Rappahannock Record

Thursday, April 20, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 28 • Three Sections • 50¢

April showers turn ugly

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Four days of unusually severe spring weather started last Thursday afternoon, when from about anywhere in Lancaster County a swirling white mass could be seen hovering above the ground.

Three different funnel clouds in Lively, Ocran and the Weems area were reported to Lancaster County's emergency services director Scott Hudson.

A small microburst moved through Weems Saturday night, damaging a shed or two. During that same storm, a water spout was spotted on the Rappahannock River and marble to golf ball size hail pelted communities throughout the Northern Neck, breaking car windows and destroying plants.

An electrical storm that lasted nearly all night Sunday resulted in lightning strikes in lower Northumberland County.

For more weather gone bad photos submitted by Rappahannock Record readers, visit The Record Online at www.rrecord.com.

"The storms are not usually this severe this early in the year," said Hudson, who did not have any reports of the funnel clouds touching ground.

However, Patsy Headley isn't so sure one didn't at her mother's house on Poplar Neck Road in Ocran.

Headley will never forget the loud howling sound she heard as large trees bent and eventually broke in the wind.

"The wind and sound were awful. It was like a train, not a train, but a deep, roaring sound. It was a sound I'll never forget. In almost 47 years, I've never seen anything like this," said Headley. "It was snapping trees, and I mean big trees. Just bending them to the ground. Then when it was over, the sun came out and it was so beautiful."

Hail drifts were as high as five inches at the home of Chris Quinn in Morattico following a violent storm in the area Saturday night. (Photo by Chris Quinn)

Funnel clouds were spotted in Lively, Ocran and near Weems last Thursday when a severe storm passed through lower Lancaster County. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Large, looming funnel clouds that dipped behind tree lines had motorists pulling off roads in the lower Northern Neck to take pictures or seek shelter in nearby businesses.

The funnel clouds were predicted by the National Weather Service at Wakefield, which issued a tornado warning Thursday afternoon based on the rotation noted in a storm cell in Richmond County.

According to Hudson, a watch means that a tornado is possible. A warning means that a tornado has been sighted. Both mean you should take necessary precautions, said Hudson.

"People should seek shelter either in a basement or the lowest floor of their homes," he said.

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Seasonal colors

One-two-three-four counts Stephanie Castro, 5, of Kilmarnock. She is sorting through a basket full of colorful plastic eggs filled with candy Saturday after an Easter egg hunt at Kilmarnock Baptist Church. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Communication needs beginning to get attention

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Verizon Wireless customers in the Northern Neck need remember only one number: *611.

These four digits will connect cell phone users to the central complaint center where they can whine on the record about their lack of service.

While the voice on the other end of the phone may be automated, a company spokesman says calling this number can make all the difference.

High customer complaint volumes bring improved cell service to the area, said Tim Dykstra, director of system performance in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., in a meeting with the Northumberland board of supervisors last Thursday.

"Customer complaints push projects higher up on the list of priorities," he said.

Other driving factors include population data and existing coverage. But nothing earns quick attention like customer complaints.

For a rural area, Northumberland County has above average service, Dykstra said. As a result, Northumberland has been low on Verizon Wireless's "to do" list. So low, in fact, that the county hasn't even been on the company's return call list. When supervisor Ronald Jett and county administrator Kenneth D. Eades called last year to let Verizon Wireless know that three new Cingular towers were going up in the county, they got no response.

There is a cutoff point, Dykstra explained, and if an area falls below that line, Verizon Wireless real estate agents can't even work on leads in that area.

Cingular's service went live on the three new towers within the last six months without any action by Verizon Wireless, and Eades said he has since switched

(continued on page A16)

Hearing is due on $14 million school budget

LANCASTER—The board of supervisors will conduct a public hearing tonight (April 20) on a proposed $14.1 million school budget for fiscal year 2007.

The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the circuit courtroom at the courthouse in Lancaster.

As proposed, the $14,104,849 budget would require $9,577,224 in local funds, 17.6 percent more than the current county funding.

A work session among supervisors and school board members will follow the hearing.

Revised commercial ordinance creates rift

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Tempers flared and accusations flew at a joint public hearing by the Kilmarnock council and planning commission last Monday night. The hearing was held to solicit public input on the adoption of a revised commercial (C-1) zoning ordinance.

The proposed changes were written and presented by town attorney Chris Stamm, councilman Fletcher Brown and planning commission vice chairman Les Spivey.

"The zoning changes will put controls on growth as it fits into our community," Stamm claimed, adding that Wal-Mart's plans "…fit within these changes."

A request by Mayor Mike Robertson to table the hearing until he had time to review the document was turned down by planning commission chairman Donnie Walker, who said the public hearing had been advertised for two weeks and everyone had plenty of time to review the changes.

His comment set off a chain of complaints. Three citizens said the document had only been available to them for three hours and planning commissioners noted the changes were presented for the first time at their April 11 meeting, less than a week earlier.

Tom Kinter of Blue Sky Development and Acquisition in Richmond, owners and developers of the Wal-Mart site, said he had just found out about the plans at 4 p.m. that day.

"As owner of the property for nine years and meeting with (town manager) Lee Capps for over a year, we should have been given the courtesy of receiving this in enough time to review," said Kinter.

He claimed he couldn't understand the controls on architectural plans, "nor could my architect and we do this for a living. It needs quantifiable and qualifiable criteria that we can meet to develop property. Things are ambiguous and the language leaves it open to interpretation by town hall staffers."

He added that he has been through zoning ordinances in about 20 towns and localities and has never seen anything like the Kilmarnock proposal.

"The things in this ordinance are typically used for one-site or big site development. What you are creating is an anti-growth plan," he continued. "Here's my question: Is this being done to impact our property? Things in the ordinance may cause me problems."

Planning commission member Steve Bonner noted others on the commission framing the document made the ordinances too restrictive.

"We must stop this control of businesses," he said, referring to codes that would restrict the color of signs, limit outside display of yard equipment to its season, and require fencing around garden centers like Farm and Home Supply. "We are going to drive people away."

Commission member Jane Ludwig said, "No one, not even the commission, has had time to go over the document and review it. We need to have the document to review in its formal form."

According to commission member Virginia Henry, commercial ordinances were revised and finalized a year ago. "It's not unusual to put new ordinances before the committee, but we didn't have an opportunity to go through it like we've done in the past," she said.

As an example of the commission's normal procedure, she cited work on the planned unit development (PUD) ordinance which took six months to finalize. "We went through it paragraph-by-paragraph before we sent it to town council," she said.

In the planning commission meeting of April 11, Bonner voiced his objections to the document as being too restrictive and said it should not proceed to council or public hearing without a better review. His motion not to recommend it to council passed, over Spivey's objection and an abstention by Brown.

Spivey stated in that meeting that it was too late to make changes or object because the public hearing was advertised and scheduled. He invited commissioners to voice opinions or objections at the hearing.

However, when commission members did just that, the council meeting broke down into a match with Brown and Spivey disagreeing with other members of the planning commission on what took place at the April 11 meeting and who authorized rewriting the ordinance.

"I'm sorry the planning commission is so forgetful of the past three months," Brown said, addressing the commission members present. "And I'm sorry they forgot that two years ago I asked for this and tried to implement it. You asked for some type of control and wanted to move forward and I handed (the ordinance changes) to you on a form. Vice chairman Spivey and I worked on this for over two months. I'm sorry you asked for one thing and when it is done and given to you, you reject it. I'm especially sorry that the C-1 zoning ordinance for town is so outdated and so far beyond what it should be that it is pitiful."

The council voted unanimously not to consider the changes and tabled the matter for more discussion later.

Previous discussion as recorded in Feb. 21 commission minutes

Approved minutes of the February 21 planning commission meeting, page 7/ C. Other/ # 2.

2. Commissioner/councilman Brown approached commission members with a recommendation for a special use permit for buildings over 80,000 square feet which was currently in use by Prince William County. Each member was provided with a copy of the ordinance.

Vice chairman Spivey stated that the proper protocol was to recommend that the staff and town attorney review the ordinance and present a draft to the planning commission at the next meeting. If the planning commission was in agreement to adopt the ordinance then a public hearing would be scheduled. After the public hearing, the ordinance would be recommended to council for approval or disapproval.

Chairmen Walker stated that this issue was too complex to address at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner/councilman Brown stated that he had been trying to get the ordinance passed for some time and stated that he would not give up. He said that he was tired of things being started at the planning commission meeting but dying before they reached council.

Vice-chairman Spivey directed the staff and town attorney review the ordinance and present a draft to the commission at the March meeting.

Town Attorney Stamm advised the planning commission that the process for adoption of the ordinance could be accomplished and resolved in April with a joint public hearing which would provide the reasonable time frame sought by councilman Brown. He noted that he had already reviewed the ordinance and found it acceptable.

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April 20 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.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Planning Commission for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
The Rappatomac Writers will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chinn House at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.
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 are needed. 435-2755.
A Team Captain's Meeting will be held for teams participating in the Lancaster/Northumberland Relay for Life event June 3. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville. 453-3621.
A Medicare Part D Workshop will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Stephens Church in Heathsville. The workshop is sponsored by the Northumberland-Lancaster Farm Bureau. 580-442.
A Medicare Part D Workshop will be held at 2 p.m. at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock. The workshop is sponsored by the Northumbeland-Lancaster Farm Bureau.
The Lancaster Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster Circuit Courtroom on the school budget for 2006-07. A joint work session among supervisors and school board members will follow the hearing.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will conduct a ravine swamp vegetation outing at 9 a.m. at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Wright Tract. The outing is open to active Virginia Native Plant Society members.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will conduct a mixed hardwoods outing at 9 a.m. at the Rappahannock River Valley Natural Wildlife Refuge Wright Tract. The outing is open to all.
The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association will meet at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad Building at 7990 Northumberland Highway near Heathsville at 7:30 p.m. Britt Belyea, W4SGF, will speak.
The Interfaith Services Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Parish.

21 Friday

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

Inn supports auction

From left aboard the Miss Ann are George Lidicker of Sedona Resort Management and The Tides Inn, Gordon Slatford, general manager of The Tides Inn, and Seth Ahlborn, Chesapeake Academy head of school. The inn has donated a two-hour private cruise on the Miss Ann for 65 guests with a wine and cheese reception for Chesapeake's upcoming auction. Additionally, the resort donated three rounds of golf for two at the Golden Eagle, three nights at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona, Ariz, and a Day Spa Package at The Tides Inn. For more information about the April 29 auction, call 438-6490.

21 Friday

"The Bay at War" will open at The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington. The exhibit depicts Civil War activity on local waters.

22 Saturday

An Italian Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. by the Afton United Methodist Men at the church on Route 644 in Ophelia. $9 adults, $5 children.
The Democratic Committee for Lancaster County will hold a caucus at 429 Irvington Road to elect delegates to the First District Convention in Williamsburg in May. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and close at noon. 436-0605.
A Pancake Breakfast will be served at Carmel United Methodist Church in Kinsale from 7:30 to 10 a.m. $6 adults, $3 children. Proceeds benefit the Westmoreland County Volunteer Rescue Squad in Mount Holly.
A Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.at Yates House Fine Art & Craft Gallery in Deltaville.
"And Then They Came Ashore." will open at the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library in Lancaster. The exhibit depicts Civil War activity on local grounds.

23 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock immediately following church services.

24 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.
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. 462-7605.
Party Bridge is featured at 11:30 a.m. at the Northumberland Woman's Club in Lottsburg. Bring a sandwich. Side dishes, dessert and beverages provided. $5. For reservations, call 580-8205.
The Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee will meet at 1 p.m. at Caring Family Home, 1933 McCullock Road, Hampton.
The Democratic Committee for Lancaster County meets at 7 p.m. at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock.
The Rappahannock Art League meets at 1:30 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock.

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25 Tuesday

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
The Lancaster Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Virginia Marine Resources Commission meets at 9:30 a.m. at VMRC Headquarters at 2600 Washington Avenue in Newport News. Fisheries hearings begin at noon.
Books Alive! meets at 7 p.m. at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville.

Ticket deal ends April 30

April 30 is the last day to purchase Bay Seafood Festival tickets at a special price of only $40. Due to the rising costs of seafood, the ticket price will be $50 starting May 1.

"The Rotary Club regrets having to raise the price but our costs have really gone up," said seafood committee chairman Ken Bransford. "Still, at $50 for all-you-can-eat and drink, plus the dance band, Casper, it's a great deal."

The festival will be held September 8 at Belle Isle State Park. The menu will include clam chowder, steamed shrimp, oysters, soft shell crabs, crab cakes, scallops, fish, salad, barbecue, cole slaw, hush puppies, French fried potatoes, French fried sweet potatoes, corn on the cob and ice cream. Alcoholic beverages are also included in the ticket price.

Tickets may be purchased from any club member by calling 1-800-777-9717, or at www.kiwsrotary.org.

26 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
The Spring Book Sale will begin at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

27 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Board of Supervisors for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will conduct a kayak outing at 9 a.m. on Totuskey Creek. The outing is open to all. Participants must bring their own kayaks.
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 Spring Book Sale will continue at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
The Democratic Committee for Northumberland County meets at 7 p.m. at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathville.
(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor.)

donk's
Troy Hedspeth
Sat., April 29, 8:00 p.m.

LET'S EAT!

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

THE BLUE HERON PUB & GRILL: 37 N. Main Steet, Kilmarnock. Casual dining with a diverse menu. Full bar with an excellent selection of specialty draft and bottled beers and an extensive wine list. Open for lunch and dinner from 11 am - 10 pm, Tuesday-Saturday. 804-435-7005.

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.

SKEETERS Home of the famous Buster Burger! Thursday Shrimp Night, Friday Crab Cake Night. Daily Lunch Specials. 5360 Mary Ball Road, Lively. 804-462-5700.

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 [illegible] until 4:00. White Stone. (L) 4[illegible]44.

435-1701

HILLSIDE CINEMA (804) 693-2770 (804) 693-7766
7321 J. Clayton Highway 14, Gloucester, Va.• Schedule for 04/21–04/27
Monday - Ladies Special $6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for
TAKE THE LEAD (PG) 1 HRS 50 MIN
Fri. (4:00), 6:15, 8:15
Sat. (1:45, 4:00), 6:15, 8:15
Sun. (1:45, 4:00), 6:15
Mon. – Thurs. (5:00), 7:15
SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13) 1 HR 30 MIN
Fri. (4:15), 6:00, 7:45
Sat. (2:15, 4:15), 6:00, 7:45
Sun. (2:15, 4:15), 6:00
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 7:00
Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military $3.50 for all shows
Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to16yrs. (any show) $3.50
Shows in parentheses ( ) all seats $3.50/Adults all shows on & after 6pm $5.50
Visit us at www.hillsidecinema.com for show times.
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SENIORS 62 AND OLDER: $5.00
ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 ARE $5.00 FOR EVERYONE
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No one under 17 admitted to R Rated films without parent or adult accompaniment - ID's required
FRI. APR. 21
SILENT HILL (R) 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
THE WILD (G) 5:00, 7:00, 9:15
SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 5:30, 7:30, 9:40
BENCHWARMERS (PG13) 5:25, 7:25, 9:25
ICE AGE 2 (PG) 5:15, 7:15, 9:20
SAT. APR. 22
SILENT HILL (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
THE WILD (G) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:15
SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40
BENCHWARMERS (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25
ICE AGE 2 (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20
SUN. APR. 23
SILENT HILL (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:20
THE WILD (G) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30
BENCHWARMERS (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25
ICE AGE 2 (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15
MON.-THURS. APR 24-27
SILENT HILL (R) 7:20
THE WILD (G) 7:00
SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 7:30
BENCHWARMERS (PG13) 7:25
ICE AGE 2 (PG) 7:15

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BRKSCG (10/01) ED: 12/02

AFTON MEN ARE COOKING ITALIAN
Saturday, April 22, 2006 • 5pm - 7pm
Spaghetti, Meatballs, Lasagna, Italian Bread, Salad, Dessert, Tea and Coffee.
Cost is $9 for adults, $5 for children under 12
(Carryouts will be available)
Afton UMC is located on Rt. 644 in Ophelia, about 5 miles north of Burgess.
Hosted by the Afton United Methodist Church Men

American Legion
Bingo
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
WIN UP TO $1000.
Come out and support your veterans!
Doors open at 6 p.m. • Play starts 7 p.m.
Waverly Ave., Kilmarnock
1/2 mile past fairgrounds on the right.
BRING THIS AD AND SAVE A $BUCK
rrrepeat

Cash Prize of
$500.
Guaranteed!
BINGO
This Friday, April 21, 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

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(804) 435-1144
hubbardinsurance@kaballero.com

Area Events

■ Oz in Mathews
The Court House Players will present the musical Oz, based on the story by L. Frank Baum, May 4 through 7 at Mathews High School. For show times and ticket information, call 725-3414 or visit www.courthouseplayers.org/.

