Rappahannock Record

Thursday, March 16, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 23 • Three Sections • 50¢

Look who's back

Spring arrived rather suddenly last week with temperatures soaring to 80 degrees by Friday. Trees that seemed dormant appeared to blossom overnight. The last holdout daffodils opened, and fields across the Northern Neck exploded with the purple haze of henbit, a winter annual that blooms in early spring. But the surest sign of spring arrived by air Friday. The majestic osprey appeared in the Northern Neck like clockwork from their winter home in Florida. Older couples reclaimed their former nests while juveniles jockeyed for position. This Glebe Point resident enjoyed a Sunday brunch on the pier of Middle Bay Marine Construction. Spring officially arrives Monday, March 20. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Irvington seeks new port for pilothouse

by Robb Hoff

IRVINGTON—The pilothouse from the "Potomac" steamboat built in 1896 is the vestige of a bygone era when steamboats plied the Chesapeake Bay, making stops at ports such as Irvington.

No one disputes that Irvington is a fitting final destination for the pilothouse. No one doubts that the piece of history should be permanently located near the Steamboat Era Museum, which owns it and displays other steamboat-era artifacts in its building.

However, whether or not the pilothouse should remain on the town-owned Irvington Commons where it was placed a few years ago has generated some debate.

Phillip Williams, co-chair of the steamboat's restoration committee for the museum, said the museum must have a permanent site for the pilothouse to meet requirements for a $148,000 federal grant to restore the pilothouse as a display.

Williams asked the town council last week for consideration of a 100-year lease to allow the museum to keep the pilothouse on the commons.

"We feel that it will serve—once it's restored—as a monument to the town," said Williams.

However, councilman Norm Mosher said his impression was that the permanent placement of the pilothouse was not the commons.

Irvington Commons regrading project delayed.....B1

"I have always been under the impression that it would be physically linked to the museum," said Mosher.

Permanent placement of the pilothouse on part of the commons might destroy some of the functionality of the commons, said Mosher. Such placement would drive future planning for the commons, which needs to be determined first, he added.

Councilman Rannie Ransone questioned the length of a lease that would extend as long as requested.

"I think giving you that piece of property for 99 years is asking a lot," said Ransone.

Councilman Garry Luckham also questioned the lease and why the town should be involved.

"It's not our concern to lease land for the steamboat museum," said Luckham.

Councilman Richard Pittman voiced support for the museum's use of the land if the museum could not reach a cost effective agreement for buying or leasing property from an adjacent property owner.

"I think it's very much a part of the heritage of Irvington," said Pittman.

Councilman Kathleen Pollard asked for the museum to produce more alternatives for the pilothouse placement.

"I just feel like it should be more connected to the museum," said Pollard.

Positioning the pilothouse at the back of the museum park-

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Dry, windy conditions kick up fire hazzard

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

NUTTSVILLE—Feeding on high winds and dry weather, a brush fire quickly escalated into a forest fire last Friday, threatening half a dozen homes along Gaines Road.

Six volunteer fire departments from the Northern Neck as well as the forestry department, a service team from Northern Neck Electric Cooperative and a crew of bull dozers and a helicopter were called to bring the blaze under control.

It took several hours for crews to stamp out the fire. All the homes were saved and nobody was reported injured.

But, that didn't make Gaines Road residents any less nervous. People watched nervously from their front stoop as smoke swirled closer to their homes and trees came crashing down. One man, who asked not to be identified, said he could see the flames through the forest in front of his house before the fire department arrived. Several other families packed up and drove off, although the fire department never officially evacuated anybody.

When crews from Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department first arrived, the fire had ignited a huge tangle of trees felled by Hurricane Isabel several years ago. Flames leapt 10 feet in the air, said chief Robert "Bones" Beckham.

Not much could be done, however, because downed power lines, which presumably created the initial spark, were still live and dangerous. The truck's hoses could only reach so far.

The situation worsened quickly while crews waited for crews from the electric company to respond.

Once that was done, firefighters had to use rakes to try to contain the smoldering ashes while they waited for bulldozers.

Open-air fires are prohibited before 4 p.m. and after midnight through April 30.

Meanwhile, volunteer fire crews from Kilmarnock, White Stone, Callao, Fairfields and Richmond County arrived to lend a hand. Nearly a dozen trucks ultimately surrounded the fire, guarding the houses it threatened. Shifting winds kept firefighters on their toes as the movement of the fire continuously changed directions.

Strong gusts prevented the helicopter from assisting with the blaze and it returned to its base.

It was the bulldozers from Hayden Construction Company, J&J Inc. and the forestry department that saved the day. They were able to plow a fire line around the blaze to contain it.

In all, some two-and-a-half acres burned, said Chief Beckham. But, that was nothing com-

(continued on page A12)

Firefighters work to control a fire created by a downed power line.

Celebrate Kilmarnock

KILMARNOCK—The town's year-long "Diamond Jubilee" anniversary observance continues Saturday, March 18, with The Pride of Kilmarnock Celebration.

The event will be held from noon to 2 p.m. along Main Street at The Pedestal and in the adjacent alley next to Adam's Jewelers.

Invitations have been accepted by Rep. Jo Ann Davis, Del. Robert Wittman, Virginia Transportation Board member Mary Lee Carter, Miss Kilmarnock Jessica Hinson, The Northern Neck Bay Tones and the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band.

The master of ceremonies will be Tawne Hayes of the 101.7 Bay FM morning show.

Rep. Davis will present a U.S. Flag to Mayor Mike Robertson.

A flag donation center will be operated during the event by local Boy and Girl Scouts, American Legion and Knights of Columbus. The groups will collect worn and torn flags to be retired in June by the Boy Scouts.

A variety of other activities are also planned.

Density issues table two residential developments in Northumberland

Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—How many houses should a two-acre tract of land hold? One? Seven? 12?

In a development, how much land should be preserved as "open space" or "green space"?

Recent events have catapulted these questions into the forefront of politicians' minds in Northumberland County. Now, the board of supervisors is asking for 90 days to seek some answers before deciding on two high-density developments proposed in the Reedville area.

Double D Development wants to construct 32 luxury condominiums on nine acres along Cockrell's Creek near Fleeton, a development that proposes a density of .28 units per acre. Watson Construction and Development is seeking to build 12 two-story, single-family homes on a little more than two acres on Main Street in Reedville behind Reed Square. The density would be .16 units per acre.

Supervisors table use of shotgun slugs for hunting.....A9

Tie-vote sinks boathouse ban.....B1

The board agreed to table the two applications until June. Meanwhile, supervisor Joe Self proposed that the board hold a work session on the topic.

The issue of density comes to light just as revisions to the county's comprehensive plan are being finalized. The board was set to vote on the revisions in a joint meeting with the planning commission in June, although timing of the decision is now in question since the June agenda may be overbooked.

The comprehensive plan does not, however, offer much by way of guidance for the board. Planners chose not to specify an ideal density for any type of property in the comprehensive plan, and rather to let the zoning ordinance dictate density. The zoning ordinance

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Duck into White Stone for Waterfowl Show

WHITE STONE—The White Stone firehouse will be bustling with activity this weekend as crowds flock to the 27th annual Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show.

Paintings, carvings, sculpture and photography from 92 artists and carvers will fill the firehouse and attached large tent. Many species of wildfowl in a variety of mediums and range of prices will be available for sale through the weekend.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 18, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 19. Admission is $7. Children ages 12 and under will be admitted free.

The "Artist of the Year" is Ed Hatch of Spring Grove. For the show, Hatch has created a portrait of a great blue heron in marsh grass. Color prints will be given away each day at the show. This is Hatch's 19th year as an exhibitor at the show.

A full-time realist artist for over 20 years, Hatch works mostly in oil to capture the landscapes, marshes and rural scenes of Virginia's eastern area. His paintings convey his curiosity and find the extraordinary in the "ordinary," said co-chair Pat Bruce. His appreciation for the beauty in nature springs from each of his paintings creating a quiet and calming feeling, she said.

Over the years, Hatch has gained prominence as a com-

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From left are Tim Booth and "Artist of the Year" Ed Hatch.

March

16 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
American Legion Post 86 meets at 7 p.m. on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The RFM Photographers meet at 2 p.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers, are invited. No reservations needed. 435-2755.
The Rappatomac Writers will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chinn House at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.
The Planning Commission for Northumberland County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.
The Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Society meets at noon at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will meet at 12:15 p.m. at Wicomico Parish Church in Wicomico Church. Sandy Spencer is the featured speaker. Bring a brown-bag lunch.
The Court House Players will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" at Susanna Wesley United Methodiist Church at 3900 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester. Dinner theater tickets are $28 in advance at Coffman's Store in Hartfield. The comedy begins at 6:30 p.m.

17 Friday St. Patrick's Day

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
A Teen Dance will be held for youth ages 12 to 16 from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the Community Center at 609 Browns Store Road.
The 27th Annual Rappahanock River Waterfowl Show gets under way at the firehouse in White Stone with a Preview Gala from 6 to 8:30 p.m. By invitation. 435-6355.
Habitat for Humanity will deliver chicken lunches in Lancaster and Northumberland counties. $7. To place an order, call 435-0504.
The Court House Players will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" at Susanna Wesley United Methodiist Church at 3900 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester. Dinner theater tickets are $28 in advance at Coffman's Store in Hartfield. The comedy begins at 6:30 p.m.
Itchy Dog will be featured at the Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock. The music begins at 7 p.m. For reservations, call 435-7005.

ZENsational! planning

The Chesapeake Academy 2006 auction steering committee has been working for the past six months on ZENsational!, the April 29 gala event on Chesapeake's Irvington campus. From left are Kay Weiler, Carrie Ahlborn, Jennifer Britt (co-chair), Carey Gaenzle, Diana Neal (co-chair), Kat Lidicker, Deborah Davie, Tim Saunders, Cindie Hollowell and Kathryn Humphreys. Invitations will be mailed shortly. For more information on supporting the auction through donations or attendance, call the development office at 438-6490.

17 Friday

The Ray Pittman Project will be featured in the upstairs lounge at the Lancaster Landing Restaurant. The show begins at 9:30 p.m. 436-9060.
Jean Hornsby will hold a book signing for her children's novel, *Tree-Riffic* at The Oaks Restaurant in Lively, beginning at 10 a.m.

18 Saturday

A Bluegrass Show to benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island. Donations are accepted. 725-3495.
An Oldies Show will be featured at Donk's Theater on Route 198 in Hudgins at 8 p.m.
Dinner at Seven meets for brunch at 11:30 a.m. at The Tavern in Heathsville. For reservations, call 462-5430, or email grnponds@aol.com.
The 27th Annual Rappahanock River Waterfowl Show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the firehouse in White Stone. $7. Paintings, carvings, sculptures, photography, decoys. A carving contest begins at noon. 435-6355.
American Legion Post 86 will celebrate the Post Birthday and St. Patrick's Day with a dinner at the Post on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock. All veterans and their families are welcome. Guests gather at 4 p.m. dinner is at 5 p.m.
A Soap Making Demonstration will begin at 2 p.m. at George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Westmoreland County.
The Court House Players will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" at Susanna Wesley United Methodiist Church at 3900 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester. Dinner theater tickets are $28 in advance at Coffman's Store in Hartfield. The comedy begins at 6:30 p.m.
Free Tax Help is available at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock from 1 to 4 p.m.

18 Saturday

The Pride of Kilmarnock Celebration will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Main Street at The Pedestal. Guests include Rep. Jo Ann Davis and Del. Rob Wittman. The celebration is part of the town's Diamond Jubilee 75th anniversary observance.
The Genealogical Society of the Northern Neck of Virginia will meet at 10 a.m. at St. Mary 's Whitechapel Episcopal Church at 5940 White Chapel Road in Lancaster. A social period begins at 9:30 a.m. The program is the "Four Colonial Wars that Impacted Virginia."
The 51st Annual Donation Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church on Route 201 near Lively.

19 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at the Crabby Waterman in Burgess immediately following church services.

19 Sunday

The 27th Annual Rappahanock River Waterfowl Show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the firehouse in White Stone. $7. Paintings, carvings, scuptures, photography, decoys. 435-6355.
The Court House Players will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" at Susanna Wesley United Methodiist Church at 3900 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester. Tickets are $15 (show only) at the door. The comedy begins at 3 p.m.

