Rappahannock Record

Thursday, February 2, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 17 • Three Sections • 50¢

Legislators don't bite on menhaden cap

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

RICHMOND—Virginia legislators laced up their boxing gloves last Thursday, preparing for a fight in federal court that is inevitable, according to Del. Rob Wittman.

Before a standing-room only crowd, a House subcommittee tabled a bill that would have adopted a cap on the harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

Omega Protein, the only company threatened by the proposed cap, applauded the subcommittee's decision. Omega's processing of the little bony fish, prized for its healthy oil, has made Reedville the second largest fishing port in the nation.

The cap was mandated last August by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a voluntary organization of 15 eastern states working together to manage migratory fisheries.

Large-scale efforts by Greenpeace and several other environmental organizations rallied public support for the cap. During a six-month public comment period prior to the ASMFC decision, nearly 26,000 people supported a cap or moratorium on the fishery; and of the 15 states and three agencies that make up the ASMFC menhaden management board, only Virginia and North Carolina opposed the cap.

Virginia representatives argued at the time that the movement to cap the harvest was based on emotions over the health of the environment and the abundance of other fish stock and not on the best available science regarding menhaden.

Omega Protein on both sides of Cockrell's Creek (above) has made Reedville the second largest fishing port in the country with its harvesting and processing of menhaden. Efforts to control the harvest of the small, oil-rich fish were stymied last week at the Virginia General Assembly. The state may face legal action from federal regulators. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Few studies have been conducted to determine the specific health of the menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay, but coast-wide assessments show the population is healthy. Even the ASMFC's technical committee and scientists from along the Atlantic seaboard could not come to any conclusion or recommendation regarding the health of the bay's menhaden stock.

Omega representatives have repeatedly accused the ASMFC of overstepping the bounds of its charter by adopting the cap on menhaden without the supporting science.

The majority of the 10-member subcommittee last Thursday

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Health district to hold flu shot clinics Feb. 4

SALUDA—The Commonwealth of Virginia Three Rivers Health District recently secured a limited amount of flu vaccine.

Accordingly, it plans to hold flu shot clinics on Saturday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw and Glenns.

The cost of the vaccine is $28 and will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

The health department has limited supplies of pediatric vaccine, VFC vaccine, which is free to children under 19 who are enrolled in Medicaid, have no health insurance, or are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

The health department also has limited supplies of FluMist (nasal spray) for well persons between the ages of 5 and 49. The cost of the FluMist is $37.

Those who have Medicare must bring a copy of their card.

Utility rates are work session topic

KILMARNOCK—The town council will hold a work session to consider utility rates and a capital improvements budget on Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the town office at 514 North Main Street.

Council will review proposed new water and sewer service rates and capital improvement projects related to the town's water and sewer systems.

As projected by consultant Draper Aden Associates, water and sewer rates could more than double.

The existing bimonthly residential water and sewer rate is $40.

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

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Multiple tasks keep supervisors hopping

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—County supervisors will hold a work session on a capital improvement budget Thursday, February 9, at 1 p.m. in the Lancaster general district courtroom.

The capital improvement budget addresses projects costing $10,000 or more. No new projects have been requested this year from the county school board or county offices.

The county planning commission has recommended a budget for approval that lists projects totaling $425,513 carried over for the next fiscal year.

Topping the list is $175,000 more for a building at Lancaster High School to house an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, or an athletic fieldhouse with public restrooms. Some $275,000 has already been allocated for the project.

Other initiatives include $61,344 more for securing additional county office space. Some $250,000 has already been allocated.

During last week's supervisors' meeting, board chairman F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr. suggested the county-owned building at 201 School Street be considered for office use.

"There's an argument it could be used for the registrar's office," said Jenkins.

County administrator William H. Pennell Jr. said the Lancaster Community Library and Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce have expressed interest in using the building.

Groups with interest in using the building could address the board during the work session, said Pennell.

Regional water supply

The board unanimously approved a resolution to participate in a Northern Neck water supply plan. The approval includes spending $2,500 in county funds for securing state grant funding for plan development.

Pennell said the Northern Neck Planning District Commission would be the mechanism for developing the plan.

Comprehensive plan

By a 3-2 vote, the board rejected a resolution to limit its consideration of amendments to the comprehen-

(continued on page A15)

Town luthier's guitars are played worldwide

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

It's no secret that military geniuses, famous scientists and celebrity personalities are living along the creeks and rivers of the Northern Neck.

However, it may come as a surprise to some people that a world-class guitar maker has set up shop in Kilmarnock.

Jim Merrill has been working on guitars since he was a teenager. He now makes more than 70 guitars a year, shipping them as far as Tokyo to fans of the most classic guitar known to man: the Martin.

In addition to building a six string and a harp guitar for National Flatpicking Champion Stephen Bennett, Jim has built guitars for Bill Gurley, Doc Watson's sideman master guitar player Jack Lawrence, Nashville musician David Greer, Keith Urban's sideman Tommy Emmanuel and Brad Davis who has played with the likes of Marty Stuart, Earl Scruggs and Billy Bob Thornton.

Clean-cut and baby-faced, it's hard to believe that Jim is father to three adults (Kristen, 22, Jamie, 20, Jordan, 18) and an 11-year-old, Jared. He sat in his shop last week cradling a guitar under his arm for comfort, playing a lick when he stopped to think.

Although he is strictly a bass player, he has passed on his musical skill to his four children, two of whom now work for the family business.

Daughter Jamie has "a voice to die for" her dad says. She keeps books and answers phones for the company.

Merrill and Company in Kilmarnock specializes in handmade replicas of the 1930's Martin guitar. Owner Jim Merrill calls them the "holy grail" of all acoustic guitars. He sells more than 70 of these models around the world every year. At right, he details a finished soundboard.

Son Jordan works in the shop, but he isn't really interested in taking over the family business one day. He has his sights set on bigger dreams. A singer, songwriter and guitar player, his hopes are aimed toward the limelight. And his father thinks he has a chance of making it.

The two have a humorous repertoire. Jordan listens carefully as Jim describes the business, reminding him when he is getting too technical for the non-music maker, suggesting that he give a reporter an anatomy lesson on the parts of a guitar and generally keeping ole' dad on track when his thoughts stray.

Both play in the praise band at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene.

Jim's musical beginnings are rooted in Newport News where as a teenager his brother, who also played the guitar, suggested that he pick up the bass so they could play together. Soon the two had their own garage band.

As he played more, Jim began to notice that everybody needed something done to their guitar, but they were never keen on doing the work themselves. He read a few books about guitar repair and soon became the resident fix-it guy, from working on frets to replacing broken peg heads. He began to learn about the benefits of adjusting the string height for better "action,"

(continued on page A16)

Council to meet

WHITE STONE—The town council will meet tonight (February 2) at 7 p.m. in the town office at 433 Rappahannock Drive.

The agenda includes a discussion about the traffic impact that a Wal-Mart in Kilmarnock would have in town in addition to revisiting a proposal from past years to build a by-pass road around White Stone.

Also on the agenda are updates on the town's pursuit of a boundary line adjustment for expanding town limits, the effort to exclude the town from needing an environmental impact study for its Main Street enhancement project, and a state grant to secure funding for the purchase of a new tanker by the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department.

Kilmarnock Days are this weekend

Kilmarnock Days are Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, featuring sales throughout the town and an opportunity to win a two-night stay for two at the Ramada Oceanfront Plaza on the Outer Banks plus $100 cash.

The raffle is open to those 18 years and older. The winner will be drawn February 7 on the WKWI morning show. Participating merchants will post "register here" signs. Only one registration per store is permitted.

Other prizes include free lunches for two at Kilmarnock restaurants.

Losers are winners: B1

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February

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.
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.

3 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
Bingo is played at the Mid-County Rescue Squad Building in Heathsville at 7 p.m.
The RFM Stitchers meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The RFM Quilters meet at 1 p.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Kilmarnock Days will be held among several participating merchants in Kilmarnock. Shoppers may register for several prizes including an Outer Banks get-a-way.
A Reception from 5 to 7 p.m. marks the opening of a new exhibit at the Richmond County Museum in Warsaw. The exhibit, "Picturing African-Americans: Photographs from the Gill Collection," will continue through February.
A Handgun Safety Course will be offered by the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc. The course continues on February 4. The first three-hour session covers classroom work; the second three-hour session involves firing on the range. 453-9402.

The artwork of Ron Cox (above) will be featured during February at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville.

Ron Cox to display drawings at library

Drawings by local artist and photographer Ron Cox will be displayed at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville for the month of 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."

4 Saturday

Kilmarnock Days will be held among several participating merchants in Kilmarnock. Shoppers may register for several prizes including an Outer Banks get-a-way.
A Handgun Safety Course will be offered by the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc. The course begins February 3. The first three-hour session covers classroom work; the second three-hour session involves firing on the range. 453-9402.
A Hake Fish Breakfast will be held by the Calvary Baptist Church Men's Ministry in the church fellowship hall from 8 a.m. to noon. A devotional period will begin at 7 a.m. $12 adults, $6 children. 462-7220.

5 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Lottsburg Cafe, the lunchroom at Baughan Tire and Automotive, at 2919 Wamsley Road in Lottsburg immediately following church services.
The Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Friends of the International Association for Near-Neath Studies meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington. $5. 438-4822.

6 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.
Viewpoints opens at 11 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. NASA engineer Donner Grigsby will discuss space exploration. Lunch follows. Reservations required. 438-4000.
A Birding Class, sponsored by the Northern Neck Audubon Society, begins at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.
The Northern Neck Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.

7 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.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.
The Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce meets at 8 a.m. at the town office in Kilmarnock. 435-1302.
A Photoshop Special Interest Group meets at 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The contest theme is "color." 580-2538.
U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis's Staff will conduct satellite office hours from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lancaster Community Library at 235 School Street in Kilmarnock; and from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Northumberland Public library at 7204 Northumberland Highway in Heathsville.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 12:15 p.m. at the Northumberland Woman's Club in Lottsburg.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 2 p.m. at the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative building in Warsaw. 436-0511.
A Medicare Part D Workshop begins at 2 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-3555.
The Kilmarnock Town Council will hold a work session on a new rate schedule for water and sewer fees. the work session begins at 6:30 p.m. at the town office at 514 North Main Street. The rate schedule projects considerable increases in residential and commercial fees.
A Finanical Aid Workshop for high school seniors and their parents begins at 6 p.m. at the Lancster High School Library. 462-0703.
The Irvington Planning Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. at the town office.

8 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
The Virginia Watermen's Association meets at 7 p.m. at the Pilot House in Topping.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men as well as women, and newcomers, are invited. No reservations are needed. 435-2755.
The RFM Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
J. Carter Fox will present "Oysters now and then; here and now" at 7:30 a.m. at a men's breakfast at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.
A Preview Performance of "You Must Remember This..." begins at 8 p.m. at The Playhouse in White Stone. $7. For reservations, call 435-3776.
Winter Clothes will be the topic for Storytime with Tonya Carter at Lancaster Community Library in Kimarnock. The session begins at 10 a.m.
The Friends of Lancaster County meets at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Chesterfield County planning adminstrator Carl Schlaudt will discuss planning and zoning tools.
The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District meets at 7 p.m. at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission Headquarters in Warsaw. 333-3525.

(continued on page A3)

LET'S EAT!

Your guide to the most delicious food & tastiest treats in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

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

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

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

PAPERBACK WRITER: 367 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone 804-436-9339. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. Closed Sundays. Fresh Arabica Coffees, espresso, cappuccino, fresh baked pastries and sweets, reading rooms, music, free WiFi for customers.

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

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

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

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

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

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Monday - Ladies Special $6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) 1 HR 39 MIN	HOODWINKED (PG) 1HR 25 MIN	UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 1HR 45 MIN
Fri. (4:30), 6:30, 8:15	Fri. (4:15) 6:00	Fri. 8:00
Sat. (2:30, 4:30), 6:30, 8:15	Sat. (2:00, 4:00) 6:00	Sat. 8:00
Sun. (2:30, 4:30), 6:30, 8:15	Sun. (2:00, 4:00) 6:00	Sun. 8:00
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 7:00	Mon. – Thurs. (4:30), 6:15	Mon. – Thurs. 8:00

Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military $3.50 for all shows
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FRI. FEB. 3	SAT. FEB. 4
SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 4:45, 7:25, 9:45	SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 1:30, 4:45, 7:25, 9:45
SYRIANA (R) 4:30, 7:10, 9:35	SYRIANA (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
BIG MOMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	BIG MOMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 4:40, 7:20, 9:35	UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:35
HOODWINKED (PG) 5:10, 7:15, 9:20	HOODWINKED (PG) 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
SUN. FEB. 5	**TUES.-THURS. FEB. 3- FEB-9**
SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 1:30, 4:45, 7:25	SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 7:25
SYRIANA (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10	SYRIANA (R) 7:15
BIG MOMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30	BIG MOMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 7:30
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:20	UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) 7:20
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15	HOODWINKED (PG) 7:15

No one under 17 admitted to R Rated films without parent or adult accompaniment - ID's required

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BINGO
This Friday, February 3, 2006
Ruritan Recreation Center • Rt. 201, in Lively
Doors open at 5:45 pm and games start at 7 pm
To benefit the Upper Lancaster Vol. Fire Department

The Lancaster Players present "You Must Remember This..."
A Comic Entertainment
Dinner Theater
Feb. 9 - 11
Feb . 16 - 18
Feb . 23 - 25
Preview Night Feb. 8!
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Directions: West at the light in White Stone, playhouse 1/2 block on right.

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Upcoming

(continued from page A2)

9 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Wetlands Board for Lancaster County will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
The Board of Supervisors for Northumberland County meets at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m. in the courts building in Heathsville.
The Irvington Town Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the town office.
The Interfaith Service Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.
The Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Ruritan Center in Lively.
American Legion Post 117 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the post home in Reedville.
The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad building in Heathsville.
Mind/Body is the topic for The Basics of Healthy Living Workshop at Northern Neck Family YMCA at 6 p.m. $20.
"You Must Remember This..." will be presented at The Playhouse in White Stone. Doors open at 6 p.m. Following dinner, the show begins at 8 p.m. $30. For reservations, call 435-3776.
(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor.)

'On Stage' goes country

Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group (above) will appear "On Stage" at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock Saturday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is a production of the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts. From left, the band features Jim Watson on bass and vocals, Linda Williams on guitar and vocals, Jimmy Gaudreau on mandolin and mandola and Robin Williams on guitar and vocals. Their repertoire includes folk, gospel, country and bluegrass. For ticket information, call the box office at 435-0292.