■Baby contest
The Christian Survivors Relay For Life Team will sponsor a baby contest and fashion show on April 30 at 4 p.m. The contest will include three categories; newborn to 11 months, 1 year to 2 years and 3 years to 4 years. The entry fee is $5. Prizes will be awarded. For more information call 758-9777.

■ Spring cleaning
A Virginia Department of Transportation Adopt-a-Highway statewide spring pickup will be held April 29.

The statewide effort, which typically preceded Historic Garden Week (April 22-29), was moved this year due to the Easter holiday and spring breaks.

■ Car wash
A car wash to benefit the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department competition team will be held April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fire house on Beach Road in White Stone.

■ Cooking Italian
The Afton United Methodist Men will host an Italian Dinner Saturday April 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti, meatballs, lasagna, Italian bread, salad, dessert, tea and coffee. Chefs Bill Duncan and Len Gaskins will be in charge of the kitchen.

The cost of the meal is $9 for adults and $5 for children under 12. Carryouts will be available. The Italian Dinner will be held at Afton United Methodist Church on Route 644 in Ophelia.

■ Farmers' market
A farmers' market will be held Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the front lawn of Yates House Fine Art & Craft Gallery in Deltaville. The Deltaville Farmers' Market will continue on the fourth Saturday of each month through November.

Inquiries regarding the market should be directed to Blanche Scharf at Yates House Gallery or 694-9130.

■ Yard Sale set
The youth ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church will sponsor a yard sale on April 29 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Community Center, 4248 Sharps Road in Farnham.

Every candle has a name

Relay For Life is a celebration of life. It is a time to honor those that have battled cancer and won, and to remember those that have lost their battle with cancer.

On June 3, at 8:30 p.m. at Northumberland High School in Heathsville, the community will have this opportunity. Thousands of luminaria (a white paper bag filled with sand and a candle) will line the track, while relay participants and the community walk in silence to honor cancer survivors and remember those lost to cancer.

Join in honoring friends and family who have battled cancer by purchasing a luminaria. Pick up a form at any Bank of Lancaster branch, visit www.acsevents.org/lancaster or call Bridget Moss at 435-4168.

■ Belyea to speak
The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association will meet at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad Building at 7990 Northumberland Highway near Heathsville Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Britt Belyea, W4SGF, will speak on "The Importance of Electrical and Radio Frequency Grounds." Belyea owns and operates the Amateur Radio Repeater in Kilmarnock.

■ IUMC activities
The Irvington United Methodist Men will hold a pancake breakfast May 6, beginning at 7 a.m. at the church.

Also on May 6, the Irvington United Methodist Women will hold a bake sale at the Irvington Farmer's Market, beginning at 8 a.m.

■ Lose weight
The White Stone Church of the Nazarene will host a new session of "First Place," beginning with new-member orientation Monday, April 24.

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

■ Town sales event
The Urbanna Business Association and the Town of Urbanna will hold town-wide yard and business sidewalk sales April 29 to benefit the local American Red Cross.

Sales will start at 7:30 a.m. Maps with all the yard sale and participating business locations will be available for a $1 donation at the Red Cross station in front of Urbanna Antique Mall at 124 Rappahannock Avenue. Sales will last throughout the day.

Library will hold sale April 26-29

The Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock will hold its spring book sale April 26, 27, 28 and 29. Proceeds will be used to purchase items for the Storymobile and other library-sponsored educational programs.

Members of the library are invited to shop Wednesday, April 26, from 5 to 8 p.m . Members are those who have responded to fund drives and are listed as donors. (Card holders are patrons.)

The sale is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 27 and 28 and from 9 a.m. to noon April 29.

The sale will feature current best sellers, books about Virginia, gardening, crafts, hobbies, cooking, boating, history and other interests.

Children's books will be separated for easy browsing. Tapes, videos, CDs, and jigsaw puzzles also will be available.

Cashiers will accept personal checks and cash.

Barbara Shine

Shine to discuss food in novels

Writer Barbara Shine will present "Meatballs and Metaphors: How Food Serves Fiction" at Books Alive at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville Tuesday, April 25, at 7 p.m.

Shine will review three novels in which meals become important characters. Her presentation isn't about cookbooks and haute cuisine; it's about hunger and appetites and how authors use the preparation, serving and eating of food to convey the depths of characters and their relationships.

"The presentation is mainly about *They are Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel, *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Anne Tyler and *Babette's Feast* by Isak Dineson. These very different stories have cooking and food as common elements," Shine said. "You don't have to be a gourmet or a chef to understand how food in the stories contributes to their success."

Shine, who says she is as avid about cooking as she is about reading and writing, also will discuss several book series, including Diane Mott Davidson's mystery novels, that offer their fans a taste of good foods and solid storytelling.

The Books Alive series is held the fourth Tuesday of each month. Admission is free. Light refreshments are offered. For more information, or to schedule a review of a favorite book, call Earline Walker at 529-9362.

State trooper to lead anti-burglar training

The Neighborhood Watch program of the Corrotoman by the Bay Homeowners Association invites interested community members to a Thursday, May 4, training session in home security.

Virginia State Trooper C.W. Davis will instruct a class from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the clubhouse at 1187 Corrotoman Drive.

Participants will learn how to make detailed security inspections of their own homes and those of their neighbors, friends, or relatives.

According to Neighborhood Watch materials, there are two purposes of a home security inspection. The first is to identify features in a family's home or daily routine which might make them an easy target for a burglar.

Advising the family what steps to take to eliminate or reduce these hazards is the other purpose.

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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

The poet T. S. Eliot called April "the cruelest month." I disagree. This year April has broken the weird spring drought. We have had one of the best showings of redbud and dogwood. The grass seed, which we sowed weeks ago, might finally germinate.

Our garden finally can receive the tilling it has needed for a long time, thanks to the newly dropped moisture. Bluebirds are returning in abundance, and are becoming almost as common as wild turkeys. Walking along a hedgerow two weeks ago, I accidentally flushed out a large covey of quail.

The pygmy billy goat who joined our family in January has adjusted so well that he now lies on the deck relaxing, perhaps casting evil eyes towards the house plants which are nearby. This week we are taking him to meet two lovely young ladies in the hopes of their committing matrimony. At least it will be a first date, and we shall see if love, like the flowers, is in bloom.

Over a month ago we put three of the hens and the rooster, a New Hampshire Red named Ferdinand, in an intensive cage together. The chickens have laid a basket full of eggs, but not one of them has any interest in setting, though one of the uncaged hens is desperate for motherhood. We have not had the heart to tell her the facts of life, but we do snitch the infertile eggs. She is a Sumatran, deep black, looking more like a raven, but she is the friendliest of our lot.

The four ganders have their own bachelor club, but we are certain each would like to start dating. The most productive of all the fowl is the turkey hen, who has laid a large quantity of eggs in a remote corner of the pen, with Tom, her spouse, strutting around close by, bursting with enthusiasm at the thought of her potential deliveries. Whenever anyone goes to the barnyard he leads the person to see her on the nest, then gobbles with pride.

Both are purebred Red Bourbons, thus we are expecting a flock of little ones. Not quite so with the Rouen ducks. The drake and his two mates do not seem to understand that if one drops eggs here and there, nothing will happen. The quantity and quality of the eggs is excellent, but unfortunately our efforts to build nests have come to naught. The Elder B.E. has been incubating one of the eggs, but the time has passed and he has no duckling to show for the effort. That was the duckling that wasn't.

Next week we are digging a test pond to see if it will hold water over the dry summer months. If it does, we have hopes of a larger operation in the fall. The B.E.s have suddenly discovered that they have a taste for fish. We have told them not to expect too much anytime soon.

For the third year in a row the B.E.s and I have presented my good wife with an ornamental cherry. The first year we went "weeping," and last year we got a Yoshino. This year we planted a Kwanzan on Easter Sunday. My father had planted flowering trees to have blooms from early March through May. Now a quarter of a century after his passing, we are restructuring his designs.

The B.E.s' cousins on their mother's side all are city children. When our families get together the children like to compare urban and rural living. Happily, ours think the lifestyle I have described in these paragraphs to be the best one can have.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Another week has gone by and the House of Delegates and the Senate have yet to agree on a compromise. That does not mean that compromises are not being offered.

The House of Delegates formally approved, 64-29, a compromise budget bill to send to the Senate on Wednesday, April 12. This bill separates $1 billion in new funds for roads and transit. These dollars would be removed from the two-year $74 billion budget to be allocated in the fall during a special session to focus solely on funding transportation. This type of special session was called under the administrations of past Governors Godwin, Baliles, Allen and Gilmore.

The Senate is also working to reach a compromise. It has three proposals freeing northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to fashion their own remedies to traffic gridlock. These proposals would allow the creation of regional authorities made up of an elected official from each locality, three members of the House and two Senators. The authorities could, upon two thirds of local governing bodies agreeing, impose a one-percent sales tax which would be levied on all localities in the region to finance major transportation projects. The authorities could also impose tolls to build new facilities or improve existing ones. Senators delayed action on these proposals until the week of April 17. This helps explain why we have yet to make a decision on the budget.

On April 12, I had the opportunity to meet with the Virginia Watermen's Association. As we discussed issues important to the future of watermen, the importance of water quality, especially in the Chesapeake Bay, quickly became apparent. Watermen have seen their overall catch dwindle in recent years. This reduction seems to be directly related to the poor water quality in the bay and other environmental conditions such as warmer bay water temperatures, very wet and very dry years, and events like Hurricane Isabelle. The need to clean up the bay is evident to people throughout the state.

The bay is a priority in the House and Senate budgets. The House allocated $258 million to improve the water quality in fiscal year 2007. This will breakdown to $217 million to improve sewage treatment plants (point source contamination) and $39 million to reduce run off from farm land (non-point source contamination).

The problem is that there is no money allocated for 2008. We all know that the work needed to improve the bay water quality will not be completed at this point and thus the need for continued efforts will require the same level of funding as we have for 2007.

While the restoration of the bay is a priority, I am concerned about longterm funding to meet the clean up goals. The state has committed to attaining goals of increased dissolved oxygen, water clarity and chlorophyll (a fish food) by 2011. While we probably will not meet that goal because there is so much to do and so little time to complete these tasks, we must continue the effort past 2011.

It is necessary to establish a longterm source of funding to realistically meet this need. I am interested in knowing how readers feel about this issue. I am currently putting together a survey on funding bay cleanup. The survey should be ready for next week's update, including questions and a URL address to do it online.

Until then if I can be of assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at 493-0508, or email, robwittman@verizon.net, or write to P.O. Box 995, Montross, VA 22520.

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Letters to the Editor

Interpreting the front page

To The Editor:

The front page of the April 13 edition of the Rappahannock Record intrigued me. In the left column was a picture of a cross and an announcement of Easter sunrise services. Below that was a picture of two Kilmarnock residents kneeling beside the etched signature of their great-grandfather, Joseph B. Cralle, founder of the Rappahannock Record Publishing Company. Below that article, was a picture of Dr. David Nichols holding a white stone, with the caption, "Searching for white stone." Readers were directed to the back of the section to find the article.

Each of these articles was interesting. However, I wondered if anyone other than myself noticed the missing link among them. According to Audrey Thomasson's article, the town of White Stone was surveyed in 1715, putting the boundary lines between property owned privately and intersecting roads to Windmill Point, Christ Church and Steptoe's Ordinary, now Kilmarnock. A large white stone was brought in to mark the intersection and, thereafter, was referred to as "White Stone."

Thomasson followed up with a search for the actual white stone for which the town was named. She discovered several theories as to what the stone was: a ship's ballast, a millstone, or a grinding stone for knives, but Thomasson did not ask the leading question.

Why would a white stone be chosen to mark, and then name this place?

In 1715, the textbook of choice was the Bible. Virginians were well schooled and would have been familiar with certain verses, such as:

"Behold I am laying in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation. He who believes will not be put to shame. And I will make justice the line and righteousness the plummet." Isaiah 28:16.

And "Come to Him (Jesus), to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

This passage is followed by a reference to the one in Isaiah and goes on:

"To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe, 'the very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner, and a stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall;' for they stumble because they disobey the word." I Peter 2:4

Finally, they would have known this verse from the Revelation to John 2; 17:

"He who has an ear, let him listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it."

I conclude that the cross on the front page is the answer to the leading question. Just as the ancestors of Mr. Cralle want to preserve his name in concrete, the citizens who laid the white stone at the intersection, hoped to have their names and souls preserved on a white stone that could never be destroyed and placed that stone as a symbol of their beliefs and hopes for the future of that town.

Jesus was the stone that the builders rejected and crucified on the cross. He is a stone of stumbling, a rock of judgment, a sharpening stone and a ballast stone. At Easter we celebrate that the stone was rolled away from the tomb entrance and Christ became the Rock of Salvation and the living hope for all who believe.

Jeanne Hickey
Reedville

Defending immigrants

To The Editor:

In case you thought it wasn't bad enough that those evil immigrants were hogging all the good jobs in our country, now we find out through a letter writer from Nuttsville that we have to worry about them bringing disease as well.

To support her case that immigrants bring disease the letter writer uses the example of one man from a foreign country with a rare disease.

This flimsy attack on immigrants has less to do with legitimate concern about disease and more to do with stirring up fear and mistrust of those who "aren't like us." The man was from Central or South America. Does it really matter where? Aren't they all the same down there? He may or may not have been an illegal immigrant, but does that really matter? Aren't those immigrants all a little suspect? They might be terrorists. They might be diseased. They're taking our jobs. The sky is falling.

If immigrants also pose a serious threat to our economy, as the letter writer states, then instead of fearing them, what we need to be looking at is why they're coming here.

There are millions of illegal immigrants in America because American employers are exploiting them for cheap labor. American businesses move their manufacturing plants overseas and pay pennies on the dollar in wages to foreign employees. We use people from poorer nations to enrich ourselves and then blame them for ruining our economy.

We need to look at what we do to contribute to the immigration problem.

Immigrants contribute not only to our economy, but to the cultural diversity of the melting pot, of which we were taught as children to be proud.

We should note that the vast majority of immigrants in this country, whether legal or illegal, are working and contributing members of our society. Whatever real issues we face with immigration, we shouldn't let fear mongering infect our thinking and take over the discussion.

Cheryl Perkins
Topping

Clean up lumbering

To The Editor:

I agree with David G. Davis that the county governments surely must come to grips with the ugly blight of lands laid bare by the clear-cutting of trees.

Owners not only should be required to clean up the land following lumbering, they should be required to leave a 10-foot barrier of trees where the lumbered property faces a road.

Jeffrey C. Warren
Kilmarnock

Be heard on school budget

To The Editor:

As announced in the Rappahannock Record, the board of supervisors will conduct a public hearing Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. on the proposed fiscal year 2007 budget for the Lancaster public schools.

We as county citizens should consider it our duty to attend this hearing and learn if the proposed budget increase of $861,179 could benefit our school system and what it would require in local taxpayer dollars.

This meeting is our opportunity to offer citizen input to the board of supervisor members who must eventually vote on budget approval for school finances. The goal of achieving a top-notch school system must be balanced with the goal of setting a reasonable local tax rate.

These are two equally important objectives and it is no easy task for our board members. Please be there to ask questions, learn the facts and voice your opinion.

Jan Fadeley
Lancaster

Can't wait for Wal-Mart

To The Editor:

I have had the pleasure of shopping at the new Peebles. What a joy to be able to go to a department store without having to cross a bridge or get on an interstate. And, while I have enjoyed having the opportunity to shop at the new Peebles, it has not and will not stop me from shopping at the local stores I have patronized over the years.

While shopping at Peebles I saw many friends who were just as pleased as I was to have the opportunity for a new shopping experience. Many of them work and it is difficult for them to shop on their half-hour lunch break. For them, the opportunity to shop until 9 p.m. on a weekday was wonderful.

Another thing all of my friends said in the same breath as "Isn't Peebles great?" was "I can't wait for Wal-Mart!"

I agree with them wholeheartedly. To have the opportunity to shop at a local Wal-Mart would be a great convenience to the majority of us in the Northern Neck.

It is time for opponents of Wal-Mart to realize that residents of the Northern Neck are already shopping at Wal-Mart Stores in Gloucester, Mechanicsville, Newport News, Tappahannock or Williamsburg and while there, those shoppers are spending money in other stores in those areas that could be spent in Kilmarnock.

A Wal-Mart in Kilmarnock will help keep our local economy strong by bringing more shoppers to the area—shoppers that will spend their money in our local eateries, gas stations and other retail stores.