20 Monday

The Historyland Community Workshop volunteer craft group meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. Guests welcome.
The First-Place Weight-Loss Class meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.
Flotilla 3-10 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 472-4387.
The Historical Society for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the G.C. Dawson administrative office in Kilmarnock. 435-6232.
The Northumberland Homemakers will meet at 11 a.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Heathsville. 580-8613.
A Dramatization depicting President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover will begin at 7 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near irvington.
The Richard Henry Lee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a luncheon at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11:30 a.m. Bette Dillehay will speak on America's 400th Anniversary in 2007.
The Local Chapter of The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill will meet at 7 p.m. at Urbanna Baptist Church in Urbanna. 435-3463.

(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.

ST. ANDREWS GRILL AT THE TARTAN GOLF CLUB: Open for Lunch, Wed.-Mon. Daily Specials. Homemade Soups, Salads, Seafood and Sandwiches. Call 438-6009

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.

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

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

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Sun. (2:15, 4:15), 6:15
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 7:15
V FOR VENDETTA (R) 2 HRS 12 MIN
Fri. (4:00), 6:30, 8:50
Sat. (1:30, 4:00), 6:30, 8:50
Sun. (1:30, 4:00), 6:30
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V FOR VENDETTA (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
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HILLS HAVE EYES (R) 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
SHAGGY DOG (PG) 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
SAT. MAR. 18
V FOR VENDETTA (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
CRASH (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
HILLS HAVE EYES (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
SHAGGY DOG (PG) 1:10, 3:15, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
SUN. MAR. 19
V FOR VENDETTA (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15
CRASH (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:20
HILLS HAVE EYES (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40
SHAGGY DOG (PG) 1:10, 3:15, 5:15, 7:25
MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
MON.-THURS. MAR.20- MAR-23
V FOR VENDETTA (R) 7:15
CRASH (R) 7:20
HILLS HAVE EYES (R) 7:40
SHAGGY DOG (PG) 7:25
MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13) 7:30

Donations
Accepted for yard sales held by the
Bethel/Emmanuel United Methodist Men
Items include: appliances, household items, tools, tv's, sporting goods, furniture, linen, books, autos and boats.
We'll accept most anything except clothing!
You can drop-off items at our building on Rt. 201 between Lively & Rt. 354 or arrange pickups by call 462-5859, 462-5790 or 462-6103
We can provide you with a tax exempt form for your donations.
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BRKIG (10/01)

51st Annual
Donation Dinner
at
Bethel United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall • Route 201
near Lively
Saturday, March 18 • 5 pm
"All You Can Eat . . .
For All You Can Give"
Sponsored by the You and I Class

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day
at the American Legion
Post 86, Kilmarnock
The Women's Auxiliary of Post 86 invite all Veterans and their families to enjoy a traditional St. Patrick's Day Dinner, with Corned Beef, Roast Beef, Cabbage, Boiled Potatoes, Salad, and a variety of Home Made Desserts
Come at 4 pm, and meet Post Members
Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 18, at Adams Post 86
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FREE, to all Veterans and their Families

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$500.
Guaranteed!
BINGO
This Friday, March 17, 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

Area Events

■ Serving dinner
The Fairfields United Methodist Men will serve a ham and cabbage dinner at the church in Burgess March 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu includes ham and cabbage, boiled potatoes, stewed tomatoes, and coffee or tea.

The cost is by donation. Take-outs are available; call 453-2631.

■ Water Views
Arts Alive Inc. will present a community art show, Water Views, at the W. T. Robinson/Sture G. Olsson Civic Auditorium and Fine Arts Center in West Point March 21 through May 4. The public opening is Thursday, March 23, from 7 to 8 p.m.

■ Music show
On Saturday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m., a music show featuring bluegrass, country and gospel music will be held at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building to benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum. The show will feature Dragon Run Band and Just 4 Fun.

Admission is by donation. Refreshments will be sold by the Civic League. For directions, call 725-3495.

■ Give blood
The River Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive March 27 at Kilmarnock Baptist Church at 65 East Church Street in Kilmarnock. The blood drive will be open from noon to 6 p.m.

■ Genealogy Class
The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library will hold a two-day class in genealogy March 24 and 25 at the Lancaster County Woman's Club building in Lancaster. The class will be taught by Carolyn H. Jett, a local genealogist and historian.

The schedule will be the same both days, beginning at 9:30 a.m., breaking for lunch from noon to 1 p.m., and continuing until 3:30 p.m. The fee is $35. To register, call Valencia Keeve at 462-7280.

■ Reservations accepted
"The Art of Dining" will be presented March 25 through April 9 by The Westmoreland Players at West Side Hall in Callao. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students.

The comedy may not be suitable for young children. For show times and reservations, call 529-9345.

Basket bingo to benefit band

The Lancaster Band Boosters will sponsor a Longeberger basket bingo at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively April 2 at 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Lancaster High School Red Devils Marching Band.

Among the prizes are 10 baskets that will be retired this year. All baskets come with protectors and some will include a liner. There will be a basket awarded with every game.

A raffle will be held for a special collector's basket complete with top, knob, protector and liner.

Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Included in the ticket price is a bingo sheet for each game. Additional sheets and stampers will be available, as well as food and beverages.

For tickets, call Kelly Oliver at 462-0849.

■ Yard sale
The Bethel-Emmanuel Methodist Men's building on Route 201 near Lively will open for sales of furniture, appliances, tools, linens and other items on Wednesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 29, from 3 to 6 p.m.

■ New alanon group
An alanon/alateen support group meeting is organizing at the Warsaw Medical Arts Center. Meetings will be held Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.

■ Bake Sale
The Golden Stars of Sharon will be having a bake sale at Tri-Star Supermarket in Kilmarnock Saturday, March 18, from 8 a.m. to noon.

■ MedCarry
MedCarry of Bay Aging provides a means for persons who are underinsured or not insured to receive non-emergency transportation for their medical needs, and is open to all ages. Bay Aging makes the link between the persons needing the transportation and a person to drive them to their destination.

The program is entirely volunteer driven and is always in need of drivers. All donations and funds received for the program go directly to reimburse drivers for their mileage. Anyone interested in donating to the program, driving, or seeking services, may call Dee Thomas at 758-8853.

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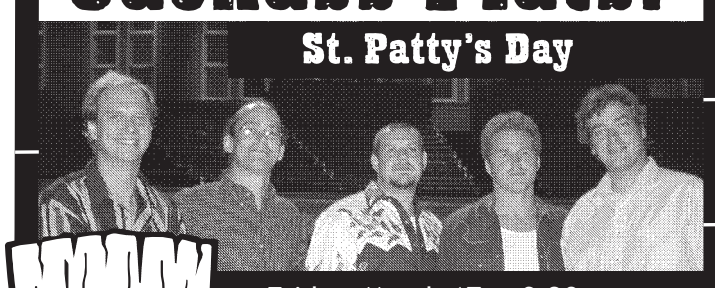
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White Stone, Virginia
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www.rrws.org contact 804-435-6355
The Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show is proudly sponsored by the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department

Upcoming

(continued from page A2)

21 Tuesday
The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
The Kilmarnock Garden Club meets at noon at Kilmarnock Baptist Church. Specimens and designs must be in place 15 minutes prior to the luncheon. 462-7325.
Free Tax Help is available at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock from 1 to 4 p.m.
The Corrotoman Senior Citizens meet at 10 a.m. at the Ruritan Center near Lively. Bring a friend and a prize.
Adams Post 86 of the American Legion and the legion auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the post home on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock. 435-1588.
The Republican Committee for Lancaster County meets at 7:30 p.m. at Chesapeake Bank Training Center on School Street in Kilmarnock.

22 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.

22 Wednesday
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kil-marnock. 438-5127.
A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
The RFM Quilters meets at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
A Yard Sale will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. by the Bethel Emmanuel United Methodist Men at their warehouse on Route 201 near Lively.
"Rosenwald Schools in the Northern Neck" will be the topic for a Food for Thought Lecture at 5:30 p.m. at the Northumebrland County Historical Society headquarters in Heathsville. $5. Dinner follows by reservation at The Tavern. $24. 580-3536, or 580-3377.

23 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.
Mahjong will be played at 10:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert provided. Tables of three or more. $2 per person. 438-4152.
The Democratic Committee for Northumberland County meets at 7 p.m. at the Community Center near Browns Store.

(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor.)

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Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

Who would've ever thought Miskimon would become the cultural mecca of the lower Northern Neck?

Last Saturday night, the Gurleys, Bill, Pam and Macon from just down the road, performed before a "sold out" audience of neighbors and friends at Mary Beane's home.

The occasion represented more than just a second floor sunroom full of Gurley fans. It marked the first Farmhouse Concert—the first of what could become a regular gathering of music lovers for an up close and personal encounter with performance artists.

House concerts, proven popular elsewhere, offer an intimate venue for the musicians and fans without the distractions of a smoke filled barroom, large crowds and the need for amplification.

The Gurleys just made the inaugural run special.

They played a mix of bluegrass, old time, gospel, swing, country, folk and original tunes. They also played a variety of songs from their first two CDs, including "Shady Grove," "October Winds," "The Good Luck Road," "Lord Franklin" and "Working on a Building."

With the addition of Macon on bass and vocals, it's time to cut another CD. Bill teased the crowd, commenting the performance was being recorded for a live release—if only it were true.

The whole evening might not have been, if not for termites.

Bill and Pam shared the story of how they came to meet Mary. The Gurleys were working on their farmhouse, Bill's grandfather's place, about the same time Mary was working on her place.

On their way to the dump, the Gurleys passed through Miskimon and noticed Mary's work in progress and a pile of old wood removed from her house out back. They stopped to inquire about it because they were looking for old boards to replace some termite-damaged flooring.

A friendship evolved rooted in old-house renovation. When the Gurleys toured Mary's home to view her completed renovations, they noted it would be the perfect setting for a house concert.

Mary was intrigued by the idea.

She commented recently that through Farmhouse Concerts she would be "reviving a lost art."

"When I was a kid, before central heating and air conditioning, neighbors raised their windows and put in screens in the summertime," said Mary. "I remember playing in the yard and hearing my step-grandmother playing and singing hymns on the Chickering up-right in the front room. I'm sure most of the neighborhood enjoyed her rendition of 'Rock of Ages.' I don't believe she ever received a donation, but it should be fun to continue the performing tradition."

We're all looking forward to continuing the tradition.

Maybe one day, the Gurley's will follow up "Tennessee Saturday Night" with "Miskimon Saturday Night."

Now, there's a name for a CD, just waiting to happen.

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

With the onset of spring comes the annual rite of planting the garden. This year our friends, James Butler and Lewis Fallin, have been helping us get ready. I have been reminiscing with Lewis about the days nearly four decades ago when his grandfather, whose name he bears, had quite a little spring business planting gardens for customers all around the area.

When our family moved down from Westmoreland County, my father asked people whom he could get to help him put in a garden, and the response from everyone was "Lewis Fallin."

Lewis was very precise about what he would and would not do. He arrived with his horse and wagon in those pristine old days before everyone had a garden tractor. The wagon brought Lewis as well as all his equipment to the site. The two of them on the road was a familiar seasonal sign.

Once here, he laid out the plot with an eye to what would grow best where. He was deliberate in his planning, while the horse stood nearby, resting from the trip before beginning the next phase of the operation. Lewis and the horse had a particular way of communicating with each other. They spoke a language unfathomable to anyone else, but they knew exactly what each other was doing. The horse made Mr. Ed, the popular equine of television fame, seem dumb by comparison.

Lewis insisted on plowing first, as deeply as he could. Next he liked to let the soil air for a while before he replaced the plow with an antique harrow, which he used to break up all the clods of soil. There was no garden herbicide back then, and no weed killers, hence he picked the clumps of sod out of the loamy soil by hand. Perfectionist that he was, he preferred to wait a day or two before planting.

When he got back to it, his horse fully understood the difference between the plowing and planting operations, and the two of them began laying out the rows for the crops. Lewis considered a garden without Irish potatoes to be an oxymoron. Equally important was a good crop of English peas, spring onions, radishes, and greens. He came with his own seeds and spuds. In modern parlance he would be called a "full-service gardener."

The routine was the same each year, and driving up the Browns Store Road one of the best vistas was of Lewis's own garden, all of which he laid out and maintained to perfection, with the help of his horse's manure. He did not like chemical fertilizers and refused to use them. He loved the soil, and always wanted to put back whatever he took from it.

When he determined that the potatoes would be ready to harvest, he and the horse returned, and they would plow on one side of the row turning the soil to expose the tubers without scratching or damaging a one. Lewis did not harvest any of the other vegetables, leaving those chores to his customers.