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7PM
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Reservations only-438-6053
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Oyster and Corn Chowder
Salneval Abarino '04 Spain
Braised Pork and Ben Salad
Yalumba Shiraz 04' Australia
Bourbon Glazed Beef Short Ribs
Dievole Rinascimento '03 Italy
Old Fashion Pound Cake with Brandied Fruit Compote
St. Hilaire — Blanc de Blances '02 France

HOPE & GLORY INN
Irvington
Valentine's Weekend
and
Valentine's Day Dinner
Saturday—February 11
Tuesday—February 14
7PM
Reservations only-438-6053
$80.00 per person
(plus gratuity and tax)
Lobster Bisque with Vanilla Beurre Blanc
Duck and Endive Confit
Filet of Beef Tenderloin and Prawns
Chocolate Decadence Divine with Brandied Fruit Compote
-Wine Inclusive-
Domaine Derveaux Pouilly Fuisse '04 France
Domaine Gachot-Monot Cote d'Nuit Village '03 France

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Men's Ministry Breakfast
"Men Becoming 'Fishers of Men'"
Mathew 4:19
In the Church's Fellowship Hall
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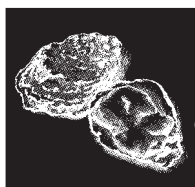
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Next to the Post Office in White Stone

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Over 30 years ago David Lawrence, the founding editor of U.S. News and World Report died at his home in Florida. He was 88, but his death was sudden. In those days before there was the internet, or fax machines, or e-mail, Lawrence would telex his nationally-syndicated column from his home.

On the day of his death, The Evening Star newspaper in Washington wrote a glowing tribute in an editorial across from his "last" column. Lawrence was not one to allow others to have the last say, and several hours later another column arrived by telex. The Star came out the following day with what truly was his last column, and an explanation that doctors surmised that Lawrence had died immediately after sending it.

For the past 10 days, I have been making a similar analogy related to the subject of one of my columns. I refer to the late Robert H. Burgess, the Dean of the Chesapeake Bay, who spent most of his nearly 90 years recording and documenting the history of the bay. When he died three years ago, I regretted that that authoritative voice, that encyclopedic mind, that font of wisdom should never enlighten us again.

Fortuitously, my thinking now has proved to be unfounded, as last week his son, Bruce, and his wife, Mary Alice Rath, and his daughter Janet Loyd and her son, Mark Hoffman, in concert with the editor, William A. Fox, a protégé of Robert Burgess, came out with *Chesapeake Sailing Craft, Recollections of Robert H. Burgess*. As his health failed towards the end of his life, Burgess had been unable to carry out his plan for such an expanded edition of his l975 *Chesapeake Sailing Craft*.

A year before Burgess' death, Bruce, Mary Alice and William Fox began the task of going through the hundreds of photographs he had taken, developed and cropped himself, with a view toward completing the task he had intended, namely Part II to his original Part I of *Chesapeake Sailing Craft*. Fortunately, they were able to interview him extensively and they began the lengthy process of collating the material for the present work.

Every photograph in the new edition was taken by Robert Burgess and his original captions remain, but the augmentation of the additional pictures and further explanations make this a new jewel in his crown. An asterisk denotes photographs which were not in the l975 edition. In addition to being a seminal historian, Robert Burgess was a master photographer and an elegant writer. He carried the new effort through until his death and entrusted it to his children and editor.

Last week Mary Alice and Bruce kindly presented me with a copy fresh off the press, and I must admit that I have gotten little else done as I have been so engrossed in reading and looking at the pictures. My wife similarly has been engaged, and on Tuesday morning she hurried into the room to tell me that there was one photograph of a log canoe on which she had sailed as a teenager on the Eastern Shore. I can make no such claim for myself, but I can recall my childhood along the Potomac and across the Northern Neck with my father pointing out to me the vestiges of boats long lost to history, but ones which he could remember.

The Burgess mystique lives on in the new book. It is must reading for anyone concerned with understanding the vast estuary by which we are privileged to live. The new edition will become the gift of choice for birthdays and Christmas this year, and the ultimate statement on the bay for years to come, but then again I do not want to get caught in a bind like The Evening Star, three decades ago. The resourcefulness of Robert Burgess was so great, that his archives might even produce one more treasure of the Chesapeake.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

We have now been in Richmond for three weeks. It's hard to believe so much can be accomplished in such a short amount of time. Again last week we accomplished many great things and got the opportunity to speak with many great people.

My bill to allow the Governor's Opportunity Development Fund money to be used to provide infrastructure for high-speed or broadband internet for new businesses in rural or underserved areas passed in the House. It passed the House with 97 members in favor; three members did not vote. The bill has been referred to the Senate finance committee.

The appropriations committee began meetings last week. Four of my budget amendments went before committee on the first day of hearings. The amendments would provide funds from the state budget for the Westmoreland State Park Restaurant, the Northern Neck Farmers Market, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. I feel that these four causes are very important to the well- being of District 99 and I am proud to do my part to ensure that they thrive.

Having a bill pass in the House in my first three weeks of being a delegate has been exciting. The excitement was only magnified by testifying in front of the appropriations committee. It gives a whole new meaning to being baptized by fire. I feel really good about how things are shaping up, and I know that all of this hard work in Richmond will have a positive impact. I have a number of other budget amendments for other needs in the district that will come up in the near future.

I was lucky enough to be visited by constituents from across the district. The week began with a visit from Germanna Community College. Tuesday, representatives from Northern Neck Electric Cooperative visited me.

On Wednesday, Dr. Christopher Walsh of the Mid Rivers Cancer Center stopped by the office to discuss a bill that I introduced to ensure that insurance companies cover the type of cancer treatment that is offered at the Mid Rivers Cancer Center.

In the labor and commerce committee, the bill was referred to a committee on mandates to be examined over the course of the year. Constituents from White Stone also visited our office on behalf of Equality Virginia.

On Thursday, members of Warsaw United Methodist Church and Henderson United Methodist Church of Northumberland stopped by to discuss legislation of interest. I was also visited by wine growers from the Northern Neck, who were working to strengthen the distribution rights of small wine growers.

Visit us in the General Assembly building in room 516, or call 698-1099.

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the February 2, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen.)

Lively

E. B. Clark has returned home from a Baltimore hospital much improved.

We are sorry to lose our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs R. A. Hazzard. They will make their future home at Nuttsville.

We gladly welcome our new neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. John Tapscott, in our neighborhood. They will make their future home at the Cotton Farm.

Millenbek

Thomas O. Norris, of Newport News, is visiting at his parental home at this writing.

Jas. A. Chowning, of Merry Point, was here Saturday.

Schooner Maggie, of Crisfield, Md., landed here this week with pine and oak lumber for L. D. Stoneham.

Mrs. Ida Dunaway has completed her new house near here and expects to move into it in the near future.

It is understood that the cannery here will be in operation the coming season. We hope it will be a good season and that the growers of tomatoes will be successful in their crops.

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

Letters to the Editor

Body armor not missing

To The Editor:

Recently, an Army master sergeant returning from a tour of duty in Iraq was angry about media reports and obtained a hearing before Congress. Surprisingly, CNN interviewed him following his testimony, surprising because CNN, like the New York Times, seems interested only in reporting the bad news from and about Iraq.

The sergeant confronted Representative Moran about his views on an exit strategy; however, that's not what the anchorwoman conducting the interview wanted to talk about. She asked the soldier about reports of lack of body armor and the inferior equipment of our troops.

He replied that our equipment is state-of-the-art and that every soldier is issued body armor. "Mine was and still is shrink-wrapped in the bottom of my duffle bag," he said. He further stated that a typical soldier on patrol is usually carrying about 70 pounds of gear and he doesn't want the additional 10 pounds of body armor. That 10 pounds could be the difference between life and death in his ability to move and evade quickly.

My husband, a Vietnam veteran who flew A-4C Skyhawks there, said all the pilots in Vietnam removed the armor plates from their airplanes in order to carry more ordnance. So not using available armor is nothing new to the military.

The anchorwoman asked again about reports of inadequate body armor and the sergeant told her that there are 470 men in each battalion and there would always be a few complainers. He said that he receives 80 to 100 e-mails a day from privates to colonels in Iraq and that morale is high, the equipment is excellent and body armor is not a concern.

Standard body armor protects the chest and back, the body's mass. It does not protect the shoulders, legs, groin, arms or face. Obviously, the Marines in the secret Pentagon study were hit in one of those places. A soldier cannot go into today's type of combat with all the extra armor it would take to fully protect him. Saying that the Marines who were killed from wounds to their upper body could have survived if they had extra body armor is like saying, "Mr. Jones, who fell from a building, wouldn't have died if he hadn't hit the ground."

Our nephew is currently serving in Iraq and my husband corresponds with him and 15 others there, both military and civilian. All concur that morale is high. They tell us that the troops are proud of the job they're doing. They watch CNN and are really upset that none of the good news is reported, such as: the Iraqis want the troops there; the infrastructure is being rebuilt by leaps and bounds; and a repressed nation has been freed.

None of them have mentioned body armor or extra body armor. Perhaps theirs too is still in the shrink-wrap in the bottoms of their duffle bags.

Rebecca Tebbs Nunn
Raleigh, N.C.,
and Kilmarnock

Seeking input on boathouses

To The Editor:

The Northumberland planning commission will hold at least one public hearing in February concerning the status of ordinances regarding boathouses.

Boathouses are currently allowed and the county ordinance was reviewed and updated with recommendations from the commission to the board of supervisors over the last several years. However, the board recently asked the commission to review the issue and provide a recommendation concerning the ordinances and the possibility of banning boathouses.

I believe this to be a serious issue that requires much consideration. Such an action would be a dramatic change in the direction the commission has recommended in the past. In that regard, I am soliciting citizen comments from anyone who cannot attend the hearing, especially from those who live in District 2, which I represent.

You may send your comment to me at P.O. Box 126, Callao, Va. 22435; 529-9393; or allenwebb@verizon.net. Email correspondence is preferred.

R. Allen Webb
Callao

Accidental firing needs attention

To The Editor:

"The public is not at any greater risk here than they would be at any other place in Virginia."

With these words a State Senator tries to place in context the discharge of a weapon in our General Assembly Building.

I am well aware that accidents happen. I guess I am out of touch with reality because I believe that the public should have a greater expectation that they will be safer from an accidental firing of a weapon in the General Assembly building than any other place in Virginia.

I don't know what is going on in the lawmaker's life that causes him to believe that bringing a loaded weapon to the Capital is an appropriate thing to do. I guess I am more concerned with the apparent cavalier attitude of those who brush it off as just another accident.

At a time when there are so many kids being suspended from school for bringing unloaded pellet guns, water pistols and other weapons to school, a discharged weapon in our Capitol should be a big thing. Kids are always observing how we handle the situation when we as adults make a mistake.

For a .380-caliber pistol to be discharged by mistake requires at least two elements. Either the weapon malfunctioned or the owner didn't follow the correct weapon clearing procedure. If the weapon malfunctioned, it should be fixed before it is allowed back into the building. If improper gun handling was the issue, then a gun safety class attendance should be mandated. Apologies are nice, but they don't make any attempt correct the problem.

We are all very thankful that no one was hurt this time. This may just be that wake up call that we need to insure that persons who are licensed to carry loaded guns into our Capitol are also competent to handle the weapon that they carry. One close call should be enough.

Lloyd N. Hill
Weems

Boathouses impede nature

To The Editor:

Boathouses take away from nearby property owners their ability to enjoy their view of the water and they take away from the natural ability of our waters to heal themselves.

Boathouses cast a large constant area of shade. This impedes the growth of marsh grass. The health of the marsh grass is very important to the health of local waterways, as pointed out by Dr. Lynton Land of the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship. The shore grasses and marsh grasses provide shelter and food during the life of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab and fishes, as well as controlling the erosion of our shores.

In some instances, boathouses cover oyster beds and impede our watermen from harvesting their oysters. Again, the same large constant shadow also impedes the growth of oysters. I applaud those who now grow oysters in "cages" from their piers. This is a step in the right direction in helping to clean our waters, but that does nothing to help our watermen.

If, as the current statues of Northumberland County allow, a boathouse were built every 200 feet, our waterways would not only be extremely ugly but would be a navigational nightmare. Most citizens do not know, but unless a person who applies for a boathouse needs a special exception, the boathouse application is granted without a hearing.

Even when adjoining and surrounding neighbors object, the current board of supervisors, judging by recent performance, votes to allow the boathouse.

I would like to see residential boathouses banned from Northumberland County just as they are in neighboring Lancaster and Richmond counties, as well as the State of Maryland.

Do they know something we in Northumberland have chosen to ignore:

Nancy James Clark Brand
Wicomico Church

Dismayed with supervisor Self

To The Editor:

My January 19 Record just arrived having been forwarded to me here in Sarasota, Fla.

I read the front-page article and headline on Northumberland County boathouses with dismay. Over the past 10 years, I have tried to persuade the board of supervisors to follow the example of Lancaster County, among others in the area, and ban all boathouses.

I was appalled at the statement made by Joe Self that "banning boathouses would be akin to banning garages."

Not only was this remark insensitive and rude, it also does not indicate a willingness on the part of some supervisors to listen to their constituents.

Austin Wise
Kilmarnock

Letters to the Editor

Wal-Mart will make town better

To The Editor:

I think that I should weigh in on a Wal-Mart coming to Kilmarnock now that they have made their intentions official. I'm sure my opinion doesn't mean much, but I am 100 percent in favor of a new Wal-Mart and I would like to explain why.

First, I will address the Main Street issue. I rode through Main Street the other day for the first time in a while. It is starting to look nice. I really didn't see any stores in the downtown that will be competing with Wal-Mart. Most of those stores are high-end, specialty shops, not exactly Wal-Mart's target market. Besides, they all close so early you can't shop downtown anyway unless you are retired. I honestly don't believe the people supporting those stores will at all be influenced by Wal-Mart.

As for CVS, Radio Shack, Family Dollar, Food Lion and Peebles, those are national chain stores, not home town mom-and-pop operations. Those types of stores should have to compete to survive; that's how a free market is supposed to work. I will also point out that the Wal-Marts in Gloucester and Tappahannock didn't shut down the Food-Lions, Dollar Stores, and so forth, in those towns.