I clearly remember how much it cost to buy clothes, shoes, school supplies, sports equipment and other items for my children. I especially remember the difficulties I encountered when they needed specialty items for school projects or certain clothing for band or other school clubs. It was rare to find those items locally and I would have to drive a great distance to a Wal-Mart where I could be assured of finding the necessary supplies and/or clothing.

While there have been a few letters to the editor in favor of Wal-Mart the majority have been negative. This is so typical in today's world where the minority seems to speak the loudest. I am delighted to know that Wal-Mart is coming to Kilmarnock and I am convinced that the majority of residents of the Northern Neck have the same opinion. I encourage those of you who are glad Wal-Mart is coming to Kilmarnock—let your voice be heard. Don't just talk about it with your friends while you are shopping at the new Peebles.

Express your excitement to the mayor and council members in the Town of Kilmarnock. Write your local newspaper editor. Let them know you can't wait for Wal-Mart.

Donna Helmuth
Weems

Hire Americans

To The Editor:

We are constantly told by the politicians and talking heads that Americans will not take certain jobs and the poor Mexican peasants will gladly take them. These jobs are at the entry level on the economic ladder to the American dream.

In direct opposition to this argument, a local businessman has provided work for local folks who are not afraid of honest labor, even when it is cleaning windows.

He hires local folks and they do a wonderful job. This is our second time having them clean our windows and it sure makes spring even more welcome knowing we have it taken care of. The workmen went about the task in a cheerful and efficient manner, belying the claim that Americans won't take the jobs.

I just wish that some of the local public works projects would follow the example and hire only citizens.

If you are like me, you are tired of hearing about the lazy Americans who won't take a job.

Morris Dillingham
Kilmarnock

Mystery remains

To The Editor:

In last week's Rappahannock Record, the article entitled "In search of the white stone" was very interesting. As to the source of the name "white stone" Audrey A. Edmonds "concluded we will never know for sure. The white stone mystery remains unsolved."

In the natural that may be true. But in the Spiritual, Rev. 2:16, 17 in the King James Version of the Holy Bible it says: (16) Repent or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (17) He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." This is indeed The Mystery.

James Thorsen
Weems

Off The Beaten Path

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

I am headed to New Orleans this week for my brother's long-awaited wedding. His wedding was originally scheduled for last November in New Orleans but was cancelled in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

My brother and his bride-to-be live in San Francisco, but had their hearts set on a Big Easy wedding. With a New-Orleans-or bust attitude, they overcame many challenges in rescheduling their wedding for this April.

Their photographer fled town with their deposit. Their rehearsal dinner site at the top of the World Trade Center had all its windows blown out by the wind. Their reception site suffered irreparable damage, but only called to cancel at the last minute, after the second set of invitations was printed. Hotels closed permanently. Public transportation screeched to a halt. Bands, florists and caterers were slow to return to town.

Not new to wading through the aftermath of disaster, my brother met his fiancee shortly after 9-11 in a security line at the San Francisco airport. The infamous shoe bomber had been recently apprehended and everyone preparing to fly was now required to take their shoes off at security. Somebody managed to slip through with their shoes on, however, and security evacuated the entire airport. My brother ended up standing in line for three hours next to this tall model/lawyer chick. They talked the whole time and exchanged phone numbers before the ordeal was over. The rest, as they say, is history.

My brother got engaged in November 2004. Since then I have formed a new theory: The longer you have to plan an event, the more planning that needs to be done. Keep in mind that brother and his fiancee have had 17 months to organize their wedding – they have determined every detail down to what two colors we are allowed to wear to the rehearsal dinner (black and white) and what shape toes the groomsmen's shoes should have (round).

A self-proclaimed "bridezilla," my soon-to-be sister-in-law carefully outlined for us what kind of shoes would be acceptable for the bridesmaids: The color should be pewter, not silver, and no wedges, she said. Along with her description, she emailed a list of about 10 pre-approved strappy sandals with four-inch heels.

For those of you who haven't seen me lately, I look like I swallowed a soccer ball. But the doctors swear it's actually a baby in there. Despite my new wide-load status, my sister-in-law-to-be still, amazingly, wanted me to be a bridesmaid. She graciously acknowledged, however, that I would probably not be able to wear any of those pre-approved shoes (think pumpkin on toothpicks), so I had to go in search of shoes on my own.

I soon became completely obsessed with my quest for the perfect pewter/strappy/low-healed/affordable bridesmaid shoe. I spent countless weekend hours scouring through stores in malls and online looking for a shoe that would fit the bride's requirements.

Having no luck in the malls, I somewhat accidentally managed to order four pairs of shoes online, all at once. One is a pair of slingbacks, which I didn't really mean to order because I decided at the last minute that they are probably too light - despite the Pewter classification - but somehow the order went through anyway. LOVE the free shipping and returns.

Another pair, I was surprised to find when they arrived, turned out to be black, not pewter. The only reason the shoe gets the "pewter" classification is thanks to a couple of metal chain straps that make my feet look like they are in bondage. I'm sending those back too.

My backup plan was a pair of dyables – like high school prom. But, the bride-to-be forgot to send me the color swatch so I have to send those back too.

At last I ended up with a pair of low-heeled thongs that somewhat match the color criteria and will allow my feet plenty of room to swell. My mother, however, was scandalized, noting that I won't be able to wear panty hose with the thong-style sandal. Women my age don't wear panty hose with open-toed shoes, I tried to explain. She just shook her head and clicked her tongue.

As for the dress, the bridal shop sent the gunmetal silver dress three sizes larger than my regular size to which they added a pouch in the front. The pouch manages to hit in the one place I haven't grown an inch and when I tried it on I looked like a marsupial.

Bridesmaids and groomsmen, traditionally, wore outfits very similar to those of the bride and groom in hopes of confusing the evil spirits who might lurk about attempting to thwart the wedding. In my current state, nothing I wear would confuse the evil spirits. Svelte and tall, my brother's fiancee is unmistakably not me.

I long ago let go of all hopes and dreams of being the cute bridesmaid. Of course, the whole event is about everyone looking at the bride. My only consolation is that without four-inch heels, I will likely be stuck at the end of the line-up, and the bride and groom can simply crop me out of all the photos. Let's just hope she's ordered us large bouquets.

Despite the obstacles, of which I hopefully was not the largest, the happy couple has managed to pull things together. They are going to have a much smaller wedding than they originally planned – some people just don't want to travel to New Orleans these days – but it will be a ceremony with heart and soul.

As I have told my brother many times in the last six months, you could get married in a large cardboard box and people would still cry about how beautiful the wedding was. I think most married couples will tell you that their wedding was a blur to them. They hardly get to taste the food. They can't remember what songs the band played. They don't remember who they spoke to or what they said.

The one crystal clear moment happens when you are standing together at the alter, committing to forever.

Notice to Lancaster County Taxpayers

You are reminded of the May 1st filing deadline.

• Personal property returns

• State income tax returns

• Estimated return Voucher 1

File on time and avoid penalties

Commissioner of the Revenue 804-462-7920

Boots is lost in the Virginia forest–and found

by Jack Hersein

Choking back tears, my wife, Angela, said "I think he's lost."

She echoed my thoughts referring to Boots, our four-year-old male cat. His black and white fur dressed him in a formal tuxedo with white-gloved front paws, a black coat and rear feet that looked like white high tops. A broad white stripe from his chin to his belly added his formal starched shirt.

An eleven-and-a-half pound alpha male with a unique little white jog on his upper left lip, he reminded us of Charlie Chaplin, when he comically cocked his head after being scolded for jumping on the kitchen counter.

A strict proponent of no trespassing, Boots patrolled and thinned the chipmunk and mole population in and around our backyard in Johnstown, Pa. He also gave clear warning to other felines to stay away from his territory or suffer the consequences.

Boots

Boots came to us sick, hungry and alone in front of the Johnstown, Pa., YMCA three years ago. No one wanted him, so it seemed. Rumors had it that his one-time owner had gone to prison and her house had burned down. We felt sorry for him and took him home where Angela nursed him back to health, with many trips to the animal hospital in Somerset, Pa.

Now, after two years, Boots, the faithful cat, had earned the right to accompany us on the seven-hour drive to our second home in Hill's Quarter near Kilmarnock.

"Jack, Boots knows his way around Hill's Quarter," said Angela. "You've taken long walks with him on the leash and we've let him run for the past several months during the day. He really wants to go out tonight. Should I let him?"

I thought for a moment.

"Yeah, sure, let him be a cat," words I'd soon regret.

Angela opened the back door and Boots bounded onto our deck, then down the steps and off into the cool September night of 2004. The singing crickets watched Boots leave, perhaps warning of the hidden dangers lurking in the dense Virginia woods.

When he didn't return the next morning, we told the entire Hill's Quarter work force and our neighbors about our missing tuxedo cat.

Often during our search of the nearby roads, I stopped the car and Angela shook the food jug, calling "Boots, Boots." He didn't respond. Now we needed help and we both knew it!

Each road near Hill's Quarter seemed surrounded by endless, dense forest. Forest filled with raccoons, foxes, hawks, plus unleashed dogs and probably coyotes. All these hazards created compelling challenges, even for the indomitable Boots.

Just east of Hill's Quarter we stopped the car and talked to Jimmy White, working in his backyard next to his garage. He showed interest and promised to watch for Boots after we described our lost cat in detail.

That night, Jimmy called our cell phone and said, "I'm certain that Boots cat is in a lone tree in a field just south of my place."

With a flashlight and the food jug, we drove to the lone tree Jimmy described. On arrival, it seemed like a bright carnival midway. Lots of cars, occupied by Jimmy's neighbors and friends, had their lights on and engines running. They illuminated the tree and wanted to see us capture Boots.

"He was traveling with a white cat and he had those white paw mittens, just like you described," said Jimmy.

After searching the tree and the adjacent field in vain, we thanked Jimmy and asked him to please keep an eye out in case Boots wandered near his home again.

"All the lights and noise must have scared him away, but we are making progress," said Angela. "People are looking."

The next day, Kyle, a kind Hill's Quarter staff member, came to our door and explained he lived along the road to Weems and fed many cats that happened to visit his home on their travels.

That night Kyle called, certain that he'd just fed Boots. We rushed over to his home, but decided Boots either hadn't passed by or had since moved on.

The hope that Jimmy White and his cousin Kyle gave us turned out to be a key motivator, because we continued our search by casting a bigger net.

"Jack, if Jimmy and Kyle saw Boots, he might be headed south to Weems. We've got to do more to find him," said Angela.

I agreed to go to Johnstown and bring back pictures of Boots from the box under the bed."

Two days later, using picture productions from Johnstown's "Copies Now," we made 15 Boots wanted picture posters, featuring a $100 reward and a detailed description of the missing Chaplin impersonator.

All the supermarkets, drugstores and post offices in Weems, Irvington and Kilmarnock put our wanted posters on their bulletin boards. Angela published an ad in the Kilmarnock newspaper. The Warsaw TV station agreed to announce our reward notice.

"A cat just like your Boots is at the Hope and Glory Inn," confided a young couple, as we searched the park in Irvington. It turned out that the large Inn cat had been a longtime resident who could have been a Boots cousin.

We just had to get back to Johnstown, so Angela and I dropped off the food jug, litter pan and reward money with Katherine, our neighbor and friend. As we left, Maxine, Katherine's quiet visitor, said "Keep the faith. Boots will safely return."

In the car, Angela confided that Katherine believed her friend had the gift of future sight.

Back in Johnstown, the days since we lost Boots turned into three weeks. Angela asked about running the Boots wanted ad in the Kilmarnock paper one more time. I agreed, not realizing how important it would be.

A week later, in our darkest hour, when we'd both accepted that Boots wouldn't return, we got two phone calls from people who thought they'd seen cats like Boots. Neither call referred to Boots.

Angela answered the third phone call from Peggy Wilson, who lived off the road to Weems, deep in the woods along Taylor's Creek. We listened on the speaker phone to Peggy.

"Does he have a little white jog on his left lip? My husband, Carl, saw him looking in our large window overlooking Taylor's Creek. He seemed hungry and lost on his last legs," said Peggy.

The white jog on the left lip question hit me like a lightning bolt. It had to be our lost four-legged friend.

"Okay, we will go to the Tri-Star Market and look at your wanted poster picture for a positive ID," said Peggy. "What does he like to eat? We gave him a little milk and put him in a crab basket in our garage."

Angela thanked Peggy Wilson and said, "Jack, it just has to be Boots."

We packed in a hurry and left Johnstown very late for Hill's Quarter. Ten hours later at their garage, Carl Wilson welcomed us, carrying an eight-pound Charlie Chaplin-like cat, dressed in a tuxedo.

Frail, forest-worn and weary, the now skinny Boots had at last been found. His will to survive, uncanny resolve and fighting spirit kept him alive for 30 days in the dark forest. He'd made it.

Boots had been saved by our soon-to-be fast friends. "I could tell he wasn't a feral cat," said Carl. "He seemed to be a lost pet with a lonely searching look when he spotted me through our large rear window while I ate breakfast. Then I remembered your newspaper ad, which Peggy luckily found."

With tears in her eyes, Angela hugged Boots and said, "Jack, our prayers have been answered."

I had more than a few tears in my eyes as I hugged them both.

Peggy collected the reward and said normally she wouldn't have taken a cent, but the reward would go to their granddaughter for a new pair of "boots." Somehow the trade of Boots for boots made sense.

A few weeks later we met the Wilsons for a celebration and thank you dinner.

"I'm retired twice," said Carl. "Recently from the Nuclear Regulatory commission and before that, the Navy."

I explained I'd been in the Navy and graduated from Annapolis with the class of 1960. Carl smiled and answered, "Me, too. I'm class of '49 and in the mid '50s I came back to the Naval academy to teach physics."

"You could have been my physics professor during my third class year in 1957-58." Neither of us could remember. However, Carl remembered Jimmy Carter lived two doors down during his plebe year in 1945-46.

After dinner, we went home to find Boots peering out the front window into the darkness. Did he want to go out? No, he just wanted us home.

Boots is now up to his 11-pound fighting weight and the chipmunks in our backyard in Johnstown are on high alert. The well-dressed hunter is back on patrol and they know it.

Letters to the Editor

Voting record decides his vote

To The Editor:

Since the days of being a young man, beginning work as a laborer and digging ditches and working my way to becoming a master electrician, I have always followed the voting record of my District representative and senators.

My votes have always been in accordance to the said voting records, especially on workers issues. With that in mind it will be no surprise to hear that my vote will not be going to Jo Ann Davis, the first Congressional District Representative.

Upon moving to this area, I have constantly written Rep. Davis on issues from CAFTA to minimum wage issues and all in between. I have repeatedly been given the boilerplate answer of "I will keep your comments in mind if this comes to a vote on the floor." with a lifetime voting record of a trifle 27 percent in favor of workers issues, Rep. Davis simply tows the party line and does not consider her constituents' needs.

Out of 15 workers' issues that were voted upon this year, Rep. Davis voted right four times, wrong eight times and was absent three times. One of the absences was for the CAFTA vote. I know her excuse of being caught in a storm some 40 miles from Washington, while in the presence of President Bush (a proponent of CAFTA) and could not make the vote.

I was also in the Washington area that day and, yes, there was a thunderstorm. But the storm was early and voting in congress was extended until long after midnight until enough votes were pressured by DeLay and cronies to approve the bill. Rep. Davis's no vote was instrumental in getting CAFTA passed. Look at the results of such passage.

Therefore, I urge each and every voter in the First Congressional District to take a good look at voting records before casting ballots this year. The job you save could be your own.

Larry F. McGlamary
Kilmarnock

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

VOTE MAY 2, 2006

RE-ELECT

PAUL S. JONES

Kilmarnock Town Council

Appointed to council in June 1999

Thank you for your support

Authorized by Paul S. Jones

Montessori on the Northern Neck!

An exploratory committee of the Gloucester Montessori School is proposing to open a new Montessori school on the lower Northern Neck for the Fall 2006 school season. In order to discover if sufficient interest exists in the area for such a school, GMS will be holding an informational meeting on **Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 PM** at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene, off Route 3, one mile north of the light in White Stone, VA. The public is invited to attend. Information packets will be provided. If the project goes forward, initial enrollment will be limited. Parents interested in early enrollment in a Northern Neck school will be provided with prospective admissions information at the meeting.

For more information please call the school at **(804) 693-6455** or visit our website at **http://www.gloucestermontessori.org/nn.**

Gloucester Montessori School welcomes children of all cultural, religious, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. We hope that you can join us!

Financial Fitness Conference

Saturday, April 29, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 1 :00 p.m.
Northumberland High School
Heathsville, Virginia

The **FREE Financial Fitness Conference** will offer workshops on Cleaning up your credit • Developing a spending plan • Getting out of debt • How to qualify for a home loan • Financial tips for the self employed • Basic investment options.