When he finished the job, his charges were so low that my father insisted that he take more. He appreciated any snack for the horse in the way of a carrot, or lump of sugar, and the horse enjoyed being petted. Lewis was a man completely at peace with the world, with friends far and wide. He never lost his temper, raised his voice, except to make sure his horse heard him, nor gossiped.

By the time we arrived, he already was at an age where most folks have retired, and a few years later he was no longer able to plant a garden. He had to sell his horse, and as his health failed, he faded away. He left many friends to remember his work, his ability, and most of all, his kindness. The best that any of us can do to remember him, is to plant and keep a good garden.

****

This column is the first of the 23rd year of Excerpts. In other words, it is number 1123. My thanks to the publishers and editors with whom I have worked, and to the readers who have made so many comments over the past 22 years. On to number 1124 next week.

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the March 16, 1906, issue of the Virgninia Citizen.)

To be unveiled

Through the generosity of Capt. Geo. P. Squires, Ocran, Va., a beautiful table of white Italian marble polished, will be unveiled in the court-room next Monday, court-day.

It will memorialize Rev. James Wadell, the blind preacher who lived on the Corrotoman River. Miss Nannie Mae Squires, daughter of Capt. Squires, will unveil it. Capt Squires will present it in person and Mr. T. J. Downing will accept it. Hon. A. C. Gordon, distinguished author and poet, and Josepth A. Waddell, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the blind preacher's grandson, both of Staunton, Va., will be present. There will be many who will be interested spectators.

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

Letters to the Editor

Controlling growth

To The Editor:

At its most recent meeting, the Northumberland board of supervisors chose to carry over to its June meeting any action on two developments recently proposed for the Reedville area.

This responsive action was most heartening to the substantial gathering of citizens who had expressed serious concerns about the density and location of the projects and about the precedent for future projects that would be established by approval of these. There are currently five or six parcels on Main Street alone that could be developed imminently, not to mention a large number of open spaces along the Scenic Byway of Fleeton Road.

Even more heartening were the remarks by several supervisors echoing the concerns about density and location and suggesting that the board needed to have objective guidelines before setting precedents with individual decisions like these. Such guidelines will soon be forthcoming with the completion of the Comprehensive Plan and with the review and revision of zoning ordinances to follow. The planning commission has worked long and hard on this complex task; and it is most important that its efforts and thinking be applied to this situation.

Ironically, the simultaneous proposal of these two projects in these particular locations may well have done the county a great service. It has brought into stark definition the urgent need for more objective and effective regulation of development. And contrary to the perception of some, this regulation is not designed for "no-growth" but for controlled growth—growth that will retain the character and quality of life that are so attractive in this very special region of the state while accommodating more residents and commerce.

The months ahead show many signs of being extremely critical for the determination of the future character of the county. Close attention to and wide participation in the activities of the planning commission and of the board of supervisors by citizens will be important to the attainment of the best possible resolution of the challenges facing the region.

Spud Parker
Reedville

Ode to eye sores

To The Editor:

Crossing the bridge from Topping, what catches the eye? Tenements in a row upon a bank that's high.

Drive up Lumberlost to Black Stump, trash does the same. Appliances, bottles, cans, paper, anything you can name.

Motor around the area and see lots more that'll make you angry and your eyes really sore.

Little change comes from ordinances and litter signs. Perhaps what is needed are enforced great big fines.

R.L. Dominick
Weems

Northumberland needs 'smart growth'

To The Editor:

I recently attended my first Northumberland board of supervisors meeting. I wanted to hear why everyone was against covered boat slips and development in the Reedville area.

The room was full of naysayers on both concerns, especially the contingent of folks from Reedville. I agree that the "charm" of Reedville needs to be preserved and there is concern for the over usage of the current water and sewer systems.

There is concern that the board has not yet come up with a Comprehensive Plan that will determine just how much and what type of development will be allowed in Northumberland County. I am in favor of new development or "smart growth" in our county.

As the board determines what the future of development will be in Northumberland, those of us who are not in the "no growth" camp need to let our elected officials know how we think.

There is a need for downsized zoning due to the rising cost of land, lumber, building materials and labor. Not everyone can afford the prices of some of the waterfront homes in the area, nor can they maintain a large yard of their own. To be able to offer an affordable option, developers need better yield. In some areas, town homes or cluster homes are an acceptable option.

As Lancaster and Westmoreland are allowing new projects in their counties, Northumberland must also develop a Comprehensive Plan that will promote "smart growth." Without new home construction, the county loses much needed jobs, material sales and tax revenue needed for construction and repair of our schools and other projects.

Our county is losing the best volunteer paramedics and fireman to other areas such as Richmond, because they need to make a living to support their own families. If they are not here to volunteer, who will save our lives if needed? The added taxes generated through new construction could provide our county with enough funds to have paid professionals handle our emergency needs.

Maybe the anti-progress folks in our county have not totally considered the future results of their actions. We need to help and support our board to come up with a plan that is right for the county and not just in the best interest of developers or the anti-growth citizens of Northumberland.

David Fine
Lottsburg

Outstanding performance

To The Editor:

On Saturday, March 4, at Lancaster Middle School, a watershed event occurred.

The Northern Neck Orchestra came of age. The polished and professional concert, directed by conductor Guy Hayden, was a joy to hear.

Beginning as a small group of local musicians in the late 1980s, the group has matured, drawing in more musicians to become the fine orchestra it is today.

The beauty of the blending of the full orchestra, the skills of the various instrumental selections and the obvious dedication of the musicians, including familiar faces still there after all these years, created an outstanding evening.

Credit to the Northern Neck Orchestra members, its wonderful board, the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts, and all the supporters behind the footlights.

June Rodman Swanell
Rappahannock Music
Study Club
Irvington

Taking the low road

To The Editor:

Shame on the Republican-controlled Virginia House of Delegates for the mean-spirited partisanship. The rejection of Gov. Tim Kaine's nomination of Daniel LeBlanc to be Secretary of the Commonwealth was the first rejection of a governor's choice for a cabinet secretary since the 1970s.

Through this action, the Republicans have turned their backs on Virginia House tradition and rejected the bi-partisanship approach needed to continue to move Virginia forward.

It is important to note that both Gov. George Allen's and Gov. Jim Gilmore's nominees were confirmed by the General Assembly (the case could be made that some of those appointees were less than qualified) when it was controlled by Democrats.

Why?

Because, Democrats argued, the governor had a right to choose his management team. Today's Republican partisanship takes the low road.

Michael Fazzi
Weems

House shows partisan colors

To The Editor:

The Virginia House of Delegates last week rejected Gov. Tim Kaine's appointment of Daniel LeBlanc as Secretary of the Commonwealth.

It is unprecedented in Virginia for an advisor to the governor's inner circle to be rejected.

Many Republicans opposed LeBlanc solely because of his previous job as the state AFL-CIO president.

In other words, he was blamed for performing the duties of his job well, since he was hired by the union to lead and espouse their position on labor matters.

It is a slap in the governor's face to turn down his appointment of LeBlanc. Those who voted against LeBlanc should be ashamed for doing so, especially since Gov. Kaine has also appointed the wife of his former opponent, Marty Kilgore, to serve as the executive director of the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation.

It is to be lamented that the House couldn't be as non-partisan as Gov. Kaine.

Marilyn McGlamary
Kilmarnock

Kaine/bi-partisan transportation plan deserves support

To The Editor:

Opposition as reported last week in the Rappahannock Record, to Gov. Tim Kaine's transportation plan is short-sighted and ignores the potential impacts on important programs.

The House Republican plan cuts proven and effective initiatives and fails to provide the long-term revenue the transportation system needs. It provides increases to Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads and Fredericksburg, while cutting transportation funding to every other part of the state. Among the other cuts demanded in the House Republican transportation plan, it cuts teacher pay, early childhood education, drop-out prevention, and $28 million from our local community college system. It cuts money for firefighting equipment. It cuts hospital and doctor reimbursement funding and initiatives to establish a system of electronic health records. It cuts efforts to improve water quality. It cuts the Governor's Opportunity Fund which has been used to generate $7.6 billion in new investments and nearly 77,000 jobs over the past two years.

In contrast, the plan presented by Gov. Kaine and a bi-partisan group of legislators in the General Assembly offers a realistic, responsible, long-term solution to the transportation problems that are slowing economic growth across the Commonwealth.

Moreover, the Kaine/bi-partisan plan provides coordination and accountability. It will not divert needed funds from local schools, police and fire departments, vital health care programs and vital environmental resources to pay for particular highways, bridges and mass-transit systems.

Rather, the Kaine/bi-partisan plan requires a dedicated revenue stream that connects land use and transportation. This ensures that the General Fund surplus, achieved by the budgetary reforms of 2004, will not slide into a collective run-off that benefits certain regions of the Commonwealth and not others.

The Kaine/bi-partisan transportation plan deserves support.

Donna Thompson
White Stone

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Off The Beaten Path

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

I was seeking a thrill last weekend. Life had grown somewhat monotonous in the quiet of winter and I felt the need for a blood-pumping adventure. There was only one thing to do. I decided to cross "The Bridge."

If you live on the Northern Neck or Middle Peninsula, I don't have to tell you what bridge I mean. It has to be the scariest bridge in Virginia. There are people I know that just simply won't drive over it.

Fear. The expectation or awareness of danger. Perhaps its the narrowness of The Bridge. Maybe its the height.

But the lanes are regulation width, and I've driven across taller bridges without flinching.

I think it's the fear of distraction. It's the desire – the pull – to look out beyond the railing toward the wide Rappahannock River, to see how the light and wind are playing with the water, to watch the sailboats clip by.

My brother used to have to cross another bridge everyday on his way to high school. An older bridge, it offered views of the rocky rapids littering the upper Potomac River. It was a river of change. He could gage the seasons by the height of the water and the size of the rapids.

He liked to look for fishermen and kayakers every time he crossed that bridge until, one day, he came to a sudden halt in the middle of the back seat of the car in front of him. He walked away unscathed, but his poor little Honda had crossed that bridge for its last time.

The Bridge, our bridge, offers no such gazing to its crossers. To get distracted for even a moment could mean sudden impact with an oncoming semi or, as one friend fears, the guardrails themselves. This friend, who's not one to reveal a weakness, admits that he has vividly imagined himself plummeting over the edge of The Bridge.

In his mind, he has walked through the steps he would take should the worst occur. Remembering a television program on "How to Survive Crashing Off a Bridge," he has decided that he would stay in the car until it hit the water, rolling down the windows during his fall so that he could escape. Of course, he notes, the bridge in the program was probably only six feet above the water, and perhaps his chances of survival would be greater if he leapt from the car in the final moments before impact.

Such thoughts are exactly why some people refuse to cross The Bridge entirely.

Bad weather poses another challenge. Severely exposed, The Bridge is prone to wind sheer, ice and fog. Almost every local has a story of crawling carefully across the bridge in a snowstorm or a near hurricane.

For people who cross the river everyday to get to work, The Bridge is the pinnacle of the commute. As a driver approaches The Bridge, his palms get sweaty and he grips the steering wheel tighter. It's just the adrenaline rush he needs to wake him up on the way to work. On the way home, it's the final crux before relaxation can settle in.

Not all bridges have the same affect. For weekend'eres, such as my parents, crossing the bridge from Tappahannock to Warsaw has a calming affect. All stress lives on the Tappahannock side of that bridge, and the crossing itself is as lovely as it is peaceful, even in fog soup.

For me, the greatest challenge in crossing The Bridge is dodging diving seagulls. It's my biggest fear as I reach the crest. The seagulls swarm, diving off the trusses and power lines, chasing who knows what –they are a far cry from the fish guts and food scraps below.

I believe that it's a game of chicken they play. I can almost hear them speaking in Seagullese: "Okay, Al, if you want to join the club, you have to dive in front of this dump truck and make it to the other side without hitting that oncoming Subaru's windshield."

The other seagulls laugh wickedly.

Evidence of those who didn't make it into the club lay in the mangled masses of feathers that speckle the edges of the road.

To me, these carcasses are proof that the dodging, diving seagull danger is real.

It's not even really that much fun to be a passenger on The Bridge. While some gazing can occur, it is immediately interrupted by the fear that the driver may not be fully paying attention to the road – that perhaps, somehow, your own gazing into the distance is causing the driver's eye to wander as well.

I spend most of my time as a passenger on that bridge clutching the "Oh $#&@!" handle. You know the one I mean, just above the side window.

Like I said, I was seeking a blood-pumping adventure last weekend. But, I didn't need a half pipe or a luge shoot. I got all the thrills I needed right here at home. I crossed The Bridge. Twice.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

For the most part, the session has ended.

