others, and each time she triumphed in that effort.

For a good part of her career, Frances operated the old Bluff Point Florist where another of her native talents could shine, the fixing and arranging of flowers, always in her own unique way. Just as she has had a spiritual bond with those in need, so too she had a special way with flowers. Her sprays and bouquets were tasteful and dignified, exactly mimicking the person who had put them together.

Last month her neighbors, Ray Lee and W.R. Keyser, hosted a farewell reception giving Frances' friends an opportunity to say goodbye and wish her well on the challenge of leaving her homeland for new pastures, a course she is taking in her usual calm and directed manner. Frances has known all the locals, and made friends with more come-heres than most of us can count.

Her bon voyage party was a wonderful testimony to the influence she has had across the lower Northern Neck over so many years. Despite the sadness many were experiencing over her departure, everyone there had great stories to share about her influence on them and the inspiration to serve others which she enkindled in them. She showed photographs of the new home where she would be living, and outlined the areas where she could grow her flowers. The pictures displayed a setting of natural beauty and charm typical of its new resident in every respect.

Bob Hope's theme song was "Thanks for the Memories," a phrase which is appropriate to use in recognizing the multitude of good deeds that this Northern Neck native spent her life showering on her community. May the people of South Carolina be so blessed in the years to come.

All the best to you, dear Frances, and please know that you depart with the love, respect and admiration of all of your Northern Neck friends and neighbors.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Another week has gone by at the Capitol and things are really beginning to take shape. A number of my bills have been heard in committee.

A bill I proposed to allow for economic development incentives to be used to build the infrastructure for high speed internet and broadband was reported from committee with a unanimous vote on Thursday.

My other bills are moving along quite nicely as well. My bill to provide incentives for biofuels production has made it out of the Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources committee and into the Appropriations Committee.

I proposed a bill to increase the penalties for littering and it has come out of subcommittee with amendments and will next be heard by the full Courts of Justice committee.

My bill to help ensure that citizens receive the fair market value of their property, or if the discrepancy is 20 percent or greater the state must pay legal fees, has been referred to a subcommittee within Courts of Justice.

These are just some of my bills that have been heard before committees thus far. Actions have been taken on six of my 12 key pieces of legislation and I am anxiously awaiting their outcome.

I have been fortunate enough to get several visitors from the district this week. I was excited when a group of students and faculty came to Richmond from Rappahannock Community College. Students Abby Hughes, Robbie Nash, Jared Sullivan and Coreeka Turner were accompanied by faculty members Elizabeth Crowther, Vic Clough and John Paden. It was so nice to see these fine ladies and gentlemen and to see the community college system in action. It was obvious that my colleagues in the House of Delegates felt the same way when they rose on the House floor to welcome these students and faculty members to the capitol.

I got a chance to see people from the district visiting on behalf of the electoral board; we had representatives from Northumberland, Richmond County and Westmoreland. I also visited with constituents on behalf of the Virginia Horse Council, the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, and on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

It has been a great week, we have made a lot of great progress, and I have gotten the opportunity to meet with many great people. If there is any way I can be of assistance, contact my office in Richmond at 698-1099. Also I would like to remind everyone to utilize the constituent viewpoint hotline to share opinions on legislation; the number to the hotline is 1-800-889-0229.

Rappahannock Record USPS (455-600)

27 N. Main St., P.O. Box 400,
Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400

804-435-1701 • FAX: 804-435-2632
Web site: www.rrecord.com

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Gaskins, General Managers

Robert D. Mason Jr., Editor

J. E. Currell, Publisher, 1927-1993

Published weekly except Christmas week at Kilmarnock, Lancaster Co., VA. Periodicals Postage Paid at Kilmarnock, VA 22482 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Rappahannock Record, P. O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400.

Subscriptions (payable in advance): $20 per year in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County; $28 per year elsewhere. Single copy, $ .50.

Member: Virginia Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

Printed on recycled paper.

All items submitted for publication are subject to inclusion in digital or other electronic formats for use in other Rappahannock Record products.

How to reach us:
To reach members of the staff, dial the main phone number, 435-1701, and then the employee's extension when prompted, or use the e-mail address.

Newsroom Staff:
Robert D. Mason Jr., Editor
extension 25, editor@rrecord.com
Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi,
extension 23, lvaldrighi@rrecord.com
Robb Hoff
extension 24, rhoff@rrecord.com
Reid Pierce-Armstrong,
extension 22, rarmstrong@rrecord.com
Katherine Shrader
extension 22, editor@rrecord.com
William R. Fix, copy editor,
extension 24, editor@rrecord.com

Advertising Staff:
(address e-mail to mail@rrecord.com)
Chris McClintock, manager,
extension 13
K.C. Troise, extension 19
Marilyn Bryant, extension 11
Rachael Gano, extension 15

Production Staff:
(address e-mail to mail@rrecord.com)
Wayne Smith, mgr., extension 27
Joe Gaskins, extension 17
Susan Faulkner, extension 18
Joan Ramsay-Johnson,
extension 17
Gloria Bosher, extension 17
Brenda Burtner, extension 16

Publishing/Business Staff:
Frederick A. Gaskins, president,
extension 20, fgaskins@rrecord.com
Bettie Lee Gaskins, treasurer,
extension 21, fgaskins@rrecord.com
Kate Oliver CPA, accounts payable,
extension 21, koliver@rrecord.com
Kim Kent, accounts manager,
extension 14, ardesk@rrecord.com
Ann Shelton, accounts manager,
extension 12, mail@rrecord.com

Subscriptions:
Anna Ticer, circulation manager,
extension 16, mail@rrecord.com

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Letters to the Editor

Boathouse ban would restrict valid land use

To The Editor:

The members of the Northumberland Board of Supervisors who voted to approve the boathouse in question last week should be commended for acting in the interest of the constituents who elected them, not bowing to a small group of vocal attendants at the meeting.

Citing boathouse restrictions in Maryland is not in the "live and let live" spirit that has existed in Northumberland County for many years. Maryland is over-regulated and its citizens have a "control and restrict" mentality that we do not need to emulate.

I know of townhouse communities in Maryland that will not allow pickup trucks to park in their neighborhood. I suppose the prevailing attitude is that a pickup will detract from the other residents' Beamers and Mercedes.

A blanket ban on the construction of boat houses would restrict the reasonable use of the property of residents who have a valid need for one and have planned to construct one under the current regulations and standards.

R.W. Brown
Heathsville

Business as usual

To The Editor:

It looks like it is "business as usual" with the majority of Northumberland County supervisors. The usual telltale signs of real estate and building interests being protected by three members of the board is once again evidenced by their selfish voting interests.

The outflow of objections after the "famous three" approved another boathouse exception at the recent meeting perhaps served as a wake-up call. For what purpose do we have the hearing on boathouses building exceptions if their approval always prevails?

At least this time the public outcry prompted them to send the boathouse subject to the planning comission.

Every time I cross the Rappahannock River northbound into White Stone I am reminded in viewing the obvious housing monstrosity as an example of the Lancaster board of supervisors' failure to provide the stewardship obligated in their responsibility to the county.

Comparatively, unsightly boathouses equally create environmental eyesores in our pristine comunity. The facetious comment regardng the necessity to protect expensive fiberglass boats was gratuitous at best. The large sailing community must be truly insulted. Should we allow for boathouses to have open roofs?

I believe it is time for the many organizations with true concern for the long-term benefits of Northmberland County to come together and be activists in the planning process. Let's not leave it up to the interest of certain politicians.

Ian J Duncan
Wicomico Church

Historyland thanks supporters

To The Editor:

Although the November 19 Historyland Gifts and Greens sale is just a memory for many of us, its success would not have been possible without the fine support of many not directly involved in this volunteer group.

For many years the local merchants have allowed us to display our posters in their shops, others have also contributed significantly in support of our raffles—donating merchandise or gift certificates. Some advertise the sale on their road-side sign boards.

Once again, WKWI radio and Charlie Lassiter aired spots before the sale. A special and personal "thank you" to Tawne Hayes for the fine early morning interview—she certainly did cover a lot of information in a short period of time.

As always, the Rappahannock Record is very supportive to Historyland. Bill Fix keeps a watch on my syntax, Chris McClintock advises me on our advertising, Lisa Hinton-Valdreghi gets just the right photo and Robert Mason Jr. keeps an eye on all of us.

Never to be overlooked in such a letter is the wonderful support from our many and loyal customers. You are the ones who wait in line to purchase the fine items our members have created. Without you and your participation, we would not be able to fund the scholarships and make the other donations that we do each year.

Finally, thank you members, spouses, relatives and friends. Without all of you, we could not exist.

Luci York
HCW publicity chair
Kilmarnock

Let Devils Bottom Road be

To The Editor:

We of the Devil's Bottom Road Preservation Society were aghast after reading the article by Rob Hoff in the January 6 issue of the Rappahannock Record dealing with the irresponsible debacle created by the Virginia Department of Transportation on Taylor's Creek Road.

It is difficult to understand how a state agency with multiple plans of action supposedly meant to deal with any unforeseen development including fiscal and physical possibilities could possibly miscalculate a project to a point where resident citizens who begged VDOT and the county supervisors not to embark on the project in the first place, have ended up with a pot-holed dirt road making their situation intolerable when compared with the lovely paved country road they once had.

Supervisor B. Wally Beauchamp mentions that it would have cost "a couple hundred thousand dollars" in repayment for VDOT's preliminary work to abort the project three years ago. What a bargain that would have been.

Let us hope that everyone has learned a lesson from this sad experience and that Devil's Bottom Road, one of the last untouched by-ways of beauty in the county, is not threatened by a similar catastrophe.

The recent designation of Devil's Bottom Road as "Virginia Byway" opens the door to federal funds to enhance and retain the area's rural and historic value. It is hoped that VDOT will realize the esthetic, bucolic peacefulness of this simple country lane and join with the majority of Lancaster County residents who would like to see it preserved in its lovely tranquility for generations to come.

We therefore call upon the board of supervisors to abort the plans for "improving" Devil's Bottom Road while there is still time and before several more millions of dollars of taxpayers' money is expanded to no avail.

Don Shanklin
Lancaster, Devil's Bottom Road Preservation Society coordinator

Marsh grass program will serve Northumberland property owners

by Dr. Lynton Land for the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

Tidal wetlands or marshes are critical to the health of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

Dense stands of marsh grasses provide food and sanctuary for a large number of organisms. They trap sediment and purify the groundwater of nitrate and phosphate pollution caused by fertilization practices and septic systems.

Riparian buffers of mature trees with an overlapping leaf canopy at least 100 feet wide bordered by marsh grass should be the goal for as much of the shoreline as possible. It is the only way we know to remove nitrate and phosphate from the groundwater and prevent pollution of our waterways.

Although there has been a "no net loss of wetlands" policy in place for 33 years, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission decided that the policy needed to be improved and enforced because wetlands are being nibbled away. As of July 1, 2005, the policy requires "no net loss" of wetlands without exception as outlined in the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Wetland Report for Fall 2005, Vol. 20, No. 2, available at www.vims.edu.

The first step to avoid any loss of wetlands, is to change plans for shoreline modification as necessary. The site must be carefully evaluated to determine whether or not a structure (bulkhead or rip-rap) is necessary, or whether natural stabilization can be employed. The practice of grading the shoreline on a 2 to 1 slope (clear cutting the trees at the same time), and destroying marsh grass in order to install rip-rap, will not be permitted.

An alternative that should always be considered at low energy sites is a "stone sill" in shallow water just in front of the shoreline to break the waves, with the space between the shoreline and the stone sill filled and planted with marsh grass. This is sometimes called "marsh toe stabilization" and is one way to reduce the natural erosion of marshes caused by rising sea level and boat wakes. A demonstration stone sill has been installed in Reedville on Bethany United Methodist Church property adjacent to the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. Anyone interested in this technique should visit the site and contact NAPS, RFM or Greenshores Solutions for more information.

If destruction of marsh grass is absolutely unavoidable, a wetland must be re-established on the same site with a minimum of 1 for 1 replacement. VIMS recommends 1.5 to 1 replacement with monitoring for 10 years. If a wetland cannot be expanded or established on the same site, then wetland credits must be purchased from an approved tidal wetland bank (none exist locally) or a fee paid to an account set up by the local wetlands board to pay for wetland compensation. The rate, according to VIMS, should be about $11.50 per square foot of wetland lost. The money can be used to establish wetlands nearby.

Since 2002, NAPS has sponsored a program of wetland preservation and improvement. In spring we purchase marsh grasses and help people plant them. In fall we spray invasive Phragmites with an approved herbicide to allow diverse marshes to become re-established. We have been notified by the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Fund that we will receive $3,000 in 2006 to continue both these efforts.

We can defray the cost of purchasing marsh grass plants (at a cost of about $0.70 each) for people in Northumberland County who want to improve their shorelines.

Two "success stories" of shoreline stabilization using grass are posted at www.napsva.org.

We will contact property owners who have already been involved in this program to continue to improve their marshes.

Last spring we had some bad luck. A period of anomalously high tides followed our grass planting, drowning many of the plants. This spring we will also undertake stabilizing a site consisting of an eroding cliff, by planting vegetation on the cliff and marsh grass out in front.