Door Prizes to be awarded!

Refreshments

For information or to register, call the **Northumberland County Extension Office at 804-580-5694.**

Pre-registration appreciated but walk-ins are welcome.

Sponsored by Bank of Northumberland, Bank of Lancaster, Northern Neck State Bank and Virginia Cooperative Extension.
Partner: Northern Neck Southside Area Bankers Association

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. If you are a person with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services or other accommodations for this Virginia Cooperative Extension sponsored program, please contact the Northumberland County Extension Office at 804-580-5694 to discuss your accommodation needs.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn M. Allen

Allen-Townsend nuptials held

The marriage of Ms. Virginia Townsend of White Stone, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. James, formerly of Leesburg, to Glenn M. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ashby L. Allen Sr. of Ocran, took place April 5, 2006 at the Little Chapel of Flowers in Las Vegas, Nevada with Rev. Jerry Stephens officiating.

Attending the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer James Jr. of White Plains, Md., and Ms. Dorothy Wallace and Mrs. Beverly Mills of Upper Marlboro, Md.

Children of the couple are Cpl. Bryan Townsend of Virginia Beach, Jaime Townsend of Jefferson City, Mo., and Laura Allen of Jefferson, Md.

Grandchildren of the couple are Troy Allen of Weems and Alexander Bogg of Jefferson City, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Evans

Evans-Provo vows exchanged

Chrystal Marie Provo and Robert Kyle Evans were married March 18, 2006, at Maple Grove Baptist Church in Foxwells. Rev. Richard Newlon officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Ms. Donna M. Provo of Reedville and Robert Provo Jr. of Beaufort, S.C. She is the granddaughter of Daisy E. Masoka of Reedville and the late Michael Robert Masoka.

The groom is the son of Patricia and Lee Newsome of Ophelia and Vernon Evans of Fairport. The grandparents of the groom are Marie Evans of Fairport and the late Bobby Evans.

The bride's uncle, Kenneth Beckstrom, gave her in marriage.

The maid of honor was Tiffany Provo of Fairport, sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Dawn Prusha of Round Hill, Angela Frasier of Wicomico, and Elizabeth Newsome of Ophelia, the groom's sister.

The best men were the father of the groom, Vernon Evans, and Lee Newsome, the groom's stepfather. The groomsmen were Terri Barrett of Burgess and Frankie Davis of Lottsburg.

The flower girl was Julie Evans of Crisfield, Md.. Kyle Prusha of Round Hill and Dyland Beckstrom of Ashburn were the ring bearers.

Following the service, a reception was held at Festival Halle in Reedville. The bride and groom returned to El Paso, Texas, where the groom is stationed while serving in the army.

Service Notes

Air Force Airman Courtney L. Johnson recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, she studied the Air Force mission, organization and military customs and courtesies. She performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

Airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Johnson is the daughter of Merita Billups of Shackelfords. She is the niece of Sarah Rich of County Bridge Road in Warsaw.

Johnson is a 2001 graduate of Washington and Lee High School in Montross.

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

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Innis Wood had as their Easter weekend guests, his daughter, Sandra Hughes of Roanoke, her daughter, Lindsay, and friend, Chris.

Guests of Randall and Frances Marsh on Easter Sunday were some members of their family–Pat and Jimmy Moss of Manakin-Sabot, Cary Alphin of Richmond, Neal and Andrew Marsh and Alison Bishop of Miskimon, Sherry Vanlandingham of Lively, Timothy Marsh and Amy Dodson of Lancaster, Donna, Heather and Carol Davis of Kilmarnock, Stacey Davis and Clifton and Nora Grace Bowles of Reedville, Susan and Phillip Humphreys of White Stone, Inease Marsh of Miskimon and Robert Wilkins of White Stone.

Arthur White has returned to his home on Indian Creek following triple by-pass heart surgery at the University of Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Baskerville and children, Kate and Eric, of Norfolk spent Easter at the Baskerville home on Prentice Creek and visited with his mother, Mrs. R.D. Baskerville, at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Slade of Wake Forrest, N.C. spent Easter weekend with her mother, Mrs. Anna Jo Sanders.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Carter were Drew and Sue Carter of York, Pa., Tim and Jenny Pannell and children, Sean and Holly, of Newport News and Ms. Lindy Grigsby and son, Mathew.

Bryan Butler and Ms. Morgan Childs of New York City were Easter guests of Bryan's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Butler of Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Jim Conley has returned from a month's mission trip to Uganda, Africa where he participated in planning a church and took part in evangelical meetings.

Marty and Michelle Hinton and children, Owen, Hugh and Maeve, of Newtown Square, Pa. spent a recent weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Meade Hinton Jr. at Browns Store.

Mrs. Carroll Hurst Jr. and daughters, Meredith and Lauren, and Meredith's' friend of Richmond hosted an Easter dinner for approximately 20 family members at their river house in Bluff Point.

Jonathan Joseph has completed courses at Quantico and is now a 2nd Lt. U.S. Marines. 2nd Lt. Joseph has served two stints in Iraq. He is the son of Byrt and Dyan Joseph of Ditchley, New York and Manhattan.

Guests of Mrs. Eunice Thrift for Easter were grandchildren, Ricky, Sue and Brandon Arnett of Royersford, Pa., Roy and Norma Arnette and grandson, Cameron Arnette, Mike Thrift, Nick Brown and Tom Northern.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Jackson have returned to their home in Irvington after spending the winter in Naples, Fla.

Ms. Cindy Collins of Virginia Beach spent Easter with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Schools in Kilmarnock.

Lilly Dyan Thomolaris of Rochester, N.Y. is with her grandparents, Byrt and Dyan Joseph, in Ditchley while her parents, Erika and Bill Thomolaris, and siblings, Alexis, Andrew and Sam, enjoy a Caribbean cruise.

Jeff Loudy of Alexandria was with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Dean Loudy, several days last week. Miss Beth Loudy of Alexandria spent Easter weekend with her parents, the Dean Loudys.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Swift have returned to their home in Indian Creek after visiting their sons, Jamie Swift in Arlington and Tim Swift in Sterling, and Ms. Georgi Sharp in Arlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Forrester, a son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Forrester and children, Caroline and Henry of Rocky Mount, N.C., spent Easter weekend in Crozet with another son and family, the Rev. and Mrs. Doug Forrester and daughter, Ellen.

Engagements

Carlyle Coleman Swann Jr. and Susan Marie Smith

Smith-Swann

Susan Marie Smith and Carlyle Coleman Swann Jr. and his parents announce their engagement.

The bride is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Smith Jr., formerly of Ophelia.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle C. Swann Sr. of Heathsville.

A June wedding is planned.

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Deltaville Farmers' Market
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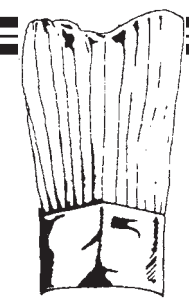

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Auction donations listed

Donations for the April 29 auction at Chesapeake Academy have been pouring in from business' and individuals.

Auction committee co-chairman Diana Neal calls it "a banner year."

Among the items and events to be auctioned are a carved teak coffee table from Thailand, a Thomasville dining room set, a wine tasting at the White Stone Wine and Cheese, cooking classes from Time to Cook, children's costumes and Gund animal puppets from the Kilmarnock Toy Store, gift certificates for dinners, piano and riding lessons, jewelry from Burke's Jewelers, Peppers, and Ross's Rings and Things, gift baskets from Arbonne, Heads Up, and a full day of services at Rittenhouse, Peridot Salon and Merle Norman.

Also received are original artworks by Nancy Reath, Doug Dorsey, and Louise Cochrane, framed giclees and prints from P. Buckley Moss, John Lombardi, David Jett, Ralph Higgins and John MacLeod and art glass from Bay Country Studios.

Vacation destinations include Colorado, Arizona, North Carolina and Florida, trips by Meridian Yacht Charters to the British Virgin Islands and Antigua, and a flight to Toronto to the National Ballet of Canada.

Also to be auctioned are overnight visits to The Tides Inn and the Hope and Glory in Irvington, The Inn at Warner Hall, the North River Inn Bed and Breakfast in Gloucester and the Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg.

Adventure Travel has donated a Caribbean cruise and Bobby's Marine in Burgess, a new 13-foot Boston Whaler.

Golfing items include a set of custom clubs from Kevin Aines of the Indian Creek Pro Shop and rounds of play at The Golden Eagle, Piankatank River Golf Course and a membership at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems.

Also to be auctioned are tickets to a Redskins Game and a William & Mary Football Game. There is a private charter on the Miss Ann and a progressive dinner party on the Corrotoman.

Turner Sculpture has donated a 22-inch bronze of a resting blue heron.

There also will be an on-line auction for a Barbizon house coat, a trip to North Carolina, Gucci luggage, balloon rides, sports memorabilia and trips to New York City theaters. Visit chesapeakeacademy.cmarket.com.

Proceeds benefit the academic and scholarship programs at Chesapeake Academy.

For auction tickets, call 438-6490.

Cy Revere and the Revere family have loaned a special grouping of Civil War artifacts that descended from Abner Revere, a Confederate soldier in the 40th Virginia Infantry Regiment. Revere is holding a replica of a Civil War rifle.

Civil War exhibits open this weekend

Civil War exhibits will open this weekend at two area museums. The Steamboat Era Museum's "The Bay At War" will open Friday, April 21. The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library's "And Then They Came Ashore" will open Saturday, April 22, with a live camp re-enactment on the Courthouse Green. Both exhibits are also open on Sunday.

Lancaster County was the scene of some memorable skirmishes on the water and on land. Dioramas, oral histories and videos tell the story of the Harriet de Ford and of Union ships traveling all the way up to Port Royal. Items from the Steamboat's collections and the Mary Ball lend authenticity to the Bay at War.

The Mary Ball Museum will offer a glimpse into the past centering on life in Lancaster County around the time of the Civil War. The Museum's archives and collections will focus on the many gifts from folks here in the Northern Neck pertaining to the Civil War. Hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

Local family stories and memorabilia show what it was like to be on the home front while husbands, fathers and brothers were at war. The militia was very strong in the county and Museum archival documents bear many local family names: Ewell, Rever, Ball, Lawson, Haynie, George, Sanders, Chase and Douglas. The Lancaster Greys camped on the grounds of White Stone United Methodist Church and used the building for shelter.

Almost 25 years after the war ended survivors of the war petitioned the Grand Camp to have independent status and became the Lawson Ball Camp. Their flag is housed today in the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Musket balls and other munitions have been picked up near Riverside and Maidley probably left behind by Yankee gunboats firing on Confederate troops near St. Mary's White Chapel. In 2001, a 90-pound Parrott shell, a type used during the Civil War, was found unexploded in a field near Kilmarnock.

From the Smart collection comes the tale of the family saving their silver from the Union troops by burying it in the yard. One piece bears a visible 'ding' from the shovel hitting it. Along with guns, pistols and sabers, confederate archival material such as currency, bonds and death certificates round out the show.

Of special interest is an autographed Carte DeVisite of Robert E. Lee with an accompanying lock of his hair, a gift of Mrs. William Marr, along with numerous weaponry, medical instruments, and photos that contain a lock of General Robert E. Lee's hair and a carte de visite photo signed by Lee.

During the Civil War, many local sites became targets for raids by the Union forces, most notably Edgely where the 18th-century tannery was burned to the ground. Many of Mosby's Rangers hid out in Lancaster during the winter of 1865. Many homes in Lancaster were occupied by Yankee forces. How these raids and occupations affected the local population will be topics covered in the exhibit.

Annual tartan ceremony set at Christ Church

On Sunday, April 30 at 12:30 p.m. Scottish tradition and pageantry will return to Christ Church with the annual "Kirkin' O' Th' Tartan.

Kirking (Churching) the tartan probably began after the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion when the English, in an attempt to suppress the clan system, banned wearing of tartan and playing bagpipes under penalty of death, said Dixie McCaig. It did not break the clans. Until the bans were repealed, it is certain that clansmen and women went to the kirk with the pieces of tartan hidden beneath their clothing. As the ministers and priests blessed the families at the altar thus blessing the tartan and, by extension, the clans.

The service became a Scottish American tradition in 1941 when the Rev. Peter Marshall introduced it at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., she said. The common thread in each of the thousands of blessing services conducted each year in all parts of the country is the opportunity to dedicate to God, the tartan symbol of unwavering loyalty, steadfast faith, rugged individualism and the regard for human personality.

All those present, whether or not wearing or carrying the tartan, are invited to come forward and the blessing is extended to all, added McCaig.

Rev. David H. May, rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock will lead the service. The Grace organist and choir will be joined by the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band, led by pipe major Jack Fearing and drum sergeant John Friday. Selections will include "Scotland the Brave,"

"Amazing Grace," "The Sky Boat Song" and "The Black Bear."

Immediately following the service, the band will present an informal concert. The highlight will be the band's "Northern Neck Set" which will include "Shoals of Herring," "Steamboat," "Keel Row," and "Lads of Kilmarnock."

Susan Brittingham designed this seahorse quilt.

Quilting workshops coming to Reedville

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum Quilters will offer two Susan Brittingham workshops in June. Reservations are due by May 5.

On June 3 Brittingham will offer a class on miniature fabric landscapes. The class introduces principles of designing realistic landscapes using atmospheric perspectives. Designs will be provided, so drawing skills are not required. Participants will begin their own fabric representations using fusible appliqué and machine stitching. The finished product will be suitable for framing. The class is suitable for all skill levels.

On June 4, Brittingham will conduct a class on creating machine embellished surfaces. Participants will learn and practice methods for creating embellished details to enrich the surface texture of quilts. Samples will be made using various techniques. This class is for intermediate level quilters. Some previous free motion machine quilting or appliqué experience may be helpful, but is not essential.

Both classes are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour for lunch. Classes are $65 each, or both for $115.

Brittingham also will give a lecture at 1 p.m. at the June 2 RFM Quilters meeting at Bethany United Methodist Church parish hall. The lecture is free to all who sign up for one of the workshops, or $5 otherwise.

For reservations, call 453-6529.

Kilmarnock postage stamp design deadline is June 18

A competition to design a stamp celebrating the United States Post Office's 202nd year of service for Kilmarnock is being sponsored by the town and the USPS.

The design can be in pen, pencil, paint, crayon or other media. The design can represent the town, the Postal Service or the Northern Neck. The drawing will be reduced to the size of a standard 12x4 stamp, so simple designs are best.

The contest is open to children 12 years and under. Contestants do not have to be a resident of Kilmarnock. It is open, but not limited to, all local public schools, home schoolers and Chesapeake Academy students, said Kilmarnock administrative assistant Megan Jackson. Children not yet in school also may participate, she added.

The winner will receive a savings bond of $250 or more from the Town of Kilmarnock. The child will also be the first to use the new stamp at an anniversary celebration to be held August 10, said Jackson.

Once the stamp is retired, usually 30 days after it is issued, it will be given to the Kilmarnock Museum for posterity. The stamp also will be listed in the USPS cancellation stamp booklet, available for review at the Kilmarnock Post Office.

Entries must be submitted by June 18 to Terry Elam at the Kilmarnock Post Office, or to Megan Jackson, in care of the Town Hall, 514 North Main Street, and labeled "USPS Drawing Competition Submittal."

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Watch the Blue Boxes for The Rivah!
Published May

Resident Dorothy Linville (left) is helped by volunteer Mary Ragland with a knitting project.

RW-C to salute volunteers

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury will honor its volunteers at a luncheon Monday, April 24, at noon in the auditorium and atrium of the Chesapeake Center.

Harmony to Heaven, a singing group that includes RW-C staff, will entertain.

"National Volunteer Week" is April 23 to 29, but volunteers make a difference every day, and that is the theme of the luncheon," said Trish Geeson, Westbury Services activities coordinator.

She noted that it was community volunteers who believed in the concept of a continuing care retirement community and worked to start RW-C some 21 years ago.

"In Westbury Services, we do activities seven days a week and volunteers are invaluable in assisting the activity staff," Geeson said. "Residents do room visits with old and new friends. That's really important; you can't beat that one-to-one contact."

Volunteers are residents and non-residents. Area pastors and church lay people provide worship and prayer services, Bible studies, Holy Communion, visitation, and assist the chaplain.

Volunteers serve on committees and on the corporate and foundation boards, help with the golf tournament, pick up roadway trash, participate in sing-along programs for Westbury Services, and serve as Westbury receptionists.

Members of the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society and the Northern Neck Kennel Club bring their pets for the therapeutic "Fin, Fur and Feathers" program. The Northern Neck Master Gardeners lead projects including raised-bed cutting gardens and a vegetable garden in the courtyards.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Geeson at 438-4082, or resident life coordinator Maria Ferrand at 438-4011.