The past week was spent voting on legislation that has come out of the conference committees. Legislation goes to the conference committees when the House and the Senate cannot agree on how a bill should be written.

The conference committees are comprised of members from both chambers and they work together on a compromise which then gets reported to the House and the Senate. The bills must then be voted on and approved by a majority of both chambers, at which time they go to the governor for him to approve or veto.

We were called to session on Saturday to discuss the last of the conference bills. In all, about 40 bills needed to be discussed, including the budget. If a budget does not come out of the conference committee, which is composed of six delegates and five senators, by March 11 we either have to extend the session or come back later for a special session. Once this decision is made and we have completed, we will be able to adjourn until April when we are called back for the veto session.

The veto session is held so that legislators can look at bills that have been vetoed by the governor and decide whether or not to override his veto. We have passed a lot of great legislation and hope that these bills will all be signed into law by the governor.

The week has not been all work and no play. The legislative and executive branch got together for a basketball game. I decided to cheer from the bleachers with my son instead of play on the court. The first game was House of Delegates members against Senate members, and the House won. The House was then up against a much younger team from the governor's office. Since the delegates had just finished playing, they must have been exhausted and were unable to secure a second win. It was a great opportunity to put business and politics aside and just have a good time.

On Monday, I go back to my full-time job as field director of shellfish sanitation for the Virginia Health Department. We will also be working on packing up everything in the Richmond office and opening up the Montross office. We have been in the big city for so long it will be nice to be back home.

With the weather warming up, I am very excited to be able to attend events in the district. My calendar is quickly filling up with events.

I am now best reached through the Montross office at 493-0508. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you. I look forward to seeing you around.

Letters to the Editor

Bravo ballet

To The Editor:

What a wonderful treat we enjoyed in the auditorium of the Lancaster Middle School last Sunday afternoon when the Touring Company of the Richmond Ballet held the audience in thrall with its artistry.

Luci and I have been attending "On Stage" offerings of the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts for a dozen years and haven't seen a better performance in any genre. If pressed, probably I would say that Sunday's performance was the best I've seen in that hall.

Although it's strictly a matter of personal taste which of the troupe's three-part program was best from an artistic viewpoint, my choice would be the final sequence, "From Far Away." Such grace, such beauty of motion, such athleticism! It was the perfect cap on a beautiful, early spring day in the Northern Neck.

Bravo Richmond Ballet and bravo "On Stage" selection committee.

Thomas York
Kilmarnock

Bush is incompetent and dishonest

To The Editor:

I'm a little confused. Recent president Bill Clinton was almost impeached for lying about an extramarital affair. Why is there hardly a whisper about impeaching sitting president George W. Bush who "cherry picked" intelligence to justify a decision to go to war? Many scholars call it making up a phony case for war. As a result of invading Iraq, thousands of men, women and children have been killed or injured. Also, billions of dollars have been wasted. The $64,000 question must be asked, what has been accomplished?

If you want evidence of more presidential deception and incompetence, just read the Katrina report. On August 30, 2005, while vacationing in Crawford, Texas, the president stated, "I don't think anybody anticipated a breach in the levees." I had to chuckle. The National Weather Service, 56 hours before Katrina made landfall on August 29, announced that there was an "extreme high probability" that New Orleans would be flooded and tens of thousands of residents would die.

As you might recall, the levee breach in New Orleans was reported at 11:51 a.m. on August 29, while the president, in Crawford, was saying that he felt relieved that New Orleans had "dodged the bullet." To make matters worse, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, flew to Atlanta for a briefing on Asian flu on August 29. The other half of the administration, five-deferment Dick, luckily, was not dove hunting, but fly fishing in Wyoming. Shouldn't these guys be working around the clock until we figure out how to fix Iraq and New Orleans?

It was clear that no one in the administration was paying much attention to Katrina. The New Orleans debacle resulted, in part, from the president appointing a former horse official named Michael Brown to serve as the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To add insult to injury, "Brownie," when he toured New Orleans, was congratulated by the president for doing a "heckuva job at FEMA." At least "Brownie" wasn't awarded the Medal of Freedom as was C.I.A. Director Tenent. Imagine, giving recognition to someone who released faulty intelligence which led to invading Iraq. Obviously, that will discourage Tenent from ever going negative against Mr Bush. Now I suppose that you will be told a civil war in Iraq was never anticipated by the administration.

And if you think that Mr. Bush, as he claims, hadn't met and doesn't know one Jack Abramoff, you'd better practice looking in the mirror so you can learn how to avoid from blushing in public.

Yes, I am being harsh with the president because incompetence and dishonesty on any level should never be tolerated; particularly when it results in death and serious bodily injury. Whatever happened to accountability? A recent poll of our troops revealed that 72 percent of them felt that they should be pulled out within one year. So, Mr. President, most soldiers are not as gung-ho about their mission as you have implied over the years. Also, why does it take four investigations to find out how Cpl. Pat Tillman died in Afghanistan?

Anyone paying attention can readily see the deadly consequences which have resulted from Bush's leadership malaise. This administration has been full of disappointments, recklessness and dogged stubbornness. I'm still waiting for a little bit of statesmanship. Is that too much to expect? I have to laugh when the president espouses one of his favorite lines, "I'm a problem solver," when he's standing at a podium before a staged audience. Let's face it, not much of anything has been accomplished by this administration and he will, I assure you, be rated by historians as one of the five worst presidents in U.S. history.

Mike Morchower
Irvington

Check out this book

To The Editor:

I would like to share my thoughts and feelings about a book I recently read, *The Dragon's Breath; Hurricane at Sea,* by retired U. S.Navy Cmdr. Robert A. Dawes Jr. of Kilmarnock.

It has truly touched my heart in many ways.

The book is available at the library in Kilmarnock. I could see how much work, passion and research went into it. I believe if you are passionate about something you're doing, it will show up in many ways.

The book was about a subject I heard about in school many years ago. As I read it, I could see the author's love and passion and heart and soul come alive. He truly lived through it.

Blanche M. Rich
Mollusk

Nuclear threat

To The Editor:

Why does the administration remain silent on the huge fleet of nuclear ballistic missile submarines being built by China?

This new fleet, which will far exceed our own in size, has been public knowledge for weeks now. Even worse, China has already held joint military exercises with Russia.

As China continues to expand at more than twice the rate of the U.S., how can it afford such a massive naval investment simultaneously?

The answer lies in our ever-growing trade imbalance with China.

In other words, the biggest single source of funding for the Chinese submarine construction program is ultimately the American consumer. The biggest single entity causing this is none other than Wal-Mart.

It is way past due for Congress to start recognizing, and dealing with, such real and unprecedented problems that face our country. Each day's delay simply speeds up our eventual demise as a superpower.

Jerry Peill
Lancaster

Reaffirming faith in the community

To The Editor:

One of the hardest things to hear is that someone you love has been diagnosed with cancer. This diagnosis was given to my co-worker and friend and it has devastated everyone that knows this special person.

Two young ladies at our office came up with an idea to give a benefit dance to raise funds that would help our friend and her two sons through some difficult times. Because of this one small idea and gentle gesture, in less than two weeks an event took place that has truly affected many people.

The building was donated, the band was donated, tickets, raffle items, silent auction items, food, time and love were donated and thrown together so quickly and with such enthusiasm to make this wonderful event happen. So many businesses, private citizens, schools and churches donated from their hearts and it made no difference the size of the donation, as one dollar was given as genuinely in love as hundreds were. It was overwhelming to see the generosity of our community.

For one night, we were not black or white, we were not rich or poor and we left our status in the community in the parking lot at the White Stone Firehouse. We did not care if Wal-Mart came to Kilmarnock and we did not care who built another condominium on Carters Creek or who was running for office. We were one community, friends and neighbors, extending our support and caring for one of "us."

I know that the monetary gifts were a wonderful gift to my friend, Marion Vest; but, after talking with her and sharing our joys and our fears, I know those monetary gifts were secondary to the feeling she took away with her on March 4 as she let the balloons go and went home for the evening. Those feelings of love, support, caring, sharing and blessings will remain with her, with me and with the more than 500 guests that attended the event.

I have always been proud to say that my feet have been firmly planted in the marsh mud of my beautiful Rappahannock River for my entire life and this is where I want to stay forever. I can't imagine living anywhere else, but here, with these wonderful people.

Thank you for reaffirming my faith in my community and thank you even more for caring about my friend.

Susan Abbott
Weems

GOP plans Irish fest

The Northumberland County Republican Committee will sponsor an Irish Family Festival at Festival Halle in Reedville March 24 from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Entertainment will include square dancing and line dancing with lessons by professionals. Buzzy "Liam Leprechaun," the clown magician, will entertain the children.

The event also will include a raffle of a queen-size Irish chain quilt fashioned by Martha Mahieu of Wicomico Church, a silent auction, and guessing the number of jelly beans in a pot of gold.

Food will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Prepared by Tommy's Restaurant, the Irish dinner will feature Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, chips, sodas, coffee, tea, water and bath tub sundaes made by patrons from 10 gallons of ice cream in a tub and chocolate syrup, caramel syrup, nuts, cherries and whipped cream toppings.

The cost is $30 per family. Tickets are limited; admission is by advanced sales only from members of the Republican Committee, or call Randy Neal at 453-6625.

Democrats to meet

The Northumberland County Democratic Committee will meet Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at the Community Center near Browns Store.

Both candidates for Congressional Representative from the 1st District will speak: Shawn O'Donnell of Fredericksburg and Dr. Lorenzo Grant of Newport News.

Refreshments will be served.

Email letters to:
editor@rrecord.com

Reagan Day observance to include dinner, auction

The Lancaster County Republican Committee will mark Reagan Day 2006 with a dinner and silent auction March 26 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club near Kilmarnock.

Activities will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Admission to the dinner is $40 per person. Dress is business attire. For reservations, call treasurer Emerson Gravatt at 435-3350, or chairman Joan Blackstone at 435-6464.

Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling will deliver the keynote address. Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter and Del. Rob Wittman also will speak. U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis will serve as master of ceremonies.

Other distinguished guests will include Attorney General Bob McDonnell, Republican National Committeeman for Virginia Morton C. Blackwell and First Congressional District Republican Committee chairman Russ Moulton.

The silent auction will feature numerous books as well as campaign memorabilia.

Effective immediately, Rappahannock General Hospital and Chesapeake Medical Group will accept the **Humana Gold Choice** Private-Fee-For-Service product.
If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at Rappahannock General Hospital at 804-435-8529.

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Local News

Celebrating 60 Years

James and Pearl McNeal celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary March 11, 2006. A dinner party was held in their honor at Rose's Crab House with family and friends. They have two sons, David McNeal of Richmond and Dale McNeal of Lively, two grandchildren, Carrie Busic and James David McNeal, and two great-grandchildren, C.W. and Tucker.

Joan Pittman has returned home after spending several months in Frostproof, Fla., as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Roush. While there, she also visited with Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Smith.

Wayne and Karen Mullins have returned from a trip to New York City via Amtrak. While there, they attended two Broadway shows, shopped and enjoyed great food. This week they are entertaining Daryel and Wendy Chessum of Los Angeles, Calif. The Chessums and Mullins are longtime friends since they lived in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spafford on Kent Cove were her sisters, brother-in-law and a nephew, Ms. Betty Brown of Falls Church, Gene and Judy Ramey of Woodstock and Clay Ramey of Richmond.

Mrs. Janice Bangit of Williamsburg and Ms. Julie Blackwell of Richmond were here one day last week to celebrate the birthday of their mother, Mrs. Stuart Blackwell.

Jim Conley returned home on Sunday after visiting his son, Michael Conley, in Napierville, Ill., several days last week.

Joan Pittman, Joanne Hinson and Thomas Jett were in Fredericksburg on Wednesday, March 8, to attend the funeral of Julian H. Jett Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Baskerville IV of Rodondo Beach, Calif., recently visited his mother, Mrs. R.D. Baskerville of RW-C. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Baskerville and family of Norfolk joined the family here.

Mrs. Clarence Horst and Mrs. Michael Parrish, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Taylor, recently participated in cooking a complete Italian meal including wine tasting, appetizers and dessert at the Hopkins Ordinary Bed and Breakfast in Sperryville. To celebrate the birthdays of Mr. Parrish, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Horst, they did a repeat performance in Jefferson, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abbott are the parents of a son, Joshua Leighton, born Monday, February 20, 2006. Joshua was welcomed home by a sister, Jordon, 3 years old.

Best wishes are extended to Ms. Mary Ann Dameron of Mila who has been a patient at Rappahannock General Hospital since last week.