I have also read a good bit of what I call drivel about a Wal-Mart ruining our "rural atmosphere." That, my friends, is ridiculous. Wal-Mart is where real rural people shop, because the prices are fair, they stay open after we get off work and they have just about everything one needs to keep a working household stocked. Rural people have made Wal-Mart what it is today.

The only thing ruining our rural atmosphere is all the city people moving into the area, the same people, by the way, who are against us having a Wal-Mart.

Kilmarnock is a nice town that is getting nicer. A new, well designed Wal-Mart will make it better. Most of the things we can't get in town we already go to other towns to get at other Wal-Marts. With gasoline at $2.30 per gallon and more, that doesn't make much sense, and it also forces us to generate air pollution. Kilmarnock should keep the money in the Northern Neck and welcome Wal-Mart.

Let's not be like Warsaw and allow local protectionist politics drive away every corporation that tries to come to town. If you need a $500 end table or a $2,000 gas stove, it will still be available downtown.

David T. Traylor
Litwalton

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Letters to the Editor

March attracts local citizens

To The Editor:

Some people describe it as the most important, but rarely reported, event in American history. "It" refers to the March for Life where, on January 23, on the 33rd anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, for the 33rd consecutive year, over 100,000 people gathered in the heart of Washington, D.C., to express their pro-life beliefs

From Kilmarnock a packed bus of people of all ages, from toddlers to 80-year-olds, left St. Francis de Sales Church on the morning of the march. Upon arrival, the group joined the sardine can of people gathered on the mall. Older people stood in the cold rain with stiff joints. Young people fought claustrophobia. All endured it for their determination to help save unborn babies.

People from Washington State to Washington, D.C., were present. We talked with people who came from Ireland. Even the woman who was in the Roe vs. Wade decision, and is now a member of the pro-life movement, attended the march.

There were nuns in habits holding umbrellas. Many high school and college students marched, some inventing cheers like "Hey, hey, hey, ho; Roe v. Wade has got to go!" Some sang, some prayed, and some just walked. A sea of signs rose above the crowd, some positive with slogans like "Justice for all, the born and unborn," and others shocking with pictures displaying the bloody reality of abortion.

A backward glance while climbing Capitol Hill showed a breathtaking sight: an endless line of people down Constitution Avenue, all marching forward peacefully, using their freedom to stand up for something they believe in. That is the American way.

For many, the march is physically demanding, but they will continue to go as long as abortion, something that was once forbidden, is considered "a service to women."

Joseph Stallings
Reedville

March is awesome

To The Editor:

Awesome! That was my first thought when I stepped into the MCI Center.

20,000 people were happy to be with God on that cloudy Monday morning.

Together with my host family, I was at the very top. Big TV screens were able to show us close ups of the priest, the speakers, and the musicians.

After the huge mass of people got out, we also got a chance to go out, pick up our signs, and go demonstrate against the modern (and quite popular) "Baby Holocaust."

There, I was even more stunned.

Constitution Avenue was filled with at least 150,000 people!

And how young they were! My age, 17, as well as adults, were holding up signs, yelling sayings, like: "Hey ho, hey ho, Roe v. Wade has got to go!" and praying.

After about two hours of waiting for a little bit of space in the stream of people, we finally started marching.

It was great! The feeling to march for the life of the unborn future presidents, senators, business men and women, farmers, and common people was just 100 percent joyful.

When we were "done" marching we put our signs on some steps in a park and sat down. We were exhausted. But we did something good with our energy that day.

I hope that there are even more people next year!

More people, who care about if the population is growing and if the country has a future or not.

I didn't see any pro-aborts at all. I just wanted to mention that at least once...none, zero, nada.

Marie Köhler
Kilmarnock

Thousands of Americans marched on the Capitol January 23 to express their pro-life views.

Local youth joins march

To The Editor:

I'm an eight-year-old homeschooled student, and my family is involved in pro-life work.

Last Monday, we went to the March For Life in Washington, D.C. There were 20,000 people there praying and singing.

After that, the March For Life started. The roads were so full of people that we had to squeeze through a massive crowd just to join the march.

We marched from the Mall to the Supreme Court building, and we were so tired at the end that we could hardly move. I was surprised because the marchers were so peaceful and young.

There were even more people than last year, and I felt that was a good thing because it's good for people to support life in America. I hope there are even more people there next year.

Eleanor Beane
Kilmarnock

Thanking doctors

To The Editor:

My wife, Joy, and I thank all the doctors and staff of Rappahannock General Hospital and send a special thanks to Drs. Robert Poole and Steven Olterman for the care and concern given us during our recent stay and all the help and consideration extended to our family. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

We remind everyone of how fortunate we in the Northern Neck are to have such a wonderful facility available to us and to support it in every way possible.

Rev. Thomas and Joy Oder
Pastor, Asbury UMC

Coping with Wal-Mart

To The Editor:

My wife and I have owned property in Northern Neck for 20 years. Our retirement home is well under way and we hope to be residents before summer.

We currently live in Maryland and own a retail store which sells children's products. The store is now operated by our son. We sell children's furniture, strollers, car seats, clothing and accessories. We opened the store 15 years ago and at that time there were no "Big Box" stores in our area.

Eight years ago, a Wal-Mart opened one mile from our store. They sell many of the same products that we sell and we were quite concerned that they would have a major impact on our business. Our fears were unfounded; we learned how to compete and have doubled our sales since they opened.

As it turns out, although there are exceptions, particularly in the food and electronics areas, Wal-Mart stocks primarily low-end merchandise; low cost, low quality, manufacturer's closeouts.

Consumers don't go to Wal-Mart for product advice; they go for low price. Try finding an employee who can answer your questions and you will have a frustrating time. In our experience, most Northern Neck merchants have little to be concerned about if they follow certain rules. Others are vulnerable.

Who loses?

• Stores with absentee owners who seldom put forth the effort to learn what their customers want and do not stock the right merchandise. Friends of ours ticked off a list of local merchants who fit this description.

• Stores with high employee turnover because of poor pay and poor employee relations.

• Stores with hard-to-reach locations. Wal-Mart is locating right on Main Street and you can bet there will be ample parking.

• Stores which have given product training lip service.

Who should not worry?

• Stores with a customer-comes-first attitude. My wife and I visited a lighting store and an electronic store in Kilmarnock on the advice of our builder. Both went out of their way to answer questions and the electronics store is going to help lay out the phone and cable connections. They have earned our business and have little to worry about.

• Stores with a low employee turnover and employees with a positive service attitude. This comes from the owner. We visited another store and encountered two high-school-aged employees who were stocking merchandise. When I asked where a certain item was located, one of them led me directly to the product we wanted and asked if she could help with anything else.

• Stores with an easy-to-reach location.

• Stores with knowledge and upper-end merchandise, such as the cooking supply store in Irvington, for example.

While we compete with Wal-Mart here in Maryland, we are also customers. We buy bulk items such as paper towels, toilet tissues, detergent and other commodities for our home and business.

We expect to be customers of the Northern Neck store as well. With the price of gasoline these days, a trip to other Wal-Mart stores is a time-consuming and expensive undertaking. You can bet that we will support the local merchants as well.

Robert Streight
Gaithersburg, Md.,
and Irvington

Do we need a Wal-Mart?

To The Editor:

I read with dismay about the possibility of Wal-Mart coming to Kilmarnock.

Do we need to increase our traffic problems by adding a big box retailer?

Do we think our small town merchants can compete successfully with the largest retailer in the world, who can buy from suppliers for less and sell their products for less?

Do we believe that Wal-Mart will "partner" with our small, friendly town to preserve the atmosphere that most of us love about our town?

Do we think that bigger is better and synonymous with progress?

If so, I urge you to drive down Taylor's Creek Road, a different situation, but "progress" in the making.

We need to think seriously of what Kilmarnock will be like after a Wal-Mart Supercenter arrives. It will change the nature of our community.

Nancy Reath
Irvington

Fears Wal-Mart

To The Editor:

It was reported in your paper last week that nothing was done with the issue of limiting the size of a store because "no one knew how to do it or if it could not be done."

Congratulations, Kilmarnock town officials: what a unique way to celebrate the town's 75th year. As a direct result of that ignorance and inability to ask questions, our rural community of 1,200 people will be ruined forever by a 180,000-square-foot monument to corporate greed and low-end retailing.

Lest anyone doubt that our downtown and area merchants will not suffer a fatal blow, a Wal-Mart spokesman by the name of Dan Fogelman made it very clear during an interview he gave defending Wal-Mart in Maryland. He said, "Look at a Wal-Mart super center. You can do your shopping, get an oil change for your car, get prescriptions filled, get a haircut. It is truly the convenience of a one-stop shopping experience."

So be prepared to say "goodbye" to our local supermarkets, clothing stores, sports shop, jewelers, hardware stores, bookstores, nursery gardens and some or all of our auto shops and beauty salons. Where Wal-Mart builds, other giant retailers are sure to follow. Fogelman addressed that too, when he said proudly, "Look outside almost every Wal-Mart store. You'll find business cropping up. Businesses want to locate near Wal-Mart locations to take advantage of the customer flow we create."

Take a drive to Tappahannock and look at what remains of its downtown shopping area. Wal-Mart was built a good mile away, and yet it effectively killed their Main Street. It will be right on ours, well inside the town limits. One has to wonder why Kilmarnock is spending millions of dollars to beautify Main Street when it could soon be a virtual ghost town. There will be only a few antique stores and specialty shops scattered among boarded up storefronts.

The ad Wal-Mart ran in last week's Rappahannock Record asked supporters to call or email them. It pointedly did not offer anywhere for opponents to register their objections. Anyone who is against the proposed destruction of our small town way of life has to step up to the plate and say so now. I for one will never set foot in a Kilmarnock Wal-Mart. Boycotting is one of the very few ways an individual has to stand up to corporate bullies and hit them where it hurts.

D. C. Manuel
Kilmarnock

Protect our rights

To The Editor:

I strongly support efforts to check the spread of terrorism. However, we cannot do so at the expense of giving up the liberty that makes our system strong.

We must guard against unilateral action by the Executive Branch to usurp the power of the courts to authorize wiretaps. We must express outrage that the war on terrorism warrants torture as a means of extracting information. We must halt the practice of detaining citizens without trial and access to counsel.

To do otherwise means we ourselves have relinquished our Constitutional separation of powers and fundamental rights. We must seek the intervention of the president, the Congress and the Supreme Court to prevent internal abuses from succeeding where the terrorists failed in undermining our freedom.

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The Friends of Lancaster County (FOLC),
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Mr. Carl Schlaudt, AICP,
Planning Administrator,
Chesterfield County, VA.

Mr. Schlaudt's topic will be:
SHAPING DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING AND ZONING TOOLS.

A question and answer period will be included.

The meeting will be at 7 pm on February 8, 2006 in the Lancaster Community Library meeting room.

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Letters to the Editor

Proliferation of boathouses must stop

To The Editor:

I propose that there should be no further construction of boathouses in Northumberland County.

The Northumberland County code allows open-sided boathouses of up to 648 square feet, not to exceed 18 feet in width, 36 feet in length and 20 feet in height. The minimum length of the applicable shoreline shall not be less than 100 feet (measured in a straight line). This will clearly result in a proliferation of boathouses.

The code also states that boathouses are permitted when "the adjoining or nearby property owners do not object to the boathouse." As reported on the front page of the Rappahannock Record of January 19, the board of supervisors has the right to grant a permit in spite of the objection of adjoining or nearby property owners.

Waterfront properties extend to the low water line. Beyond the low water line is public property and belongs to all of us. Therefore, I believe that owners of waterfront property should not be given permission to build on what belongs to everyone.

Further construction of boathouses will change the beauty and tranquility of our waterways and wetlands. Whether we are waterfront property owners or boaters who store their boats away from water, we will all be affected if this proliferation of boathouses continues.

Marinas for the storage of boats under cover already exist in our area. Should there be more demand for this type of under cover storage, new marinas are preferable to individual boathouses as it would concentrate storage to commercial areas and thus allow us to maintain the beauty of our wetlands and waterways.

I propose that we join Lancaster and Richmond counties in prohibiting further construction of boathouses in the waterways and wetland of the Northern Neck.

Ulli Scharnberg
Wicomico Church

Protesting Wal-Mart

To The Editor:

As a homeowner and employee in the town of Kilmanrock, I protest the impending Wal-Mart store here.

Who decided that it was okay for them to build here? Since their presence would have a far-reaching effect on all the local businesses, shouldn't there have been a county-wide referendum to decide whether people really want a Wal-Mart in Kilmarnock?

Have the town manager and town council really investigated the negative impact such a huge discount store would have on local business?

Do they want to see an empty main street in Kilmarnock? What about environmental impact; traffic patterns; water and sewage? Have all those things been thought out and planned?

I really hope town officials have some idea of what a Wal-Mart in Kilmarnock will mean for people and businesses and I wish they would actively involve the citizens in decisions of this magnitude.

Paula Greenwood
Kilmanrock

Where's our money going?

To The Editor:

Reading the Record of late it's not too difficult to see indications of an impending tax increase in Northumberland County.

The special interest groups are already lining up to get their piece of the "action."

Those of us who are retired have already paid for many years for the education of other folks children (as maybe others helped pay for ours) plus we have had to support the failed welfare system.

Northumberland will most certainly raise our taxes while we struggle to pay for the increased heating costs related to upward of $100 per barrel of oil by some reports. In all fairness, Northumberland leadership should be upfront with what we are paying for.

How many of these children that we are providing with a good education are actually our citizens?

One trip through downtown Kilmarnock construction and one can see many workmen are, more than likely, not citizens. A public recognition and discussion of this issue is in order.

Morris W. Dillingham
Kilmarnock

Medicare drug bill tied to Abramoff

To The Editor:

Many of us have heard stories about the perplexing Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

Seniors are asking, was this the best a Republican Congress could do to help provide access to medications? The answer, of course, is that seniors were not a priority. This Congress' top priority was finding ways to reward and accommodate as many HMOs and drug companies as possible.

Which is why we should not be surprised to learn that many of the framers of this bill had close connections to the Jack Abramoff organization as well as to Tom DeLay.

Speaker Dennis Hastert has just received a letter from Nancy Pelosi requesting an investigation of a series of very disturbing allegations implicating Abramoff's lobbying firm, the Alexander Strategy Group. Their largest single client was the pharmaceutical industry, who paid them over $2.5 million including nearly $1 million in 2003 when the prescription drug law was being written.

Moreover, the primary lobbyist for the drug industry at Alexander was Tony Rudy, identified as "Staffer A" in Abramoff's indictment. It is also interesting how the key administration official responsible for writing the bill was simultaneously negotiating a high-paying job representing drug and health insurance companies, and that the Republican chairman responsible for steering this legislation through Congress subsequently accepted a lucrative job in the drug industry.