RW-C volunteers who did not receive their written invitations to the luncheon and anyone wishing to RSVP, may call 438-4000.

THE RECORD ONLINE

www.rrecord.com

Sculptor to visit RAL

Sculptor Paul DiPasquale of Richmond will be the speaker at the Rappahannock Art League meeting on Monday, April 24, at 1:30 p.m. at the Studio Gallery. The public is invited to attend.

DiPasquale has produced many larger than life busts of public figures using bronze, marble and poured aggregate. He is also adept at woodworking, foundry work and welding.

DiPasquale was selected as 1996 Richmonder of the Year for his roles as author, producer and sculptor of the Arthur Ashe Monument.

Another of DiPasquale's public works is the monumental fiberglass bust, "Connecticut," now owned by the Richmond Metropolitan Authority. It has overlooked Richmond's Baseball Diamond since 1985. The artist originally built and installed it in Washington, D.C., as a self-produced "mobile" monument to honor Native Americans.

Other permanent public installations include King Neptune, bronze, in Virginia Beach; Oliver Hill, Esq., bronze, for the Black History Museum in Virginia in 1997; Katherine Godwin, bronze, for Virginia Wesleyan College in 1997; Governor Mills E. Godwin for the Virginia Historical Society and Virginia Wesleyan College, a bronze edition of two in 1996.

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the Baltimore Aquarium, the Billings Rockefeller Museum in Vermont as well as numerous corporate collections nationally own and display original DiPasquale sculptures.

The artist's copyrighted line of ceiling and wall duck and fish sculptures have been sold nationally by the Orvis Company since 1988 and have been pictured in Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal.

DiPasquale earned a bachelor's with distinction in sociology from the University of Virginia in 1973 and has a masters' in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Since 1978, DiPasquale has taught college full and part-time and as a visiting professor in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. He teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University.

DiPasquale works through foundries and galleries nationally and with Bazzanti/Mirinelli Gallery and Foundry in Florence, Italy. In 1996 and 1998, he was awarded a visiting artist position at the American Academy in Rome.

The artist and his singer/actress wife, Kelly Kennedy, have two children.

Tickets are available for bluegrass concert

Organizers of the Menokin Bluegrass Festival May 6 with legends Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys have announced that the $20 tickets are available at local businesses.

Tickets may be purchased in Lancaster County at White Stone Wine and Cheese in White Stone and Cuttin' Up Hair Salon in Kilmarnock.

Advance tickets can be bought up to the day of the show. Then they will be available at the gates only. Gates will open at 11 a.m. The music will start at noon and continue to 6 p.m. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.

The festival will be held on the grounds of Menokin in Warsaw.

Tickets can also be purchased at www.menokinbluegrass.com.

"If our online ticket sales are any indication, the Northern Neck is plugged in and excited about this event," said Anne Neuman, a festival founder. "We're expecting a great crowd."

Other performers will include The Seldom Scene, Old School Freight Train and Bill Kelso and Gas Money Band.

Gold sponsors include EVB, Roma Ristorante Italiano in Tappahannock, Dillard and Katona and Allied Waste Services.

The festival is an all-day, family-friendly event that benefits The Menokin Foundation, a conservation group that seeks to interpret and restore the ruins of Menokin, the one-time home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Tickets also may be purchased by calling 333-0512, and by sending a cashiers check or money order to Box 102, Warsaw, VA 22572.

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Grand Opening Weekend Steamboat Era Museum
Friday, April 21–Sunday, April 23
Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 10:00AM–4:00 PM • Sun. 1:00PM– 4:00PM

"Whoever controlled the Chesapeake Bay would determine the course of the Civil War. Throughout the war the Bay was a marshy danger zone crawling with privateers, smugglers, and spies. It was a place where classic army-navy operations were carried out, where runaway slaves became contraband, where brother literally fought brother, and where freedom was denied, the sake of preserving freedom." – Eric Mills, Author and Historian

THE BAY AT WAR
A Storytelling Exhibit

• New museum theatre with special overview film produced by Mattingly Productions and narrated by Roger Mudd

• Detailed ship models and dioramas by master model builders Bob Butler, George Frayne, and William Wright

• 2 oral history kiosks containing interesting Civil War stories handed down 2 - 3 generations

• Artifacts and memorabilia from the period, including remains of a Union gunboat destroyed at Dymer's Creek

• Storyboard mural of a local Civil War historical event designed by Lancaster High School art students

This exhibit is made possible through generous grants from the Virginia Foundation for Humanities, the Scott Opler Foundation, the Suhor-Graham Foundation, and the Commonweath of Virginia

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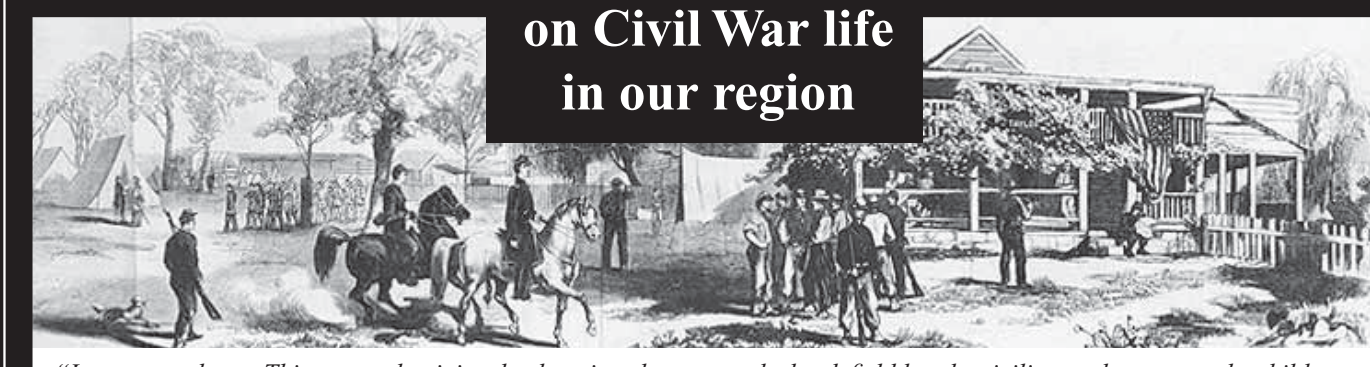

"It was a total war. This means that it involved not just the men on the battlefield,but the civilians – the women, the children, the elderly people, the slaves...The war began in April, and the men had probably just finished planting their gardens. They left the women and children to tend them..." – Carolyn Jett, Author & Historian

AND THEN THEY CAME ASHORE

• Local family stories – including the Ball, Chase, Douglas, Ewell, George, Haynie, Lawson, Revere, and Sanders families – about the Civil War era

• "The Burial of Latane" lithograph, a post-war fundraiser for Confederate widows and orphans

• Future touch-screen system featuring video interview with author and historian Carolyn Jett

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Yard sale and auction stockpile is growing

The 18th annual Grace Church Yard Sale will be held May 6 at the Alexandria Police Boys Camp.

Gates will open at 8 a.m. The camp is at the end of Boys Camp Road near Kilmarnock. The sale will conclude at noon.

An outdoor auction will begin at 10 a.m. The auction will feature items of value including a canoe, Hobie Cat, riding mower, roto-tiller, electric organ, stainless steel grill, radial arm saw mounted on a rolling storage cabinet, other shop equipment, a yacht-grade reverse osmosis water system with a 200-gallon daily output, pressure wash system and a new shop parts cleaning system.

Yard sale booths will feature plants, treasures, indoor and outdoor furniture, Christmas decorations, artwork, books, toys, appliances, computers and electronic items, clothing, household items, and a pantry stocked with quiches, preserves, breads, cakes and pies prepared by the Women of Grace. Hungry shoppers can stop by an outdoor café for coffee and doughnuts or grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, snack items and drinks.

Members of the community and Grace Church may drop off items daily starting April 22 through May 5 with the exception of Sundays, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon.

Yard sale chairman Gordon Nelson displays a recent osmosis system donated for auction.

All items must be clean and in good working order. Items may include clothing, electronics, jewelry, books, collectables, art, lawn and garden equipment, furniture, appliances, tools, linens and household items. Items suitable for the auction are sought as well.

Proceeds are donated to local community organizations.

All questions or requests for pick up of donations should be directed to Gordon Nelson at 462-0095.

Annual tartan ceremony set at Christ Church

On Sunday, April 30 at 12:30 p.m. Scottish tradition and pageantry will return to Christ Church with the annual "Kirkin' O' Th' Tartan.

Kirking (Churching) the tartan probably began after the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion when the English, in an attempt to suppress the clan system, banned wearing of tartan and playing bagpipes under penalty of death, said Dixie McCaig. It did not break the clans. Until the bans were repealed, it is certain that clansmen and women went to the kirk with the pieces of tartan hidden beneath their clothing. As the ministers and priests blessed the families at the altar thus blessing the tartan and, by extension, the clans.

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"Amazing Grace," "The Sky Boat Song" and "The Black Bear."

Immediately following the service, the band will present an informal concert. The highlight will be the band's "Northern Neck Set" which will include "Shoals of Herring," "Steamboat," "Keel Row," and "Lads of Kilmarnock."

Near death experience group plans bus trip

The Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula friends of the International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS) will travel to Virginia Beach May 6 to hear Tiffany Snow, a lightening-strike survivor, who came back with the "gift of healing," medical intuition and supernatural intuitiveness.

Through specific prayerful intent (SPI), Snow can lift clients to the same quantum matrix of unconditional love and connection of divine presence she first experienced in the community of spirit beyond, said Linda Small.

It is a state of high vibrational resonance that bridges time and space, from which divine healing can take place, added Snow.

At the end of the meeting Snow will offer a free healing session to each individual in attendance.

The cost of the bus trip is $18 and will include transportation and a donation to Virginia Beach IANDS. Snow will speak at the Virginia Beach Central Library from 9 a.m. to noon.

Following the program, the NN-MP IANDS group will join the Virginia Beach group for lunch with Snow at a nearby restaurant. The cost of lunch is not included in the bus fee.

The bus will leave RW-C near Irvington at 6:30 a.m.

Contact Small for reservations at 438-4822 or LinSma8@aol.com.

Earth Day is April 22

The annual celebration of Earth Day is Saturday, April 22. Schools and communities nationwide will hold events and fairs to encourage people to help protect the planet.

"It's a chance for everyone to join in the fun while doing something to make our Earth a better place," said Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District chairman J.C. Berger.

The district can help individuals and groups interested in caring for the planet and its resources with two free fact sheets of ideas for families and organizations. Activities such as tree planting, adopting a stream, and creating a nature trail or rain garden can be done at home or in the yard, around schools, streams, parks and other public places.

"We've come a long way since the first observance of Earth Day in 1970," Berger said. "While we have cleaned up some pollution, encouraged recycling and protected certain wildlife habitats, there is still a lot to be done."

He mentioned the loss of rain forests and the depleted ozone layer as global examples of environmental problems, He emphasized, however, that the battle to protect natural resources can and must begin closer to home.

"We celebrate Earth Day once a year, but we can celebrate the gifts our planet provides every day," Berger said.

Call 333-3525, or visit the NNSWCD at 5559 Richmond Road in Warsaw for copies of the fact sheets and other information on protecting soil and water resources.

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The James River Rambler will hit the track in May.

Rail excursions feature James River Rambler

On May 13, 20 and June 3 passenger excursions will return to the Buckingham Branch Railroad headquartered in Dillwyn.

The trips will be sponsored by the Old Dominion Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The excursions educate the public about railroad operations and rail travel through experience. They are a public education project of the Chapter's Old Dominion Railway Museum.

Named the James River Rambler, the train will travel through Buckingham County's rolling hills and deep forests. Trips to New Canton will feature a view of the James River. The train will be pulled by a diesel locomotive from the 1950s and will feature preserved passenger cars from the 1920s and open-air sightseeing cars.

The Buckingham Branch Railroad is a family-owned freight railroad that serves a number of industries in Buckingham County and other parts of Virginia. Its Buckingham Division extends from its headquarters in Dillwyn northward for 17 miles to its connection with the CSX system at the James River.

On May 13, passengers may also enjoy Buckingham County Day. Held at the Buckingham County Industrial Park on the outskirts of Dillwyn, the celebration will feature a parade, an arts and crafts sale, homemade foods, music and children's activities.

On June 3, Dillwyn Railroad Day will be featured. A locomotive and other railroad equipment will be on display and open to all train ticket holders for guided tours at Dillwyn Station.

On May 13, there will be three trips. At 9:30 a.m. and at 11:30 a.m., the train will depart for a one-and-a-half-hour round trip to Johnson, followed at 1:30 p.m. by a three-and-a-half-hour round trip to New Canton on the James River.

On May 20 and June 3, there will be two trips. At 9:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m., the train will depart for a three-and-a-half-hour round trip to New Canton.

Fares for the trips to New Canton will be $22 for adults and $11 for children 2 to 12 years old; the trips to Johnson will be $12 for adults and $6 for children 2 to 12 years old. There is no charge for children under 2 who do not occupy a seat.

Tickets are available at the Old Dominion Railway Museum at 102 Hull Street in Richmond on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.; by writing the Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 35922, Richmond, VA 23235; or by phone Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 231-4324 in the Richmond area, or 1-800-451-6318 if calling from outside the Richmond area.

Farm photo contest entries accepted

Got an eye for farm photography? If so, capturing a winning image for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation photo contest should be a snap.

Sponsored by the VFBF Women's Committee, the contest showcases the appeal of farm and rural living and Virginia agriculture.

Entries are being accepted through June 1. They will be judged in four categories: animals, landscapes, people and farm entrance signs. Photos must have been taken within the past two years and must not be altered or image-enhanced in any way.

Judging will be conducted in three age divisions: 6 to 10 years, 11 to 17 years, and 18 or older as of December 31. Photos will be judged on creativity and composition. Participants can submit prints from digital or film media, but both must follow certain requirements explained on the entry form. A maximum of three entries per participant is allowed.

Winning photos will be displayed at the VFBF Annual Convention, and some will be published in Farm Bureau News magazine.

Entry forms are available at county Farm Bureau offices and at www.vafo.com/contests.htm.

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"Gigantic" Book Sale

Sponsored by the Friends of Lancaster Community Library

Thurs. April 27th 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fri. April 28th 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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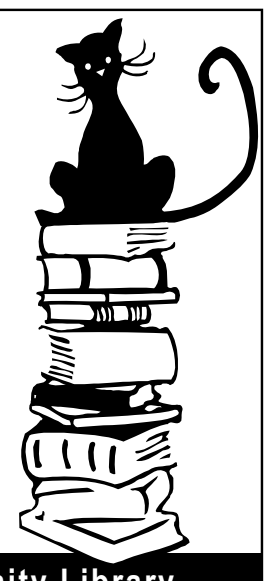

Lancaster Community Library
235 School St.
Kilmarnock, Virginia

International organization to celebrate Founders Day

Beta Sigma Phi International, the largest Greek-letter women's organization, recently announced their 75th anniversary. The organization was started during the depression by Kansas City native Walter W. Ross. His goal was to provide women unable to attend college with a social, cultural and intellectual outlet.

Members are dedicated to service, social and cultural projects, donating thousands of hours and an equal amount of dollars each year to worthy service projects. Beta Sigma Phi is first and foremost a friendship organization where lasting friendships are made.

The International Endowment Fund has awarded more than $2 million dollars to health research and charitable efforts and the Breast Cancer Research Fund has donated more than $1 million dollars to breast cancer research. There also is a scholarship fund for members and their children and grandchildren. The Beta Sigma Phi Disaster Relief Fund has provided more than $250,000 to victims of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Founder's Day celebrations will be held by chapters across the globe on April 30. The organization has more than 160,000 members in several countries. Beta Sigma Phi welcomes women from all walks of life, is non-secretarian and non-political.

For more information on Beta Sigma Phi, please contact Laurey Lummus at 816-444-6800 or torch@betasigmaphi.org.

Ten shade trees offered for joining

Ten free shade trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during April 2006 as part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. Virginia's Arbor Day is celebrated on April 28.

The trees are red oak, sugar maple, weeping willow, green ash, thornless honey locust, pin oak, river birch, tulip tree, silver maple and red maple.

"These trees were selected to provide shade and beauty, and a variety of forms, leaf shapes, and beautiful fall colors," said foundation president John Rosenow.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting in April or May with enclosed planting instructions. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To join the foundation and receive the free trees, send a $10 contribution to TEN FREE SHADE TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 30, or visit www.arborday.org.

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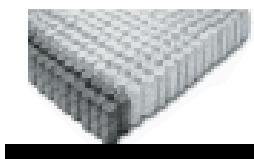

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Pitcher Jonathan Somers of Lancaster scoops up an infield grounder and throws to first.