Ms. Eunice Thrift and Tom Northern vacationed last week at Bryce's Mountain Resort. They then joined Mr. and Mrs. Delman Felton and sons, Mark and Johnny, of Suffolk, for several days with Ms. Carol Felton in New Market.

Gardening workshop registrations are due

Tough Plants for Tough Places will be the topic for the annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar March 29 sponsored by the Northern Neck Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wicomico Parish Church on Route 200 in Wicomico Church. The fee is $25 in advance, or $35 including lunch. The fee at the door is $30 without lunch. To register, call 580-5694. The deadline to register in advance and order lunch is March 22.

Speakers include Ted Munns, who will address invasive alien plants; Dr. James E. Perry III, who will address native salt-tolerant plants for shoreline planting; and Peggy Singlemann, who will discuss annuals for tough places.

A Master Gardener, Munns has a degree in horticulture technology. He lives in Reedville.

Dr. Perry is a professor of marine science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary.

Dr. Perry's primary research interests involve monitoring stress and long-term changes in vascular plant communities of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and the relationship of those changes to changes in environmental parameters within watersheds.

He is also involved in two international projects to examine the role of environmental conservation and sustainable development in several developing countries.

Singlemann is manager of horticulture for the Maymont Foundation in Richmond and an academic advisor for the horticulture program at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

She has a degree in horticulture and is a Certified Nurseryman through the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association. She earned her North American Certificate in Horticulture through the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, of which she is a member.

She is also a member of the Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and the American Hemerocallis Society.

Master Gardener Help Desk to open in April

Since 1996, the Northern Neck Master Gardeners has assisted the public with horticultural problems and queries.

From April to October, a Master Gardener has manned the Help Desk at the Virginia Cooperative Extension offices once a week, taking calls from the public and welcoming visitors to the offices who frequently bring samples of diseased or insect-damaged plant materials for analysis and diagnosis. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who support and assist the Extension agents, utilizing the resources and expertise of Virginia Tech's Department of Horticulture.

Starting April 4 in Northumberland and April 6 in Lancaster, the Northern Neck Master Gardeners will begin its 10th season of offering this service. A Master Gardener will be on duty each Tuesday morning at the Northumberland Extension office and each Thursday at the Lancaster office from 9 a.m. to noon.

Anyone with gardening queries is urged to use this community resource, which gives the public easy access to up-to-date, research-based information.

Ten years ago, there were few callers to keep the Master Gardeners busy, but as knowledge of the service spread, the phones started to ring with increasing frequency, said Sue Lindsey. In 2005, the Help Desk assisted the public with almost 300 enquiries.

An extension of this service is planned for the 2006 growing season, with an Extension Master Gardener Help Desk opening in Montross every Wednesday, to assist residents of Westmoreland County.

Call Virginia Cooperative Extension in Lancaster at 462-5780, in Northumberland at 580-5694, or in Westmoreland at 493-8924.

Seniors Club to gather in Lively

The Corrotoman Senior Citizens will meet Tuesday, March 21, at 10 a.m. at the Ruritan Center near Lively.

Matthew Stamm of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department and his canine companion "Rando" will entertain.

A lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, chips, dessert and drinks will be served. The cost is $1 per person at the door.

Bingo will be played; attendees are urged to bring a prize.

Hostesses for the day will be Jerry Dameron, Rosie Feamster, Nancy Hundley, Betty Patterson, and Virginia Tucker.

Upcoming trips include "Behold the Lamb," Lancaster, Pa., April 4 and 5; a day trip for "Ragtime," Riverside Theatre, Fredericksburg, April 12; Ocean City, Md., Featuring Charlie Prose, April 24 to 27; and Branson, Mo., September 18 to 22. For trip details, call Hazel Ford at 462-7895, or Fannie Clingan at 435-1713.

'All you can eat, for all you can give'

The You & I Sunday school class at Bethel United Methodist Church near Lively will host its 51st consecutive Donation Dinner Saturday, March 18.

The menu includes fried oysters, country ham, sugar-cured ham, black eye peas and stewed tomatoes, green beans, lasagna, macaroni and cheese, lima beans, pasta salads, corn pudding, pies, ice cream coffee and tea.

Dinner will be served in the church fellowship hall from 5 to 7:30 p.m. It's an "all you can eat, for all you can give" affair.

The dinner is believed to be the longest running event of its kind in the Northern Neck. The You & I Class was led by Dr. Jiggs Tingle, who once noted "If the Sunday school room ever fills up, I'll stand outside the window and teach through it." The photo is on file at the church.

To get to the church from Kilmarnock, follow Route 3 to Lively and turn left onto Route 201 at the flashing light. Proceed to the church on the right.

Engagements

Kyle Daniel Moxley and Mary Kathleen Mitchell

Mitchell-Moxley

Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Mitchell of Gloucester announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Kathleen Mitchell, to Kyle Daniel Moxley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Moxley of Dares Beach, Md.

Miss Mitchell is the granddaughter of the late Raymond and Lillian Mitchell of Millenbeck. She is a graduate of George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church.

The prospective groom is a graduate of DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Md.

The couple received degrees from Radford University and are employed in northern Virginia.

A September 2006 wedding is planned at Ford's Colony Country Club in Williamsburg.

Erik J.P. McDonald and Melanie Anne Davis

Davis-McDonald

Mrs. Gentry S. Hamblin of Callao and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Davis Jr. of Warsaw announce the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Melanie Anne Davis, to Erik J.P. McDonald, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. McDonald of Columbia, Md.

Ms. Davis is employed with Kilmarnock Animal Hospital.

The prospective groom is vice president of McDonald and Sons Inc. in Maryland.

A June wedding is planned.

Karen Palmer and Larry Landers

Palmer-Landers

Karen Palmer and Larry Landers, together with their children, announce their engagement.

A March 18, 2006, wedding is planned.

Celebrations
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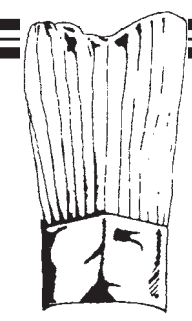

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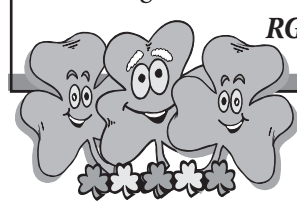

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Mills are featured in museum exhibit

"Grist Mills of Richmond County" will be on exhibit at the Richmond County Museum from April 1 through August 31.

Tracing the history of the mills from the time of Moore Fauntleroy in 1659 to 1968, when Tayloe's Mill closed, the exhibit will feature a map showing locations of dozens of water- powered mills that dotted the county. Grinding corn into meal and wheat into flour, these water-powered mills were a link between the grain harvest and bread for the table. Some were also merchant mills where flour was sold.

Old millponds are almost all that remains to mark the sites of the mills. Union Mill was near Farnham, Connellees's Mill and Garland's Mill were just outside of Warsaw, and Chinns Mill was at the southern end of the county.

Anyone wishing to share information, pictures, or a memory of the mills is invited to call the museum at 333-3607.

A silent auction is in progress at the museum for the John Shaw painting of Tayloe's Mill at Mount Airy. View the painting and make a bid during museum hours, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The museum is on Richmond Road at the corner of Wallace Street.

Miller James Hammack at Hammack's Mill in Richmond County, circa 1890.

According to an old English system of time units, a moment is one and a half minutes.

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Art League to view Paris in the 1890s

Jeffrey W. Allison, the Paul Mellon Collection educator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will be the guest speaker at a Rappahannock Art League (RAL) meeting March 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock.

Allison will present an overview of the art, politics, and social conditions in Paris during La Belle Epoque and their influence on the life and artwork of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

Paris in the 1890s was at the height of the Belle Epoque. Carefree life, fickleness, and joie de vivre summed up this period in the history of France, explained RAL member Virginia Adair. It was a rest between two wars, a period of transition between two centuries during which the social barriers collapsed, when the industrial revolution gave hope of a better life for all.

The middle class mixed with the riff-raff and popular culture was full of joy and vitality, she said. The atmosphere favored creativity and writers and artists were inspired by the joyful, sometimes outrageous climate that broke completely with the rigid classicism of that era.

Photography, Japonism, new styles of writing, and politics were obvious influences on the painters of the era. Equally influential, but less well known, were the shadow puppet plays and the singers and dancers of the Café concert halls and cabarets, said Adair.

The beating heart of this world was the Butte-Montmartre and it was here that Henri Toulouse-Lautrec came, in 1881, and where he was destined to experience the nightlife which ultimately consumed him, she said.

Allison previously was coordinator of statewide programs. He received a master's in photography and design from Virginia Commonwealth University and a bachelor's in photography from Virginia Intermont College.

Jeffrey W. Allison

As well as continuing his personal art of photography, Allison has held faculty positions at colleges, universities and craft centers in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. He has taught and directed workshops on a variety of topics and curated numerous exhibitions.

Near-death experience to be told

The Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula friends of International Association for Near-Death Studies will meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. March 25 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury (RW-C) near Irvington.

Andy Petro will tell of his experience as he drowned in the cold waters of Lake Michigan, where he and his friends were having a picnic to celebrate their impending high school graduation. His life was inalterably changed and transformed by what happened to him that June day in 1955.

Those who have had a near-death or other spiritually transformative experience and those interested in learning more about them are invited to join the meeting. A donation of $5 is suggested. No one is turned away.

RW-C is off Route 646. From White Stone on Route 3, turn left on Route 646 and left into RW-C.

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

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President and Mrs. Hoover to be depicted at RW-C

Dramatists William and Sue Wills will return to Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury on March 20 at 7 p.m. to present their depiction of President Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou.

From Abilene, Texas, the Willses have performed 6,600 times together over the past 28 years. They have developed dramatic sketches of 31 presidents and their wives. Last year at RW-C, they presented their rendition of a press conference with the Kennedys.

Although Herbert and Lou Hoover are not remembered among the greatest presidential couples, the Willses present theirs as a loving partnership filled with particular concern for children. Mrs. Hoover was committed to the growth of the Girl Scouts.

This is one of their favorite programs to present because it opens the eyes of people to one of the most misunderstood presidents and first ladies, they said.

William researches and writes the scripts and handles the bookings while Sue edits and creates the costumes. In addition to their community presentations, they have performed at seven presidential library and museum sites, on C-Span and on cruise ships.

The 50-minute show is free.

Grab lunch

Habitat for Humanity will serve a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon March 17. Lunches will be delivered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

Two separate meal choices will be offered: fried chicken with potato salad, roll and dessert; or chicken salad with potato salad, crackers and dessert. A donation of $7 is requested.

The lunches will be prepared by Elizabeth Scott at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. To place a lunch order, call vice president Andrena M. Seawood at 435-0504.

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Thank you for your generous support since Many Moons Ago opened in September 2005. Please join us in celebrating our grand opening and to welcome White Swan Antiques to our location.

The Haven turns 20

Just Gardens celebrates its 6th anniversary

The Haven Shelter and Services Inc., this year turns 20 years old.

Over the years, The Haven has grown from a one-bedroom apartment to a multi-room facility to a multi-room facility with expanded programs and increased staff. The Haven serves victims who may need shelter and others who need assistance with the legal process, individual and group support, and case management and referral services. Services include emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, court and hospital accompaniment, individual and group counseling, information, referral and public education.

For 15 of The Haven's years, an old farmhouse built in the 1950s has been a source of safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, while they have worked to build safe environments for themselves and their children.

Over the years, the old farmhouse has seen a lot of families come and go. Many children have climbed the creaky stairway to bed at night. Many mothers have prepared meals for their families in the small kitchen. The farmhouse has aged considerably in 15 years, and the requests for shelter have increased.

Six years ago, a group of local garden enthusiasts realized that The Haven's shelter would not always be able to provide the safe escape necessary for those in danger and that the requests for shelter and the wear to the farmhouse would make it necessary to build a new shelter. The group developed a plan for a garden tour that would educate local gardeners and encourage them to consider plants they could grow in their own gardens, and at the same time, raise money to help The Haven build a new shelter when the time came that it was necessary to do so.

On May 12 and 13, the annual "Just Gardens" tour will feature six gardens in Lancaster County: The LaPrade, Campbell, Queener, Wrick, Hoerneman, and Crichton gardens.

Over the past five years, this tour has grown in popularity and raised nearly $50,000 to go directly toward the construction of The Haven's new shelter. As the time to build the new shelter moves closer, the proceeds from "Just Gardens" will be a tremendous help.

In addition to the "Just Gardens" proceeds, and donations from individuals and local churches, the land on which to build the new shelter has been donated. With so much support already in place, The Haven plans to launch a full capital campaign within the upcoming year.