One of the lessons we learned is that "plant it and forget it" is rarely a successful strategy. Boat wakes tend to wash plants out before they can become established, so the property owner must be willing to replant plugs that are disturbed. Once the plants begin to spread, they should be lightly fertilized a few times until a lush stand of grass has become established. Overhanging limbs and shrubs that shade marshes should be continually pruned back.

Given a good jump-start, plenty of sunlight, and a little fertilizer, the marsh will flourish. The small amount of fertilizer involved is inconsequential relative to the amount of fertilizer being used by agriculture and homeowners, and will pay dividends in the long run because of the efficient nutrient removal capability of the mature marsh.

To participate, take time to assess your site. There must be substrate exposed at mid-tide, direct sunlight at least half the day and not too much wave action. If you want an independent assessment, or believe your site is suitable, contact me at 453-6605 before March when we must place the order for plants.

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the January 26, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen.)

Mollusk

Mrs. C. F. Chewning has been visiting her sister, Mrs. J. R. Northern, at Whealton.

"D. O. C." and others had a delightful time ducking Monday last in the fog.

Bethel M. E. Church seems to have the right man. The Sunday school is flourishing; the Bible class is taught by the pastor and preaching every Sunday.

L. D. Stoneham's clerk, Mr. Wright, and Lee Stoneham were at Simonsons Sunday last, visiting the former's mother.

Prof. Porter is at his same old trade - hauling logs.

Ocran

Capt. Ocran Humphreys returned Saturday before last from Pocomoke City, Md., where he had been to note progress on steamer Bradley, which is being rebuilt there. He is well pleased with the work being done, and says he will have an up-to-date boat in almost every respect.

A surprise party was given Capt. and Mrs. Jas. W. Squires recently. A pleasant evening was spent with games and merry making, supper was served at 10:30 and was not the least of the many enjoyable features.

Messers. Thomas and Prime, of Baltimore, were gauging oil at Bellows & Squires' factory Tuesday.

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

Letters to the Editor

Commending good Samaritans

To The Editor:

I would like the community to know about a good Samaritan who lives within its midst.

Late Monday afternoon, my car hit a deer. Although people behind me saw it happen, they just went whizzing by, but not Kathy Jackson. She stopped to make sure that I was alright. She called the sheriff's office for me and insisted on staying with me until my husband arrived.

I have been told that she works at Chesapeake Bank. Please stop by and commend her for being a wonderful human being.

Accolades go also to another Lancaster County citizen, trooper C.W. Davis of the Virginia State Police. He went above and beyond in helping my husband and me do all that was necessary for insurance purposes and for getting our car removed from the roadside.

Jinx Wright
Irvington

On board to ban boathouses

To The Editor:

In reference to a January 19 article, "Beauty or beast?" and to a letter to the editor: Bravo to those residents on Tipers Creek who are once more addressing the issue of opposing construction of more boathouses in Northumberland County.

I found the letter very informative since as a "come here," I was not aware that several surrounding counties have already banned construction of boathouses because of their visual and environmental impact on waterways. The writer also pointed out that with the current fast pace of real estate development our county is experiencing, there is the potential for a boathouse every 200 feet on both sides of our waterways. It is thought provoking to imagine that our beautiful shorelines could be dotted with so many more boathouses, especially since many eventually fall into such disrepair, as shown in the photos in your article.

I found it incredulous that a county supervisor would say "banning boathouses would be akin to banning garages." Garages do not destroy oyster grounds, boathouses do. Garages do not destroy the beauty of our waterways, boathouses do.

I am on board in this effort to ban the construction of boathouses and will be attending all public hearings where this issue is addressed.

Sylvia Doody
Wicomico Church

Thanks for help

To The Editor:

On Monday, January 23, I had the unfortunate luck of getting a flat tire, but I had the pleasant experience of having three individuals stop to assist me, offering to do anything they could to help. I know that our state's well-known slogan has been for many years, "Virginia is for Lovers," however I am happy to share that we still have some good Samaritans on our beloved Northern Neck.

I thank each one who stopped to help me. Thank you very much.

Dee Norris
Rehoboth Church

Apology needed

To the Editor:

I am writing in reference to a letter in last week's Record about false statements made concerning Glen Pinn Roofing Company, written by his wife and secretary of his business. I am the sister of Glen Pinn and I am very disappointed in the way this was all handled by Crime Solvers. It is hard to believe that they would send information to be printed that has not been verified by the sheriff's department with the person's business first. This kind of derogatory information could damage one's business if the public would adhere to it.

I am hoping the public will ignore the false statements made while we are waiting on a public apology from Crime Solvers. They don't feel that an apology is needed, but we, the family of Glendon Pinn Jr., want an apology in bold print that the public can see.

I am also very sorry about the way that Lynn Pinn's dad died. It is very hard to heal from something like that, but one moves on with life with the scar of many memories of not having a dad. The family has my regards and love and I pray for their healing.

Arlene Spencer
Portsmouth

Troops need adequate armor

To The Editor:

Where is the public outcry while our soldiers are fighting in Iraq with inferior military equipment? This outrage has been in the news for many months while the administration takes its customary position of denial.

Now, thanks to the New York Times, we know a secret Pentagon study states that "as many as 80 percent of the Marines who have been killed in Iraq from wounds to the upper body could have survived if they had had extra body armor." The statistics were compiled by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Unit.

Although thousands of sets of armor were finally ordered in September 2005, the body armor deficiencies have not yet been resolved. Now we know why soldiers being deployed to Iraq feel compelled to purchase, at their own expense, additional body armor. The only other war that comes to mind when U.S. soldiers were not adequately equipped was the Civil War.

It is shocking that the Pentagon stubbornly refused to acknowledge the equipment shortfalls despite the fact that the military's medical examiner told a military panel in 2003 that the body armor information "screams to be publicized." It is also upsetting to hear that current military orders of Humvee vehicles remain backlogged while soldiers continue using the older Humvees which are inadequately armed.

Sending troops to war with inferior equipment is deplorable. As a result of the Pentagon's failure to adequately equip our troops, there have been more casualties and more serious combat injuries.

The public has a right to know why our troops are not equipped with the best possible equipment.

Oh, I keep forgetting—the president gets a pass for being deceptive because of the 911 attack.

Mr. President, like the yellow ribbon on the bumper says, "Support our Troops," and your place in history will take care of itself.

Michael Morchower
Irvington

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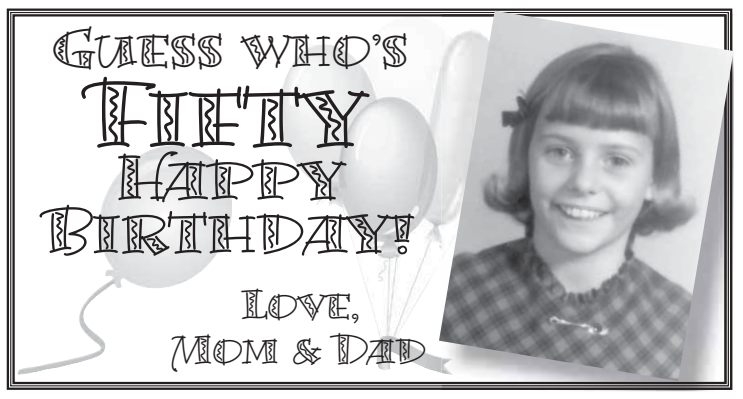

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Animal Tails

By Audrey Thomasson

And the winner is....

While Hollywood obsesses over award shows honoring people who do nothing more than entertain, those of us in the real world would like to honor the true winners, our pooches.

With respect to the many specially trained canines playing important roles in our lives, from bomb-sniffing dogs to guide dogs, therapy dogs and search and rescue dogs, there are also ordinary pooches that have done extraordinary things for their human companions above and beyond their traditional roles. They may not draw millions of dollars in revenue and we may never see them on the silver screen, but they will always be stars with their families.

Here are a few of my picks for the "Golden Bone" award.

In the "Dog Wrestles an Alligator and Saves Mom" category, the Golden Bone goes to Blue, an Australian Blue Heeler in Labelle, Fla. When Ruth Bay, 85, was walking Blue one evening, she slipped and fell. The woman lay incapacitated and yelling for help. But when the only response came from a hungry gator, Blue took action, growling and charging at the beast, beating him back into the dark. Relatives arrived an hour later and the injured Blue led them to the spot where Bay had fallen. She was taken to the hospital and Blue was treated at an animal clinic. The gator has not been heard from since.

For the classic "Go Get Help" maneuver, the winner is Neo, an 11-month-old Siberian husky from Charlotte, N.C. While attending a dog convention in New York, Neo's diabetic guardian, Marci Snead, went into hypoglycemic shock and began convulsing. Neo ran to a nearby building and managed to persuade people to follow him back to Snead. An ambulance was summoned and Snead was transported to a hospital where she made a full recovery. Obviously, Neo is hooked on Lassie reruns. Who said television has no value?

"Bad to the Bone" honors go to Raleigh, a 20-pound miniature Schnauzer credited with saving his family from a moose attack near MacDonald Pass, Mont. While the Surbrugg family was picking berries on a mountainside trail, a moose stumbled into their midst. Amid the pandemonium of screaming children and a big, mean rack of antlers, the scruffy little pooch emerged from underfoot, barking and spooking the animal back into the woods. Despite attempts to call the dog back, he continued to chase the Goliath-sized beast until they heard an awful yelp. As Raleigh limped back to his family, the moose was seen making a hasty retreat with his tail between his legs. Raleigh suffered three broken ribs, but he proved Mark Twain's adage: It's not the size of the dog in a fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.

Accepting the award for Blue is Sadie, an Australian Heeler available for adoption at Petfinders.com, hurt90@erols.com, or 703-691-4278.

Another mighty mini-pooch is Casper, a 10-pound Shih Tzu credited not only with rescuing his owner from a brutal assault and rape attempt, but also providing the evidence in court that convicted the attacker. Court records show that the toy dog's furious barking alerted a Simi Valley, Calif., resident to the presence of a man standing in her bedroom. She grabbed the phone and dialed 911, but the man struck her in the face and then tried to rape her. In the struggle between intruder, victim and biting Shih Tzu, the living room phone started ringing. The woman said it was the police and the man fled the scene. The woman's description led police to a neighbor and a search of the man's clothes turned up traces of the dog's hair, evidence that earned the guy six years in state prison. Casper is the paws-down winner of the coveted "No outfit is complete without pet hair" award presented by the fashion police.

A couple of Darwinesque chaps were awarded two-to-five years in prison thanks to mutts:

Eddie was fingered, or pawed, by an 11-month-old husky-retriever gum shoe named Shorty. Recently adopted from a shelter, Shorty and her new owner were playing fetch in front of an apartment building plagued by a Peeping Tom. When the ball toss landed in the bushes beneath a recent victim's window, the dog charged after it, but returned with a wallet instead. It was turned over to authorities who noticed that the driver's license photo closely matched a description of the prowler. Now, whenever police can't solve a crime, they "get Shorty." Rule 1 for criminals: Do leave home without it.

Rule 2: Dogs are not "man's best friend" when it comes to crime. Steven Wilson from jolly old England, took his dog, Roxy, along on one of his house burglaries. But when the homeowners returned early, Wilson made a quick exit out the window leaving Roxy to fend for herself. Unfortunately for the cat burglar, it took only a couple of dog biscuits before the dog ratted him out, leading police straight to Wilson's house just up the road.

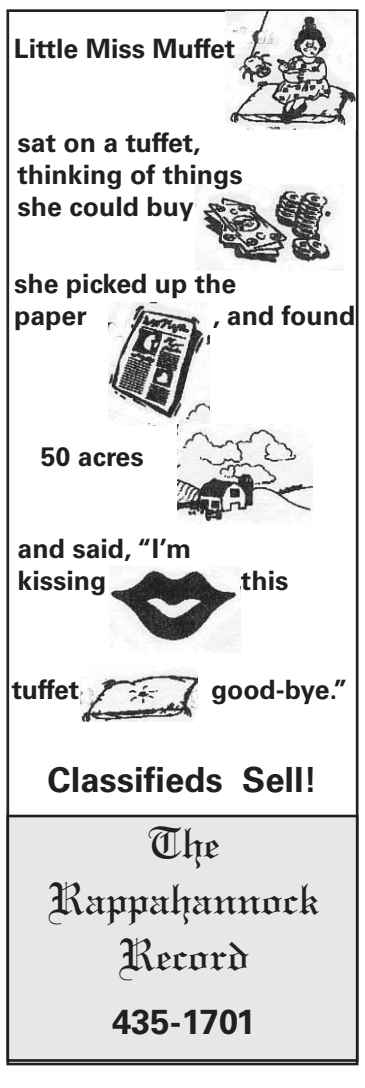
Playing the role of Casper is Buffy, available at Shih Tsu Rescue in Bowie, Md., 301-249-5719, or email khanwai@aol.com.

Each year pet product companies recognize heroic pets. For "Dog Hero of the Year," enter the Heinz contest by e-mailing dog.hero@heinzpet.com, or go online to register at Kibbles 'n Bits at www.delmontedoghero.com. Purina offers induction into the Hall of Fame at www.purina.ca.

For a story on your wonder-dog or cat, go to www.animaltails.org or email author@animaltails.org.