Varsity Devils build 2-0 soccer record; JV is 0-2

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Jacob Jackson scored four goals and Billy Jackson had two as Lancaster's varsity soccer team picked up its second straight Northern Neck District win last Thursday with an 8-2 rout of Rappahannock.

"Rappahannock had a lot of skill and speed," said LHS coach Amy Stamm, "but we finally played up to our potential. The passing and shooting came together. With every game, they're impressing me more and more."

J. Jackson opened the scoring on a penalty kick about 13 minutes into the contest. Jackson was tripped up in the box twice, once in each half. He scored on another penalty kick midway through the second half.

Lancaster led 4-2 at the break with a pair of first-half goals from J. Jackson and one each from B. Jackson and Sven-Eric Woehlk. J. Jackson's second goal in the first period came on a direct kick.

B. Jackson opened the scoring in the second half with a header off a throw-in from J. Jackson.

Leif Mieras scored with four minutes to play and 30 seconds later J. Jackson capped the scoring with his fourth and final goal of the night.

J. Jackson and B. Jackson also each had three assists.

In goal, Daniel Robertson had 16 saves.

The varsity Devils improved to 2-0 in the district and 3-2 overall.

Junior varsity

In the JV game, Rappahannock beat Lancaster, 7-1, to hand the Devils their fifth straight loss of the season.

Lancaster falls to 0-2 in the Northern Neck District and 0-5 overall.

Rappahannock opened the scoring in the first few minutes but Lancaster quickly answered with its only goal of the game, an unassisted shot by Chris Bennett.

The Devils took just four shots in the outing while LHS goalkeeper Sam Frere made 10 saves.

"I could make all sorts of excuses," said LHS coach Alex Stickler. "Ultimately, we didn't come to play and [the Raiders] were on their game."

The JV and varsity teams will play Wednesday, April 26, at West Point.

Lancaster third baseman Tiffany Lee fields a ground ball and makes the throw to get the runner out at first during a varsity game with Essex last week.

Essex High baseball teams beat Lancaster

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Chris Mozingo blasted a two-run homer over the center field wall at Dreamfields last Tuesday to give Essex a comfortable three-run lead over homestanding Lancaster.

Mozingo's shot in the top of the fifth lifted the Trojans to a 4-1 Northern Neck District win over the Devils in varsity baseball.

Lancaster dropped to 1-1 in the district and 5-6 overall.

Jonathan Somers gave up five hits, walked only one and struck out nine in seven innings on the mound for Lancaster.

Somers scored his team's only run in the bottom of the third after turning a single into a double on a misplayed ball in center field. William Saunders sacrificed to move Somers to third and Josh Jett brought him in with a base hit.

Jett went 1-for-3 with an RBI and Somers was 1-for-3 with a run to lead the offense. Jonathan Frith batted 2-for-3 and James Jackson was 1-for-3.

In junior varsity action, Essex beat Lancaster, 4-2, with Jack Jackson and Ryan Reynolds leading the Devil batters. Jackson had a double and single and Reynolds a double.

Robert Lally and Josh Pittman also recorded a single each to account for all of Lancaster's five hits.

The JV and varsity teams will resume play Thursday, April 27, against Rappahannock. The varsity Devils will host the Raiders while the junior varsity team travels to Warsaw.

James Monroe shuts down Lady Indians, 4-0

James Monroe used its size and age advantage last week to shut out the Northumberland Lady Indians, 4-0, in JV girls soccer.

The Lady Yellow Jackets' team consists of ninth through eleventh graders, putting the Indians at an immediate disadvantage, according to NHS coach Gordon Davison.

James Monroe jumped to a 3-0 lead at the half but Northumberland "played a strong second half, restricting JM to one goal," said Davison.

Leading the Indian offense were forwards Clara Berreto and Jency Rodgers and midfielder Sam Haynie.

Lea Engard, Ashley Lee and Megan Brent led the defense.

Goalkeeper Jessica Boarman had 10 saves.

Northumberland's JV and varsity girls teams will be in action again on Monday, April 24, at Washington & Lee.

Lady Devils trade varsity and JV wins

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

The Lady Trojans scored three unearned runs last Tuesday to hand Lancaster its second Northern Neck District loss in as many outings.

Essex beat LHS, 5-1.

The Lady Devils are now 0-2 in the league and 4-7 overall.

Brandy Gilbert went the distance for Lancaster, allowing five hits and striking out five. She never put a batter on base with balls.

Lancaster had a cold day at the plate with just three hits. Kori George accounted for a couple of those, going 2-for-3 with a pair of triples.

Sara Caudle was 1-for-3 with the team's only run scored.

In JV action, Takeia Jones tossed a one-hitter and fanned 12 batters to lead Lancaster over Essex, 6-3.

Jones had pitched six and a third innings of no-hit softball when she gave up her first hit to the second batter in the final frame.

The Lady Devils improve their unbeaten streak with a 2-0 Northern Neck District record and 6-0 overall mark.

Lancaster trailed 3-1 after two complete innings then rallied for three runs and the lead for good in the top of the third.

"It was great that they could come back after being down," said LHS coach Anna Kellum. "We had girls in scoring position several times and couldn't get them in. But, overall, the hitting was better. They were all getting a piece of the ball."

Jones and Tyesha Harvey led the batters. Each went 1-for-3 with a run scored. Nicole Shelton was 1-for-2.

Brianna Ritchie was 0-for-4 but got on base by error to score once and had a sacrifice bunt for an RBI.

Kimberly Crockett also got on base twice with a walk and an error to score two times despite being 0-for-3 at the plate.

After a two-week break, the JV and varsity Lady Devils will be in action on Thursday, April 27, when the junior varsity team hosts the Raiderettes and the varsity squad goes to Rappahannock.

LMS bombs Montross, 17-0

Will Barrack pitched a two-hitter and struck out six during five innings last Tuesday to lead Lancaster Middle School in a 17-0 shutout at Montross Middle School.

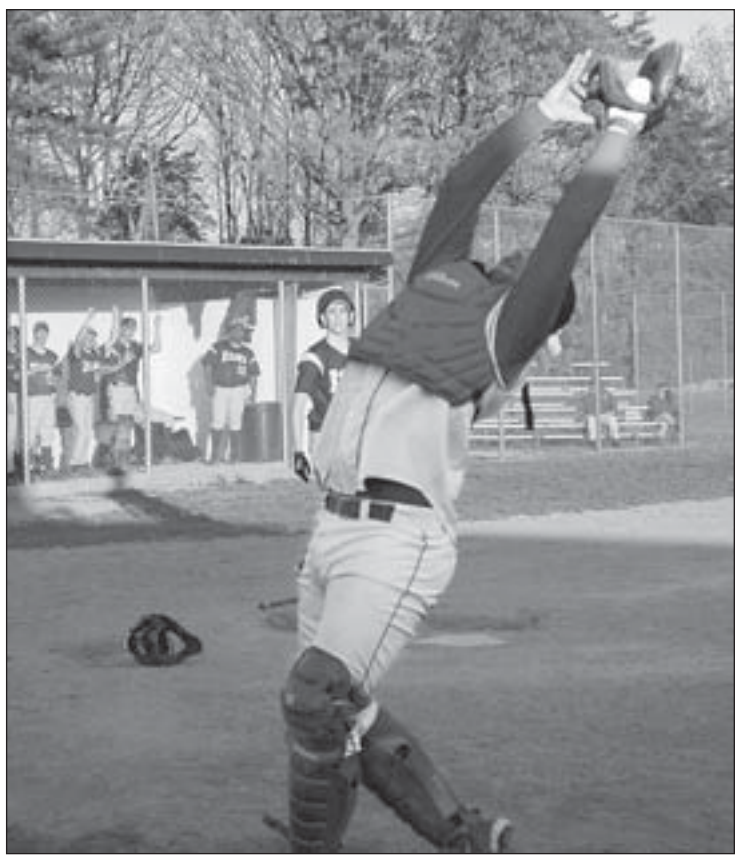
The Eagles threatened once, loading the bases in the fifth inning on a double, walk and hit batter. Closer Chris Buzzell took the mound for Lancaster and got the Devils out of the inning with the bases loaded to secure the shutout.

Lancaster had 18 hits with Buzzell and Robert Crowther going 3-for-4. Justin Gordon batted 3-for-3 with two doubles and Chris Weber went 2-for-4. Ryan Hudson, Logan Nonnemacker and Colie Haydon also each had a hit for the Devils.

In other games last week, Northumberland took the lead for good in the first inning last Wednesday and went on to beat Lancaster, 8-5.

Lancaster had nine hits in the outing and threatened to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth. The Devils were down by a run with runners on second and third when Shaq Harvey attempted to steal home on a passed ball. Northumberland pitcher Alex Hall covered the plate and tagged Harvey to end the inning.

The Devils will play Saturday, April 22, at 9 a.m. at James Blair Middle School in Williamsburg. They will travel to Montross on Monday, April 24, for a 4:30 p.m. game.



Lancaster catcher Jonathan George snags a foul ball.

Coach Dave Zeiler waves baserunner Madison Smith home on a two-out fly during a varsity softball game last week. Essex High's center fielder made the catch to keep Smith from scoring.

Scoreboard

Varsity baseball
Essex 4, Lancaster 1
JV baseball
Essex 4, Lancaster 2
Varsity softball
Essex 5, Lancaster 1
JV softball
Lancaster 6, Essex 3
Varsity soccer
Lancaster 8, Rappahannock 2
JV soccer
Rappahannock 7, Lancaster 1
JV girls soccer
James Monroe 4,
Northumberland 0

Upcoming Games

Varsity baseball/softball
April 27:
Lancaster at Rappahannock
JV baseball/softball
April 27:
Rappahannock at Lancaster
April 28:
Northumberland at Fredericksburg Christian
April 29:
Lancaster at Essex Girls Tournament (softball only)
Soccer
(JV 5:30 p.m.; varsity 7 p.m.)
April 28:
W&L at Northumberland
Girls soccer
(JV 5:30 p.m.; varsity 7 p.m.)
April 24:
Northumberland at W&L
April 27:
Fredericksburg Christian at Northumberland (JV only)
Track
April 29:
Northumberland at Dogwood Invitational, UVA

For the most complete sports coverage in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties, follow the

Rappahannock Record

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Rappahannock Almanac

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

Fri	4/21	Moonrise	2:55	High	6:06	1.5′
		Sunrise	6:23	Low	**12:54**	0.2′
		Moonset	**12:42**	High	**6:34**	1.3′
		Sunset	**7:47**			
Sat	4/22	Moonrise	3:32	Low	1:05	0.2′
		Sunrise	6:21	High	7:15	1.5′
		Moonset	**1:56**	Low	**1:55**	0.2′
		Sunset	**7:48**	High	**7:43**	1.4′
Sun	4/23	Moonrise	4:04	Low	2:18	0.1′
		Sunrise	6:20	High	8:20	1.5′
		Moonset	**3:10**	Low	**2:53**	0.1′
		Sunset	**7:48**	High	**8:47**	1.6′
Mon	4/24	Moonrise	4:32	Low	3:25	0.0′
		Sunrise	6:19	High	9:21	1.6′
		Moonset	**4:24**	Low	**3:47**	0.0′
		Sunset	**7:49**	High	**9:45**	1.7′
Tue	4/25	Moonrise	4:59	Low	4:26	0.0′
		Sunrise	6:17	High	10:17	1.6′
		Moonset	**5:37**	Low	**4:37**	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:50**	High	**10:39**	**1.8′**
Wed	4/26	Moonrise	5:25	Low	5:22	-0.1′
		Sunrise	6:16	High	11:09	1.6′
		Moonset	**6:50**	Low	**5:26**	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:51**	High	**11:30**	**1.9′**
Thu	4/27	Moonrise	5:54	Low	6:14	-0.1′
	New - **3:45**	Sunrise	6:15	High	11:59	1.6′
		Sunset	**7:52**	Low	**6:14**	-0.1′
		Moonset	**8:05**			
Fri	4/28	Sunrise	6:14	High	12:19	**1.9′**
		Moonrise	6:27	Low	7:04	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:53**	High	**12:47**	1.6′
		Moonset	**9:20**	Low	**7:00**	-0.1′

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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Golf course renovations exceed expectations

The Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club faced a serious problem according to greens committee chairman and renovation project director Dave Greenbaum.

The golf course hadn't been renovated in years. It was outdated, flat and faced serious drainage problems and needed to remain competitive locally, providing members with a finer golf course, he said.

Searching for solutions, the club talked to Tom Clark of Ault, Clark and Associates, an award winning golf course design company. Fourteen of their courses have been recognized in "Washington Golf" magazine in the top 100 in the middle-Atlantic states.

The course has a high water table which made it possible to dig six new ponds that are self-sustaining. The excavated dirt was used to contour the fairways facilitating good drainage, said Greenbaum.

The ponds will also be collecting water that can be utilized in irrigating the course.

Crews are deep into renovations at the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club golf course.

To accomplish this excavation and contouring task, the club and Tom Clark chose Mid-Atlantic Golf and Landscaping Company from Missouri to be the contractor confronted with the earth moving logistics. That company has received many awards, including its latest for creating a challenging nine-hole public golf course for Norfolk out of a land fill.

The magnitude of the earth moving has astounded the neighbors and adjoining residents in the Bluff Point corridor who observed both the work and the progress, said Greenbaum. The scope of the work was extended by the previous acquisition of adjacent land that has been transformed from crops and trees into contoured and landscaped back-nine fairways with new tees, greens and bunkers.

The front nine has been lengthened and given new tees, greens, bunkers and fairways.

"I knew the redesign of the back nine would be spectacular, but the front nine, although not expanded, has exceeded my expectations," said Clark.

"This course has exceeded my expectations to the point that it is no longer in the category of a renovation, it is a completely new golf course," said Greenbaum.

The earth-moving phase is almost completely finished and the sprigging and seeding phase will begin as soon as the soil temperature increases to the desired level. If the weather cooperates, the course may be playable again in October or November.

May golf tourney to benefit museum

The 12th annual RFM Golf Tournament will be held May 12 at Quinton Oaks Golf Course in Callao.

Registration is limited to 25 teams of four. Advance registration of $240 per team of four or $60 per individual closes April 28. After that date, the participation cost rises to $280 or $70.

Proceeds benefit educational programs at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

The tournament format will be modified captain's choice. Handicaps are required and will be used to determine flighting. Mulligans and powerballs are available at a cost of $5 each.

Registration includes on-course snacks and beverages—provided by Al Pugh Distributors—a catered picnic, unlimited range balls and golf cart.

Rappahannock Tractor will sponsor "the Gator Hole." If anyone hits a hole-in-one on the specific hole, they will win a new John Deere Gator. Additional prizes will be awarded for team low scores in each flight, longest drives, straightest drive and closest to the pin.

For registration forms, contact the museum at 453-6529 or rfmstaff@crosslink.net.

Care tips for a healthy lawn

Spring is the time to care for the lawn. Keeping it healthy and beautiful all year long is easy, by following these helpful tips from Lawn Doctor.

Apply enough water to wet the soil to a depth of approximately six to eight inches.

Water the lawn in the morning to get the best results.

Make sure the lawn mower blade is sharp to avoid grass tips turning brown.

Mow the lawn often enough to remove no more than one-third of the grass blade.

Grass clippings left behind after mowing will recycle nutrients back into the soil.

Grasscycling improves lawn quality, saves time and money, and is environmentally friendly.

Plants injured by storms, accidents or vandalism should be pruned to remove damaged areas.

After trimming diseased plants, tools should be disinfected to prevent transferring infections.

For more tips on how to keep the lawn looking healthy and beautiful all year long, contact local Lawn Doctor at 1-800-452-9637, or visit lawndoctor.com.

Club Golf

Quinton Oaks Ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association on April 12 played a best 9 of 18 holes tourney. First-flight winners were first gross (tie), Maggie Dennett and Joan Frie; second gross, Carol Reese; first net, Betty Lou Dunn; second net, Sarah Hayes; third net, Cheryl Putt.

Second flight winners were first gross, Carol Uhlfelder; second gross (tie), Sara Goodwynn and Sharon Dickens; first net, Jean Lee; second net, Doris Barbee; third net (tie) Gus Bunting and Harriet Baggett.

Dunn and Dennet each had two birdies; Frie, Reese and Linda Dennis each had one birdie. Putt won low putts with 29. Reese had a chip in.

ICYCC 9-holers

The Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club nine-hole golfers teed off for the women's Low Putt Tournament at the Golden Eagle Golf Course April 13 on the back nine.

Winners were first Marilyn Reed; second, Pat Willett; and third, Mary Hoerneman.

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Race remembers fraternity brother

A tribute to a fallen friend recently united East Carolina University's Greek community in a fund raising effort for the Boy's and Girl's Club of Pitt County, N.C.