Tickets for the 2006 "Just Gardens" tour are $12 in advance and $15 the day of the tour. Tickets may be ordered by sending a SASE (#10 business size) and check payable to The Haven to "Just Gardens," P.O. Box 429, Irvington, VA 22480. Tickets are also available at The Dandelion, Greenpoint Nursery, Wildest Dreams, Mary Young's Herbs and Garden Shop, and Colonial Collectibles. For more information, call 435-1271.

Lancashire Lines

by Joan M. Foster

"Guess-A-Sketch" was the fun feature Monday morning as our folks identified drawing after drawing as each was being done.

Congratulations to Classie Edwards who won first place, Louise Dunaway who won second place and Elizabeth Folger who won third place. Fourteen residents enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Lee's Restaurant later in the day, followed by a scenic bus ride. Residents back home watched "Field of Dreams" in the afternoon.

Dorothy Jones, Eva Bryant and Linda Atkins showed how to really exercise during "Fitness Club" Tuesday. "Dancing" to the "Twist" as part of the exercise session was great fun. Noble Lee was high scorer in afternoon bingo.

Jim Conley taught Wednesday Bible study. Residents challenged one another in bowling later in the day and rolled many spares and strikes. Sue Ann Bangel shared her precious dog for pet therapy.

On Thursday, Rappahannock residents learned of the top 10 tasty treats of Chicago. The Chicago dog, a beef hot dog dressed in onions, chili sauce, peppers and other toppings, was number one. Glen Mathews was the big afternoon bingo winner.

Residents sang out heartily Friday during hymn sing. Celeste Gates and friends played Celtic music in the afternoon. Folks began work on their personalized pillows. Carol Jones donated the material for this special project.

Jones Ministries hosted a praise and worship service Saturday.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints led a Sunday afternoon worship service.

Food For Thought lecture to review Rosenwald Schools

Food For Thought, a program of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern Foundation, will present "Rosenwald Schools in the Northern Neck," a lecture by Phyllis P. McClure, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the Northumberland County Historical Society headquarters in Heathsville.

McClure is an independent scholar, consultant and writer. She wrote "Rosenwald Schools in the Northern Neck," recently published in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

McClure will recount the story of Julius Rosenwald and his far-reaching effect on the community. Rosenwald was president and chairman of the board of Sears Roebuck. He contributed $3,660,000 toward the building of 4,500 Negro public schools in the south, including 24 in the Northern Neck.

Two of the five schools he helped fund in Northumberland County are still standing.

The fee is $5. Students are admitted free. Following the lecture, audience members may adjourn to the Tavern Restaurant for a special dinner.

Dinner reservations must be made in advance. The fee is $24, not including tax and gratuity. To make reservations for dinner, call the Tavern Gift Shop at 580-3536, or the foundation office at 580-3377, by Monday, March 20.

Museum forum sets focus on local farmers

The Northern Neck Farm Museum will host its first Farmer's Forum March 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville.

The forum will feature a panel of six Northern Neck farmers who will reflect on their lives as farmers, the changes they have seen in farming and the future of agriculture. Evan Lewis, Luther Welch, Meyers France, Bristow Balderson, Louis Packett and Craig Griese are the farm panelists.

Thea Marshall will guide the farmers through a series of thought-provoking questions as they explore the history of agriculture in the Northern Neck. An award-winning producer, Marshall has many years of radio production experience with national companies and the AFL-CIO. She is the producer and radio personality of the Thea Marshall Show at WINDY.

Tom Ryals, a videographer from Reedville, will record the program for the museum. Ryals has done work for the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern.

Refreshments will be served after the program. The next forum will feature "Desperate Housewives, the farmer's wife."

Kilmarnock Museum

The Kilmarnock Museum reopened last Thursday for the 2006 season with a new exhibit of "Kilmarnock 75 years ago."

The display includes old photos, business newspaper advertisements of the era, and artifacts including grocery store items that are no longer available. Many of the photos and ads are new to the museum and have not been previously displayed.

The museum will also have an exhibit during the "Pride of Kilmarnock Day" Saturday, March 18, at the Pedestal on Main Street. "Kilmarnock's Holocaust" documents the 1952 fire that destroyed nearly half the town. Books on the town's history will be on sale.

The museum's annual meeting will be held April 8 at the town hall at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

The museum is looking for a few good people who can spare a minimum of three hours per month as volunteer docents; call Agnes Lee at 435-2477, or Augusta Sellew at 435-0874.

Foundation offers free dogwood trees

Ten free white flowering dogwood trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during March 2006.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

To join, send a $12 contribution to TEN FREE DOGWOOD TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31; or visit www.arborday.org.

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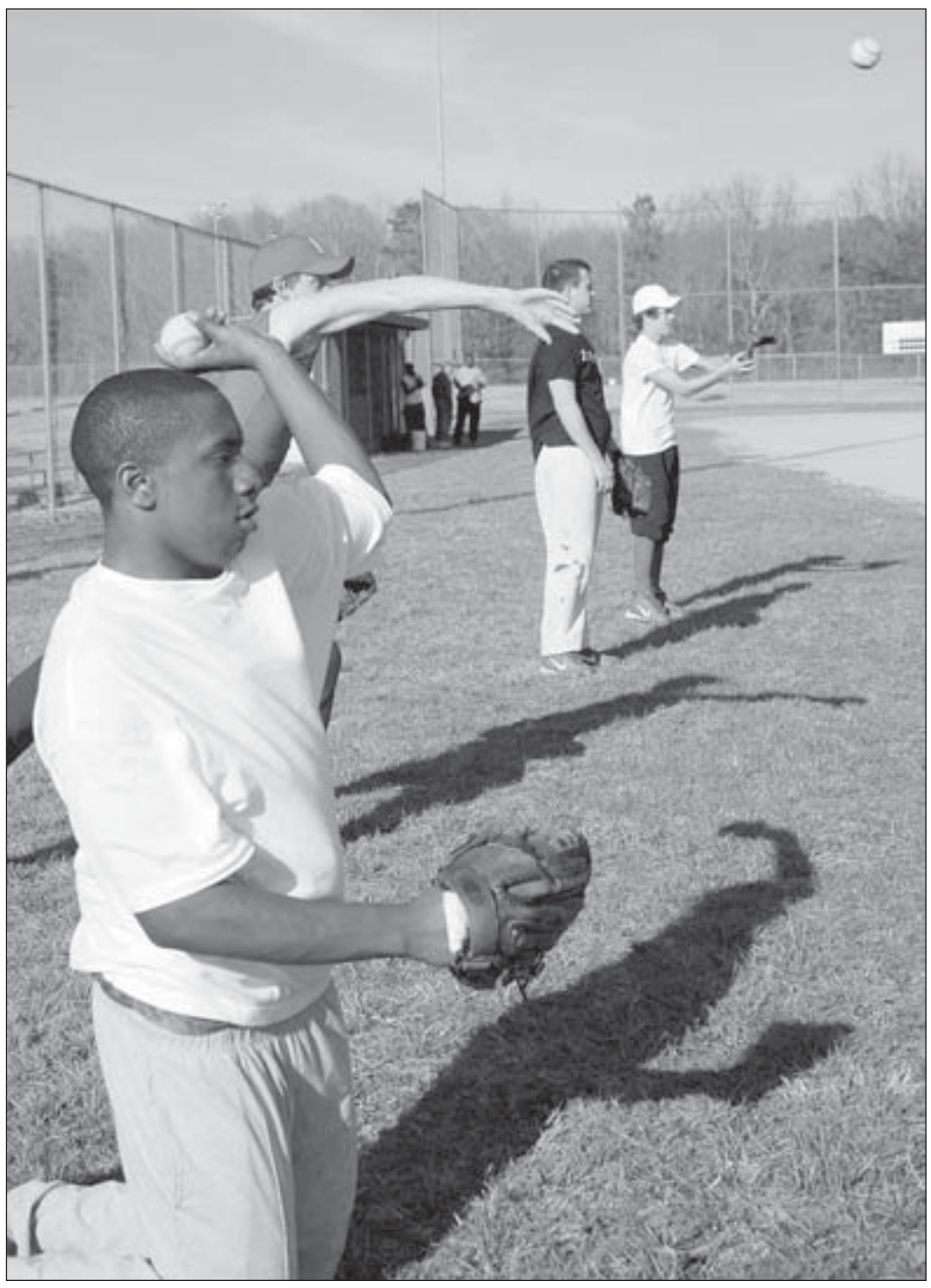

Spring training

With temperatures in the upper 70s last Friday, members of Lancaster High's varsity baseball team hit the practice field in Kilmarnock. With spring a few days away, area high school softball, baseball, soccer and track and field teams are preparing for the season, which starts for most squads this week. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Northumberland board tables proposal to lift ban on slugs

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—What to do about slugs?

The issue before the Northumberland board of supervisors last Thursday was not slimy pests who feast on garden greens. It was ammunition, and a host of orange-clad hunters were there to support the use of the contraband shells in Northumberland County. Only six counties in the Commonwealth ban hunting with slugs, and two of those are in Northern Virginia.

All the surrounding counties in the Northern Neck, the hunters pointed out, already allow the use of slugs for deer hunting.

Slugs are safer, they said, because unlike buckshot, a single slug shot flies straight and narrow rather than spraying a small firework of bullets. Fewer, in fact, almost no accidental injuries have occurred in Virginia with slugs, whereas buckshot often accidently harms people.

"If our esteemed vice president had a slug in his gun, his friend would be dead," one worried citizen quipped.

"If Dick Cheney had buckshot in his gun, instead of bird shot, that guy wouldn't be here," an unidentified hunter replied. Besides, nobody hunts quail with slugs, another woman noted.

Slugs are more humane, the hunters argued, because they kill a deer more quickly, penetrating deeper and with accuracy.

Slugs would bring the sportsmanship and skill back into deer hunting, they said. Dogs, it was noted, aren't used in slug hunting.

They would help control the blossoming deer population, although the hunting season has been exended next year to help curb that problem.

"I hear all these facts, but, I want to see some proof on these things," supervisor Jim Long said. "If I were coming in here trying to get something approved, I would have some information to hand out."

Long moved that the board carry over its decision on slugs until the April meeting to allow the slug advocates to provide some concrete evidence to the county regarding the safety record and benefits of slugs. The board supported his motion unanimously.

The hunters, mumbling remarks toward Long, left the meeting in disgust.

All-star benefit basketball games tip off Saturday at LHS

Rosters have been posted for the eighth annual Norlan Shrine Club All-Star basketball games Saturday, March 18, at Lancaster High School.

The fund-raising exhibition will feature both girls and boys all-star teams from the Northern Neck and Tidewater districts. A most valuable player will be selected in each game.

Admission is $5. Proceeds benefit the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children and other Shriners' charities.

The girls game begins at 6:30 p.m. The Northern Neck girls, led by district player of the year Shannon Lewis of Northumberland, will take on the Tidewater girls, led by district player of the year Kelly White of King William.

The Northern Neck girls team includes Latoya Rich and Megan Wind of Essex; Lishauna Lucas and Patrice Barber of Rappahannock; and Tykia Thomas, Ebonee Taylor, Kandice Fulchon and Amanda Wilkinson of Northumberland.

The team will be coached by Northern Neck District coach of the year Darlene Boone of Essex.

The Tidewater team includes Brook Davis and Cherrelle Johnson of King William; Lauren Brizendine and Michelle Dorsey of West Point; Carlie Prater and Megan Morris of Mathews; and Patricia Price, De'nelle Reed and Ashley Robinson of Middlesex.

The team will be coached by Tidewater District coach of the year Joe Harper of King William.

The boys game immediately follows the girls game. Lancaster's Andre Henderson, the Northern Neck District leading scorer and player of the year, will lead a team that includes four players each from state quarterfinalists Northumberland and Lancaster.

The Northern Neck team, coached by Northumberland's Michael Stevenson and his staff, includes Timmy Johnson and Marques Taylor of Rappahannock; Delontay Turner and Damian Crawley of Washington & Lee; Curtis Henderson, Montel Mitchell and Jamie Veney of Lancaster; and Brian Seymour, Jonathan Veney, Brandon Webb and Kyle Jones of Northumberland.

Middlesex's Andre Fells, the district's player of the year, will lead a Tidewater team including Rashaan Bowens and Marlon Parker of Middlesex; Chris Williams and Gerry Greene of West Point; Hugh Bryan, Patrick Billups and Dwayne Ward, all of Mathews; and Eddie Davis, Dennis Dabney and Orrid Broddus of King & Queen.