To contact a pet adoptions agency in Lancaster County, call the Animal Welfare League at 435-0822 or 462-0091, the Lancaster Animal Shelter at 462-7175, the Friends of the Shelter at 435-0737, or Animals First at 462-5067.

In Northumberland County, call Friends of the Shelter at 435-2597, or A Place in the Sun at 580-6484 (cats).



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Celebrating 64 years

Owen and Irene Lewis of Kilmarnock recently celebrated 64 years of marriage. They were wed December 31, 1941. They have two sons and a daughter-in-law, Donnie and Roberta Lewis of Lively and Roy Lewis of Tappahannock, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two stepchildren.

Rider-Boyce nuptials held

Marsha Lynn Boyce and Harold Rider Jr. were united in holy matrimony January 21, 2006.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boyce of Norfolk and Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Park of Lively. The groom is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rider Sr.

The double-ring ceremony was held at St. John's United Methodist Church in Norfolk and officiated by its minister, Rev. Clifton Whitlock.

The bride was escorted by her brother, Michael E. Boyce, and given in marriage by her family. She is the granddaughter of Ruth Wilkins of Village and the late R. Bates Wilkins, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Boyce.

The matron of honor was Mrs. Janet Boyce, stepmother of the bride. Maid of honor was Morgan Elizabeth Boyce, daughter of the bride.

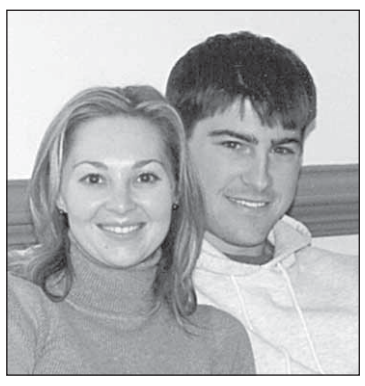
Jack Boyce, father of the bride, was the best man.

Mistress of ceremonies was Mrs. Fran Corbin of Mechanicsville, a longtime friend of the bride.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boyce. A rehearsal dinner was hosted by the bride and groom at the Surf Rider Marina Restaurant in Norfolk.

The bride is a graduate of Lee-Davis High School in Mechanicsville and is employed by Children's of the Kings Daughters Hospital in Norfolk. The groom is also a graduate of Lee-Davis High School and is employed by L&M Tile-Carpet One in Mechanicsville. The couple will move from Norfolk to their home in Mechanicsville in February.

Engagements



Cheryl Ann Phelps and Steven Carter Christopher

Phelps-Christopher

Danny Phelps and Mrs. Cathy Basham of Elizabethtown, Ky., announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl Ann Phelps, to Steven Carter Christopher, both of New Orleans, La.

Miss Phelps is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wilmoth and Mrs. Rose Phelps, all of Elizabethtown, and the late Woodrow Phelps. She is a 2000 graduate of Tulane University and is employed with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The prospective groom is the son of Michael S. and Janet K. Christopher of Kilmarnock, and the grandson of John and Lucille Christopher of Irvington and Robert and Dorothy Keyser of Kilmarnock. He is a 1997 graduate of Lancaster High School and a 2001 graduate of the College of William and Mary. He is employed with 3001 Inc.

The couple will wed May 19 at the Victoria Inn and Gardens in Jean Lafitte, La.

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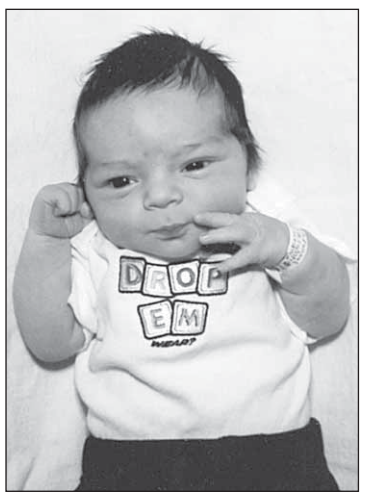

Ethan Benjamin Jackson

Benjamin and Jessica Jackson of Lancaster announce the arrival of their son, Ethan Benjamin Jackson, born December 15, 2005, at Memorial Regional Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

His grandparents are Bruce and Linda Walker of Ottoman, Richard and Lisa Pittman of Weems and Jay and Barbara Jackson of Kilmarnock.

His great-grandparents are Kendrick Walker of Kilmarnock, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Weigand of Henrico, Loucille Jackson of Deltaville and Beverly Benson of Weems.

Ryan Timothy Livesay

Megan Livesay of Heathsville announces the arrival of her baby brother, Ryan Timothy Livesay, born October 19, 2005, at Memorial Regional Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 1.5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

The baby's parents are Timmy and Christy Livesay.

His maternal grandparents are Connie Wilkins of Montross and Randy Bowen of Warsaw.

His paternal grandparents are Tommy and Connie Livesay of Lottsburg.

His special aunt and uncle are Cindy and Joe Hayes of Warsaw.

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Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Braatz have returned home after visiting a daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Ivie, at their new home in Hilton Head, S.C. Another daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith and children, Ryan and Kate, of Westport, Conn., joined the family for a reunion.

Ms. Betty Brown of Falls Church spent the weekend with her brother-in -law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spafford on Kent Cove.

Mrs. Helen Brent Van-Ells of Encampment, Wyo., and son-in-law and daughter, Dr. Dennis and Sue Stanley of Halifax are spending some time at their home on Tabbs Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Proctor and Mr. Bill Proctor were in Richmond last weekend with her brother and his family, Mr. and Mrs. William Hatfield and daughter, Victoria. The occasion was to celebrate William's birthday.

Mrs. Edward Lee enjoyed a week in Richmond with her granddaughter and grandsons, Mrs. Kelley Jett and Keegan and Caleb.

Michele Burtner has returned to Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond and Joe Burtner has returned to Kennesaw State University in Georgia after spending the recent holidays with their parents, Glen and Brenda Burtner in Kilmarnock.

Chris Hathaway of Lake Charles, La., and his friend, Megan, were overnight guests of his grandparents, Innis and Dixie Wood, last week. While here he visited his grandmother, Mrs. Henry Hathaway in the Lancashire, and other family and friends in the area.

Men plan 32nd spaghetti supper

The men of Kilmarnock United Methodist Church on East Church Street in Kilmarnock will serve their 32nd annual spaghetti supper on February 16 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The supper will be served in the fellowship hall. Diners should enter the church through the main front doors. Everyone will be welcomed and given seating instructions. Parking is available in the church parking lot and along East Church Street.

The supper will include generous portions of spaghetti and meat sauce, a salad, warm Italian bread and a choice of beverages. The ladies of the church will offer desserts.

For carry-out service, enter the doors at the bottom of the outside steps. This entrance will be clearly marked. Elevator service is available.

Tickets may be purchased from the men at the door. Tickets are $8 for adults and $3.50 for children. For more information, call 435-1797 Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., or 436-0511.

Cotillion to expand in Lancaster County

The National League of Junior Cotillions (NLJC) of Charlotte, N.C., has announced plans to expand its program in Lancaster County.

The NLJC offers a program of etiquette, character education and social dance training for middle and junior high school students.

"We will select a director for a local chapter who will receive complete training and an exclusive territory for expansion," said national director Anne Colvin Winters.

The NLJC has directors operating 445 chapters in 33 states.

The purpose of the NLJC program is to give students instruction and practice in the courtesies that make life more pleasant for them and those around them. Students learn courtesies through role playing, skits and games. Standard ballroom and line dancing is taught.

Etiquette and character instruction is also provided regarding honor, respect, ethics, sportsmanship, acknowledgments of gifts, behavior at cultural and civic events, correspondence, interaction in groups, introductions, paying and receiving compliments, receiving lines, table manners, instructional dinners, telephone courtesy, and many other areas of social conduct.

NLJC also offers a pre-cotillion for grades K to four and a corporate cotillion program for adults.

Applications or nominations for cotillion director are being received. Call 1-800-633-7947, or visit www.nljc.com, or e-mail cotillions@nljc.com.

Gardening symposium planned in Richmond

Horticulture magazine and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will host a symposium, "Romancing the Site: Inspired Gardening with Regionally Adapted Plants" February 4 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Education and Library Complex in Richmond.

Registration for the day-long event is available at www.hortmag.com, or by calling 877-436-7764.

Speakers will include Rosemary Alexander, founder and principal of The English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London; Page Dickey, a gardener, teacher, lecturer and author of the award-winning *Breaking Ground*; Dan Hinkley, one of the premier plant explorers of the modern era; and Sheila Brady, the partner in charge of design at Oehme van Sweden and Associates.

"Horticulture magazine has invited groundbreaking garden makers and plant collectors to share their personal approaches to site adaptation and regional plant selection," said Nan Sinton, director of programs for the magazine. "You'll learn how to transform a barely promising site into a place for inspired gardening as the speakers reveal their design approaches and choice of plants that share form, texture, and year-round interest."

The symposium is part of Horticulture's 2006 Symposia Series.

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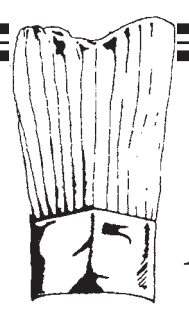
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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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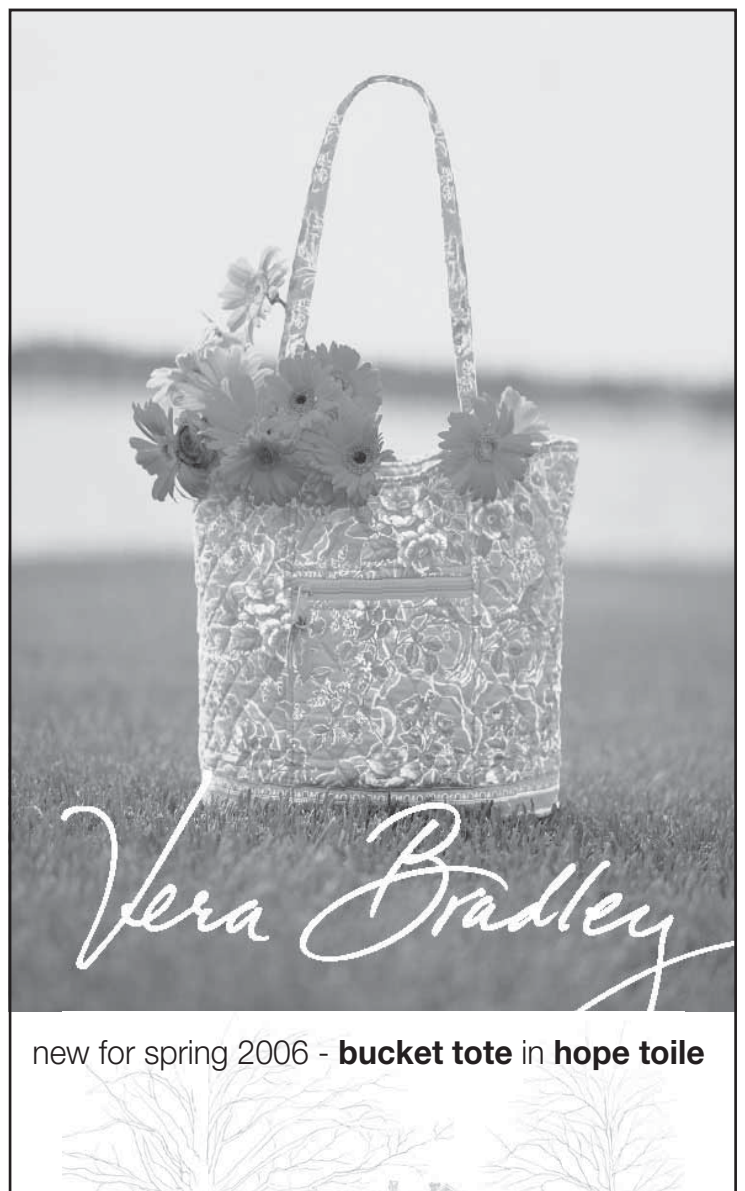

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Popular Virginia folk musicians to perform

Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group will appear "On Stage" at the Lancaster Middle School Theater February 11 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is a production of the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts.

Robin and Linda Williams have thrilled folk, bluegrass, and country audiences throughout America for 30 years. From their many appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion" and "The American Radio Company" to "Austin City Limits" and "The Grand Old Opry" the Williams' music reaches deep into American traditions and, in the words of the Richmond Times Dispatch," encompasses all that's best in country music."

Robin and Linda Williams will be joined in concert by Jim Watson, a founding member of the Red Clay Ramblers, on bass and his distinctive harmony vocals, and bluegrass veteran Jimmy Gaudreau, formerly with the Tony Rice Unit and Shenandoah, on mandolin and mandola.

Robin and Linda Williams

Billboard Magazine says of the Williams' songs, "Beautifully crafted songs and sweet, sailing harmonies...Every song is memorable." In the words of a New York Times reviewer, "vocally and instrumentally, the Williamses combine impeccable musical discipline with a bare simplicity and an utter lack of pretension." And David McCarty of Bluegrass Unlimited writes, "This is the real deal, the kind of heartfelt, genuine musical performance that built the foundation of all country and bluegrass music decades ago yet remains timeless and appealing across the ages."