One Republican member also alleged that a bribe was offered him on the House floor for his vote.

These allegations just scratch the surface. There's no question that this program was the product of a corrupt legislative process. Democrats were locked out of the bill's writing while lobbyists were invited in. The bill's cost estimate was fraudulently low-balled by hundreds of billions to entice the votes of fiscal conservatives.

Already, many states have had to step in to help participants desperate for their medications because of glitches in the program.

Without question, the Medicare Drug Benefit is a perfect example of legislation enacted not for the benefit of the people, but to pander to lobbyists and the money they control.

One can read the full text of Pelosi's letter to Hastert by searching "Medicare Drug Bill Tied to Abramoff" which will take you to the "truthout" website.

Frank Mann
Lancaster

Who has the answers?

To The Editor:

President George W. Bush urged us to take Osama bin Laden seriously during his NSA talk in defense of his warrentless eavesdropping authorization.

But where is the evidence that he has been taking the continuing threat posed by bin Laden seriously?

When bin Laden was corner at Tora Bora, why did he refuse to let our special forces on the spot go in after him?

Why did he leave it to concerned citizens to patrol our own porous land borders, then question their patriotism, after four whole years of inaction on his part?

Where is his program to deny terrorist access to the manifold, poorly protected nuclear materials sites around the world, after four wasted years?

Why did he allow our invading military to bypass the known nuclear materials sites in Iraq? Is that not why we went there?

The administration, and both parties of Congress need to wake up, put politics aside, and urgently address these deadly menaces, which threaten them just as much as us.

Jerry Peill
Lancaster

Survey: Americans say they oppose eminent domain

Americans remain strongly committed to protecting private property from the possibility of unjust seizure, according to the results of a nationwide survey released last month by American Farm Bureau Federation.

The poll shows, regardless of geographical, partisan and other demographic differences, Americans are unified nearly 2-to-1 against government use of eminent domain to take private property, except in limited circumstances such as when the public would clearly benefit from a new road, electric utility or similar project.

Likewise, 83 percent of Americans oppose the use of eminent domain to further private development initiatives. Seizure for private development was the issue at the heart of the Kelo v. New London, Conn., case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court last year.

When survey respondents were asked about the Kelo ruling, an overwhelming 95 percent expressed disapproval; of those respondents, 87 percent said they disagreed strongly with the ruling.

The telephone survey of 1,076 adults was conducted October 29 through November 2. It is a component of the grassroots "Stop Taking Our Property" campaign initiated by AFBF following the Kelo ruling.

Virginia's legislators have heard the public's outcry on this matter. A total of 37 bills dealing with some aspect of eminent domain laws have already been introduced in the 2006 General Assembly. Of those, 13 are in direct response to the Kelo ruling.

Farming, in particular, received solid support when survey respondents were asked to prioritize entities that should be off-limits to eminent domain proceedings. Fourteen percent said farms with a portion of land set aside for conservation or environmental preservation should be protected from condemnation. That's directly in line with the level of support respondents said should be given to historical monuments, churches, schools and hospitals.

Of those surveyed, 12 percent said family farmers should be exempt from eminent domain laws; 9 percent supported exempting private businesses and 8 percent supported exempting all landowners.

Furthermore, Americans are much more likely to disagree than agree (67 percent to 24 percent) with the notion that the government is justified in using eminent domain laws against a small number of individuals who refuse to sell property when most of their neighbors agree to sell so a development project may proceed.

Although a higher percentage of Republicans said they were strongly opposed to eminent domain—45 percent compared to 40 percent of Democrats—the overall level of opposition among Republicans or Democrats was similar, with 66 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of Democrats expressing opposition to eminent domain.

The survey results also show that Americans share the same general views about eminent domain, regardless of where they live. When asked to state their level of support or opposition to the right of the government to take private property for public purposes, close to two-thirds of participants expressed opposition: 65 percent in the east, 58 percent in the south, 59 percent in the west and 65 percent in the Great Lakes region.

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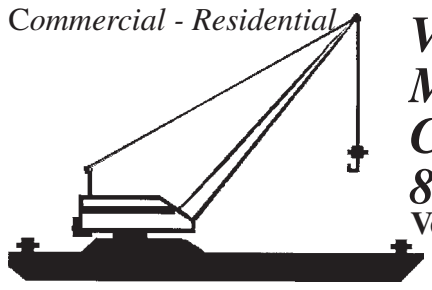
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Area Events

■ Dinner and dance

The Fairfields United Methodist Men will sponsor a sweetheart dinner and dance February 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the church activities building.

Tickets are $26.50 per person and must be purchased in advance. Call Alf Braxton at 453-5900, or Fred Horwarth at 580-6928.

■ Supper and sale

A pancake supper will be served at Fairfields United Methodist Church in Burgess February 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu includes pancakes, fried apples, sausage and coffee or tea.

The dinner is sponsored by the Fairfields Nelia Tingle Fellowship. Donations will be accepted. Call 453-2631 for take-outs. A bake sale also will be held.

■ Basic training

The Haven will hold a basic training class February 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Haven administrative offices at 376 Main Street, Suite 103, in Warsaw.

The Haven assists victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; and sponsors a Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program and a Teens Promoting Awareness program (TPA).

To sign up for training, call Katrina Pollard at 333-1099.

■ Orchestra tickets

The Northern Neck Orchestra will present "Bolero," a concert of popular classical music March 4 at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. Tickets are on sale at Twice Told Tales and the Kilmarnock Antique Gallery, or by calling 436-9027.

■ 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.

■ Order fruit

Grapefruit, oranges and murcotts will be available in February through the Kilmarnock Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Orders should be called in by February 6 to 435-1369, 435-1252, 580-5376 or 435-2048. Orders are to be picked up February 16.

■ 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.

Lecture, gallery walk are planned

Upcoming activities at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond include a lecture and a gallery walk.

The Banner Lecture Series continues Thursday, February 2. At noon, Dr. Heather Andrea Williams will present "Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom."

Enslaved people in the antebellum South placed great value in the practical power of literacy, whether to read the Bible for themselves or to keep informed about their world. In this talk on her book, *Self-Taught,* Dr. Williams will examine African Americans' quest for learning during slavery, the Civil War, and in the first decades of freedom.

Dr. Williams is an assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A gallery walk with Dr. Lauranett L. Lee will begin at noon February 15. "Safely Harbored: New Acquisitions in African Americana," will showcase the collection and preservation of African Americana that has grown steadily since the 1970s.

Dr. Lee's walk and talk will focus on the stories behind a few of the recent acquisitions.

The Virginia Historical Society is at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond. Reservations are not required. Seating is limited. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children and students. Members are admitted free.

For directions, call 358-4901.

Exhibit to open

A reception for "Picturing African-Americans: Photographs from the Gill Collection" will be held Friday, February 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Richmond County Museum. Florence and Adrienne Martin and Rev. Gayl Fowler will sing spirituals. The museum is at the corner of Richmond Road and Wallace Street in Warsaw.

Engagements

Sara Lake Cowart and Bao Ngoc Vuong

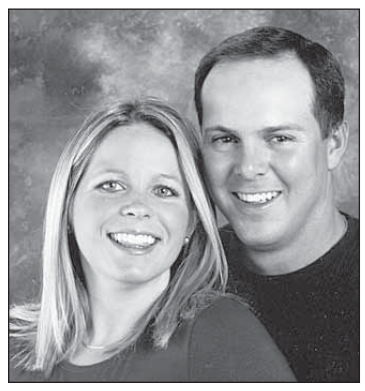
Cowart-Vuong

Mr. and Mrs. S. Lake Cowart Jr. of Lottsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Lake Cowart of Pittsburgh, Pa., to Bao Ngoc Vuong of Pittsburgh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thong Dat Vuong of Richmond, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Belfield of Mooresville, N.C.

Miss Cowart is the granddaughter of Mrs. Margaret H. Wood of Nassawadox and the late Mr. Joseph R. Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Lake Cowart Sr. of Lottsburg. She graduated from Northumberland High School and the University of Virginia. She is currently enrolled in the joint degree program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs pursuing a Juris Doctor and master's in public and international affairs.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Mrs. Moui Luu of Richmond and the late Pao Vuong, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Hung X. Duong. He graduated from Godwin High School and the University of Virginia. He is currently employed by IBM Business Consulting Services division as a financial management consultant.

A May 27 wedding is planned in Richmond.



Terri Elizabeth Ransone and Ryan Brent Self

Ransone-Self

Mr. and Mrs. Andy F. Ransone of Lancaster announce the engagement of their daughter, Terri Elizabeth Ransone, to Ryan Brent Self of Lively, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Self of Alfonso.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Mrs. Evelyn B. Carew of Mollusk and the late Howard Edward Carew, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Ransone of Lancaster.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Lottie P. Brent of Lancaster and the late Robert T. Brent, and the late Woodrow and Vivian Self, formerly of Kilmarnock.

Miss Ransone is a 2000 graduate of Lancaster High School and graduated from St. Mary's School of Radiology. She is employed at Riverside Hospital in Tappahannock.

Self is a 1999 graduate of Christ Church Episcopal School and attended John Tyler College. He is owner of Self Enterprise in Lively.

A May wedding is planned.

New group to share life-after-death experiences

The Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Friends of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (LANDS) will meet Sunday, February 5, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington.

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 share and learn.

The suggested donation is $5 at the door.

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

Library friends group to meet

The Friends of the Lancaster Community Library will meet February 14 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the library in Kilmarnock.

Members are urged to attend this meeting at which they will consider requests from the director of the library and the library board for funds raised by the group, said president Thomas A. York.

Also at this meeting, the membership will elect a new secretary, he said.

The meeting is open to the public.

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Lancaster library hosts Vliet portrait exhibit

"Celebrating the Living Legacy," special exhibit of 12 digital portraits by Ann Vliet honoring Black History Month, will be on view in the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock throughout February.

The portraits show 21st-century African-Americans in our rapidly changing world and the rich cultural heritage they carry into it," said Vliet. "Most of the images were photographed in the local community."

Vliet learned her craft at the New York Institute of Photography and the Maine Photographic Workshops, and has won local, national and international recognition for her photography. Over the last two decades, she has moved gradually from photojournalism to art photography and digital imaging, but her interest in people's lives and their interactions with their communities is still strong.

"Through these portraits," she said, "I was trying to catch a sense of our lives right now—when Kilmarnock is in a state of flux, like the rest of the world."

Locally, Vliet has shown at the Northumberland, Lancaster and Deltaville libraries, Chesapeake Bank in Kilmarnock, the Hope and Glory Inn in Irvington, and at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. Her work is available in Kilmarnock at the Rappahannock Art League Studio Gallery and at Hang-Ups, and in Deltaville at the Yates Gallery.

The event is part of a series of monthly library exhibits sponsored by the Rappahannock Art League.

"She Walks in Beauty" is one of 12 portraits on display at the Lancaster Community Library through February.

Viewpoints to open February 6

NASA engineer Donner Grigsby will speak on "Space Exploration" at Viewpoints at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Monday, February 6, at 11 a.m. A complimentary buffet luncheon will follow.

Grigsby was a naval air traffic controller before joining NASA Langley Research Center as a civilian 20 years ago. His presentation will include photographs of the galactic core taken by the COBE telescope, and he will talk about helium-3 found on the moon and the nuclear fusion that occurs when it is put into deuterium or "heavy water."

"An ounce of this would power our five biggest cities for five years," said Grigsby. "There are 220 pounds of it per acre on the moon. This is why we want to go to the moon, Mars and beyond. The Chinese intend to mine it also."

Grigsby is creating a strength-training system to be used at the International Space Station, but he also develops and presents content for education of K-12 students through NASA's Digital Learning Network. NASA produces two to three new shows a quarter, makes available 50 to 60 shows a month, and trains 300 teachers in the summer to use the program.

Donner Grigsby

"It allows us to teach planetary sciences to students who are able to talk to us directly through videoconferencing," said Grigsby. "Underserved or underprivileged kids are our audience. We do it in cooperation with the National Guard, which sets up communication systems around the country for national security. They use the system on weekends and make it available to us during the week."

Grigsby recently earned his master's degree in applied physics and computer science from Old Dominion University and will begin a doctoral program in the fall.

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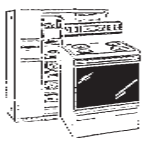

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Comic revue to open Feb. 9 in White Stone

ACT 4 in association with the Lancaster Players will present "You Must Remember This...," beginning Wednesday, February 8, with a preview performance at The Playhouse in White Stone.

The show will continue with dinner theater performances February 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24 and 25.

The comic entertainment is a light-hearted collection of 16 skits, monologues, improvisations and one-act plays, featuring the works of Ted Talley, Robert Anderson and John Peilmeier. Segments include a forgetful crook attempting to commit a mugging, a retail store that sells nostalgic memories, a superhero with amnesia, a tipsy dowager reciting the origins of theater, two news casters reporting "All the News You'd Like to Forget," a surprised man who finds himself playing the lead on opening night, and a comic journey through classic song lyrics. The audience also will help create a sketch.

ACT 4 is a local company of four actors. John Pitman, Amy Lewis, Sally Clark and Randal Tyler portray several different characters and themselves. Tyler conceived and directed the comedy. He wrote several of the pieces.

Preview admission is $7. The preview show will begin at 8 p.m.

The dinner theater productions will include a meal catered by Carried Away Cuisine of Kilmarnock. Dinner theater admission is $30. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the show will start at 8 p.m.

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

For reservations, call 435-3776.

From left are Joan Henderson, Cathy Hemans and Sherry Mann.

Club holds reception

On National Thank Your Mentor Day on January 25, the Woman's Club of Lancaster hosted a reception for Northern Neck Together.

Club members provided a buffet. Sherry Mann and Joan Henderson of the education committee welcomed the guests. Mary Lloyd Lay arranged the centerpieces.

"We applaud so much what the mentor program is doing," said Mann. "We may not be able to commit to being mentors, but this occasion offered us an opportunity to be involved, and we jumped at the chance."

NNT board members The Rev. Scott Dillard and Paul Sciacchitano presented gifts to teachers and certificates to mentors. Board president Jones Felvey thanked the crowd of about 40 for its contribution to the new program. Representing the teachers, Lisa Hudnall said that the mentors' valuable one-to-one time with the children is impossible for classroom teachers to undertake. Kayana Roane, 18, was recognized for being the youngest mentor; Felvey, at 76, is the oldest.