The team will be coached by Tidewater District coach of the year Neal Bailey of Middlesex.

A $100 half-court shootout will take place during halftime of both games. The entry fee is $1.

Golf tourney to benefit Boy Scouts

A golf tournament to benefit the Boy Scouts of America Heart of Virginia Council Northern Neck District will be held Thursday, April 13, at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems.

The captain's choice tournament will begin at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start. Dinner and an awards ceremony will follow the tournamnet.

The entry fee is $260 per team, or $65 per golfer.

Contests and prizes will include a hole-in-one contest and a chance to win a 2006 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 extended cab truck, sponsored by McGinnes Chevrolet-Buick of Kilmarnock.

To register, contact Don Nelson with the Tartan at 438-6005, or Phillip Mumford with the Boy Scouts at 436-2078.

Hoe Down raises $4,500 for Northumberland YMCA

The board of directors for the Northumberland Family YMCA previously set a goal of raising $22,000 for 2006 to support the Guardian and Bright Beginnings Programs.

The Guardian Program is a scholarship program of the Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA Association that ensures no one is left out of any YMCA program due to financial inability.

Bright Beginnings is a newly developed program that provides a good start to the school year for several area families by providing new school clothes and supplies.

The second annual Hoe Down dinner and silent auction was held recently at Tommy's Restaurant in Reedville. Nearly 90 people enjoyed country music and bid on some of the 100 items available for the silent auction. Many businesses and individuals donated time, talents and services for the auction.

From left at the Hoe Down are KK Crowther, Anna Wells, Helen Smith, Tommy Crowther, Florence Charlie, Kathy Wall and Cristian Shirilla.

"What a showing of support for the Y in this community," said board chair Kathy Wall. "In a four-hour family event, we raised over $4,500. We are well on our way to reaching our goal for the year."

Wall thanked Tommy's Restaurant and the other businesses that supported the event.

The Northumberland Family YMCA is growing by the day and is able to offer a variety of programs for children, teens and adults, said extension Cristian Shirilla.

The staff includes program and child care director Joy Smith and Theresa French.

(continued on page A10)

Kenneth Owens of White Stone will auction his racecar to benefit the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance.

Race car to be auctioned during Colon Cancer Awareness Month

In November 1998, at the age of 38, longtime Richmond and White Stone resident, Kenneth Owens, was diagnosed with Stage III colon cancer.

His first surgery, in December 1998, was performed at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. The surgery was followed by radiation and chemotherapy treatments in 1999, but the tumor returned in the summer of 2000.

His second surgery, in October 2000, was performed at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Medical Center in New York City. This most recent surgery was followed by chemotherapy treatments in 2001 and 2002.

When his treatments ended, Owen's decided to pursue his lifelong dream of race car driving. He attended the Skip Barber School of Driving in 2003, obtained his racing license, joined the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and started thinking about what kind of race car he wanted to drive. Fortunately, he didn't have to think very long.

His wife, Linda, had been driving a 2003 Nissan 350Z, 6-speed, that she loved. Owens enjoyed driving it too, and together, they decided that the Nissan would become his race car. It was transformed to meet all SCCA specifications and Owens began entering SCCA races in the T2 Class.

For over a year, he had a blast driving the Nissan in Regional and National races, from New York to Florida, said Owens.

His goal was to earn enough racing points for an invitation to the SCCA National Championships–the Mid-Ohio Runoffs—in September 2005. He achieved his goal, and came in a respectable 28th place out of a field of 54 entrants, exceeding expectations as a first-timer in the SCCA National Championships.

Owens is marking the fifth anniversary of his Sloan-Kettering cancer surgery by auctioning his beloved Nissan 350Z race car online at eBay during March, Colon Cancer Awareness Month (www.eBay.com). The auction began March 15 and ends March 22.

Proceeds have already been committed to the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance. Their mission is to educate the public about early detection and screening, to research ways to prevent and to cure colon cancer, and to better care for those living with this disease.

The Owenses remind men age 50 and older, and younger men with family history of colon cancer, to schedule a screening session.

✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

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

Fri	**3/17**	Sunrise	6:14	High	12:39	1.5′
		Moonset	7:18	Low	7:14	0.1′
		Sunset	**6:15**	High	**12:56**	1.4′
		Moonrise	**9:04**	Low	**7:18**	0.1′
Sat	**3/18**	Sunrise	6:12	High	1:12	1.6′
		Moonset	7:43	Low	7:51	0.1′
		Sunset	**6:16**	High	**1:29**	1.3′
		Moonrise	**10:07**	Low	**7:50**	0.1′
Sun	**3/19**	Sunrise	6:11	High	1:48	1.5′
		Moonset	8:12	Low	8:30	0.1′
		Sunset	**6:17**	High	**2:04**	1.3′
		Moonrise	**11:13**	Low	**8:26**	0.1′
Mon	**3/20**	Sunrise	6:09	High	2:29	1.5′
		Moonset	8:47	Low	9:15	0.2′
		Sunset	**6:17**	High	**2:45**	1.2′
				Low	**9:08**	0.1′
Tue	**3/21**	Moonrise	12:19	High	3:17	1.5′
		Sunrise	6:08	Low	10:07	0.2′
		Moonset	9:30	High	**3:35**	1.2′
		Sunset	**6:18**	Low	**9:59**	0.2′
Wed	**3/22**	Moonrise	1:24	High	4:15	1.5′
		Sunrise	6:06	Low	11:08	0.3′
		Moonset	10:24	High	**4:35**	1.2′
3rd Q. - **2:11**		Sunset	**6:19**	Low	**11:03**	0.2′
Thu	**3/23**	Moonrise	2:23	High	5:23	1.5′
		Sunrise	6:05	Low	**12:16**	0.3′
		Moonset	11:28	High	**5:45**	1.2′
		Sunset	**6:20**			
Fri	**3/24**	Moonrise	3:15	Low	12:15	0.2′
		Sunrise	6:03	High	6:35	1.5′
		Moonset	**12:41**	Low	**1:23**	0.2′
		Sunset	**6:21**	High	**6:58**	1.3′

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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Tournament time

The Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Foundation's 22nd annual Open Golf Tournament will be played April 5 at the Golden Eagle Golf Course near Irvington. Norman Faulkner, (above), has contributed sponsorships every year from his company, Noblett Oil and Propane Co. Inc. Proceeds benefit RW-C's Fellowship Fund. Contact Linda Reeves at 438-4013 for information about sponsorships, prize donation, or registration to play in the tournament.

Swift-Walker tourney to be played April 28

The Swift-Walker Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Rappahannock General Hosptial Cancer Center is scheduled April 28 at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems.

When the Swift and Walker families of Reedville lost loved ones to cancer, they established the Swift-Walker Memorial Cancer Fund, a permanently restricted endowed fund, to benefit the RGH Cancer Center.

The center offers an in-depth program to provide cancer patients and their families with the highest quality and comprehensive treatment available.

Registrations for the sixth annual tournament must be received by April 21. For more information regarding the tournament, call Doug Walker at 453-3098.

Signs memorializing cancer survivors or victims may be purchased for $25 and will be displayed at the tournament and viewed during the Memory Walk after the tournament. Call Christine Rogers at 453-7203, or Marian Leigh Walker at 580-3705 to purchase a sign.

Flight ready

Cadet Airman 1st class Holly Selph stands in front of the Cessna plane for the Civil Air Patrol. On her orientation flight, with pilot Don Johnson, they flew to Wakefield and Tappahannock and back to Hummel Field in Topping.

Tourney champs

The Kilmarnock Lettering Company team won the Northern Neck Family YMCA Spring Coed Volleyball Tournament. From left are Mike Moubray, Chris Hunt, Roxy Moubray and Randy Moubray.

Health fair is Saturday

Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center in Tappahannock will hold a Community Health Fair Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Various activities will be offered, including a nutrition seminar, a water aerobics class, a low impact aerobics class, free health screenings, a karate demonstration, a free 10-minute chair massage, food, door prizes and games.

The center will be open for anyone to use the exercise equipment, basketball court and pool.

For those who join, the membership fee will be waived.

"We're hoping by offering this free community health fair, the residents of our community will take the opportunity to stop by and see what we are able to provide in helping them to create a healthy lifestyle," said director Angela Jones. "However, we're also looking forward to just being able to offer our community a day of fun."

The Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center is behind Wal-Mart.

State park plans birthday celebration

The Virginia State Park system turns 70 years old this spring.

Westmoreland State Park, one of the original six parks, opened June 15, 1936.

Plans to celebrate the event are being made for the June 17 weekend. A birthday ceremony will unveil National Historical Designation plaques commemorating the Civilian Conservation Corps efforts. In addition to the traditional interpretive offerings of kayak trips and fossil hikes, two 70th anniversary hikes will be initiated that will share the corp's craftsmanship and contribution in shaping the landscape. Other possible activities include era demonstrations of Dutch oven cooking, blacksmithing, and folk/square dancing.

The park is soliciting for loans or donations, artifacts, exhibit materials and/or persons that would enhance the Civilian Conservation Corps message and/or the early days of Westmoreland as a state park. The mementoes could be anything from pictures, letters, tools, or uniforms. The park also is interested in any stories or experiences at Westmoreland State Park. A scrapbook will be made prior to the June 17 celebration.

Contact Steve Davis at 493-8821, or e-mail steve.davis@dcr.virginia.gov.

Window on Wildlife

by Joyce Firchett Russell

Good news this week is that I filled our wire bird feeder with fresh suet and hung it outside the kitchen window.

Within minutes a tufted titmouse came to eat. A Carolina wren chased him away, and a male downy woodpecker followed. A cardinal came by, too.

Friends report other interesting experiences. Chris gets up early to listen to the hawk calling above her home.

On the Great Wicomico River, a gentleman counted 28 different species of birds one day. Among them were towhees, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, ospreys and eagles.

Another sighting is a pair of red foxes by Wayne near White Stone.

What have you seen?

▼ *YMCA . . . .*

(continued from page A9)

"Without a doubt, we have the right people in the right place to provide great programs for the Northumberland community," said Shirilla.

So far this year, the Northumberland Y has provided 264 program opportunities and over 100 hours of volunteer service for nearly 20 volunteers.

To volunteer, participate in Y programs, or in the fund-raising efforts, call 580-8901.

Club Golf

Quinton Oaks Ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association 18-hole league will hold an organizational brunch March 29 at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse.

An invitation is extended to all lady golfers. The league plays every Wednesday from April through October, weather permitting.

Yearly dues of $5 will be collected at the brunch and on opening day. A fee of $3 is collected weekly.

Opening day will be April 5 at 9 a.m. The format will be captain's choice. For more informaiton, contact Cheryl Putt at 529-9706, or visit www.quintonoaks.com.

Ladies in the 9-hole league are invited to the brunch. For 9-hole information, call Martha Rest at 529-5367.

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Volunteer to lead Scout fund-raising campaign

The Northern Neck District of the Boy Scouts of America Heart of Virginia Council recently announced Shannon Lewis of Chesapeake Bank has joined the district finance committee.

Lewis will serve as the Lancaster County finance chairman for 2006.

He joined the committee at the request of finance committee chairman David Cook of Wachovia Securities.

Lewis has over eight years of finance experience in the banking industry. He has a bachelor's from the University of Richmond and a master's from Louisiana State University.

The finance committee is charged with assisting the district and council with raising money through an annual Friends of Scouting campaign and other projects and events throughout the year

The goal is to support the mission of the Boy Scouts of America—to instill in youth the sense of strong values, citizenship and good character, as well as mental and physical fitness.

The district is focused on this mission by providing quality programs, maintaining strong membership recruitment, and by providing specialized training to the 470 plus Scouts, and over 200 adult volunteers. All of this takes place within the 26 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venture crews in the Northern Neck.

The district committee is led by chairman Sam Bridgeman of Reedville, commissioner Darryl Doggett Sr. of Lancaster, program chairman Craig Smith of White Stone, membership chairman Shelia Newsome of Richmond County and Cook of Lancaster County.

With their leadership and the support of other volunteers and the community, the Northern Neck District will continue to deliver on its promise to area youth, said executive Phillip Mumford.

Chesapeake Bank recently presented a $1,000 leadership gift to the Friends of Scouting Campaign for the Boy Scouts of America. From left are bank mortgage loan originator Ryan Kent, district finance committee member Shannon Lewis and district Scout executive Phillip Mumford.

Sports Shorts

■ Wrestling

The Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department will host NWA Wrestling at Middlesex High School March 25. The bill features Mr. Mid-Atlantic plus two locals, Mike Booth and Preston Quinn.