The 30-year milestone for the Williams' illustrious career celebrates with their 17th recording entitled, "Deeper Waters." Featuring 12 new and re-worked originals, "Deeper Waters" highlights stunning vocal harmonies, their trademark song writing as they "patch together scraps of the Americana sprawl into a captivating whole," and high-driving rich arrangements with added guest artists Mike Auldridge, Mark Schatz, Rickie Simpkins, Iris Dement and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

"Deeper Waters" following on the heels of "Visions of Love" produced by their friend and collaborator, Garrison Keillor of "A Prairie Home Companion." "Visions of Love" brings songs by Hank Williams, Merle Haggard and Jimmie Rodgers with the Williams' rapturous vocals, beautifully entwined and compelling harmonies, and soul-enhancing accompaniment.

From the start, the group's trademark has been outstanding vocal harmonies and tight musicianship. "Good News" was nominated as the Best Gospel Album of the Year by NAIRD and the International Bluegrass Music Association; "Sugar for Sugar" for 13 weeks resided on the Americana Top Ten Chart; "Devil of a Dream," peaked at #7; "In the Company of Strangers" continued their exploration of deeply rooted American music combined with their lively wit and memorable melodies.

Neal and Niebel of Wachovia Securities in Kilmarnock and the Virginia Commission for the Arts are providing financial assistance for the On Stage Concert.

For ticket information, call the box office at 435-0292.

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Shirley Plantation to share love letters

Before text messaging, cell phones and ecards, the only way to communicate one's love and affection from a distance was through hand-written letters—love letters.

From February 14 to February 20, feel the passion shared between couples separated by war, politics, illness, and even death as they communicated their undying love through the written word.

"So often when we think of historical figures, we tend to focus on their accomplishments and prominence in society," said Christine Crumlish Joyce, curator of Shirley Plantation.

Noting significance of love letters in the Shirley Plantation Collection, she said. "These letters reveal their personal and human side by sharing their emotional commitment, love, and affection for each other. In the time before the communication revolution, hand-written letters were the most intimate and private way to communicate with your loved ones."

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Shirley Plantation and learn tales of love and romance among some of America's most influential couples while they struggle to find their way through turbulent times.

A guided tour of the Great House will feature quotations from love letters written by several of the 11 generations of Carters to reside at Shirley Plantation as well as other notable Virginians including George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Take a turn at writing a heartwarming love letter with a real quill pen and fresh ink by an open fire in the 18th-century kitchen building. Writing instructions and supplies will be provided at 11:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. each day, February 14 through February 20.

Shirley Plantation is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission to the Valentine's Day interpretation and quill writing is included with the regular admission fee of $10.50 for adults and $7 for youth. Discounts are available for AAA members, military and seniors.

For directions, visit www.shirleyplantation.com, or call 1-800-232-1613.

'New World' opens today

American movie audiences will be reacquainted with the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas, when New Line Cinema's "The New World" hits the silver screen today (January 26).

The story was inspired by events regarding the founding of Jamestown and its director Terrence Malick's interpretation of the relationships between Cap. John Smith, Pocahontas and John Rolfe. Although not a re-telling of history, Jamestown 2007, the planners of America's 400th Anniversary, anticipate the film will spark interest in Jamestown as the country prepares to commemorate the 400th anniversary of its founding.

The commemoration's 10 events will explore Jamestown's legacies for the nation, encourage learning about the country's foundations, and emphasize the three cultures –Virginia Indian, European and African – that converged during the settlement's early years.

"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 Jeanne Zeidler, executive director of Jamestown 2007. "The timing of the film fits well with the launch of the commemoration."

This sweeping adventure stars Colin Farrell as Capt. John Smith, Christopher Plummer as Cap. Christopher Newport, Christian Bale as John Rolfe, August Schellenberg as Chief Powhatan, and introduces Q'orianka Kilcher as Pocahontas. Writer and director 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 replica 1607 ships – Discovery, Godspeed and Susan Constant – were used in the filming.

Jamestown 2007 is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Jamestown is also the site of the nation's first representative government, free enterprise and multi-cultural society.

State, national, and international commemorative events to salute these legacies will begin in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America's 400th Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation and Colonial Williamsburg. More information about the commemoration is available at www.Americas400thAnniversary.org.

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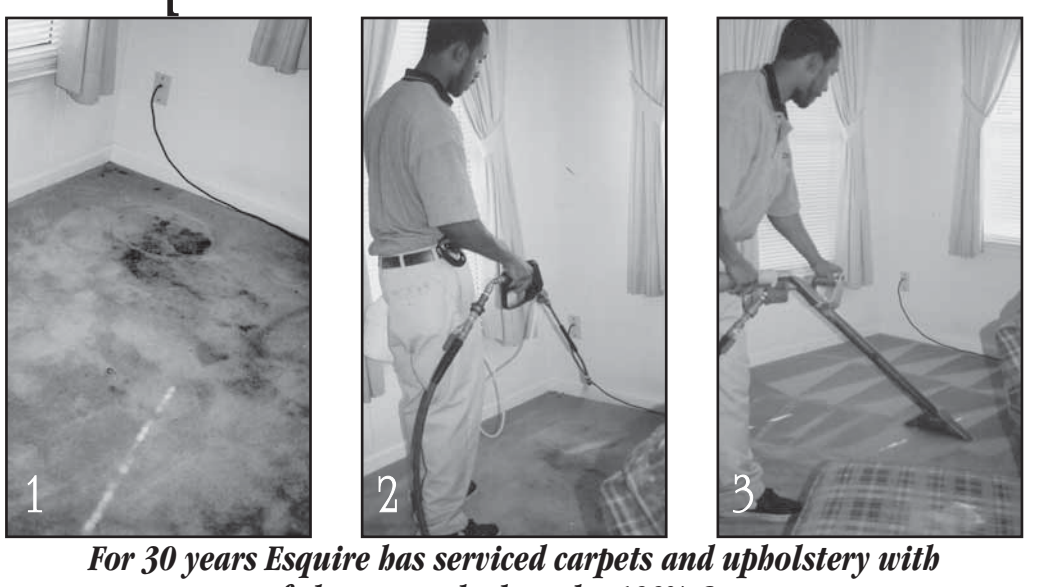

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Donner Grigsby
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Monday, February 6, 2006, at 11 a.m.

Ada K. Jacox, Ph.D., R.N.
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"Developing Clinical Guidelines for Pain Management"
Monday, March 6, 2006, at 11 a.m.

Helen C. Rountree, Ph.D.
Cultural Anthropologist and Author
Specialty: Powhatan Indian Tribes of Virginia
"So What If They Didn't Leave Written Records?"
I'll Find Out About Them Anyway."
Monday, April 3, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

Betty Booker
Columnist, Richmond Times-Dispatch
"Rx: Humor"
Monday, May 1, 2006 at 11 a.m.

Reservations are required due to space limitations and will be taken one event at a time. Call (804) 438-4000.

Rotarians hear hurricane story

Richard Abbott recently reported to the Northern Neck Rotary Club on his narrow escape from Hurricane Katrina and October mission trip to help survivors.

Abbott knew the area from attending the Graduate School of Bank Management at Louisiana State University for three years. He joined a group of 14 for a vacation in New Orleans last August. The group met as Katrina threatened and decided that they should return to the Northern Neck.

When they tried to reschedule the return flight, they were told that the airport in New Orleans was closed. After several hours of diligent cell phone calls, they found the airport open and operating and booked return flights.

Getting ground transportation out of the city proved to be a greater challenge. Getting a taxi or public transportation was nearly impossible. Abbott said that from the time they decided to evacuate, it was over six hours before they arrived at the airport.

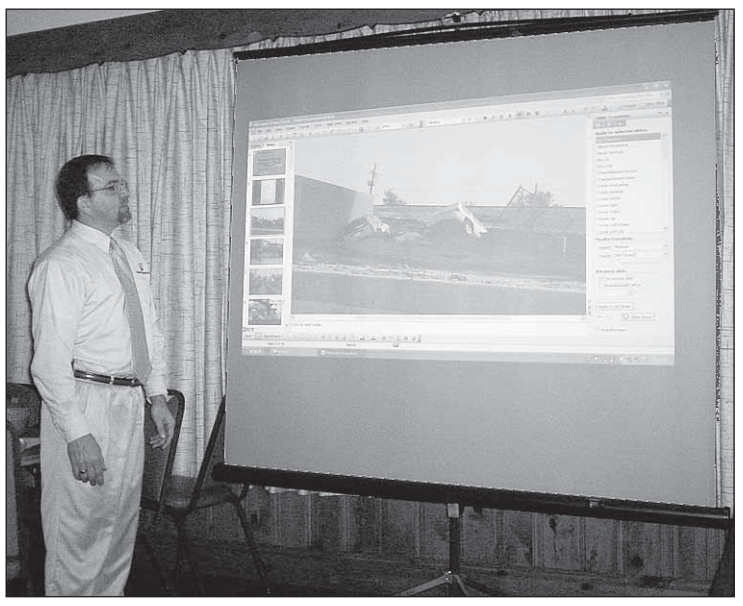
Abbott returned to New Orleans with the Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief Team from Upper Essex and Kilmarnock Baptist churches. The team was deployed in October for a week assisting the cleanup in Picayune, Miss., and Slidell, La.

"The destruction was so pervasive and encompassing that you could not escape it. Around every turn there was new and worse damage. You could see it in the eyes of the residents that even two months after the storm that the shock and disbelief was still weighing on them," Abbott said.

The team cleared 150 to 175 trees.

Abbott also took photos, which he showed to the club.

"The Gulf Coast will take years, if not decades, to recover from Katrina," Abbott said. He urged the Rotarians to consider additional gifts to the Red Cross Katrina Relief Fund.



Richard Abbott presents photos taken during his October mission trip to Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Northern Neck Rotary Club meets Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant on Main Street in Kilmarnock.

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Museum to host portrait collection

The Richmond County Museum will celebrate the opening of a new exhibit in honor of African-American History Month with a reception February 3 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The public is invited to view "Picturing African-Americans: Photographs from the Gill Collection."

The exhibit will showcase about 30 historic portraits dating from the early twentieth century. The portraits have text panels interpreting issues then facing African-Americans in the Northern Neck.

A continuous computer slide show of the entire collection will also be on view.

The reception will feature spirituals sung by Florence and Adrienne Martin and Rev. Gayl Fowler. Refreshments will be served.

The Gill Collection is maintained by SAIF Water, a church-related organization seeking to provide safe drinking water and bathrooms for rural Virginians. Since its creation in 1989, the group has helped provide over 150 wells and dozens of septic systems. In recent years, its mission has expanded to include planning for future regional water needs in response to projected diminishing water from underground sources.

SAIF Water volunteers discovered some 120 early photographs in the attic of the office of the photographer, Marvin Gill, at Providence View Farm near Miskimon in 2002. They have been preserved and continue to be the subject of research.

Mrs. Hougous Carter of Edwardsville, circa 1910, as she appears in the Gill Collection.

Sierra Adkins (above) will portray Pocahontas.

Adkins to portray young Pocahantas

Sierra Adkins, the granddaughter of Sam and Sophie Lankford of White Stone, has been chosen to portray the adolescent Pocahontas in an upcoming book about the establishment of the Jamestown Colony.

Adkins, who through her father's lineage is a member of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, is a fifth-grade honor roll student at George Watkins Elementary School in New Kent.

Her parents, Dana and Diana Adkins, were approached by writer Avery Chenoweth and photographer Robert Llewellyn at a Chickahominy Tribe Powwow seeking permission for the girl's participation in the project.

The book is scheduled for release in the fall and is the story of how three cultures collided in the Virginia forest some 400 years ago.

The book will trace the ways that American culture grew out of the violence and the peace between Native Americans, English and Africans together.

Historic project grants announced

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) is giving away $2,000 to any preservation project deemed worthy. This is the sixth year that the branch has sponsored such competition.

The APVA is the oldest statewide preservation organization in the nation. Through support of members and donations, the APVA purchases sites of historical significance in the Commonwealth. Its holdings include Jamestown in James City County and the John Marshall House in Richmond.

"We try to spread the money around, dividing the sum between two or three different projects," said chapter director Libby Singleton of Essex County.

Singleton said that last year the chapter's funds helped preserve the roof of the farmer's residence at historic Bladensfield; supported the archaeological assessment of Lower Lunenburg Parish Church; and provided technical assistance and professional fees in conjunction with the restoration of the James Monroe birthplace in Westmoreland County.