Education has long been a focus of the club, which awarded three scholarships to Lancaster High School seniors last year. The major source of the scholarship funds is bridge-related activity, including monthly sandwich bridge luncheons and Betty Thornton's bridge lessons.

"We interviewed so many students last year who were truly deserving both academically and in terms of need and we wanted to give so much more," said Mann. "Maybe some of these little mentees will be recipients some day."

To become a mentor, call Cathy Hemans at 435-8902.

Speaker to discuss preservation efforts

The Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Virginia will meet February 11 at 11 a.m. at the Essex County Public Library at 117 North Church Lane in Tappahannock.

Kip Campbell, director for collection management services at the Library of Virginia, will share ideas on ways to protect and preserve family collections of photographs, letters and other materials.

Campbell also will show samples of conservation-preservation work from the library collections, including items relating to Virginia's African-American history.

The society's mission is to create and provide opportunities to encourage and enable African Americans to research, document, and publish their family histories and genealogies. Anyone interested in African-American history and culture is invited to attend meetings.

For more information, call Gloria Waller-Scott at 758-3613, or email Bessida White at caushorewhite@cs.com.

Animal Welfare League to offer 'Spay Day' rebate

The Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck will join the Doris Day Animal Foundation's 12th annual Spay Day USA to offer a reduced spay and neuter program for the pets of permanent residents of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland counties from February 14 to March 14.

Millions of animals are killed each year in the United States because there are just not enough good homes to go around, according to Judy Harvell of the AWL. By spaying or neutering companion animals, one can end the unwanted litters, reduce the needless suffering that homeless animals endure and at the same time save local taxpayers who must bear the cost of picking up, housing and eventually killing dogs and cats, she said.

A 50 percent rebate program, not to exceed $50 per animal, will apply to dogs and cats. The rebate applies only to sterilization surgery charges. No other services are covered.

Owners must make an appointment with the veterinarian of their choice, pay the bill and then send proof of payment (paid bill) to the Animal Welfare League, P. O., Box 975, White Stone, VA 22578 no later than March 31.

For additional information, call 435-0822.

Lancashire Lines

by Joan M. Foster

Lancashire residents competed in a phrase challenge last Monday. Bea Jett won first place and Florine Basker second. Celebrating National Pie Day, residents learned about the history of pies and enjoyed apple pie a la mode. A survey showed that the residents' favorite pie was apple followed by sweet potato. Coconut, and pecan tied for third place.

Marie Sivinski and her singalong group entertained Tuesday with songs like "I Don't Want to Set The World On Fire" and "Hello Dolly." Sandra Barnes and Doris Hurst tied for highest score in bingo.

Jim Conley led Bible study Wednesday. The "O's" team won big in a tic tac toe contest.

Residents enjoyed a "Country Hits" video Thursday. Bingo was the highlight of the afternoon. Thomas Hoar and Jett tied for winning the most games in bingo.

Hymn sing was a blessing on Friday morning. Alease George won first place in a "fruit clue buster" game. Residents celebrated birthdays for Mason Cole, Franklin Carter, Elizabeth Folger, Samuel Tiggle, Mamie Robinson, Linda Atkins, Christine Thompson, Bea Jett, Linda Kvell, Lillie Kines, Mildred Carter and Nellie Stine. Thanks to Carol Johnson and her friends from White Stone Baptist Church who helped host the January birthday party.

City Worship Center of Kilmarnock hosted Bible study Saturday. Thanks to Joe Walker for his faithfulness to residents in this leadership role.

Thanks to Smithland Baptist Church for leading a Sunday afternoon worship service.

Lions distribute baskets

"Thanks to the generosity of the patrons of the Tri-Star Supermarket, the Lancaster County Lions Club conducted a very successful food drive in front of that establishment on December 2, said club president Edward Kidwell.

Under the capable leadership of Lion Sharon Booth and with the able assistance of Lion Bob Bauman and a number of other Lions, the club collected a pickup load of nonperishable food items for distribution to our less fortunate neighbors, he said. In all, 54 baskets were delivered throughout Lancaster County several days prior to Christmas. This food drive has become an annual event for the Lions Club and its members look forward to doing their part in making Christmas a little cheerier for those less fortunate, said Kidwell.

He expressed "a grateful thank-you" to all those generous shoppers who made it all possible.

Ramey to exhibit art

Pat Ramey is the artist of the month for February at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. Her watercolors of boats, water and flowers depict the beauty and richness of the Northern Neck.

"I love the fluidness of watercolor and the surprises you get," said Ramey. "You can put watercolors down next to each other if the paper is dry, but, depending upon how much water you use, the paint sometimes mixes and you get something exciting that you hadn't expected. You never have complete control, and that's a challenge to me."

A director at the Rappahannock Art League's Studio Gallery, Ramey and Sarah Soderlund had a two-person show there in August, and together they have chaired the RAL Labor Day Show. Ramey had her own show at the Bay School Cultural Arts Center in Mathews in 2004 and at RW-C in 2001. She has exhibited in several museums and corporations and has won ribbons for her work.

Retired as a telecommunications administrator for Washington Gas, a public utility, Ramey moved from Northern Virginia to the Northern Neck in 1994 and began taking lessons with the art league. She has studied with Helen Dilly Barsalou, Jim Hazel, Jim Pitman, Al Stine, Brian Ateo and Kathleen Noffsinger.

In 2002, she won the "Save the Turtle" poster competition sponsored by the Bay School Arts Center and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the original hangs in the VIMS museum lobby. She was a contributing artist in "Celebrate the Chesapeake," a play presented by the Playwrights Premiere Theatre in Williamsburg in 2004. Her art was chosen for the cover of a cookbook created by Wendy Diehl as a fund-raiser for a Richmond hospital.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to have my work shown at RW-C," said Ramey. Browsing is encouraged from 10 a.m. to 4

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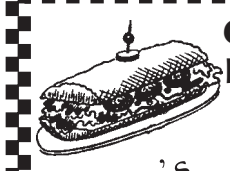

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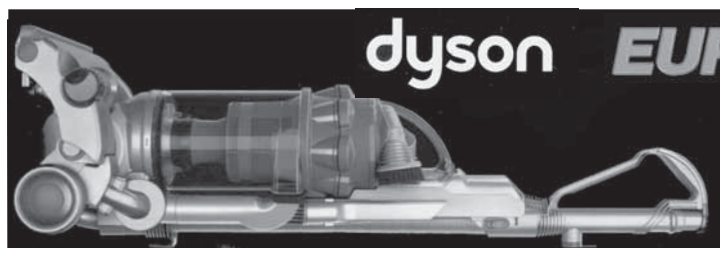

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Jefferson Jackson Dinner is Feb. 11 in Richmond

The 2006 Jefferson Jackson Dinner to benefit the Democratic Party of Virginia will be held February 11 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center at 403 North Third Street in Richmond.

The keynote speaker will be Gov. Edward G. Rendell of Pennsylvania. Gov. Timothy Kaine also may speak.

A patrons reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., a general reception with cash bar will begin at 6 p.m., and the dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Individual tickets are $165 each. Student tickets are $65 each.

Several contribution levels offer a variety of perks.

Those who contribute at the Jefferson Club ($5,000) level will receive a table for 10 at dinner, a table placard with name, program recognition and six tickets to the patrons reception; Jackson Club ($2,500), a table for 10 at dinner, table placard with name, program recognition and four tickets to the patrons reception; Table Sponsor ($2,000), a table for 10 at dinner, table placard with name, program recognition and two ticket to the patrons reception; Patron, ($1,000), two tickets to dinner, program recognition and two tickets to the patrons reception.

Checks must be made to the Democratic Party of Virginia. MasterCard, VISA and Discover will be accepted. For tickets, call executive director Lindsey Reynolds at 644-1966, ext. 237.

After-dinner entertainment includes a reception hosted by U.S. Senate candidate Harris Miller. For every dinner ticket purchased, patrons will receive a ticket to the "JJAfter Dark" reception, which also will be held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

This Side of 60

by Marie Snider

Laughter is powerful

Good health is a blessing. A blessing I enjoy at this point in my life. But at the same time, I know good health is a precarious commodity. In a blink of an eye, I could get sick or have a serious accident.

So, I do everything I can to stay healthy. I eat plenty of bananas, oranges, spinach, oatmeal, avocadoes, pomegranates, nuts, dark chocolate, beans, brown rice, salmon and other healthy foods. And I try to drink eight glasses of water a day.

For exercise, I participate in water aerobics and tai chi classes. I try to have loads of friends. I also enjoy my extended family and my larger community.

But most of all, I make sure that I have lots of laughter in my life. Which isn't difficult for me, because I grew up in a laughing family.

My father was a jokester in the best sense of the word. My uncles and aunts and all of my cousins laugh frequently. And the only grandmother I remember always told funny stories and had a hearty laugh.

So I'm one of the lucky ones. Because, today we know that laughter is good for preserving your health and for coming back to health after illness.

"Laughter is very powerful medicine," said Herbert Lingren, Extension family scientist of the University of Nebraska. "It can lower stress, dissolve anger and unite families in their resolve to overcome troubled times."

Laughter reduces stress. It can lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, improve brain function, safeguard the heart, fight infections and activate the will to live.

A hearty laugh can also relieve depression and sometimes helps with pain. Laughing helps you cope with the difficulties life presents to you. It may even help increase your social support network. Because everybody likes people who laugh and make them laugh.

And, although not a substitute for regular exercise, hearty laughter is as good for you as walking or using a rowing machine. It is often called "internal jogging." And, just like a workout, laughing activates endorphins and makes you feel good.

To help your laugh, experts offer these suggestions:

• choose friends that laugh a lot and laugh with them.

• rent funny movies and watch old sit-coms.

• write down funny jokes and tell them at the right times.

• laugh instead of crying when you fall down, if you aren't badly hurt.

• program some fun into every day—whatever makes you laugh or smile.

• take a "laugh break" instead of a coffee break.

If all else fails, just say "tee-hee," then "ha-ha," then "ho-ho." And before you know it, you'll be laughing.

Children laugh 300 times a day. Adults only 17. Rediscover the child inside you and a sense of humor will follow.

Remember, laughter is powerful medicine, with no side effects.

Copyright 2005 Marie Snider

Answers on Aging

Will Medicare benefits cover a colonoscopy and what does the procedure involve?

During a colonoscopy, the doctor uses a long tube to check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and the entire colon. During the test, most polyps can be found and removed, as well as some cancers.

You will be given medication to help you relax and are advised not to drive or work on the day of the exam.

Medicare covers the procedure every 10 years, if you are not at high risk for colorectal cancer, and covers every two years if you are at high risk. There is no age limit for colonoscopy. You pay 20 percent of the Medicare approved amount after the annual Part B deductible.

There are several tests that can be used to detect polyps or colorectal cancer. These include a fecal occult blood test or stool test, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and barium enema. Each test can be given individually or they are occasionally used in combination.

People ages 50 and older who have Medicare benefits are eligible for colorectal cancer screening.

There is no age limit for colonoscopy. Colonoscopy may also be used as a follow-up test if something unusual is detected during one of the other screening tests. Medicare covers follow-up colonoscopy.

To find more information on Medicare and a list of local services available to seniors, their families and caregivers, visit www.seniornavigator.org.

Fresh Air Fund seeks volunteers

The Fresh Air Fund is seeking committee members and host families to ensure that summer 2006 is special for New York City children.

Each summer, close to 5,000 children, ages 6 to 18, enjoy two-week vacations with volunteer host families in suburban and small town communities across 13 northeastern states from Maine to Virginia and in Ontario, Canada. Local Fresh Air Fund volunteers recruit and interview host families, check references and coordinate Friendly Town Program activities in their communities.

In 2006, the fund continues its 129-year-old tradition of serving children with a wide variety of special events and volunteer opportunities. To join the local Fresh Air volunteer team, call Mary Beth Deutsch at 285-3354, or The Fresh Air Fund at 800-367-0003, or visit www.freshair.org.

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80 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, Virginia

Reaching for the block, Brandon Webb of Northumberland goes up to defend Lancaster's Jamie Veney during a varsity game last Friday.

Devils' drive for sole possession of first place derailed by Indians

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Lancaster's mission last Tuesday was to get a lock on first place in the Northern Neck District.

Turns out, it was a mission impossible. Northumberland's varsity boys took a 14-point victory over the homestanding Devils.

With the 64-50 win, the Indians are now tied for first with Lancaster. Both teams have one district loss heading into the final two weeks of regular season play.

Lancaster is 6-7 overall and 3-1 in the league and will host Washington & Lee Friday, February 3.

The Devils got in trouble early during last Tuesday's match-up against the Indians, going on a five-minute dry spell in the first quarter. After getting a stick-back by Curtis Henderson to open the scoring, Lancaster struggled to hit anything from the field for most of the period, getting just one more field goal from Andre Henderson late in the quarter.

The Indians put up a 17-point first-period run, then gave up four unanswered points to the Devils in the second quarter, but held a comfortable eight-point lead at the half.

Lancaster opened the second half with a 7-4 run and cut the Indian lead to five, the smallest margin since early in the first period.

Outnumbered four to one, Lancaster's Montel Mitchell is surrounded by Northumberland defenders Kyle Jones (20), Brandon Webb (15), Brian Seymour (42) and Tony Stocks (3).

Northumberland stayed ahead with some accurate foul shooting in the fourth, hitting 12 of 15 free throws.

"I feel like if we hadn't turned the ball over as many times as we did, we could have had a shot at [Northumberland]," said LHS coach Brance Holmes.

Lancaster's Andre Henderson led all scorers with 20 points, 12 of them coming in the second half when the Devils matched the Indians point-for-point, 38-38.

Montel Mitchell chipped in 15 points, including 14 in the second half.

The Indians had four scorers in double figures including Brian Seymour with 15, Kyle Jones with 12, Phillip Brooks with 11 and Lavar Rich with 10.

The Indians' towers inside, Webb and Jonathan Veney, helped to shut down Lancaster's Jamie Veney.

"We really have to play together better in the next two weeks," said Holmes. "We have to play defense and rebound and play smarter down the road."

Northumberland . 17 9 14 24 - 64
Lancaster ..... 5 13 16 16 - 50

Northumberland — T. Henderson 8, Mitchell 15, C. Henderson 4, Veney 0, Saunders 3, A. Henderson 20, Rice 0, R. Laws 0. Three-point goals: T. Henderson 2.