On April 9, members of East Carolina University's fraternities and sororities held a 5-K race in memory of Casey Rogers, an East Carolina student who died at age 20 in a 2003 automobile accident. The race was an appropriate way to remember Rogers, an avid runner with a big heart who devoted much of his time at ECU helping people around him, his friends and fraternity brothers.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon organized the first "Casey's Race" in April 2005 and raised $2,200 for the Children's Miracle Network. The Inter-fraternity Council, The National Pan-Hellentic Council, and the Panhellentic Council, with the support from East Carolina University's office of Greek Life, decided to take on the project this year, expand it and hopefully make it an annual event. This year "Casey's Race" raised an estimated $7,000 for the Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Pitt County.

The race drew more than 200 runners. In addition to the race, the event included a catered lunch, music, face painting and a moon walk.

Joyce Rogers, Casey Rogers' mother, drove form the Northern Neck with friends to walk the 5-K course through Greenville's historic district. Fenton Crowther and Diane Kelly won first place in their divisions.

In May, the Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Scholarship Committee is expected to award two $5,000 scholarships to two Northumberland High School seniors who plan to attend a four year college or university. This is possible because of generous donations, fund-raisers, and the very successful CNR Memorial Rockfish Tournament held last November, said Joyce Rogers.

This year's event will be held November 18 at Smith Point Marina.

From left are Fenton Crowther and Diane Kelly.

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Ricky Morton

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Fruits and vegetables cut stroke risk

To cut the risk of stroke, eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, British researchers report in The Lancet.

People who ate three to five servings of fruits and veggies cut their risk by 11 percent compared with those eating fewer than three, the journal reported. Stroke risk was lowered more than 26 percent in those who ate more than five servings a day.

The study was conducted by University of London researchers on more than 257,500 people in Europe, Japan and the United States, Earlier studies prove that eating five or more daily portions of fresh produce can cut the risk of heart disease, cancer and other problems. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the most common cause of disability in most developed countries.

"The study is important because it adds to the strength of the science that shows a relationship between increased fruit and vegetable consumption and a lower risk of cardiovascular diseases, including stroke," said Dr. Kathy Hoy, research manager for the Produce for Better Health Foundation.

Fruit and vegetables are full of nutrients such as vitamin C, beta carotene and potassium, as well as plant proteins and dietary fiber. They are also less dense in calories, have very little fat and contain beneficial antioxidants.

However, the researchers suspect that potassium may be the most important factor in preventing stroke.

We know that if you give people additional potassium it lowers blood pressure, said Dr. Graham MacGregor, who worked on the study. By increasing daily vegetable and fruit intake from three to five servings, people can increase their potassium levels by as much as 50 percent.

"All fruits and vegetables contain beneficial nutrients and phytochemicals," Hoy said. "Most vegetables are high in potassium. It is less clear at this point what effects phytochemicals have on decreasing stroke risk, so eating a variety of fruits and vegetables is really the best approach."

Current dietary guidelines from the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommend adults consume 2 cups of fruit and 2.5 cups of vegetables daily.

Gulls bow to Sweet Briar

Sweet Briar College beat Rappahannock Community College in an April 11 softball doubleheader in Lynchburg, 9-1, and, 15-7.

In game one, the Gulls were up 2-1 after four and a half innings, but the Vixens scored seven runs in the bottom of the fifth—a lead that the Gulls never managed to overcome.

In the second game, the Gulls took an early 7-5 lead through three and a half innings, but the Vixens swept past them with 10 runs in a single inning.

Gulls Sally Parr and Beth Long finished the afternoon at two-for-three. Parr hit a three-run triple.

Sweet Briar freshman Brittney Berry, was five-for-five for the two games. She scored six runs.

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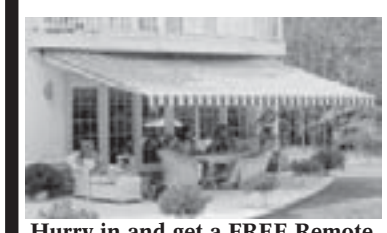

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Refuge to issue deer hound retrieval permits

The Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge announced February 27 that it will issue special use permits to allow hunters to retrieve dogs that accidentally enter the refuge while chasing deer during firearms season.

The permits will be valid only during the firearms hunting season for deer. For 2007, the season will extend from November 18 through January 6.

Those who own and use pursuit dogs to hunt deer in the vicinity of any refuge property are urged to obtain a permit.

"Possessing a valid permit is the only way that unattended dogs can enter the refuge and be retrieved without the owner committing a violation of federal regulations," said refuge manager Joe McCauley. Regulations governing administration of national wildlife refuges state that no unconfined domestic animals shall be permitted to enter or roam at large on any refuge except as specifically authorized.

Refuge law enforcement officer Tom Laskowski urges hunters to pay attention to the dates, purposes and conditions which are listed on the permit.

"We are still seeing dogs roaming at large on the refuge," said Laskowski, even though the deer hunting season ended January 7 in bordering counties. "We want dog owners to understand that outside of the deer firearms season, no dogs are permitted on the refuge except on leash, in areas open to the public. Owners of dogs found roaming at large may be issued a violation notice for each dog."

Despite the fact that dogs are still entering the refuge outside hunting season, occurrences are considerably fewer than in years past. McCauley attributes this to increased communication with, and cooperation from, dog owners and other hunters.

The refuge just completed a final version of the permit which is available by contacting the refuge office, or visiting during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To contact the refuge, write to P.O. Box 1030, Warsaw, VA 22572; call 333-1470; or email Frances_Murphey@fws.gov.

Bridge Results

Five-and-a-half tables of bridge were in play April 12, at the Women's Club of White Stone.

Winners north/south were first, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham; and second, Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams.

Winners east/west were first, Margaret Livesay and Lois Spence; second, Carolyn Reed and Rebecca Harger; and third, Suzi Winters and Shirley Crockett.

The next bridge for this group will be April 20 and 24 at 1 p.m.

Six-and-a-half tables were in play April 11 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Jane Hughes; second, Mary Andrews and Al Jodrey; and third, Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams.

Winners east/west were first, Kate Frayne and Ronnie Gerster; second, Virginia Adair and Jim Hazel; and third, Rebecca Harger and Carolyn Reed.

The next bridge for this group is Tuesday, April 25 at 1 p.m.

The Woman's Club of White Stone held its monthly dessert bridge and mahjong session April 7.

The hostess was Jane Jarvis; helpers were Fran Blencowe, Shirley Crockett, Candy Howard and Linda Burton. Edna Forshaw was high scorer.

Dessert bridge is held the first Friday of every month at the clubhouse in White Stone. Call Carolyn Reed at 435-6207 to make reservations for May 5.

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A Doctor Speaks
by George Moore, MD

Have you tried soy milks?

If you haven't liked soy beverages in the past, you should give them another try. They now come in a wider selection—plain, flavored, unsweetened, nonfat, low-fat, fortified/enriched, shake-like, and blended with other beverages and they're much improved in body, texture and quality. Most worthwhile, they are nutritious.

Why are they called milks? When natural soybeans are soaked, crushed, cooked and strained, the result is a milky liquid with a slightly nutty flavor. Gums such as guar and xanthan are added to make the liquid creamier. Most soymilks also contain sweeteners and salt.

Soy milk is a good alternative to cow's milk, especially if you're lactose-intolerant or have trouble drinking milk. Most brands have about as much protein as cow's milk and some fiber (dairy milk has none), but no cholesterol and almost no saturated fat. All contain B vitamins, phosphorus, iron, copper, magnesium and potassium. Many are fortified with calcium as much as in cow's milk and vitamins A, D, E, and B12. Soy also supplies healthful phytochemicals, such as isoflavones as well.

You will find a variety of soy milks on the grocery shelf. Compare nutrition labels. They vary in calories, fat, sodium, sugars, fiber and protein. Unsweetened versions have fewer calories, but you can find some with sugar substitutes. The fat in soymilk is mostly unsaturated and "good."

Be careful about those with added sugar in the form of cane juice, brown rice syrup, and/or malted corn and barley extract. Some flavors such as Soydream Chocolate have as much as 6 teaspoons of sugar per cup.

Look for soy milks with added calcium and Vitamin D if you are drinking it in place of regular milk. Calcium carbonate in soy milk is well absorbed but shake the carton vigorously to mix the calcium before you drink it.

Some brands of soy milk that I recommend include Silk (White Wave) Vanilla; 8th Continent, original; Whole foods, 365, original; and Soy Slender, chocolate (contains Splenda). You might just find the right product as a noble experiment in a new health food.

Flotilla 33 seeks members

Norman Smith of Weems was recently sworn in as the newest member of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock. Flotilla commander Rita Theisen and vice commander John Mill administered the oath at the April meeting.

Flotilla 33 has been serving the boaters of the Northern Neck for over 50 years and now has 58 members. The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the Coast Guard in promoting boating safety through public education, vessel safety exams and on-water safety patrols. New missions are being added in waterway security and environmental protection.

As a new member, Smith will begin a training program leading toward qualification as a boat crew member. The training includes team coordination, seamanship, boat handling, navigation, first aid and communications.

Completion of each element requires demonstration of the required skills. When qualified as a boat crew member, Smith will be able to participate in on-water safety patrols and search and rescue missions.

To join, call Mike Sachen at 438-9202. To schedule a vessel safety exam, call Jim Wroth at 435-0376.

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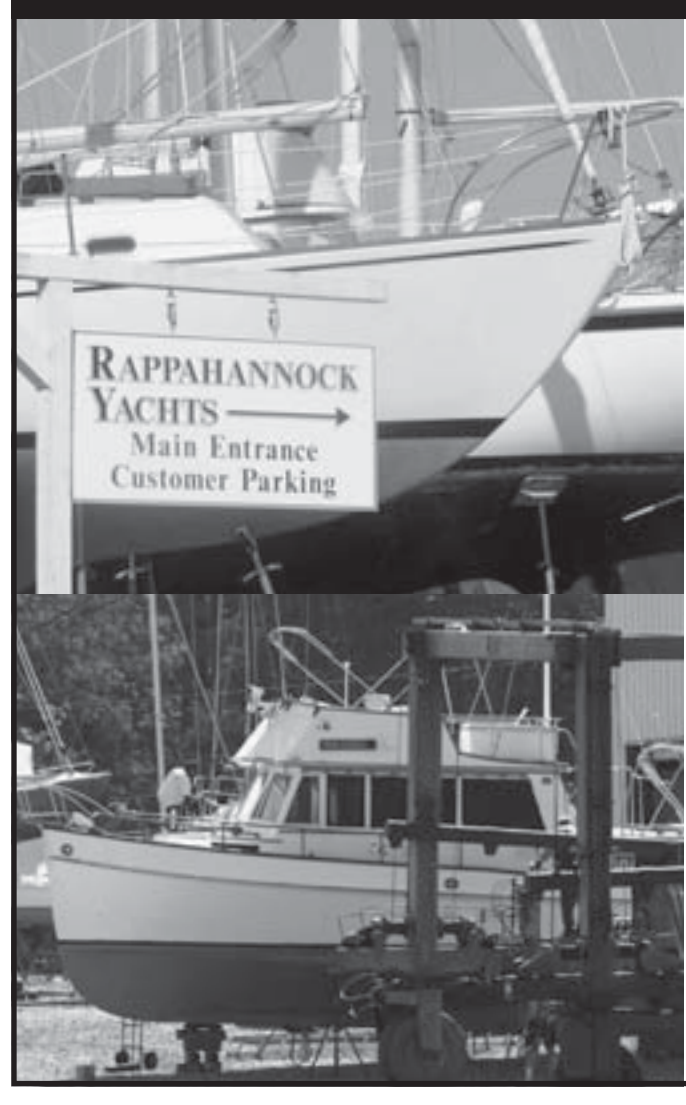

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Camp Kittamaqund to offer summer day camp

The Girl Scout Commonwealth Council recently announced that it will be holding Day Camp at Camp Kittamaqund in Northumberland County. The Day Camp will run June 19 to 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The programs are for girls ages 5 to 17.

Activities will include age-appropriate climbing wall and ropes course challenges, swimming, canoeing and arts and crafts. Lunch and a snack will be provided each day and at the end of the week the girls will receive a camp patch.

Camp Kittamaqund is accredited by the American Camping Association. Developed exclusively for the camp industry, this nationally-recognized program accreditation focuses on program quality and health and safety issues and requires the Girl Scout Commonwealth Council to review every facet of its operation.

Camp Kittamaqund has voluntarily submitted to this independent appraisal done by camp experts and has earned this mark of distinction.

The fee is $150 for Girl Scout members and $175 for others. To register, call 1-800-472-6884.

Haynie wins match

Ted Haynie won the recent benchrest match sponsored by the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club.

Ted Haynie of Reedville captured first place with a 198-8Xs in a 22-caliber, 100-yard, 20-shot benchrest match fired April 15, at the White Stone range of the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club.

T. Nance of Kilmarnock was second with a 197-10Xs and Larry Taylor of Ditchley, third with a 195-8Xs.

This was Ted Haynie's first blue ribbon as a member of the club. He used his Ruger #1, 22-250.

The next scheduled event will be a Lost Alamitos match April 29 at 9 a.m. For further information, call Taylor at 435-2143.

Ted Haynie

Shooting clinic set for women

The National Rifle Association's Women On Target program will sponsor an instructional shooting clinic for women only at the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club in White Stone on June 3.

The club is at 640 Blueberry Point Road. The clinic will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

There will be no cost to attend this program. To register, contact clinic coordinator Peggy Cathey at 438-6069. All necessary equipment will be provided by the club, including firearms, ammunition, and eye/ear protection. The clinic will feature training in the safe handling of pistols, rifles and shotguns to help participants learn the fundamentals of shooting in a relaxing and fun-filled environment.

"Women have a place in the shooting sports that Women On Target is helping them find, and these instructional shooting clinics are NRA's way of showing women just how enjoyable and fulfilling recreational shooting really is," said NRA community service programs director Mary Sue Faulkner.

RW-C posts tournament winners

A capacity field of 34 foursomes competed in the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Foundation's 22nd annual Open Golf Tournament at The Golden Eagle Golf Course April 5. Coastal Builders Inc. sponsored the awards reception at RW-C following play, and Bob May served as master of ceremonies.

Valeria Gregg and Don Smiley won the grand prize donated, respectively, by The Tides Inn and Hope and Glory Inn. Paul Bosetti and Isabelle Bunch had the longest drives, and Joe Hudnall and RW-C resident Lois Spence won closest to the pin.

In the Women's Flight, first place went to Ann Silver, Isabelle Bunch, Barbara Bieber and Susan Hill; second, to Teensa Williams, Carole Lloyd, Joan May and Lois Spence; and third to Ruth Fisher, Violet Whay, Ann Stanley and Katherine Deihl.

In the Men's First Flight, Ken Bransford, Craig Smith, Top Allaun and Ward Currin took first place; Bruce Edwards, Jack Blunt, Kevin Aines and Steve Griggs, second; and Ralph Yost, John Redmond, Garland Rigney and Keith Thompson, third.

Adam Duryea, David Nova, Steve Self and Steve Whittaker won the Men's Second Flight. David Jones, Kenny Ramsey, Charles Brocklebank and Danny Montgomery were second and Brad Pranke, Jack Hall, David Shields and Brad Pranke Jr., third.

Men's third Flight winners were Bill Austin, Richard McCullough, Allen Brobst and Jeff Edwards. Norm Faulkner, Norm Faulkner Jr., Dave Richardson and Welby Saunders were second; and Jeff Penny, Jim Slabaugh, Dan Oetzel and Tom MacKay, third.

Tournament proceeds benefit the Foundation's Fellowship Fund, which provides financial assistance to qualified residents for entrance or monthly fees, and to qualified participants in the Adult Day Program.

"We are so grateful to the returning sponsors and to the 10 additional sponsors who were new this year," said RW-C vice president of development Elizabeth "Whiz" R. Harris.

The two gold sponsors were Chesapeake Bank/Chesapeake Investment Group and Tidewater Roofing/Tidewater Gutters/Tidewater Exteriors.

Silver sponsors were Noblett Oil and Propane, EXXON, Bank of Lancaster/Bay Trust, Chas. Lunsford Sons and Associates, Connemara Corporation, Davenport and Company/Richmond, and Ernst and Young, LLC.

Also, Jim and Pat Carter Real Estate; Keiter, Slabaugh, Penny and Holme; Lamberth Building Materials; Lowe, Brockenbrough and Co.; Noblett Appliances and Propane and Oil; Northern Neck Mechanical Inc., and The James Company.