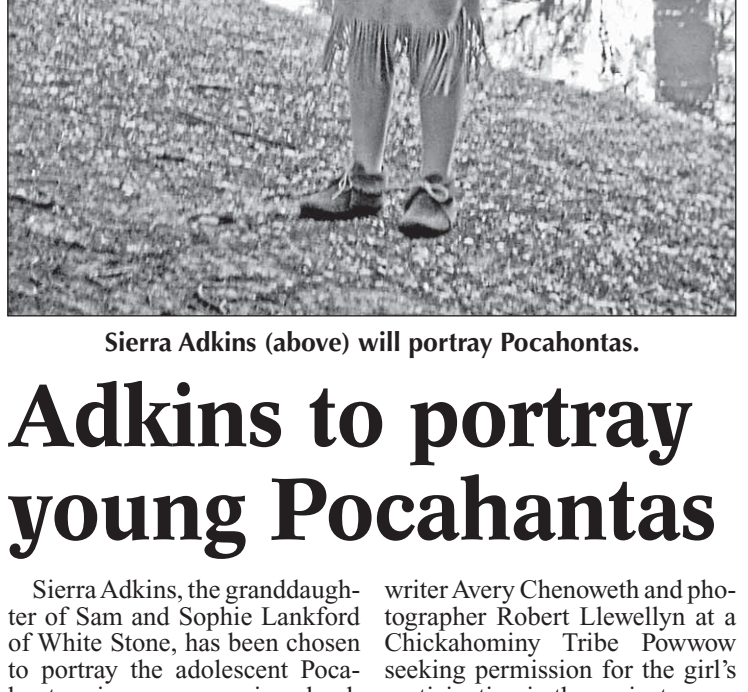
Grant eligibility for this chapter is limited to properties in the counties of Essex, Richmond, Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland and King George.

Non-profit organizations and individuals are eligible to apply. Properties must be historic in nature, but they do not have to be registered as historic landmarks or historic places with the federal government or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The organization screens and decides on the winners, and the awards are given at the group's annual meeting March 16.

To apply for the grant, send a request no later than March 1 that includes a summary of the proposed project to Libby Singleton, Director APVA-NNB, P.O. Box 339, Port Royal, VA 22535.

For more information, call Singleton at 443-5837.



Harper receives award

Northern Neck Bay Tones president Bill Croner (left) presents the Barbershopper of the Year award for 2005 to Sonny Harper at the Bay Tones annual inauguration dinner. Harper is the chorus's marketing vice president.

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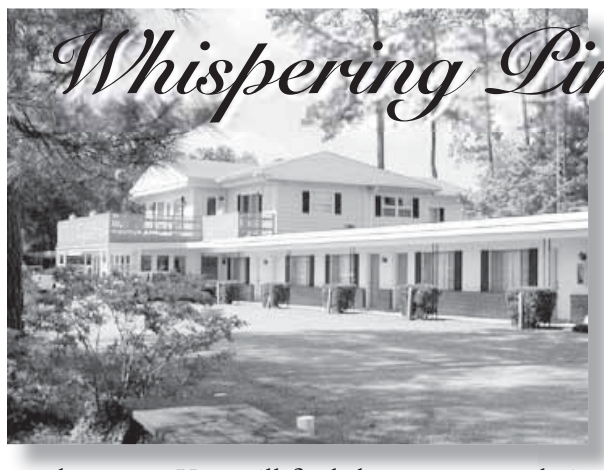

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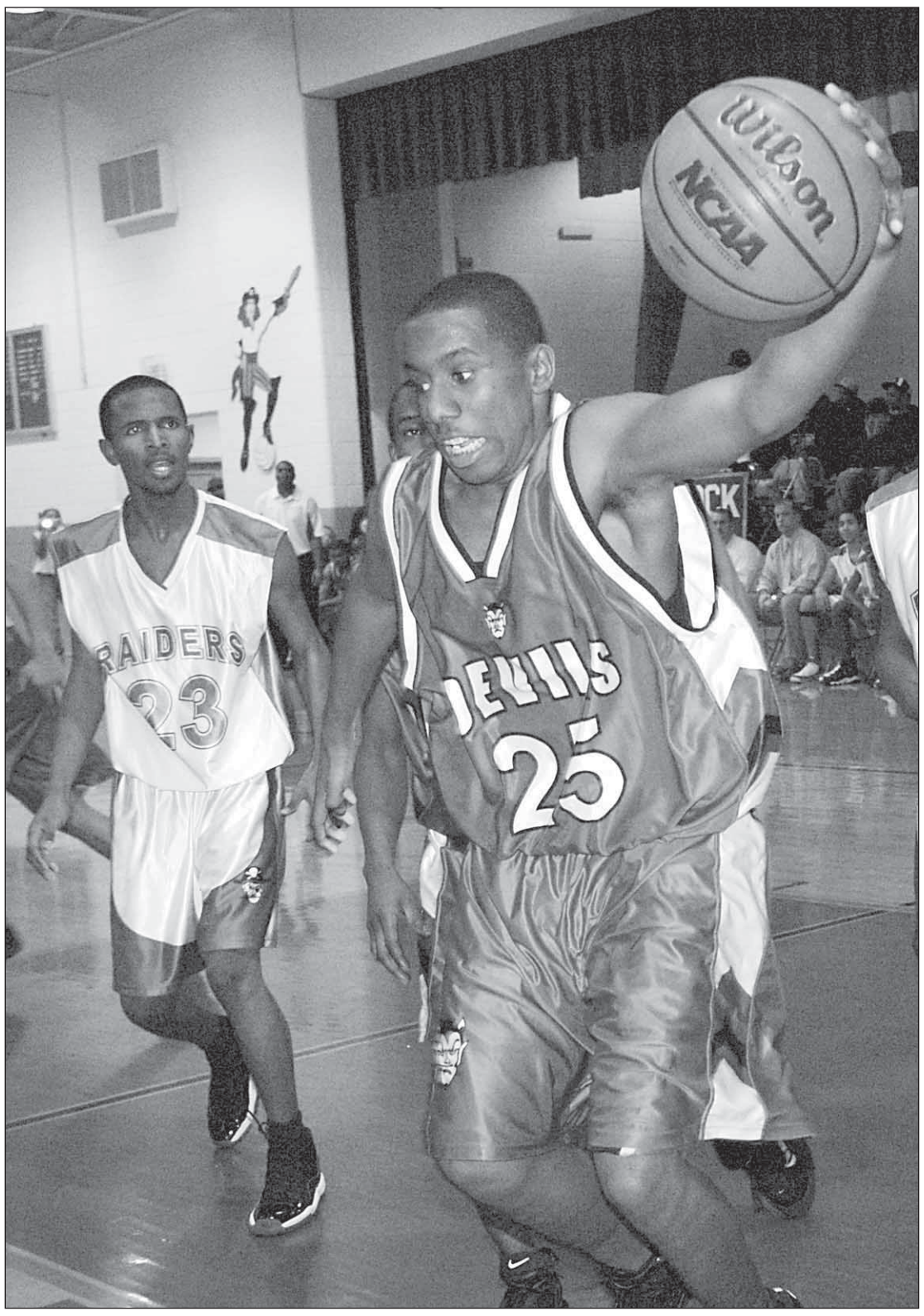


Lancaster's Montel Mitchell drives by Jamal Gaines of Rappahannock during a varsity game Friday.

Free throw contest is Saturday

The Knights of Columbus, Council 11667, will hold its annual Free Throw Contest Saturday, January 28, at 8:30 a.m. at the Northern Neck YMCA in Kilmarnock.

The contest is open to boys and girls ages 10 to 14. The boy and girl from each age group who make the most free throws out of 15 attempts will receive a plaque and advance to District Championships on February 12 in Gloucester, where they will represent the Northern Neck region.

District winners will move on to State Competition in Richmond in March.

To register, call Kevin Stepko at 435-3884. Registration forms are also available at the Northern Neck YMCA and Lancaster and Northumberland Middle Schools.

Lancaster High wrestlers place fifth at New Kent

Lancaster's fifth-place finish in the 12-team New Kent Invitational last weekend wasn't as bad as the ranking appears.

The Devils faced 10 Group AA and Group AAA teams, including Thomas Dale, Louisa, Colonial Heights, Covington and host New Kent. Mathews was the only other Group A team in the meet.

"As a one-A team wrestling against such stiff competition, a fifth-place finish is actually pretty good," said LHS coach Craig Oren.

The Devils had three wrestlers place second and another third.

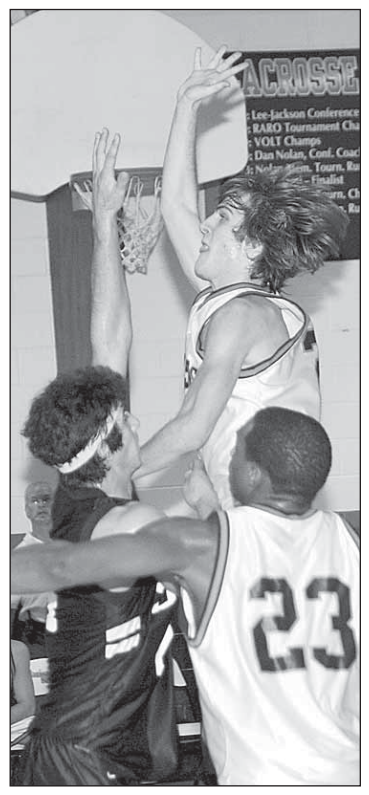
Patrick Oliver (125), Robert Lally (145) and Gary Wardlaw (160) each went 2-1 on the day as runners-up in their respective weight classes. Wardlaw had one of the best showings, losing by only a point in the finals against an opponent from Thomas Dale.

Thomas Frere went 3-1 among 140-pounders to place third.

Graham Winnstanley (152) and Justin Culpeper (heavyweight) went 2-2, but did not place.

"This was a reality check for some of our kids who haven't seen this level of competition before," said Oren.

The Devils will face some more tough opponents tomorrow night (January 27) when they host Stafford, Amelia and Mathews.



Seahorses win

Tyler Jones of Christchurch School goes up over a St. Anne's Belfield defender. The Seahorses varsity basketball team had three wins last week over Fork Union Military Academy (71-53), St. Anne's Belfield (47-43) and Woodberry Forest (48-36), improving to 11-6 overall, and 7-3 in the Prep League. The Seahorses play next at Middlesex High School Monday, January 30.

Scotty Sports

by Heidi Schnee

With only three weeks left in the regular winter athletic season, St. Margaret's School sports teams have gained the momentum to carry them successfully through the championships.

Basketball

On January 17, the Scotties beat Washington and Lee High School, 39-34. Center Kara Casey racked up 19 points. Forward Allison Ryan scored 8 points and guard Crystal Thomas added 7.

On January 13, the Scotties beat Steward School, 44-30. Casey scored 18 points. Thomas tallied 10 points.

On January 11, Trinity Episcopal School beat the Scotties, 41-27. Casey scored 12 points, Thomas posted 6 and guard Samantha Marsengill had 4.

On January 5, Christchurch School beat the Scotties, 43-27. Casey had 12 points and Ryan, 8.

Swimming

At a Richmond meet January 7, the Scotties competed against Trinity Episcopal, Goochland High and the Maggie Walker Governor's School. St. Margaret's defeated Goochland and posted competitive times against Trinity and Walker.

In the girls' 100-yard freestyle, Anna-Beth Lawler placed fifth (1:13.68) out of 26 swimmers. Lindsay Beasley placed eleventh (1:22.89).

Willis Blair finished fifth (2:41.17) and Julia Cibulka placed ninth (2:55.34) out of 12 swimmers in the girls' 200-yard freestyle.

In the girls' 200-yard individual medley, Graycie Overman placed seventh and Meghan Sisk placed ninth of 11 competitors.

Ten teams of four swimmers took part in the girls' 200-yard freestyle relay. The SMS team of Blair, Overman, Sisk and Lawler placed fourth overall with a time of 2:05.62. Ji-Ye Kim, Ligon Brooks, Cibulka and Beasley placed seventh with a time of 2:21.13.

The girls' 200-yard medley relay team of Mariam Smith-Pliego, Sisk, Beasley and Blair, placed fourth out of eight teams with a time of 2:19.99.

The Scotties have a swim meet January 27 at St. Catherine's School and compete in the League of Independent Schools championships February 4.

Scoreboard

Varsity boys basketball
Lancaster 64, Rappahannock 59

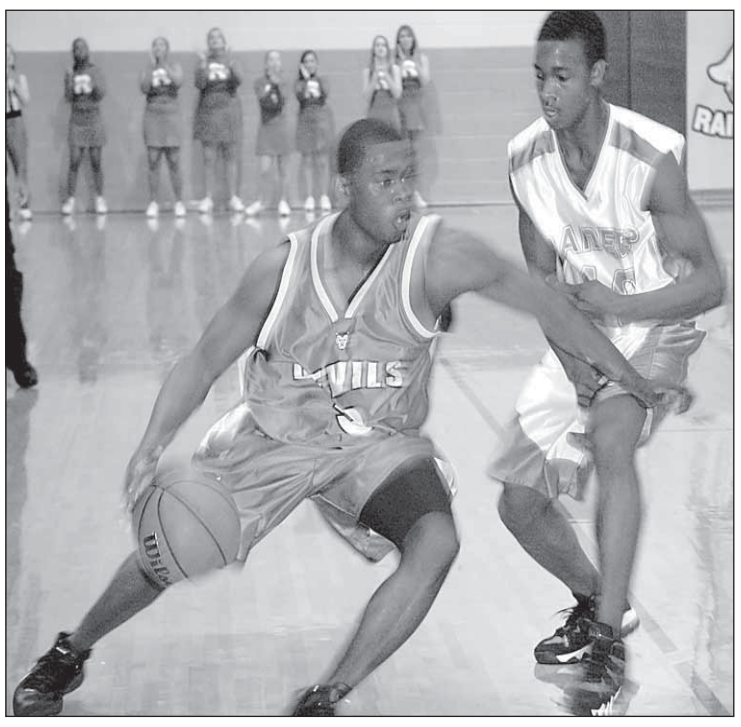
JV boys basketball
Lancaster 66, Rappahannock 33

Upcoming Games

Boys basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
January 31:
Northumberland at King William
Lancaster at Essex

Girls basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
January 27:
Lancaster at King William
January 31:
Essex at Lancaster
King William at Northumberland
February 2:
Essex at Northumberland
Lancaster at W&L

Wrestling
(Lancaster High's home matches held at LMS)
January 27:
Stafford, Mathews and Amelia at Lancaster
January 28:
Northumberland at the Border Clash Tournament, Magna Vista
January 31:
Northern Neck District Triangular at Lancaster



Cleon Rice of Lancaster hustles to keep a ball inbounds during the Devils' game against Rappahannock.