Northumberland — Carter 0, Stocks 11, Brooks 0, Webb 4, Jones 12, Veney 6, Palmer 2, Brunt 2, Rich 10, B. Seymour 15.

Scoreboard

Varsity boys basketball
Northumberland 64, Lancaster 50

JV boys basketball
Lancaster 58, Northumberland 48

Varsity girls basketball
Northumberland 64, Lancaster 37

JV girls basketball
Lancaster 40, Northumberland 35

Wrestling
Lancaster def. Amelia, 52–13
Lancaster def. Stafford, 41–23

Upcoming Games

Boys basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
February 3:
Northumberland at Essex
W&L at Lancaster
February 7:
Northumberland at W&L
Rappahannock at Lancaster

Girls basketball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
February 2:
Essex at Northumberland
Lancaster at W&L
February 7:
W&L at Northumberland
February 9:
Northumberland at Lancaster

Wrestling
(Lancaster High's home matches held at LMS)
February 4:
Northumberland at Parry McCluer Tournament

Lady Indians beat Devils by 27 points

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The Lady Indians outpaced Lancaster by 26 points in the first half and cruised to a 64-37 win in Northern Neck District varsity basketball last Tuesday.

Shannon Thomas had the game-high 15 points to lead three double-digit scores for Northumberland, which outscored Lancaster 18-6 in the first quarter, then put up another 14 points in the second quarter for a 41-15 lead at the break.

Tykia Thomas scored 12 points and Sydnee Baker put up 10 for the Indians.

Lancaster, which finally broke double digit scoring with 13 points in the fourth quarter, got nine points from leading scorer Tyesha Harvey.

Rayna Randle added seven points for the Lady Devils, who fell to 1-3 in the district and 2-7 overall.

Lancaster will go to Washington & Lee tonight (February 2) and has three games remaining in regular season play.

Lancaster 6 9 9 13-37
Northumberland .18 23 13 10-64

Lancaster — Jones 2, Harvey 9, Wiggins 1, M. Smith 2, A. Smith 3, Crockett 0, Crippen 1, Randle 7, Jones 0. Three-point goals: Crippen.

Northumberland — Lewis 15, Messick 4, Jones 1, Taylor 5, Thomas 12, Saunders 1, Stevenson 6, Wilkins 0, Fulchon 3, Baker 10. Three-point goals: Messick 3, Jones, Taylor.

JV Lady Devils protect unmarred district record

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The JV Lady Devils used a swarming defense in the last three minutes to overcome a deficit and edge Northumberland, 40-35, while remaining unbeaten in Northern Neck District girls basketball.

Lancaster is in first place in the league at 4-0 and 8-1 overall going into the second round of district play.

Last week's game was Lancaster's smallest margin of victory this season. It's only loss came early to Charles City.

The Lady Devils trailed by two going into the fourth quarter when they mounted a 10-3 run.

Lancaster kicked up the full-court press that they'd run all night to hold the Lady Indians to a single field goal by Tiffany Raines in the quarter. The Devils held Northumberland scoreless for the final three minutes.

"Northumberland just ran out of gas," said LHS coach Eddie Hall. "Their legs got tired and we kept up the pressure."

Lancaster could have widened its five-point lead at the foul line in the fourth quarter, but hit only 3 of 10 free shots. For the night, the Devils sank 5 of 18.

"We're a good team other than for the fact we can't shoot free throws," said Hall. "That's our Achilles heel right now. We're shooting 33 percent as a team."

Eighth-grader Andrea White is not having trouble connecting from the field. She paced the Devils last Tuesday with 15 points and is averaging 19.8 points per outing.

Shiffon Beane, Jazmine Moody and Jackie Dawson contributed eight points each for Lancaster.

Northumberland's Ciara Turner led all scorers with 16. She did most of her work in the third quarter, scoring 12 points to help keep the Indians in the game.

The Lady Devils go to Washington & Lee tonight (February 2) and cap regular season play next week.

Lancaster..... 8 11 11 10-40
Northumberland ... 8 8 16 3-35

Lancaster — White 15, Beane 8, Moody 8, Yerby 1, Dawson 8. Three-point goals: Beane 2, Moody.

Northumberland — Sutton 2, Howard 1, Carter 6, Turner 16, Jones 2, Raines 8.

Jonathan Somers goes against a Northumberland defender to score two of his eight points during a JV game last Tuesday.

JV Devils enter the back stretch unbeaten

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The JV Devils remain unbeaten halfway through their Northern Neck District schedule with a lock on first place in boys basketball.

Lancaster rode a seven point first-quarter lead to a 58-48 win over Northumberland last Tuesday night to improve to 4-0 in the district and 9-2 overall with four games remaining in the regular season. The Devils will host Washington & Lee Friday, February 3.

Nick Gibson scored all nine of his points in the first half to help give Lancaster a 33-22 first-half advantage.

Gibson, Travis Baker and Jonathon Somers scored five points each in a 17-10 first-quarter run for Lancaster.

Baker scored 15 points and Quenton Henderson 12 to lead the homestanding Devils, who got a boost at the foul line by connecting on 68 percent (13 of 19) of their free throws. Henderson was perfect at the line, sinking all six of his shots.

Javan Scott scored 13 points and Chris Ball 12 to lead Northumberland.

Northumberland . 10 12 15 11 - 48
Lancaster ..... 17 15 14 12 - 58

Northumberland — Brunt 2, Diggs 9, Scott 13, Ball 12, Parker 6, Deihl 6. Three-point goals: Diggs, Scott.

Lancaster — Gibson 9, Veney 0, Christman 5, Betts 4, Moore 0, Tiggle 0, Thomas 2, Henderson 12, Baker 13, Kuykendall 4, Somers 8. Three-point goals: Henderson 2, Baker, Gibson.

THE RECORD ONLINE www.rrecord.com

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

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′
Sat	**2/4**	Sunrise	7:07	High	3:53	1.5′
		Moonrise	10:33	Low	10:35	0.0′
		Sunset	**5:33**	High	**4:16**	1.3′
				Low	**10:39**	-0.1′
Sun	**2/5**	Moonset	12:59	High	4:53	1.5′
		Sunrise	7:06	Low	11:39	0.1′
		Moonrise	11:05	High	**5:16**	1.1′
1st Q. - 1:29		Sunset	**5:34**	Low	**11:36**	0.0′
Mon	**2/6**	Moonset	2:08	High	5:57	1.4′
		Sunrise	7:05	Low	**12:46**	0.1′
		Moonrise	11:42	High	**6:19**	1.1′
		Sunset	**5:35**			
Tue	**2/7**	Moonset	3:13	Low	12:37	0.0′
		Sunrise	7:04	High	7:04	1.4′
		Moonrise	**12:25**	Low	**1:52**	0.2′
		Sunset	**5:36**	High	**7:24**	1.1′
Wed	**2/8**	Moonset	4:13	Low	1:40	0.1′
		Sunrise	7:03	High	8:09	1.4′
		Moonrise	**1:16**	Low	**2:53**	0.2′
		Sunset	**5:37**	High	**8:25**	1.1′
Thu	**2/9**	Moonset	5:06	Low	2:39	0.0′
		Sunrise	7:02	High	9:05	1.4′
		Moonrise	**2:13**	Low	**3:45**	0.1′
		Sunset	**5:38**	High	**9:18**	1.1′
Fri	**2/10**	Moonset	5:51	Low	3:33	0.0′
		Sunrise	7:01	High	9:54	1.4′
		Moonrise	**3:13**	Low	**4:30**	0.1′
		Sunset	**5:39**	High	**10:05**	1.2′

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

PM times are in **boldface type**.
Unusually high & low tides are also in **boldface**.
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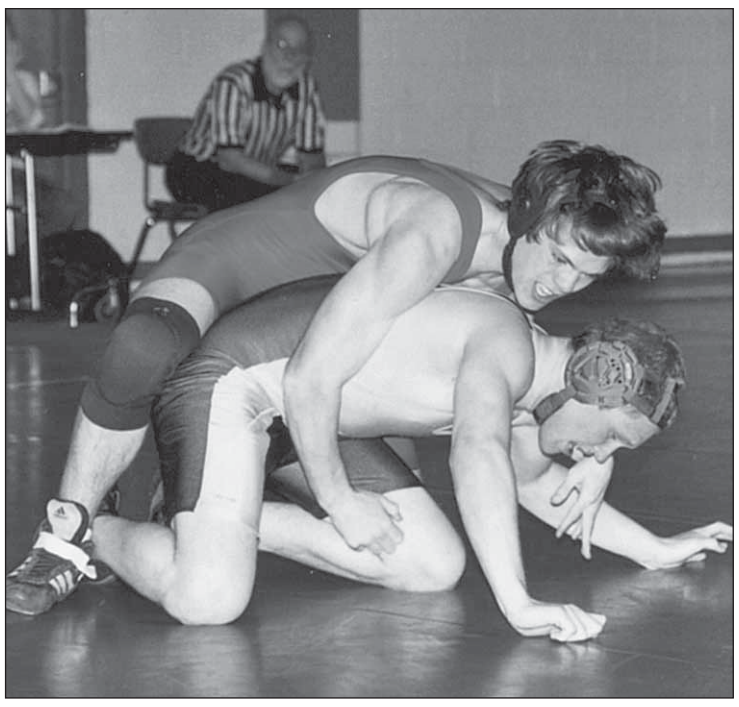


Daniel Robertson of Lancaster gets an advantage over his opponent from Amelia during a quad last Friday.

Ibraheem Bullock beats his Amelia opponent to go 1-1 for Lancaster in a quad last week.

LHS grapplers pin Stafford and Amelia

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Despite having injury holes in the lineup, Lancaster High's wrestlers picked up a pair of non-district wins last Friday, including one over Group AAA Stafford, to improve to 14-2 overall.

The Devils are unbeaten in Northern Neck District and Region A competition.

"We had a lot of empty [classes] due to injuries," said coach Craig Oren. "I was impressed by the way the team responded. The guys picked up the slack for the wrestlers we were missing enough to beat a triple A team."

Lancaster beat Group A Amelia County, 52-13, and Stafford, 41-23, in the home quad.

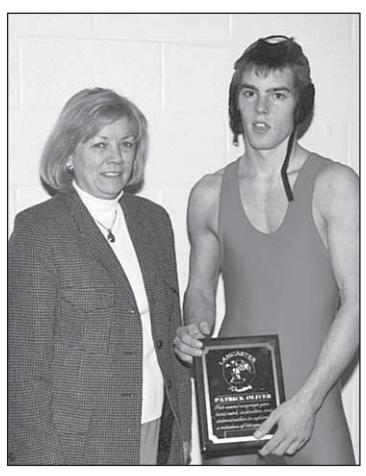
Patrick Oliver (125), Sven-Eric Woelhk (130), Thomas Frere (140), Robert Lally (145), Gary Wardlaw (171) and Louis Santangelo (189) all went 2-0 to lead the Devils.

Oliver, a senior, picked up his 100th career win during the match with Amelia.

Lally, who was bumped up to wrestle at 145, secured his second win of the night in overtime against one of Stafford High's best wrestlers, according to Oren.

Wardlaw was also bumped up a class to 171 and came away with a tech fall and pin.

Santangelo, who's been out for two weeks recovering from oral surgery, came back to go unbeaten.



Lancaster High principal Sandra Spears presents wrestler Patrick Oliver a plaque commemorating his 100th career victory.

Renan Beltram (215), who was also out sick most of last week, "surprisedly wrestled the best he's wrestled all year," said Oren. Beltram went 1-1.

Daniel Robertson also went 1-1 in the 160 weight class and Justin Culpeper went 1-1 among heavyweights.

"Justin is improving every week," said Oren. "By region time, hopefully he'll be in a position to qualify for states."

The Devils will host another quadrangular with Arcadia, Northumberland and York February 10 in preparation for the sub-regional tournament at Mathews February 18.

Major sponsor renews raceway commitment

Virginia Motor Speedway (VMS) officials last week announced that Thurston Spring Service Inc. will continue their support of weekly racing at the half-mile dirt track near Saluda.

"We are very excited to continue our association with Thurston Spring Service Inc. and Bill Thurston," said VMS general manager Clarke Sawyer. "We are blessed to be associated with someone of Billy's caliber. He is a tremendous businessperson, but more importantly a tremendous person. Billy has supported weekly racing in the area for many years now and we are ecstatic that he will be continuing his relationship with our speedway."

For the 2006 season, Thurston Spring Service Inc. will continue as the title sponsor of the VMS dirt series, the Thurston Spring Service Dirt Series Championship.

Thurston Spring Service Inc. also will continue to sponsor five special events. Tentatively scheduled are the World of Outlaws Late Models April 8, the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series June 24, the MACS Series August 19, the O'Reilly Auto Parts ASCS National Sprint Car Tour May 27 and the AMA Grand National Motorcycles July 15.

"I am very excited about continuing my relationship with VMS and once again being associated with the great special events that have been scheduled for the 2006 season," said Thurston. "I am equally excited and proud about our continued support of the Dirt Series Championship program. It is a one-of-a-kind program."

The Thurston Spring Service Dirt Series Championship pits all five of the track's divisions against each other to crown one overall champion. A competitor must compete in 80 percent of the races for each division with each driver's best 10 races used to determine a winner. No dirt series champion to date has won the title by more than three points.

The 2006 season gets under way March 25 with an open practice for all divisions. Opening night is April 1.

Thurston Spring Service Inc., specializing in spring and suspension works since 1911, is at 314 W. 7th Street in Richmond.

Virginia Motor Speedway is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda and 25 miles south of Tappahannock.

For a 2006 schedule of events, call 758-1867, or visit www.vamotorspeedway.com.

Little League registration opens Feb. 11

Registration for the 2006 Lancaster County Little League ball season will be held at Dream Fields February 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., February 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. and February 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All children ages 5 to 18 whose parents live in the Lancaster County Little League boundaries are urged to register. A boundary map will be available at registration. The registration fee is $35. No child will be turned away.

New players are asked to bring their original birth certificate. Some returning players may also be asked to provide a birth certificate.

All persons registering are also asked to bring proof of residence. Acceptable forms of proof of residence are current phone or electric bills, tax bill, photo ID with physical address, or any official document which includes the physical address.

The Lancaster County Little League will offer T-ball for ages 5 to 6 years, coach pitch for ages 7 to 9 years, minor baseball and softball for ages 13 and 14 years and senior baseball and softball for ages 15 and 16 years and big league baseball for ages 17 to 18 years.