Tickets are $10 general admission; children under age 5 are free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be available at Hurds, Middle Peninsula Insurance, Revere Gas, Fleet Brothers, Thrift Oil and from all Hartfield firemen. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of additional rescue equipment.

Bowling Results

Men's League

On March 9, Sal's Pizza won three games against H&S Printing. For Sal's, Bill Hendershot bowled the high set of the week of 424 with games of 147, 126 and 151. Wayne Condrey rolled games of 156, 129 and 125 in a 410 set. Justin George had a 137 game and Clay Gill had a 129 game. For H&S, Bill Hayden bowled the high set of 318 with a game of 112. Billy Hudson rolled a 106 game.

Cap'n John's won two games and lost one against D&L Marine Construction. For Cap'n John's, Herbert Hammock bowled the high set of 370 with games of 143 and 122. Ryan Dawson rolled a 145 game. Joe Hinson had a 119 game. For D&L, Doug Hundley bowled the high set of 332 with a game of 122. Mark Obsharsky rolled games of 116 and 126.

Evans Bowling Center won two games and lost one against J&J Construction. For Evans, John Forrester bowled the high set of 408 with games of 135, 136 and 137. Bunks Mitchell rolled games of 134, 115 and 133 in a 382 set. Woodie Evans had a 113 game. For J&J, Curly Lewis bowled the high set of 371 with games of 125, 129 and 117. Steve Edwards rolled a 143 game in a 355 set. Rolaid Lewis had a 127 game. Frank Perkins bowled a game of 119.

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

High set: Louis Coates, 457; Bill Hendershot, 424; Ernie George, 415; Wayne Condrey, 413; Steve Edwards, 411.

High team game: Cap'n John's, 560; Sal's, 547; J&J, 537; H&S, 510; D&L, 508; Evans, 502.

High team set: Sal's, 1,518; J&J, 1,465; H&S, 1,451; Cap'n John's, 1,446; D&L, 1,429; Evans, 1,427.

High average: Louis Coates, 133; Curly Lewis, Bill Hendershot and Wayne Condrey, 120; Herbert Hammock, 117.

Standings

	W	L
Evans Bowling	17	10
Sal's Pizza	16	11
H&S Printing	16	11
Cap'n John's	13	14
J&J Const.	12	15
D&L Marine	7	10

Mixed League

Guys and Dolls won two games against the Untouchables when John forrester bowled a 141 game in a 385 set. Marie Piccard rolled a 340 set and Elsie Rose had a 101 game. For the Untouchables, Kenny Kent bowled a 345 set. Raymond Sisson rolled a 331 set. Deloris Atkins had a 125 game and Gladys Sisson bowled a 114 game.

Woodie's Angels won two games against All in Fun when Woodie Evans bowled a 326 set and Betty Steffey rolled a 322 set. Theresa Davis and Beverly Benson each had a 318 set. For All in Fun, Vergil Henderson bowled a 134 game in a 328 set. Elsie Henderson rolled a 92 game and Harry Donavon had a game of 89.

High average: Kenny Kent, 116; John Forrester, 113; Betty Steffey, 111; Theresa Davis and Raymond Sisson, 109; Woodie Evans, 108.

Standings

	W	L
Woodie's Angels	14	7
Untouchables	10	11
All in Fun	10	11
Guys and Dolls	8	13

Bank supports Boy Scouts

The Bank of Lancaster recently contributed to the Friends of Scouting campaign. From left are commercial lending officer Susan Pittman, White Stone branch officer David Dew, Lancaster finance chairman of the Boy Scout's Northern Neck District Shannon Lewis and Northern Neck District executive Phillip Mumford. The funds will help provide service and support for 26 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venture crews. "The Scout programs walk hand in hand with our company's commitment to Gen. Colin Powell's America's Promise program to invest in the future by investing in children. The mission of America's Promise is to provide youth with the resources and opportunities for personal growth. We are pleased to support such worthwhile endeavors," said bank president and chief executive officer Austin Roberts.

Selling cookies

From left, Tiffany White, Sydney Hunter, Jordan Plante and Susan Jones of Northumberland County Troops 147 and 3147 offered a "free smile with every box" of Girl Scout cookies March 10. Their stand was in front of Newsome's Vegetables and Lunch Room in Burgess.

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Bridge Results

Seven tables of duplicate bridge were in play at the Woman's Club of White Stone March 8.

Winners north/south were first, Dianne Monroe and Babs Murphy; second, Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard; and third, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham.

Winners east/west were first, Tot Winstead and Liz Hargett; second, Peggy Dent and Terry Carter; and third, Margaret Livesay and Teensa Williams.

The next bridge for this group is March 16 at 1 p.m.

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Kilmarnock could resurrect prior name

KILMARNOCK—Seeking a stronger connection with its roots, Kilmarnock is considering an old name for a new mixed use zoning overlay for the downtown business district

The town council will hold a related public hearing Monday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the town office at 514 North Main Street.

As proposed, the zoning district overlay would be called "Steptoe's District." It would provide for mixed commercial and residential uses consistent with current uses ranging from restaurants and retail businesses to office buildings and residence-based businesses.

The district is named after the "Steptoe's Ordinary" name of the town in the mid-18th century before the town was renamed Kilmarnock.

Among provisions of the overlay, proposed regulations for sidewalks would allow for business displays and street-side dining areas provided that a three-foot pathway is kept open.

Baskets to be raffled

From left, Jessica Fletcher of the Northern Neck Family YMCA sells a ticket to Donna McGrath for gift baskets to be raffled Thursday, March 23. Proceeds from the raffle will help bring author Dave Pelzer to the Northern Neck Family YMCA. He will speak to youth and adults at 7 p.m. Pelzer is best known for his autobiographical book, *A Child Called It.* **He was beaten, starved and confined to a basement for most of his early childhood. He overcame the abuse and now speaks on empowerment.** (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Rep. Davis supports measure to help prevent sexual abuse of children

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Jo Ann Davis recently voted in favor of the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act.

"We must do everything in our power to protect children from abuse and exploitation, and this legislation will improve the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Program and provide parents with more information regarding the whereabouts of those who have a history of sexually abusing children," said Rep. Davis. "This legislation strengthens notification requirements for sex offenders and creates a penalty for offenders who fail to comply with registration requirements."

The measure also would create the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website to search for sex offender information in each community and requires states to notify each other when sex offenders move from one state to another.

The act would create a new criminal penalty of up to a maximum of 20 years for sex offenders who fail to comply with registration requirements.

It also will protect foster children from sexual abuse and exploitation and increase criminal penalties for child sexual predators.

"Parents should have every tool available at their disposal to protect their children from harm, and this measure provides additional safeguards against sexual predators," said Rep. Davis.

▼ *Waterfowl Show . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

mission portrait artist and paints reproduction portraits for historic properties and museums. He has created several commission pieces and murals in the local area.

Hatch is a member of the Oil Painters of America and exhibits widely in the mid-Atlantic. His work can be found in galleries from Florida to Maryland and in many important collections including The Homestead, Honeywell, Ethyl Corporation, Riddicks Folly Museum House, Hampden-Sydney College and the Black History Museum.

He is featured in numerous national publications, most recently, Art Galleries and Artists of the South, summer 2004, and American Art Collector, December 2005.

"I see such extraordinary beauty in everyday moments—moments that might go unnoticed," said Hatch."I want people to participate in my paintings—to be caught up in the scenes as much as when I stopped to paint them—to feel the depth, the fleeting light and mist, to wonder what is around the bend, to share the wonder."

The show print is sponsored by W.F. Booth and Son Inc. of Kilmarnock.

The weekend door prize is an original painting by Ann Hollowell of Salisbury, Md., and the Preview Night door prize is a chickadee carving by Vince Ciesielski of Harrisonburg, Pa.

The Rappahannock Carvers and Collectors Guild will hold their annual carving contest Saturday in the White Stone Women's Club building. Judging will begin at noon.

Lab Rescue will have an exhibit in the show and will also bring several labs for adoption on Saturday in front of the firehouse. The Northern Neck Audubon Society will again sell bluebird boxes. A new exhibit this year will be by the Virginia Waterfowler's Association.

The Bufflehead Society sponsors are W.F. Booth and Son Inc., Connemara Inc., Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust, and Rappahannock Rentals. The Blue Heron Society sponsor is Lawler Real Estate; and the Cardinal Society sponsors are Willaby's Catering, B.W. Wilson Paper Co. Currie Funeral Home Inc., and Rappahannock Concrete.

A variety of food is available to eat at the show or take home. A special tent is available for dining.

The show is sponsored by, and all proceeds benefit, the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department. For directions, call 435-6355, or visit www.rrws.org.

▼ *Density is the issue . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

has not been updated since the 1970s and is due for revision as soon as the comprehensive plan is approved.

The public has clearly stated during two emotional hearings before the board recently that the density proposed in these two developments is simply too high.

"This is too dense because I know it when I see it," said Tommy Tomlin of the Main Street proposal last Thursday.

"If this is approved, Reedville will fall," said Richard Saxor, a Main Street resident.

He and many residents are casting a worried eye toward other available real estate in town. The field next to Festival Hall is slated for a development. Whittakers Crab Market at the end of Main Street recently sold and the new owner is rumored to be considering apartments for the location, and the Kilduff Oil property is for sale.

"Reedville is one of the jewels that we the county have in our possession, and we have but to screw it up," said Lee Allain of Lottsburg.

Most of the speakers at last Thursday's hearing noted that they would support six houses on the Reed Square parcel, but not 12, whereas those speaking against the condominium development offered no compromises. They simply said it was the wrong place for that kind of project.

The public asked to have a chance to speak on the issues again in June. Typically, decisions that are tabled are closed to further public comment.

Despite statements from two supervisors who felt they had heard all they needed to hear from the public for now, supervisor Jim Long made a motion to reopen the hearing in June. Pamela Russell hesitantly seconded his motion and Richard Haynie also supported it.

The measure passed 3-2 with a round of applause from the nearly 200 county residents who filled the auditorium.

Supervisors Ronald Jett and Joe self voted against the motion.

▼ *Pilothouse . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

ing lot was discussed. However, town administrator Gil Unangst said placing the pilothouse there with a five-foot deck around it as proposed would not meet the town's 10-foot setback from the adjacent property line.

Mosher said the town has supported the museum in its stages from the beginning, but needed to gather more input from residents about how the relationship between the town and museum should continue in relation to the commons.

"We have given away part of the commons for a septic system and in all of this process we have never had a public meeting broadly to hear how the rest of the community feels about this," said Mosher.

Museum executive director Terri Thaxton said the museum considers the restored pilothouse a landmark for the history of the town.

"We're looking at it like it's more pay back time for the museum to give back to the community," said Thaxton.

Council set a related public hearing April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the town office at 235 Steamboat Road.

Council also requested that museum officials present alternatives to keeping the pilothouse on commons property.

▼ *Fire . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

pared to the fire he assisted on in Richmond County a few weeks ago. Some five acres of timber burned in that blaze.

"It's that time of year," he said. Dry vegetation and high winds can cause even a small backyard fire to burn out of control.

People are reminded that the 4 p.m. burning law is currently in effect. This law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. each day through April 30 if the fire is in, or within 300 feet of, woodland, brushland or fields containing dry grass and other flammable materials.

TOWN of KILMARNOCK

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2006
Time: 12:00p.m.—2:00p.m.

Pride of Kilmarnock Celebration

This Saturday, please join the Town of Kilmarnock in welcoming Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis, Delegate Robert Wittman, Mary Lee Carter & numerous other prestigious guests as we continue to Celebrate our 75th "Diamond Jubilee" Anniversary Celebration. The event begins with a musical prelude by the **Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band**, and continues with a wonderful musical selection by **The Baytones**. We would like to invite the towns people to bring their worn and torn flags to be collected by your local Boy & Girl Scout Troops, American Legion and Knights of Columbus. The collected flags will then be retired by the Boy Scouts in a semi-formal ceremony to be held in June. Good times for all ages, including shopping at our Main Street "Shops of Kilmarnock". We look forward to seeing you there!

Highlights

- Flag Presentation Ceremony with Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis.
- United States Postal Service 202nd Anniversary Cancellation Stamp Drawing Competition Announcement with Officer in Charge Terry Elam
- Flag Donation Center
- Remembrance of Women'92s History Month & the 1952 Kilmarnock

Event will take place at "The Pedestal" and in the Alley way between "The Pedestal" and Adams Jewelers.

Contact person: Megan Jackson, 435-1552 x26

TOWN of KILMARNOCK
Lee Hood Capps– TM / CAO
514 N. Main Street
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