Andre Henderson scored 22 points to lead Lancaster last Friday.

Red Devils narrowly beat Rappahannock

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The varsity Red Devils started strong but finished weak last Friday, barely holding on for a 64-59 win over homestanding Rappahannock.

Lancaster evened its win-loss record to 6-6 overall and remained unbeaten at 3-0 for first place in the Northern Neck District.

Andre Henderson posted the game-high 22 points to lead Lancaster over the Raiders.

Lancaster worked its way out of a 17-17 tie early in the second quarter with a 9-0 run that put the visitors up 28-17. Henderson contributed with back-to-back steals, taking one in for a layup and dishing the other to Curtis Henderson for two points.

The Devils led by as much as 22 after going on a 25-9 run in the second quarter but were held in check by the Raiders for single-digit scoring in the third. Rappahannock used an 18-6 run in the period to get as close as six and cut the margin to four with three minutes to go on a trey by Grant Rice.

Lancaster led by only four, 63-56, with 19 seconds left when A. Henderson hit one of two at the line for insurance.

Henderson did most of his work in the first and last quarters with seven points in the opening minutes and nine in the final period.

Jamie Veney added 14 points for Lancaster, despite getting into foul trouble early in the third and sitting on the bench for most of the final two periods.

Curtis Henderson contributed 10 for the Devils.

Timmy Johnson paced the Raiders with 19 points and Rice scored 15, hitting three three-pointers in the game.

The Devils have tomorrow (January 27) off and will go to Essex Tuesday, January 31.

Lancaster..... 17 25 6 16—64
Rappahannock.15 9 18 17—59

Lancaster — T. Henderson 3, Mitchell 7, J. Veney 14, George 0, C. Henderson 10, Segar 0, Saunders 4, A. Henderson 22, Rice 4. Three-point goals: T. Henderson.

Rappahannock — Gaines 6, D. Lucas 1, Rice 15, Johnson 19, Blake 1, Sanders 2, Reynolds 6, R. Lucas 9. Three-point goals: Rice 3, Johnson.

JV Red Devils remain undefeated in district

Lancaster's JV boys basketball team continues to dominate its Northern Neck District opponents, routing Rappahannock by 33 points last Friday to remain undefeated in the league.

The Devils are 3-0 in the district and 8-2 overall.

With a balanced attack, Lancaster got scoring from 10 different players.

Jonathan Somers led the pack with 12 points while Quenton Henderson contributed nine and Jamal Tiggle and Tevin Thomas added eight points each.

Lancaster wasted little time putting the game out of reach of the homestanding Raiders with Somers scoring six points and Marcus Betts four in an opening 17-9 run. The Devils held Rappahannock to five free throws in the second quarter while putting up nine unanswered points to take a 31-14 lead at the half.

Lancaster mounted another impressive run in the third period, outscoring the Raiders 14-4 for a 27-point lead heading into the final quarter.

Bryan Lee led Rappahannock with nine points.

The Devils have tomorrow off and will travel to Essex Tuesday, January 31.

Lancaster.....17 14 14 21 —66
Rappahannock...9 5 4 15 —33

Fast-pitch clinic winds up

Chip Bailey, one of the top hitting instructors in the Richmond area, will bring his knowledge to Lancaster High School Saturday, February 11, for a fast-pitch softball clinic.

Bailey will instruct players ages 7 to 11 from 9 a.m. to noon and players ages 12 to 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The clinic will include instruction on fielding, throwing and hitting.

The fee is $30 per session.

Participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes early for their session and should wear tennis shoes and bring a bat, glove and helmet.

On-site registration will be accepted if the session is not filled.

To register, call LHS softball coach Dave Zeiler at 435-1931 evenings before 9 p.m., or during the day at 435-3196.

Rappahannock Almanac

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

Fri	**1/27**	Moonrise	5:52	Low	3:09	-0.1′
		Sunrise	7:13	High	9:28	1.6′
		Moonset	**3:00**	Low	**4:13**	-0.1′
		Sunset	**5:24**	High	**9:45**	1.2′
Sat	**1/28**	Moonrise	6:48	Low	4:07	-0.2′
		Sunrise	7:13	High	10:22	1.7′
		Moonset	**4:16**	Low	**5:04**	-0.2′
		Sunset	**5:25**	High	**10:39**	1.3′
Sun	**1/29**	Sunrise	7:12	Low	5:03	**-0.3′**
		Moonrise	7:34	High	11:14	1.7′
		Sunset	**5:26**	Low	**5:52**	**-0.3′**
New - 9:15		Moonset	**5:37**	High	**11:32**	1.4′
Mon	**1/30**	Sunrise	7:11	Low	5:57	**-0.3′**
		Moonrise	8:12	High	**12:04**	**1.8′**
		Sunset	**5:27**	Low	**6:39**	**-0.3′**
		Moonset	**6:56**			
Tue	**1/31**	Sunrise	7:10	High	12:23	1.5′
		Moonrise	8:44	Low	6:51	**-0.3′**
		Sunset	**5:28**	High	**12:52**	1.7′
		Moonset	**8:13**	Low	**7:25**	**-0.3′**
Wed	**2/1**	Sunrise	7:10	High	1:14	1.6′
		Moonrise	9:11	Low	7:45	**-0.3′**
		Sunset	**5:29**	High	**1:41**	1.6′
		Moonset	**9:27**	Low	**8:11**	**-0.3′**
Thu	**2/2**	Sunrise	7:09	High	2:05	1.6′
		Moonrise	9:38	Low	8:39	-0.2′
		Sunset	**5:31**	High	**2:31**	1.5′
		Moonset	**10:39**	Low	**8:58**	**-0.3′**
Fri	**2/3**	Sunrise	7:08	High	2:58	1.6′
		Moonrise	10:04	Low	9:36	-0.1′
		Sunset	**5:32**	High	**3:22**	1.4′
		Moonset	**11:49**	Low	**9:47**	-0.2′

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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Osprey Classic held

The fourth annual Osprey Classic Basketball Tournament was held recently at Chesapeake Academy in Irvington. From left (above) are All-Tournament Team members CJ Lee (Lancaster Middle School - MVP), Kentel Noel (Lancaster Middle School), Colin Brookes (Christchurch School), Jim Walker (Christchurch School) and Leland James (Chesapeake Academy). Patrick Best (Chesapeake Academy) also was named to the All-Tournament Team. From left (below) are Chesapeake Academy team members (front row) Robert Wineland and Alexander Crittenden; (middle row) Patrick Best, Patrick Szyperski, John Radcliffe and Mark Rhodes; (next row) coach Tim Saunders, Austin Brown, Ford Kirkmyer, William Somers and Leland James. The tournament was sponsored by Chesapeake Investment Group.

Author shares stories of the 18th squadron

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Tracy D. Connors presented an illustrated program about the 18th Squadron of the U.S.A.F. during the Korean War to the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society January 19.

He wrote *Trackbusters from Dogpatch* as a tribute to his uncle, a Mustang pilot in the 67th Squad, who was killed in action in 1952.

The program covered the 18th Fighter Bomber Wing in the Korean War, including facilities, the great North American Mustang, the strong bond between repair crews and pilots, and the concern the entire support operation had at the completion of a mission for the safe return of the pilots. The entire unit had a proud feeling that they were the finest flying unit of all time, he said.

He mentioned Major Lewis J. Sebille, of the "Red Scarf" group, killed in action; Capt. James P. Beckett; Lt. Gen. Walton Walk of the 8th Army; Maj. Gen. Earle Partridge; the loss of Lt. Billie Crabtree; and more outstanding men.

He spoke of Dwight D. Eisenhower's visit to the troops in Korea, and celebrities like Marilyn Maxwell and Bob Hope.

Simple supplies like scotch tape, grease pencils, sunglasses and some parachutes were unavailable at times, he explained.

The old faithful Mustang, propeller driven aircraft were replaced by North American F-86 Sabre jets, the first time in a war situation such a change ever occurred. The enemy were flying Russian built MIG 15s.

"The Mustangs were gone, but would never be forgotten," said Connors.

The men in the 18th Squad had high morale, no one against another, pride, and a pursuit of excellence, trackbuster leadership, and had a saying, "The 18th Fighter Wing was and is the best 'damn' Fighter Wing in the World," he said.

The meeting was well received by members, especially 18 who had served in the Korean conflict, and six who were part of the 18th Fighter Wing.

The next luncheon meeting will be February 16 at noon at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.

Member speaker will be George Galo who, with a friend, flew a Cessna T206H from Hummel Field to Alaska and back. Galo has been interested in aviation since he was a young boy, son of a Navy man, stationed in Panama, whose first flight was in a Navy Lockheed Constellation, which included an invitation to sit in the cockpit.

He attended Old Dominion and earned his private pilot license. He joined the U.S. Army, attended flight school, flew Boeing Ch-47 cargo helicopters and was sent to the 205th Assault Support Helicopter Company in South Vietnam.

After Vietnam, he was stationed in Ft. Eustis as a flight instructor and VIP pilot. He earned his commercial, instrument, and flight instructor ratings in helicopters and airplanes.

Galo left the service and became a flight instructor in upstate New York. He joined the Virginia State Police as a trooper and flew as a Virginia State Police Pilot in helicopters and airplanes for six years, remaining in the U.S. Army Reserves as an airplane and helicopter pilot.

He was a Department of Defense civilian pilot and flight instructor in the reserve system for six years. In 1986, he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as a safety inspector. He retired in 2004 as manager of FAA's Washington Flight Standards District Office in Dulles.

Galo has logged nearly 11,000 flight hours.

Arbor Day Foundation extends free tree offer

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation in January 2006.

The trees are part of the Trees for America campaign.

The trees include two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington Hawthorns, two American redbuds and two Kousa dogwoods.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," said foundation president John Rosenow. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers—and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day and The Tree Book.

To join, send a $10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31; or visit arborday.org.

From left are (front row) Robert and Susan Blankenship, Susie Pierce and Lynn Larson; (next row) Bitsy Conley, State Parks director of volunteer resources Gaston Rouse, Friends of Belle Isle president Carol Dawson, Tony and Francis Callaghan, Teresa Lambert and John Pierce,

Friends of Belle Isle State Park group receives award

The Friends of Belle Isle were awarded the Marcia Duvall Award of Excellence plaque and certificate at their January 20 meeting.

The award was named in honor of Marcia Duvall, a State Park Youth Conservation Corps supervisor. Given by the Virginia Division of State Parks, the award represents her excellence in support of the program.

The Friends of Belle Isle organization is the first recipient of the award. The group has made financial contributions and provided meals to support the residential youth program.

For more information about the Friends of Belle Isle, or the Youth Conservation Corps program, call 462-5030.

Bridge Results

Five tables of bridge were in play January 19 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners north/south were first, Mary Andrews and Margaret Livesay; and second, Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams.

Winners east/west were first, Virginia Adair and Judy Peifer; and second, Iris Panzetta and Grace Nagel.

The next bridge for this group is Tuesday, January 31, at 1 p.m.

Seven tables of duplicate bridge were in play January 17 at the Woman's Club of Lancaster.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Sally Budd; second, Ronnie Gerster and Kate Frayne; and third, Dianne Monroe and Babs Murphy.

Winners east/west were first, Ann Rau and Betty Thornton; second, Liz Hargett and Tot Winstead; and third, Shirley Crockett and Elaine Weekley.

The Woman's Club of Lancaster held its sandwich bridge game January 18 amid snowmen decorations. After a wonderful lunch, guests played bridge and mahjong.

Bridge winners were first, Marilyn Hedges with 3,410 points; and second, Dolly Abel with 3,330 points.

The next sandwich bridge will be February 15. Call Betty Thornton at 462-0742 for reservations or to be placed on a waiting list.

Sports Shorts

■ Derby Deadline

Early registration for the 23rd annual Reedville Bluefish Derby June 9 and 10 ends January 31. Applications can be obtained at Jett's Hardware in Reedville, or by calling 453-5325.

Anglers compete for 27 cash prizes and other prizes totaling over $32,900. Prize species include bluefish, rockfish and croaker. Proceeds benefit Smith Point Sea Rescue.