To volunteer with Little League, visit Dream Fields during registration. Positions available include team managers, team coaches and umpires. Participation ensures that Lancaster County youth will enjoy an instructive, fun and competitive ball season.

Bridge Results

Six tables of bridge were in play January 26 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Dianne Monroe; second, Ilva Doggett and Carolyn Reed; and third, Helen Hopton and Teensa Williams.

Winners east/west were first, Kay Williams and Janey Eppes; second, Helen Kinne and Joy Straughan; and third, Kay and Les Inskeep.

The next bridge for this group is February 2.

Eight duplicate pairs played the Howell Movement January 23 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners were first, Judy Peifer and Virginia Adair; and second, (tie) Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams and Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard.

The next bridge for this group is February 8 at 1 p.m.

Six tables of bridge were in play January 29, at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard; second, Peggy Dent and Kate Frayne; and third, Arden Durham and Jane Hughes.

Winners east/west were first, Margaret Livesay and Suzi Winters; second, Judy Piefer and Ginger Klapp; and third, Liz Hargett and Tot Winstead.

The next bridge for this group is February 14.

Sports Shorts

■ Basketball camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp in Blacksburg. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. For a free brochure, call 704-373-0873.

Returning champions

From left, members of the 1996 Northumberland High School Group A champion basketball team include (front row) James Keeve, Antwan Taylor, Tony Booth, Terrill Diggs and Calvin Redmond; (next row) Troy Taylor, coach Jimmie Jett, coach Donn Belfield, coach Darrell Long and Marcel Jones. They returned to the school last Friday night for a 10-year reunion. Some 92 guests attended the reception for the championship team.

Flotilla 3-10 earns awards

At a recent awards ceremony in Richmond, Flotilla 3-10 and two of its members received awards.

The Division "Flotilla of the Year Award—First Place" was awarded to Flotilla 3-10.

George Schluderman of Callao won the "Crewperson of the Year" award with nearly 200 hours on patrol and training missions. Tom Courtless of Reedville was named "Member Trainer of the Year."

Rear Commodore of Sector Baltimore awarded Flotilla 3-10 and eighteen of its members "Certificates of Excellence" for their support of Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes in the areas of safety patrols, search and rescue, aids to navigation, and communications.

To join Flotilla 3-10, call Wayne Ploger at 472-3835, Oliver Knight at 529-6039, or Alvin Lynn at 445-9794.

YMCA News

The following programs are planned by the Northern Neck Family YMCA at the Harris Family Center on William B. Graham Court in Kilmarnock. Financial assistance may be available. Call 435-0223.

Parents night out

A Valentine's Day parents night out will be held February 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. Activities planned for ages 5 to 12 include dinner, games and a movie. The fee is $15 for members and $20 for others.

Computer skills

A basic computer skills course on Saturdays starts February 11 at 10 a.m. The fee is $50 for members and $60 for others. Required test is extra.

Movies

A family movie night featuring "The Sword in the Stone" will be held February 25 at 6 p.m. The fee is $2 for members and $3 for others.

Health and fitness

Free health and fitness assessments will be offered February 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 18 and older. Call for an appointment.

Yard Sale

A yard sale to benefit the afterschool program will be held February 11 from 7 a.m. to noon.

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From left are 2nd Lt. Bob Evans and Maj. Frank Evans.

From left are Staff Sgt. Lamica Lockley and Maj. Frank Bernhardt.

Squadron notes promotions

The Hummell Field Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol recently announced two promotions.

Cadet Sr. Airman Lamica Lockley of Gloucester received the Wright Brothers Achievement and promotion to staff sergeant.

The award marks the completion of the first Leadership Lab and is the first of a number of Milestone awards that cadets work to achieve. Lockley is the second Cadet with the Hummel Field Squadron to earn the Wright Brothers Achievement.

Senior member Bob Evans of Gloucester was promoted to second lieutenant. Lt. Evans serves as the safety officer and aerospace education officer.

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

Bowling Results

Ladies League

TCH Oil won two games against Yeatman's Forklift when Marie Piccard bowled a 312 set with two games of 109. Vicki White rolled a 310 set with a 129 game. Vivian Callaway had games of 105 and 110 and Sandra Evans rolled a 129 game. For Yeatman's, Myrtle Royall bowled a 321 set with games of 102, 108 and 111. Alma George rolled a 309 set with games of 106 and 109. Pat Harris had a 106 game and Heather Hundley rolled a game of 102.

Callis Seafood won two games against Lively Oaks when Gayle Conrad bowled a 333 set with games of 114 and 126. Mary Savalina rolled a 305 set with games of 102 and 108. Donna Thomas had a 302 set with a 116 game. Betty Evans rolled a 120 game. For Lively Oaks, Debbie Dodson bowled a 336 set with games of 106, 113 and 117. Nancy Caster rolled a 322 set with games of 105, 105 and 112. Jean Reynolds had a 303 set with a 133 game and Patsy Headley had a game of 119.

R.P. Waller won three games against Abby when Marsha Nash bowled a 341 set with games of 114 and 131. Ola Nash had a 308 set with games of 108 and 119. Bea Hodge had games of 105 and 109 and Dee Atkins rolled a 112 game.

Young Country won two games against Northern Neck Surgical when Betty Steffey bowled a 378 set with games of 117,125 and 136. Theresa Davis rolled a 319 set with games of 110 and 113. Cathy Savalina had a 300 set with games of 101 and 102. Jo Anne Paulette bowled a 110 game and Linda Lake rolled a 107 game. For N.N. Surgical, Bev Benson had a 318 set with games of 110 and 116. Elsie Rose rolled a 313 set with games of 109 and 111.

High game: Nancy Carter, 114; Sandra Evans, 109; Terry Stillman, 108.

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

High team game: TCH Oil, 670; Young Country, 612; Yeatman's, 571.

High team set: TCH Oil, 1,770; Young Country, 1,698; Lively Oaks, 1,601.

High average: Betty Steffey, 114; Sandra Evans, 109; Terry Stillman, 108.

Standings

	W	L
R.P. Waller	3	0
Young Country	2	1
Callis Seafood	2	1
TCH Oil	2	1
N.N. Surgical	1	2
Lively Oaks	1	2
Yeatman's	1	2
Abby	0	3

Men's Bowling League

On January 26, H&S Printing won three games against Sal's Pizza. For H&S, Louis Coates bowled the high set of the week of 449 with games of 162, 156 and 131. George Lee rolled games of 141, 134 and 116 in a 391 set. John Hollowell had a 106 game. For Sal's, Bob Huff bowled the high set of 337 with a 124 game. Bill Hendershot rolled a 116 game and Clay Gill had a 112 game.

Cap'n John's won two games and lost one against D&L Marine Construction. For Cap'n John's, Ernie George bowled the high set of 415 with games of 170, 111 and 134. Ryan Dawson rolled games of 121 and 155 in a 384 set. Herbert Hammock had a 147 game and Benny Balderson had a 124 game. For D&L, Doug Hundley bowled the high set of 349 with a 129 game. Mark Obsharsky rolled games of 115 and 120. Dana Stillman had a game of 112.

Evans Bowling Center won two games and lost one against J&J Construction. For Evans, Richard Savalina bowled the high set of 350 with a 132 game. Bunks Mitchell rolled a 123 game. Woodie Evans had a 118 game.

For J&J, Steve Edwards bowled the high set of 351 with a 132 game. Curly Lewis rolled a game of 139 in a 350 set. Roland Lewis had a game of 135.

On January 19, Evans Bowling Center won three games against D&L Marine Construction. For Evans, John Forrester bowled the high set of the week of 393 with games of 137 and 149. Wilson Evans rolled games of 117, 132 and 117 in a 366 set. Bunks Mitchell had games of 120 and 133. Richard Savalina rolled a 128 game. For D&L, Doug Hundley bowled the high set of 341 with a 122 game. Steve Hinson had a game of 143.

J&J Construction won two games and lost one against H&S Printing. For J&J, Curly Lewis had the high set of 391 with games of 138, 110 and 143. Steve Edwards rolled a 133 game. Roland Lewis had a 117 game. For H&S, Louis Coates bowled the high set of 374 with games of 137, 110 and 127. George Lee rolled a 123 game. Gary Hodge had a 115 game.

Sal's Pizza won two games and lost one against Cap'n John's when Bill Hendershot bowled the high set of 361 with games of 119, 134 and 108. Justin George rolled a 121 game and Bob Huff had games of 118 and 117. For Cap'n John's, Herbert Hammock bowled the high set of 366 with games of 143, 125 and 128. Ernie George rolled games of 131 and 132, Joe Hinson had a 111 game and Harry Donavon bowled a game of 110.

High game: Curly Lewis, 179; Ernie George, 170; Herbert Hammock, 167; Bob Huff, 166; Ryan Dawson, 165.

High set: Louis Coates, 457; Ernie George, 415; Wayne Condrey, 413; Curly Lewis, 409; Bob Huff, 404.

High team game: Cap'n John's, 560; Sal's, 523; D&L, 508; J&J and H&S, 506; Evans, 502.

High team set: Sal's, 1,471; Cap'n John's, 1,446; H&S, 1,438; D&L, 1,429; Evans, 1,427; J&J, 1,416.

High average: Louis Coates, 138; Wayne Condrey, 120; Curley Lewis and Bill Hendershot, 119; Ryan Dawson, Wilson Evans and Herbert Hammock, 117.

Standings

	W	L
Evans Bowling	8	1
Cap'n John's	5	4
H&S Printing	5	4
J&J Const.	4	5
D&L Marine	3	6
Sal's Pizza	2	7

Mixed League

Woodie's Angels reached first place for the first half of the season when they won three games against the Guys and Dolls. Woodie Evans bowled a 146 game in a 383 set, Betty Steffey had a 141 game in a 373 set. Beverly Benson had a 351 set and Theresa Davis had a 340 set. For the Guys and Dolls, Marie Piccard bowled a 332 set, John Forrester a 313 set. Cathy Savalina had a 107 game and Elsie Rose rolled a 104 game. Woodie's Angels and Guys and Dolls ended the half with the same record, but Woodie's Angels won on pin fall.

All in Fun won three games against the Untouchables when Vergil Henderson bowled a 300 set. Elsie Henderson rolled a 297 set and Harry Donavan had a 293 set. For the Untouchables, Kenny Kent bowled a 341 set. Mary Kent rolled a 324 set and Gladys Sisson had a 102 game.

High game: John Forrester, 158; Betty Steffey, 157; Gladys Sisson,156; Kenny Kent, 146; Beverly Benson, 142; Raymond Sisson, 140.

High set: Betty Steffey, 409; John Forrester, 408; Gladys Sisson and Kenny Kent, 395; Woodie Evans, 383; Marie Piccard, 375; Raymond Sisson, 370.

High average; Kenny Kent, 116; John Forrester, 113; Betty Steffey, 110; Raymond Sisson, 109; Theresa Davis, Gladys Sisson and Woodie Evans, 108.

Standings

	W	L
Woodie's Angels	28	23
Guys & Dolls	28	23
Untouchables	23	28
All in Fun	23	28

Audubon birding class, meeting set for Monday

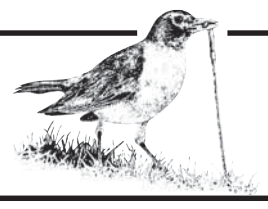
The Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) will offer the first in a series of five free birding classes at 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 6. The class will be followed by the regular NNAS monthly meeting which starts with refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

The two-part class, "The Value of Birds and Introduction to Bird Identification," will be conducted by wildlife biologist Sandy Spencer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the first part, Spencer will discuss the value of birds to ecology and society, why their conservation is important, the current threats they face, and how learning to identify birds can contribute to their conservation.

The second part will include a broad overview of how to organize the study of birds; some examples of visual, vocal and behavioral clues; and a description of some good study resources and materials.

At the meeting, the guest speaker will be Peggy Spiegel, a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, who will present "The Dashing World of the Hummingbird." A resident of Pearisburg, Spiegel also serves as the field trip chairperson of the New River Valley Bird Club and as events coordinator for the annual Mountain Migratory Bird Festival. She will give a slide presentation illustrating different varieties of hummingbirds and discuss ways to attract them.

Both the class, which is open to all area residents and requires no pre-registration, and the meeting will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. For more information regarding the birding classes, call Jim Groff at 453-5891.



Window On Wildlife

by Joyce Fitchett Russell

Are you looking for spring?

There are signs everywhere that it's coming. Look at grass greening and shrubs budding. Some tiny flowers are blooming beside our back step. Some are white, others, blue.

Birds are changing too. To attract the attention of females, the males of some species have brighter feathers. Male goldfinches are turning bright yellow, for example.

Some birds are singing to their chosen females, like cardinals; others may offer food or bring nesting material. Male doves chase females around the yard.

In the backyard, a flock of red-winged blackbirds forage for insects. The male birds are black with stripes on their wings of yellow and red, to appeal to females.

Wood Thrush

We also had a rare songbird at our sanctuary this week; it was a grey wood thrush.

These are all sure signs that spring is on the way!

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Annual Sundays at Two lecture series offers a variety of programs

KILMARNOCK—The first three programs of Lancaster Community Library's Sundays at Two lecture series drew full houses.

Bonnie Rumsey opened the series January 8 with "Exploring Ethnic China," a photo-lecture of her journey to Guizhou Province in China, where she photographed Miao and H'mong ethnic minority people.

Hiking through the mountains to remote villages, Rumsey captured images of the stunning vistas as well as the villagers in their everyday life activities.

Particularly interesting, according to Marianne Henderson, was the coming-of-age ceremony where the young people dress in their finest embroidered costumes and silver headwear and ornaments. Rumsey displayed an assortment of these wearable art textiles that she collected on her journey. She also noted that the basic accommodations, by western standards, were far offset by the experience of being greeted with music and drums by welcoming villagers who were most hospitable to their visitors.

During the cultural revolution, the culture of these minorities was repressed, but they were able to retain the important elements of their lives: animist religion, music, clothing and festivals. Now they are confronted with another threat to their ancient traditions. They are concerned about their young people going to larger cities where work is available and not returning to the village to continue the old way of life.

Bonnie Rumsey explains the customs and colorful clothing of the Miao, an ethnic minority in remote China, during their coming-of-age ceremony.

On January 15, Brian Latell gave a talk on "After Fidel: The Inside Story," the subject of his latest book. He shared psychological profiles of Fidel and his brother, Raul, based on his work in the intelligence and academic communities as a Latin American and Caribbean expert, on extensive research, and on interviews with various Castro intimates.