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Mar 6 "Birds at Home" – Different habitats, seasonal changes, attracting birds with different plants and feeder foods, by Audrey Brainard
Apr 3 "Narrowing the Possibilities" – Bird classifications, shapes, feathers, silhouettes, beaks and patterns, by Bob Adrience
May 8 "Birding by Ear" by Barbara Groff and Rae Hinch
June 1 "Birds of Summer" by B. J. Norris

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Race track is serious about safety

There's an old saying that "you can never be too safe." That is how officials at Virginia Motor Speedway feel when it comes to its fans and competitors, according to general manager Clarke Sawyer.

Heading into the 2006 season, the speedway is one of the safest in the country, he said. From state of the art lighting to the many safety measures taken, VMS is focused on and committed to the safety of its participants and fans. The half-mile dirt track is surrounded by four tier guardrail on the outside and three tier guardrail on the inside. On top of the guardrail surrounding the speedway is a 10-foot-high catch fence protecting the grandstands from any debris and an eight-foot-high catch fence surrounding the infield to protect the competitors.

The speedway employs two fully staffed Advance Life Support units each week along with having five staff members EMS certified. Two fully trained and state certified fire crews are on site each week with one of the units being a track owned 300 pound Purple K system for any possible fully engulfed situations. The track staff is also trained in emergency extrication and owns its own Jaws of Life equipment eliminating any chance of that equipment not being available in an emergency.

Safety is taken very seriously and no exceptions are made at any time when it comes to the track or the cars that race at the speedway, said Sawyer. Damaged guardrail is replaced and if there is something that needs to be fixed it is done immediately, he said.

During off-season, track officials substantially upgraded the safety requirements for the speedway, he said. Track staff are currently putting the finishing touches on the outside catch fence that has now been transformed into an "INDY style" catch fence with a four-foot overhang making the catch fence now 14 feet high, adding more protection for the main grandstands and the turn three grandstands.

"We are continually upgrading the safety aspects of our facility due to situations we hear and read about which are causing drivers and fans to be injured," said Sawyer. "The safety of our competitors and fans is first and foremost and it would be foolish not to take notice of the things that can make our facility safer."

As another safety measure, the speedway will mandate the use of the Raceceiver System for all divisions during the 2006 season. The Raceceiver system is a one-way communication between the race officials in the tower and the drivers on the track. The system is used to alert the drivers of cautions during the racing action, to help in getting them lined up under cautions and to alert the drivers of safety personnel being on the track.

"We have recognized the need to be able to communicate with the drivers directly during competition to inform them of situations on the race track that they need to be aware of," said Sawyer. "We have seen this system in action and we believe it will help keep our racers and staff safer during and while attending to situations on the race track."

For directions to the track, or a 2006 race schedule, call 758-1867, or visit www.vamotorspeedway.com.

435-1701 .... this number will get you places!

From left, commander Dave Cook, education officer Twy Williams, member Ron Sowers and assistant education officer Chris Wynkoop survey the album of maps and the statue.

Power squadron awards announced

Two awards were presented at the January meeting of the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron.

Anne Wolski presented Northumberland County sixth-grade teacher Dolores Vanecek a certificate recognizing her contributions to the success of the squadron's Boating Safety for Kids program.

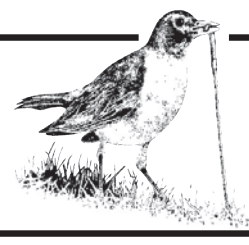
Now in its third year of bringing boating safety into local schools, the program culminated this year in a poster contest that Vanecek coordinated at Northumberland Middle School.

The squadron also received an album and a statue in recognition of its education programs.

Since the early 1960s, District 5 of the U.S. Power Squadrons has awarded an album of historic maps and charts and a statue of Prince Henry the Navigator to the squadron whose members achieve the greatest percentage increase in advanced and intermediate level navigation courses.

Dolores Vanecek (left) receives a certificate from Anne Wolski.

The Portuguese government donated the album and statue to District 5 to commemorate their own history of navigation and to honor the achievements of power squadron members in navigation education.



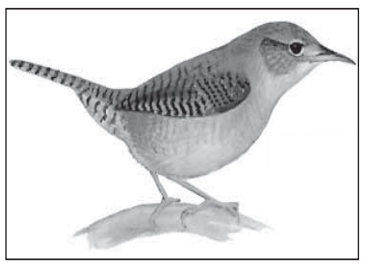
Window On Wildlife

by Joyce Fitchett Russell

Although it's cold outside, I decide to take a walk of half an hour to see what nature is doing. I put on a warm jacket, wool cap and I take a tissue for my running nose.

When I open the back door, I scare up the small birds searching for seeds on the ground: juncos, sparrows, cardinals, a wren, chickadee, titmouse, woodpecker, flicker. Two squirrels are disagreeing.

The sky is blue with white clouds left from last night's fog. In a clear spot, two vultures are circling higher and higher. In a ditch beside the road to the farm, the deep water has struck a barrier that makes a waterfall that gurgles.

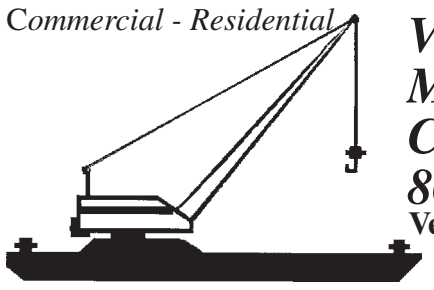


House Wren

At the far end of the field, a flock of perhaps 20 vultures are gathered around their breakfast.

My eyes are watering; the wind is cold, but the sun is warm. I'm heading for home.

Commercial - Residential



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'Naturally Speaking' series to begin Feb. 2

The Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends will launch a new "Naturally Speaking" Program series February 2 at 7 p.m. at the Essex County Public Library in Tappahannock. Refuge manager Joseph McCauley will open the program with a multi-media presentation about the wildlife and activities at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Established in 2004, the friends organization is dedicated to supporting the National Wildlife Refuge System, and to promoting awareness of the refuge through education and support.

"The 'Naturally Speaking" Program Series is an effort to bring some of this area's expertise to the public," said friends president Ann Graziano. "We are lucky to have people in our community with a vast knowledge of the unique ecosystem of this region who are willing to share their expertise with us. This program will give the community a unique learning opportunity."

For more information about the programs, the refuge or the friends organization, contact Graziano at 333-0434, fgrazio@rivnet.net, or www.rwrfriends.org.

Flotilla 33 members participate in show

Four members of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock participated in the January 21 Virginia Boat Show.

Jack Blaine, Howard Montgomery, Mike Sachen and Bob Vogel answered questions about boating courses, vessel safety checks and boating laws and regulations.

Many who visited the booth had previously taken boating courses and were interested in taking another to improve their skills.

Others asked about free vessel safety examinations. Many make it a practice to have an inspection annually, which assures boat owners that they have required safety equipment and that the boat is sound.

Auxiliary courses are offered throughout the Richmond and bay area. Courses on boating skills and seamanship will begin in Kilmarnock February 2.

Flotilla 33 is planning additional training opportunities to prepare for the coming of warmer weather and the start of waterway safety patrols. A schedule can be found at www.a0540303.uscgaux.info. A list of dates and locations for vessel safety checks is also being developed.

For information about boating and personal watercraft courses, call Bill Johnson at 435-2254. For vessel inspections, call Jim Wroth at 435-0376. To join, call Mike Sachen at 438-9202.

Bowling Results

Ladies League

Last week ended the first half of the season.

TCH Oil won two games against Young Country when Vivian Callaway bowled a 373 set with games of 100, 122 and 151. Marie Piccard rolled a 360 set with games of 107 and 150. Sandra Evans had a 343 set with games of 102, 111 and 130. Vickie White bowled a 337 set with games of 106 and 136. Greta Walker rolled a 104 game. For Young Country, Theresa Davis had a 370 set with games of 104, 117 and 149. Linda Lake bowled a 313 set with a 124 game. JoAnne Paulette rolled a 310 set with games of 101 and 115. Betty Steffey had a 302 set with games of 101 and 103 and Cathy Savalina rolled a game of 112.

R.P. Waller won two games against Callis Seafood when Ola Nash bowled a 357 set with games of 104 and 155. Dee Atkins rolled a 310 set with games of 105 and 107. Marsha Nash had a 300 set with a 128 game. For Callis, Donna Thomas bowled a 338 set with games of 115 and 138. Mary Savalina rolled a 317 set with a 136 game. Gayle Conrad had a game of 102.

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against Lively Oaks when Alma George bowled a 326 set with games of 107 and 129. Corinne Beauchamp rolled a 108 game, Pat Harris had a 108 game and Clara Yeatman rolled a 109 game. For Lively Oaks, Nancy Carter bowled a 380 set with games of 125 and 159. Jean Reynolds rolled a 315 set with a 138 game. Debbie Dodson had a game of 112.

Northern Neck Surgical Services won three games against Abby when Terry Stillman bowled a 351 set with games of 113, 118 and 120. Bev Benson rolled a 346 set with games of 109, 116 and 121. Lois Rose had a 325 set with a game of 159.

High game: Nancy Carter, 159; Alma George, 158; Lois Rose, 155.

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

High team game: TCH Oil, 642; Young Country, 612; Yeatman's, 569.

High team set: Young Country, 1,698; TCH Oil, 1,686; Lively Oaks, 1,601.

High average: Betty Steffey, 114; Sandra Evans and Terry Stillman, 109.

Standings

	W	L
Young Country	39	12
TCH Oil	31	20
Callis Seafood	31	20
Lively Oaks	28	23
R.P. Waller	27	24
Yeatman's	25	26
N.N. Surgical	24	27
Abby	0	51

Publication offers tips on osteoarthritis

Arthritis doesn't just affect hands and knees: it can afflict the hip joints, too.

These large joints carry a lot of weight, and when they grow sore or stiff, every step becomes a battle. Many of the important tasks become painful, and everyday life may be deeply affected.

But what can be done to fight this common joint ailment? In the new publication Arthritis Info, the American Arthritis Society offers a number of practical tips. The new issue contains interesting information for everyone who has osteoarthritis.

For a free sample issue of Arthritis Info, write to American Arthritis Society, 28 State Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02109. Include a 39-cent stamp for return postage.

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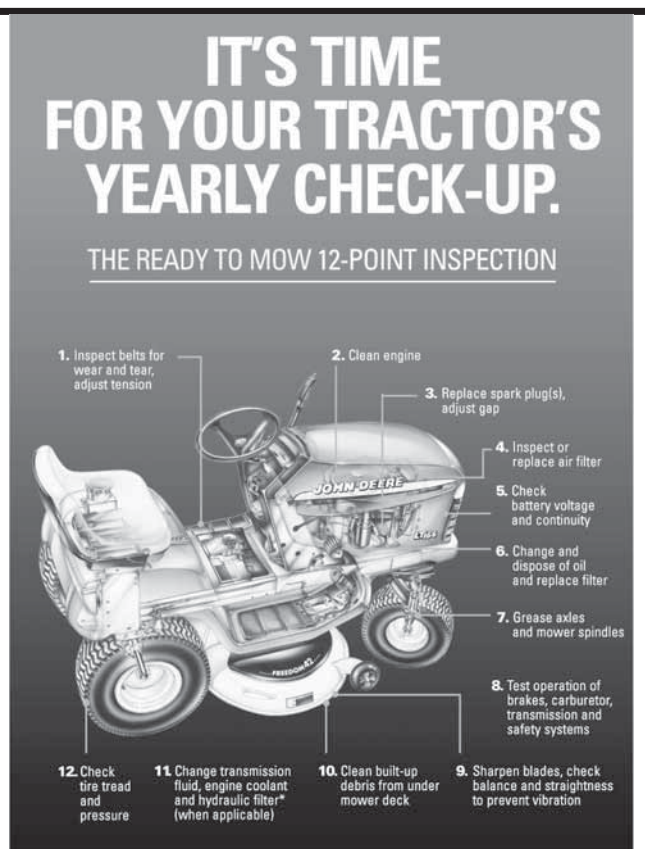