Dr. Latell described Fidel as an extraordinary child—headstrong, determined, intimidating, and willing to use violence. Very early he felt a sense of power and destiny. His heroes were all conquerors. Dr. Latell stated that in addition to his military acumen, Castro has a spectacular intellect and a photographic memory. He is a voracious reader and can speak knowledgeably with anyone in the world about any subject. He always felt psychologically and emotionally autonomous and never sought an older advisor or mentor. He is essentially without a conscience and has lived by the sword all his life. He has a pathological hatred of the United States and has been and is a daunting presence in Latin American affairs.

Dr. Latell said that on the other hand, Raul, five years younger and Castro's defense minister and right-hand man, is his brother's opposite—awkward, unsure of himself in public communication, neither charismatic nor intellectual, likes inconsequential reading material, prefers short reports and briefings, is feared and disliked by the Cuban populace, and is an unreformed alcoholic. Yet, he is the designated successor; there has never been a third man.

Dr. Latell concluded by saying that he is certain that even at 79 and with Parkinson's disease, there is no chance for rapprochement with the U.S. as long as Fidel Castro lives, and whether Raul can stay in power, or whether the revolution will die or stay after his death, is impossible to predict.

Brian Latell (left) autographs a copy of his book for Bob Hedges.

The problem of the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay was the topic of Albert Pollard's lecture "Where is the Pollution Coming from? Our Best Guess" on January 22. He described how the nutrient and sediment types of pollution cause algae blooms that eventually rob the bay of oxygen, which in turn curtails the number of fish.

He offered a detailed view of how pollution is measured in terms of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment and where these sources of pollution originate.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed covers over 64,000 square miles, encompassing six states, and over 300 local jurisdictions where the population has doubled in the last 50 years. This vast amount of land has a tremendous effect on the volume of water in the bay.

He then showed how the pollution situation has been improving over the past 20 years. Efforts by the states such as sewage treatment upgrades resulted in significant progress from 1985 to 2002.

In recent years, however, there has been a slowing of momentum and it is not anticipated that the goals set for 2010 will be met. Agriculture, the largest source of pollution, needs particular addressing, as half of the phosphorus and nitrogen on the land is in agriculture because of manure and fertilizers. However, the states are aggressively pursuing more cost-effective programs to help the farmers.

Albert Pollard makes a point about the causes of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

The series continues February 12, when Phyllis McClure will discuss "Rosenwald Schools in the Northern Neck."

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

On March 5, Margaret Devinney will discuss "Mythology: How the Ancients Viewed the World."

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

▼ *Menhaden . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

seemed to find the argument compelling enough to risk a fight. Because they chose to table Del. John Cosgrove's bill, which would have made the ASMFC cap enforceable under state law, the Commonwealth now faces legal action from the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

The entire ASMFC – not just the menhaden management board – must first vote to find Omega out of compliance.

Then, if the Secretary of Commerce finds the state at fault, he has the authority to impose a moratorium on the entire fishery. But the industry is relying on history to save it from that threat. In three prior cases, the Secretary has heard from both sides and made a decision without shutting down the fishery.

"I am concerned that we are playing chicken with the feds," Del. Cosgrove said.

Del. Wittman reasoned that a fight was coming either way. If the legislature adopted the limit, Omega would sue. If it didn't adopt the limit, the ASMFC would sue. Either way, he said, Virginia was bound to end up in federal court debating this cap with the Secretary of Commerce. The most direct path, therefore, was take no action and let the Secretary hear both sides of the arguement.

Omega is hoping the Secretary will agree that the ASMFC decision to cap the harvest was based on politics rather than science.

In the worst-case scenario, if the Secretary of Commerce imposes a moratorium while the legislature is out of session, the governor can enact the necessary regulations to lift it.

The science should come first, then the regulation, Del. Wittman said following his winning motion to table the bill.

The ASMFC already has federal dollars in hand to begin a two-year study on the health of menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay, noted Jack Travelstead of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Del. Wittman said he does not believe that the fishery, if it is in danger at all, will collapse between now and the time the studies are complete. If stricter regulations are proven to be necessary, they can be put into place at that time. If any harm is done in the meantime, he said, it can quickly be repaired by new populations constantly feeding into the bay from the ocean.

Del. Wittman said he and the other members of the Chesapeake subcommittee of the House committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources who voted to table the bill felt uncomfortable setting a specific cap based on numbers they haven't personally seen.

Omega's annual catch, recorded by the National Marine Fisheries Service, is confidential information. The ASMFC cap is meant to be based on a five-year average of Omega's catch, since it is the only reduction fishery in the bay. The 105,000-metric-ton cap that Del. Cosgrove's bill recommended may not be accurate, Del. Wittman said, and even the ASMFC's addendum does not address a specific number.

Omega was obviously pleased with the subcommittee's action.

"The General Assembly has spoken through the mouth of the subcommittee, saying it's not willing to support fisheries management based on politics rather than sound science," said Omega spokesman Toby Gascon.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Del. Wittman withdrew a bill to set a 131,000 metric-ton-cap. He didn't want to confuse the issue, he said.

Following the vote to table his first bill, Del. Cosgrove requested that the subcommittee table his accompanying bill giving the VMRC authority to adopt ASMFC mandates.

A companion bill to limit harvests, sponsored by Sen. John Watkins of Midlothian, is in a subcommittee of the Senate committee on Chesapeake, Agriculture and Natural Resources, but Gascon expects it too will be shot down before reaching the Senate floor.

▼ *Supervisors . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

sive plan to emergency situations.

Introduced by supervisor Jack Russell, the resolution would have restricted developer requests to amend the comprehensive plan until the plan is revised.

"My feeling is that we need to let people in the county know that we're serious about developing this comprehensive plan," said Russell.

He and Jenkins voted in favor of the resolution. Supervisors B. Wally Beauchamp, Peter N. Geilich and Ernest W. Palin Jr. voted against the measure.

Geilich said he agreed with the thinking behind the resolution but disagreed with the format.

"I think we need to keep all options open," said Geilich.

The upcoming revision of the comprehensive plan was also addressed by Charles Costello, president of a citizens' group, the Friends of Lancaster County.

The group presented a vision statement encouraging development consistent with the rural character and history of the county. It states: "County citizens and officials will oversee and guide growth so that it enhances the quality of life for those already residing here, and does not overtax existing services or result in unplanned sprawl that creeps across the county landscape."

Other matters

By consensus, the board agreed to consider a request by Geilich to allow the sale of dog licenses by veterinarians. A decision will be reached when the board starts its budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. If approved, dog licenses could be issued when vets administer required rabies vaccinations.

The board tabled a request from Virginia Waterman's Association vice-president Russell Gaskins seeking the board's endorsement for opening the Rappahannock River oyster sanctuary below the White Stone bridge for hand scraping.

Jenkins recommended the request be tabled until the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the waterman's association address the short-term and long-term benefits of opening the closed area.

The VMRC at its January meeting declined to open the area for harvesting.

▼ *Utility rates . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

gallons above the 4,000 gallon base would be $3.70 for water and $8.60 for sewer.

Commercial rates would be double the residential rates (a base of $166.80 or $170 bimonthly).

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).

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▼ *From Kilmarnock to Tokyo, Merrill and Company guitars are known worldwide . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

and found ways to make guitars more playable for different hands.

While he enjoyed playing in the band, he never really considered pursuing music as a full-time career.

"I needed to have a real gig," he said.

But, he didn't at first consider becoming a luthier (a stringed instrument maker, Jordan interjects). He held several other odd jobs in and around Newport News.

In 1981, he began working full-time in a repair shop in Smithfield, where he worked until 1997 when his boss shut the company down after being diagnosed for a third time with cancer. After that, he went out on his own doing repairs.

"In betwixt the repair work, I was seriously bitten by the bug," he said. "I had built several instruments, and I never stopped learning, digging further, studying what makes things tick."

Around that time he got his first job building a guitar for a paying customer—Stephen Bennett.

In 1999, he set up shop with a couple of friends in Williamsburg building guitars full time. Several years later, when that business relationship fell apart, Jim went out on his own, opening the Kilmarnock shop.

He found the area through friend, customer and Northern Neck resident Bill Gurley.

"I knew he had rebuilt his grandfather's farmhouse, and he kept saying that it was God's country," Jim said.

So one Sunday he and his wife, Debra, took a drive and were house-shopping before they knew it.

Jim now makes his bread and butter building high-end, completely handmade replicas of the 1930s Martin guitars.

George Simmons fits the braces into the soundboard. These hand-carved pieces play an important role in the quality of sound the instrument makes.

The originals, he explained, are very sought after and considered collectables, starting at $20,000 a piece. Some are in the $200,000 range, Jim said.

As to why he would make a craft of replicating another maker's guitar, Jim said: "The 1930s Martin had all the right elements – the type of woods, the way it conducted sound, the appearance, everything. It was the holy grail instrument of the acoustics."

"The heart and soul of a guitar is the sound," Jim explained. Companies today, including Martin, sacrifice the sound in order to produce in volume.

"You can't produce the same quality of workmanship in volume," Jim said. "That's why Martin isn't the same anymore."

The classic Martins are naturally louder. Today, smaller guitars require some form of amplification to project the same volume. When the sound is up to a set of knobs, it's no longer as true of a sound, Jordan said. A true acoustic guitar has no amplifier or pickup at all.

One of the only, subtle differences between a Merrill and an original Martin is the type of wood Jim uses. Martin used Brazilian rosewood in the 1930s. Today, Brazilian rosewood is scarce and hard to obtain. Jim more often uses Honduran rosewood, unless a customer specifically requests the far more expensive Brazilian type. The difference, he explained, lies primarily in the tonality of the sound.

With all the praise of the Martin guitars going around, it was surprising to learn that the guitar Jordan built for himself is based on a Gibson.

"Martins look like an old guy's guitar," Jordan said, noting that his own guitar combines the superior bracing of a Martin with the sleeker look of a Gibson. "But I have respect for Martin guitars," he added. "I realize they altered guitar history."

True to form, most of Merrill and Company's customers are types over 50 years old.

"Older people who appreciate what came before," Jim said.

Jordan Merrill assembles the soundboard.

They like both the price and the quality of a handmade acoustic guitar, he added.

Jim's least expensive model sells for $3,895. That includes abalone inlay on the fingerboard, antique elephant ivory saddles and nuts and ebony fingerboards and bridges.

These guitars are his mainstay. He makes about six of them a month and sells most of them to dealers in the United States. But, more than a third go to Tokyo where musicians are enamored with the original old Martin guitars. Jim said his guitars are so popular overseas because his are the most faithful and accurate Martin replica of any being made.

He also crafts about three custom guitars a year. The most expensive guitar he has made to date is a $15,000 model with abalone inlay all around the peg head, fingerboard and soundboard, an exact replica of Martin's highest-end model.

"We've gotten to the point where we can do things as quickly as we can by hand while maintaining a consistency of quality," said Jim. "There is no getting around the tediousness of this job."

George Simmons joins Jim and Jordan in the shop. While all three men need to be able to work on several aspects of guitar making, they tend to have their favorite parts and specialties.

Jim loves carving the necks and braces. The shape of the neck dictates the comfort and how easy the instrument is to play.

Jordan builds the sound boxes and does the inlay.

George fits the braces and more intricate details.

They agree that the best part of building a guitar is hearing them played for the first time.

"I like the fact that what we do is art," said George. "But, at the same time, its playable art. People can take what we have created and they can create with it."

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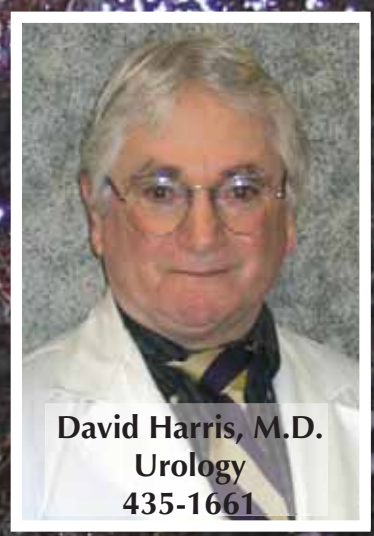

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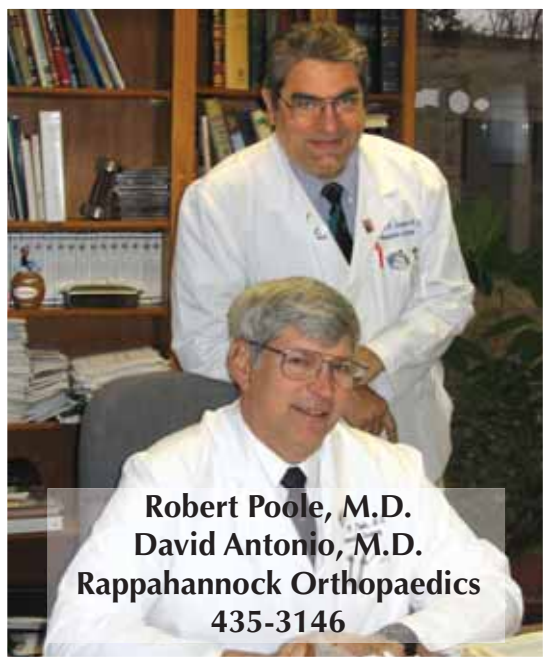

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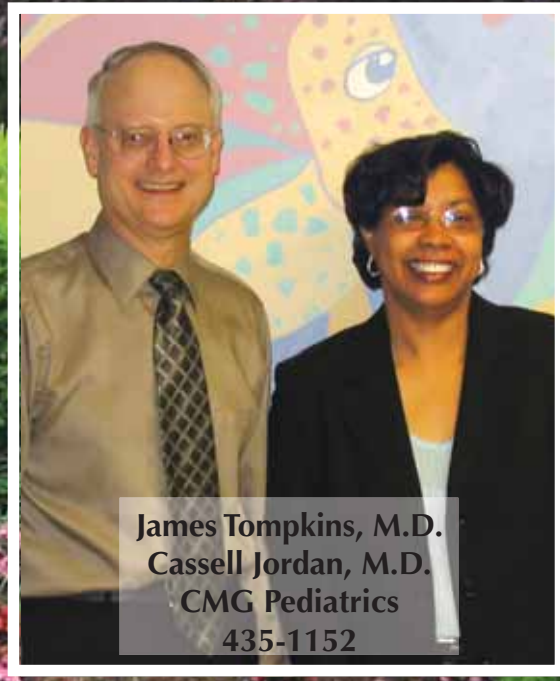

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