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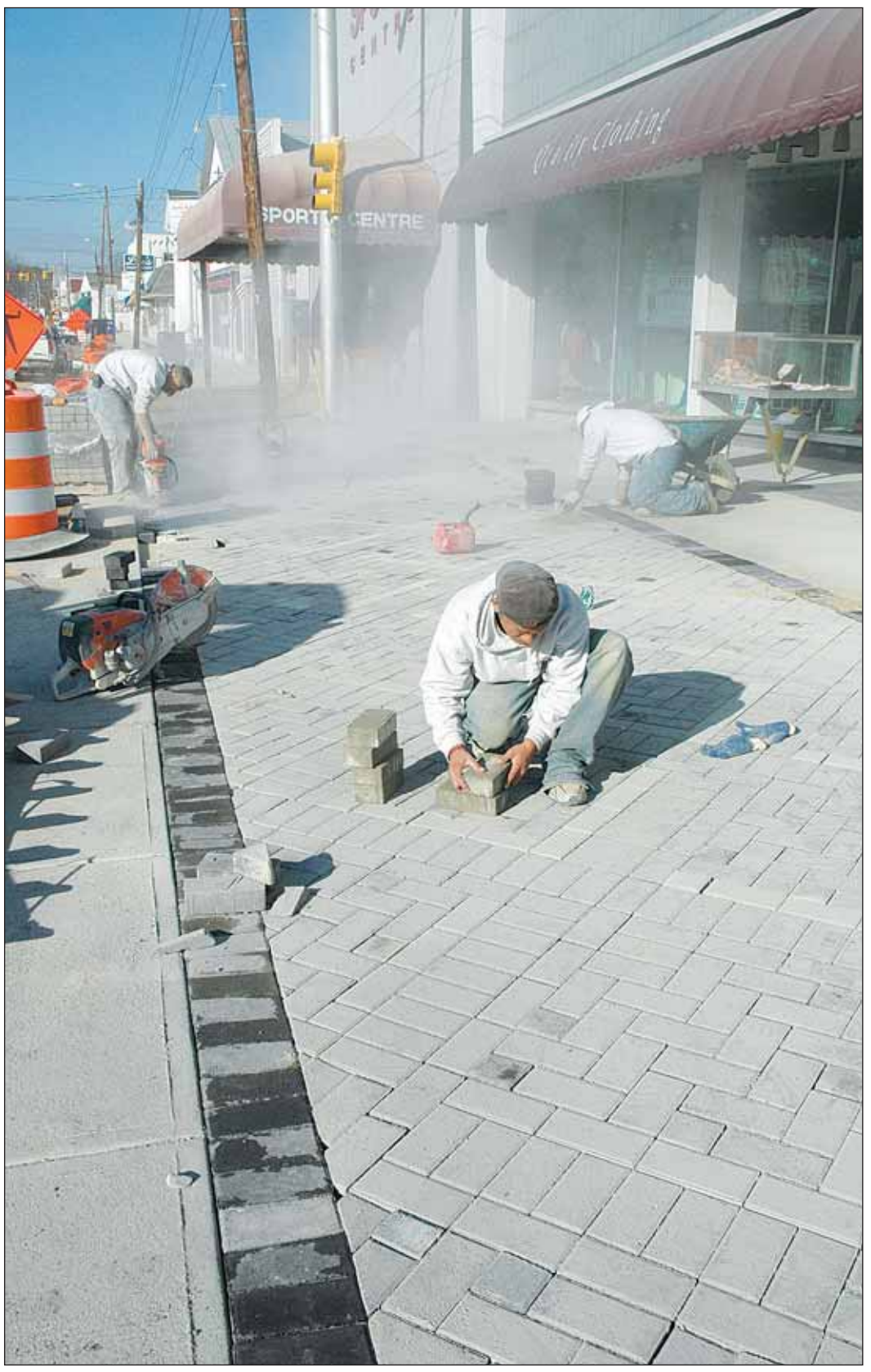

Appearances aside, work continues

Crews began installing sidewalk tiles last week on the south end of the Kilmarnock business district. As construction progresses on Kilmarnock's Main Street project, the tiles give the sidewalks a finished look. However, the project's completion remains months away. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Kilmarnock comprehensive plan reset for public hearing

19-acre site recommended for rezoning

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—The town planning commission last week changed its public hearing date on a proposed comprehensive plan to February 22 at 7 p.m. in the town office at 514 North Main Street.

The change was announced during the commission meeting January 17, when the public hearing had been originally scheduled.

Despite the change, public comments were fielded Tuesday about the proposed update of the plan and related issues.

Lancaster County resident Dick Herbermann questioned why the town is pursuing an adjustment of its boundary lines to expand the size of the town when a consultant has projected that Kilmarnock's population will increase by just 300 residents over the next 15 years.

Town attorney P. Christian Stamm Jr. said the pursuit of the boundary line adjustment would require an agreement from Lancaster County and would add more developable areas where the town could provide water and sewer services and also benefit from additional tax revenues.

"It's a negotiating thing that happens to allow the services to be provided for more people than they are now," said Stamm.

Floyd Hollister of Kilmarnock asked about the proposed connector road for Routes 3 and 200, which would loop around the east side of town from the Boys Camp Road area, cross Waverly Avenue and cross Route 200 beyond East Church Street. It would reconnect with Route 3 at North Main Street where the traffic light was recently activated at the intersection of North Main Street and James Jones Memorial Highway.

Town consultant Jack Stodghill of PMA Inc. Planners & Architects said the road connection concept was included in the previous comprehensive plan and had also emerged from community workshops.

"But the location was just a concept," said Stodghill.

Commission vice-chair Les Spivey noted, "If you don't begin to plan for the concept, then you'll never get to it."

Councilman Fletcher Brown IV said the road loop has been included repeatedly in the Virginia Department of Transportation's six-year plan for road construction projects in the county.

More changes in the revised comprehensive plan were recommended for consideration during the public hearing on February 22.

Jonathan Sanders recommended changing the two largest undeveloped sections in the town from low-density residential use to more intensive mixed usage that would enable subdivisions and cluster development through planned unit development, in addition to commercial uses for those developments. Those sections of town are west of East Church Street and between School Street and James Jones Memorial Highway.

Also recommended was a change in the land use plan for established low-density residential areas near downtown including neighborhoods along First Street, Claybrook Avenue, Roseneath Avenue and Hatton Avenue. Commissioner Jane Ludwig recommended the change to allow more intensive mixed usage because the Heatherfield development is located in that area.

Commissioner Virginia Henry also requested that three additional parcels near that area that she owns be changed from low-density residential use to the more intensive mixed usage planning designation.

Another change was recommended by commissioner Claudia Williamson, who said concerns about aquifer levels for the town's water supply should compel the town to prioritize establishing a reservoir as a goal.

Town manager Lee Capps also voiced concern that the town's designated area for the business and technology park is about full. Expanding the park could help the town realize a greater revenue stream through stronger investment there, he said.

The growth of the town was also addressed by Howard Kyzer of Ocran, who urged the commission to plan for the needs of the town and its residents and for the needs of county residents who rely on the town.

"It's 2006," said Kyzer. "We need to come out of the Stone Age, but we need to be careful when we do it."

Spivey also recommended growth with a mindset to "try to control things but not let it change too much too fast."

Henry rezoning

In other land use issues last week, the planning commission recommended council approve a rezoning request by planning commission member Virginia Henry and Forrest Henry. They plan to rezone 19 acres from low residential use (R-3) to commercial use (C-1).

The site would be accessed from James Jones Highway adjacent to the new CVS store at the intersection of North Main Street and James Jones Memorial Highway. The back of the property borders businesses from that intersection down North Main Street to the Chesapeake Commons shopping center.

The Henrys proffered that the commercial use of the property would be limited to a shopping center with a conditional use permit, restaurants, hotels or motels, office buildings, building supply stores, antique stores, or mixed commercial and residential uses in which the floor space and area applicable to residential use would not exceed 50-percent of the total square footage of the structures.

Also proffered is the use of 50-percent of the property for open space or park areas, which would reduce the developable property to 10 acres.

The commission's recommendation will be forwarded to town council for consideration.

Irvington council to meet Feb. 1

IRVINGTON—The town council will hold a special meeting Wednesday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Irvington town office at 235 Steamboat Drive.

Council will consider contract estimates for repairing a drainage ditch between the Commons property and the Steamboat Era Museum, estimates for regrading the entire Commons property to improve stormwater drainage, and funding to replace playground equipment at the Commons.

Also to be considered is a proposed agreement between the town and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department that will provide additional police presence in the town at a cost of $15 per hour.

Council also will act on the proposed purchase of an emergency generator to ensure continued pumping of town water during a power outage.

▼ *Utility fees . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

mum levels would not apply in deeper water as they do at the current discharge site, which is an "effluent dominated stream" created by the discharge itself.

"When you discharge it farther down into Indian Creek there's water already there, so it's no longer an effluent dominated stream," said Pribble.

However, Pribble noted that the $1.8 million sludge dewatering and chemical feeds facility would still be a necessary expenditure for the town when the time comes for the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorous.

The overall estimate for the biological nutrient reduction facility is $3.8 million. Pribble said the town could probably wait until 2010 or 2011 to address this future requirement because of state funding and mandated schedules for upgrades.

Pribble said the current 500,000 gallon per day discharge capacity of the plant would be sufficient until the year 2025 unless the town considerably extends its service to areas that are currently outside of town limits.

"If you do have to expand the plant in the future, you're talking about $6 million," said Pribble.

▼ *Projects . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

funds) and securing additional county office space ($61,344 in new funds).

Other projects include replacing windows in sixth-grade classrooms at Lancaster Middle School ($50,000), upgrading playground equipment at the primary school ($25,000), replacing a concrete play area at the primary school ($23,200), constructing storage buildings at the middle school ($21,200) and the primary school ($20,000), replacing carpet at the high school and the primary school ($19,769), balancing heating and air conditioning systems at all three schools ($15,000) and upgrading playground equipment at the middle school ($20,000).

Future projects and funding requests should be re-identified on a year-to-year basis, said Larson. He also said cost estimates should be periodically updated and projects for consideration in the outer years of the budget should be included for better planning and budgeting purposes.

▼ *Box stores . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

zoning," said Schlaudt.

He said the town could exercise police power where land use can be regulated if there are grounds for some benefit to the public health, safety and welfare.

Other zoning regulations discussed by Schlaudt included an off-street access strategy for road connections between commercial properties, interior setbacks for space between buildings in addition to other setbacks and buffering requirements, and architectural standards for more local control of how the appearance of buildings fit with others in the same area.

"You have to stand tall in principle on what your vision of the town and community is," said Schlaudt.

The town would also need zoning enforcement in place to address potential changes in the town code, he said.

"When you change an ordinance, you create a class of nonconforming uses or structures," said Schlaudt.

Councilman Fletcher Brown IV asked Schlaudt how the town can address future requests for rezoning based on precedents.

"Do you just finally slam the hammer down and say no?" asked Brown.

Schlaudt said the town can mandate that developers hold community meetings before hearings are held for rezoning requests.

▼ *Wal-Mart . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

when issues of health, safety and welfare are concerned.

Council then convened in a closed session for legal advice about the issue. However, no council action was reported following the closed session.

Last month, Brown made a motion to restrict large-scale development until an update of the town's comprehensive plan is completed. The motion called for a moratorium on any construction of a single building larger than 45,000 square feet.

The motion was initially seconded by councilman Dr. Curtis H. Smith but withdrawn without a further second when a date for completion of the comprehensive plan revision could not be specified.

Brown then introduced a motion, which was approved, authorizing the town administration to research the large-scale development issue.

Town officials arranged for a Chesterfield County planning administrator to speak in a public forum January 17 about recourses available to localities to restrict and regulate big box store developments (see related article on page A1).

Site offers information on flu pandemic issues

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently launched www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu to help educate the public regarding worldwide disease outbreaks.

The new site provides Virginians with a single resource for comprehensive information about Avian Flu and preparing for the possibility of a global outbreak, or pandemic, of the flu. The site combines resources from multiple agencies at the federal and state levels and organizes it for various groups, including businesses, governments, the agricultural community and for individual citizens.

VDH has been leading efforts in the Commonwealth to educate the public about the difference between seasonal flu, Avian Flu and a pandemic, and to provide local governments and decision makers with tools and tips they can use to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic. However, public health officials alone cannot answer all the questions raised as a pandemic threat looms.

"No one government agency or group can prevent a pandemic or do everything necessary to protect the health of our citizens. Every Virginian needs to know how to prepare their families, friends, co-workers and neighbors for a pandemic" said Lisa Kaplowitz, M.D., M.S.H.A., VDH's deputy commissioner for emergency preparedness and response."Our goal in creating this website is to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive information regarding the outbreak of Avian Flu in Europe and Asia, and tips about how we all can prepare for the significant impact a pandemic would have here in Virginia."

The resource was developed in partnership with the Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee, a group organized by VDH in early 2005 representing government, health care, schools, private industry, law enforcement and emergency response groups. The goal of the group is to provide input to VDH in the development of Virginia's pandemic flu policy and resources to address the complex and wide-reaching issues that would arise if a pandemic were to develop in Virginia.

"Though there is no pandemic, and Avian Flu has not developed in the United States, it is important for all aspects of society to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic," Kaplowitz said.

The flu site draws information from national response plans and resources available at www.pandemicflu.gov and augments these with Virginia-specific information compiled from various state agencies and the Virginia Department of Health. It also gives Virginians the opportunity to submit their own pandemic flu questions.

IRS explains gift tax rules

Anyone who gave any one person gifts in 2005 valued at more than $11,000, must report the total gifts to the Internal Revenue Service and may have to pay tax on the gifts.

"The person who receives your gift does not have to report the gift to the IRS or pay gift or income tax on its value," IRS spokeswoman Gloria Wajciechowski said.

Gifts include money and property, including the use of property without expecting to receive something of equal value in return. If something is sold at less than its value or if one makes an interest-free or reduced-interest loan, they may be making a gift.

There are some exceptions to the tax rules on gifts. The following gifts do not count against the annual limit:

- tuition or medical expenses paid directly to an educational or medical institution for someone's benefit.
- gifts to a spouse
- gifts to a political organization for its use.
- gifts to charities.

"If you are married, both you and your spouse can give separate gifts of up to the annual limit to the same person without making a taxable gift," Wajciechowski said.

For more information, get the IRS Publication 950, Introduction to Estate and Gift Taxes, IRS Form 709 or 709-A, United States Gift Tax Return, and Instructions for Form 709. They are available at IRS.gov; or by calling 1-800-829-3676.

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