Hole sponsors were Bay Meadows Real Estate, Breeden and Breeden, Chase Properties Inc.; Comtel Communication, Davenport and Company/White Stone, G.E. Paine Electric Co. Inc.; Guernsey Tingle Architects, Hubbard Insurance Agency Inc.; and Hubbard, Terry and Kopcsak.

Also, McGinnes Chevrolet Buick, RW-C Residents' Association, Rappahannock Concrete Corp., Robert S. Westbrook, D.D.S.; Rumsey and Bugg, Select Properties of Virginia and Wachovia Securities.

Golf courses providing prizes were Ford's Colony Country Club, Golden Eagle Golf Course, Golden Horseshoe Golf Club, Hobbs Hole Golf Course, King Carter Golf Club, Nansemond River Golf Club , Piankatank River Golf Club, Quinton Oaks Golf Course, The Crossings Golf Club, The Gauntlet Golf Course, The Tartan Golf Course and Wintergreen Resort.

Donating other prizes and gifts were Area Access Inc., Great Fortune Chinese Restaurant, Kelsick Gardens, Too; Khakis of Irvington, Kilmarnock Lettering Company, M.S. Chancellor Partnership, Mooer's Volvo, and Northern Neck State Bank.

In addition, The River's Inn Restaurant, Southern Health, Sysco Foods, The Bay Window, The Dandelion, The Steamboat Restaurant, Twice Told Tales, White Stone Wine and Cheese, Village Needlepoint of Irvington, and U.S. Foods provided prizes and gifts.

The tournament committee included Ken Bransford, Nancy Collings, Ed French, Fred Gilman, Bob May, Joan May, John O'Shaughnessy, Pat Willett, Teensa Williams, Harris, Linda Reeves and golf pro John Abbott.

Bowling Results

Ladies League

TCH Oil won three games against R.P. Waller when Marie Piccard bowled a 388 set with games of 117, 144 and 127. Sandra Evans rolled a 375 set with games of 117, 122 and 136. Greta Walker had a 336 set with games of 100, 114 and 122. Vicki White bowled a 317 set with games of 112 and 122. Vivian Callaway rolled two games of 100. For R.P. Waller, Marsha Nash had a 330 set with a 144 game. Dee Adkins bowled a 303 set with two games of 102, Ilva Jett rolled a 103 game and Claudette Hames a 105 game.

Northern Neck Surgical Services won two games against Lively Oaks Girls when Lois Rose bowled a 330 set with games of 106, 111 and 113. Terry Stillman rolled a 311 set with games of 105 and 114. Bev Benson had a 304 set with games of 100 and 119. Julia George bowled a 117 game. For Lively Oaks, Debbie Dodson rolled a 315 set with games of 100 and 124. Patsy Headley had a 121 game, Becky Thrift a 108 game and Jean Reynolds a 103 game.

Callis Seafood won three games against Young Country when Donna Thomas bowled a 355 set with games of 119 and 152. Betty Evans rolled a 337 set with games of 115 and 130. Elsie Henderson had a 113 game. For Young Country, Cathy Savalina bowled a 321 set with a 127 game. Betty Steffey rolled a 318 set with games of 102, 106 and 110. JoAnne Paulette had a 314 set with a 127 game. Theresa Davis bowled a 306 set with games of 103 and 107. Linda Lake rolled a 300 set with a 119 game.

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against Abby when Pat Harris bowled a 334 set with games of 103, 107 and 127. Corrine Beauchamp rolled a 103 game.

High average: Betty Steffey, 113; Nancy Carter, Donna Thomas, Sandra Evans, Marie Piccard and Pat Harris, all 108.

Standings

	W	L
TCH Oil	25	11
Yeatman's	25	11
Callis Seafood	25	11
Lively Oaks	22	14
R.P. Waller	20	16
Young Country	15	21
N.N. Surgical	12	24
Abby	1	35

Men's League

On April 13, J&J Construction won two games and lost one against Sal's Pizza. For J&J, Frank Perkins bowled the high set of the week of 414 with games of 153, 126 and 135. Curly Lewis had games of 127 and 119 in a 359 set. Steve Edwards rolled a 147 game and Rolaid Lewis a 129 game. For Sal's, Wayne Condrey bowled the high set of 377 with games of 139 and 130. Bob Huff rolled games of 132 and 135 in a 375 set. Clay Gill had games of 122 and 129. Bill Hendershot rolled a 121 game.

Cap'n John's won two games and lost one against Evans Bowling Center. For Cap'n John's, Ernie George bowled the high set of 397 with games of 146, 115 and 136. Herbert Hammock rolled a 116 game. Benny Balderson had a 109 game. For Evans, Richard Savalina bowled the high set of 339 with a 145 game and Woodie Evans rolled a game of 116.

D&L Marine Construction won two games and lost one against H&S Printing. For D&L, Steve Hinson bowled the high set of 358 with games of 115 and 140. Dana Stilman rolled a 130 game. Bob Lamkin had a 122 game, Doug Hundley and Mark Obsharsky each had a 121 game. For H&S, Gary Hodges bowled a 380 set with games of 130 and 151. Louis Coates rolled a 380 set with games of 121, 121 and 138. John Hollowell had a 113 game and Bill Hayden a game of 103.

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

High team game: Sal's, 578; Cap'n John's, 560; J&J, 537; H&S, 510; D&L, 508; Evans, 502.

High set: Louis Coates, 457; Clay Gill, 439; Bob Huff, 431; Bill Hendershot, 424; Ernie George, 415.

High team set: 1,633; J&J, 1,504; H&S, 1,455; Cap'n John's, 1,446; D&L, 1,429; Evans, 1,427.

High average: Louis Coates, 128; Wayne condrey, 121; Curly Lewis and Bill Hendershot, 120; Herbert Hammock, 117.ww

Standings

	W	L
Sal's Pizza	27	15
H&S Printing	26	16
J&J Const.	21	21
Evans Bowling	20	22
Cap'n John's	17	25
D&L Marine	15	27

Sports Shorts

■ Commemorative patrol

April 10 marked the 400th anniversary of the chartering of the 1606 First Virginia Charter creating the Virginia Company and authorizing eight Englishmen to colonize into "that part of America commonly called Virginia."

Flotilla 3-10 responded to a call for Coast Guard Auxiliary support of a commemorative event by patrolling the James River near Dutch Gap and returning the cannon salute below the bluffs.

Pit Stop

Virginia Motor Speedway
April 15 results:

Outlaws - Rick Eckert, first; Tim McCreadle, second; Billy Moyer, third.

Late models – Jared Powell, first; Jamie Lathroum, second; Roland Mann, third.

Sportsmen – Roger Jamerson, first; Davis Lipscombe, second; Robert Marshall, third.

Modifieds – Bret Hamilton, first; Page Harrison, second; Chuck Marks, third.

April 22 upcoming races:
(VMS is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda. Pit gates open at noon; spectator gates open at 3 p.m. Track activities begin at 6:15 p.m.)
Late models (35 laps)
sportsmen (30 laps), **modifieds** (25 laps), **chargers** (25 laps) and **all-Americans** (15 laps).

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A grand old lady celebrates her 80th birthday

by Joan McBride

What better way could there be to celebrate the 80th birthday party of a grand old vessel than with a moonlight cruise on the Rappahannock River?

All onboard April 13 agreed that the Miss Ann, The Tides Inn's vintage yacht, looked fabulous with fresh paint and varnish, and they could hear for themselves that her engine was smoothly purring.

Not bad for an 80-year-old.

Bob Lee Stephens, a former owner of The Tides Inn and the yacht, said, "The Miss Ann is in the best shape ever. I commend the Sedona fellas."

He was referring to the staff of Sedona Resorts Management, the owner of The Tides Inn and the Miss Ann since 2000.

Two years before, Miss Ann was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, nominated for her historical design and recreational and military significance.

Stephens' father, Ennolls A. Stephens, acquired the former decommissioned Aquamarine PY c-7 in the mid 1950's, then arranged for several years of intensive restoration.

His son confided to the nearly 70 guests present, "It was the ugliest thing you ever saw when dad bought it. Everyone thought dad was crazy when he built the Tides Inn, too."

Stephens said his father bought the vessel just "when Suzy and I were getting married." It was both the family's personal yacht and served their friends and guests staying at the inn until about 1990, he said.

Ennolls A. Stephens named the vessel after his wife, who had shared his vision of constructing what would become The Tides Inn. The couple opened their dream hotel to the public July 15, 1947.

Two generations of the Stephens family, current and former captains and crew and friends gathered last week to acknowledge the timeless beauty and enduring health of the 80-year-old lady who still holds down a regular job.

The inn sends the yacht out at least six days a week plus offers her for special charters.

Party guests mingled and chatted while waiting for a chance to greet the special honored guests from the Stephens family: Bob Lee and Suzy with son, Randy, and daughter, Tamara; brother Ennolls with his daughter, Grace, and son, Harper; and cousin Dr. Lee Williams and wife, Teensa.

The Miss Ann (above) recently turned 80.

Mae and Capt. Lewis Shelton enjoy a quiet moment at the birthday festivities.

Former Tides Inn owner Bob Lee Stephens celebrates Miss Ann's 80th birthday.

From left Jimmie Jackson, mate engineer David Dudley, Capt. Clarence Smith and Randy Stephens gather in the pilot house to swap Miss Ann tales.

A whale of a tale

The history of Ann Stephens' namesake is a tale of private luxury and service to country. It began in 1926 when John H. French, a wealthy Detroit banker and industrialist, had a "state of the art luxury diesel yacht" built by the Delaware shipyard Pusey & Jones.

In 1936, French sold the yacht, which he had christened Siele (an anagram of his wife Elsie's name), to Robert H. Wolf of Columbus, Ohio, who renamed her Sea Wolf.

As an aid to the war effort, Wolf turned the vessel over to the U.S. Navy in 1941 in Charleston, S. C. Her mission became conducting underwater sound experiments in the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

After the military assignment ended, the yacht saw duty as a tender to the presidential yacht Potomac in 1945 and 1946.

In 1947, she was sold to a Col. Grimm, who planned to restore her in his retirement. However, according to Tides Inn history, he found the project to be more "than he had bargained for" and sold it to Ennolls A. Stephens for about $15,000.

A restoration found a generous amount of teak wood under the layers of battleship gray paint. However, this was not to be the only "facelift" the old girl has had.

Randy Stephens, who remembers "growing up playing on the boat," took a major role in the second renovation years later.

Child's play turned to hard work when he spent 1991 learning to be a shipwright after the decision was made to upgrade the family yacht to satisfy Coast Guard regulations.

He said 85 feet of the hull had to be replaced to pass the Coast Guard inspection. In addition, all mechanical systems had to be changed.

Most challenging, he said, was "using today's technology and meshing it together with that of 1926." For instance, some of the original steel hull rivets had to be replaced with welding.

"Everyone in the family always worked with boats," he added. "If you wanted to use the boat, you needed to know how to fix it."

Captains and crew

Capt. Clarence Smith, or Capt. Clarence as he likes to be called, was joined on board by two former captains, Capt. Lewis Shelton and Capt. Donald McCann.

Capt. Shelton shared memories of earlier boats on Carters Creek and the Rappahannock. Born and raised on Carters Creek, he remembers when the showboats "used to put in at dark."

Prior to service with Miss Ann from the mid 1980's until 1990, Capt. Shelton was a menhaden captain for more than two decades. He also captained the Rappahannock River ferry boat before the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge was built.

Capt. McCann, who had the helm for about three years in the mid 1990's, previously served as captain of a research vessel for the University of Delaware.

Jimmie Jackson, a Tides Inn employee since 1951, served as dining room manager for 38 years. He spoke of training Capt. Clarence as a busboy in 1956, and then went on to eagerly list Capt. Clarence's jobs at the resort over the years.

He told how Capt. Clarence acquired his captain's license after working several years maintaining the craft's engine.

"He knows the engine on that boat better than any person you can think of," he announced, with more than a tinge of admiration for his former trainee.

Both men have earned a captain's title. Jackson pilots the Bethpager for the Bethpage Camp Resort. He also serves as a deckhand for Capt. Clarence.

After Jackson joined some of the crew gathered in the pilot house, joking and ribbing ensued. The deckhand lodged a complaint against his captain saying with great relish, "He argues with me."

And, to the great amusement of all gathered, Capt. Clarence defended himself with, "He's my first boss, and still thinks he's my boss."

Capt. Clarence outlined an inspiring story of working his way to the top after starting as a busboy, then waiter, 14 years as a bellman, and then building engineer for numerous years. He's served the Miss Ann for 17 years, standing at her helm for the last three seasons.

"I've enjoyed everything I've done at the Tides Inn," said Capt. Clarence. "I've never worked anywhere else in my career."

Ship's steward Bill Smith appeared to be the unofficial historian and official storyteller of both The Tides Inn and Miss Ann lore. His relationship with the family began about 54 years ago when it became necessary to work while attending high school. The Tides Inn owners became more than an employer and befriended the teenager.

"Mr. Stephens practically raised me," he explained. "The Stephens family couldn't have been any nicer."

He has high praise for the present owners, too, saying that after the resort sold, "Sedona kept everybody that wanted to stay. I love it. They are very nice people."

Former deckhand, bartender, and foodstuffs manager Ben Winstead said the Stephenses were "the nicest people to work for."

Capt. Clarence, Jackson and Smith together have a total of some 160 years service to the resort and not one of them mentioned the word "retirement." They all appeared to be as fit and eager for service as the venerable vessel.

Miss Ann particulars

Mate engineer David Dudley, who says his job is "to keep the engine running," shared some of the Miss Ann's particulars.

She is 127 feet long with a breadth of 21 feet. She draws 7.5 feet aft. A 1271 Detroit diesel engine with a 456-horsepower rating powers the lady.

She holds 2800 gallons of fuel and can carry 100 passengers, four crewmembers, and six service staff.

On this gala birthday occasion, the "cargo" was drinks and desserts. Of special import was a birthday cake replicating the Miss Ann. Everything was prepared by the Tides Inn pastry kitchen and served by the mother-daughter Lee team.

Gliding along at 15 knots, slicing through the smooth-as-glass river surface like a hot knife through a chocolate truffle, it felt like a dream of days long ago, of luxury yachts, the warm conversation of family and friends reminiscing—of a slower and more gracious pace of life.

THE RECORD ONLINE
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KIWANIS AUCTION & FLEA MARKET
Saturday-May 13, 2006
ALL BOATS TO BE SOLD WITH NO RESERVE
To Benefit Kiwanis Youth projects
FLEA MARKET TO BEGIN AT 8:00 A.M. • AUCTION TO BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M.
AT YANKEE POINT MARINA
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OVER 40 BOATS WILL BE AUCTIONED
NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET Sponsored by Yankee Point Marina
& the Northern Neck Kiwanis Club. EVERYBODY is invited. There is something for everyone!
BUY, SELL OR TRADE $ 1.00 BIDDING FEE
HANG OUT & TALK SAILING $ 10.00 VENDOR FEE
MANY ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE FLEA MARKET. COME EARLY.
Refreshments will be sold by the Key Club, including
coffee and doughnuts, and hotdogs for lunch.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE AUCTION, PLEASE
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Lawnmower Races
Sat. April 29
3:00 pm
Lively Firemen's Pavilion
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Hosted by
Lancaster Moose Legion

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SAVE $400
$40 Mail-in Rebate
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Insight™ Variable Speed Mower
Model 10684
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Precision™ Z340 HLX Mower
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•Honda® GXV Twin Cylinder engine
•Can cut mowing time in half**
•Dual hydrodstatic drives provides superior maneuverability
•Outstanding ease of use
•42" cut width anti-scalp
Insight™ Gold Sens-a-Speed™ Mower
Model 10695
•Exclusive Sens-a-Speed™ Self-Propel System senses your walking speed automatically
•Premium long-lasting Honda® OHV/OHC engine
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•Innovative Step-on Quick Stow Lever stores mower away in seconds!
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*See dealer for warranty, guarantee, financing and pricing details. **Compared to comparable equipped Toro garden tractor.
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Good Friday creation

On Good Friday, students from Dolores Flessner's older art class joined Jenny Stallings Flores to make an alfhombra out of dyed sawdust along Church Street in Kilmarnock. Alfhombras are a Central America custom for Holy Week. In Honduras the streets are covered with them, and processions of pilgrims walk through them.

Councilman questions permit for another downtown tower

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Communication towers in Kilmarnock became a priority of the town planning commission during a work session last Tuesday night.

Discussing the C-1 zoning ordinance provisions for radio and communication towers and satellite dishes, the commission agreed it is time to review the town codes in relationship to new technology requirements.

Specifically at issue is a zoning permit allowing Northern Neck Wireless to erect a 96-foot self supporting tower for GGCWeb behind its offices at 74 South Main Street.

Under current C-l zoning, structures over 65 feet in height require a conditional use permit. However, towers are exempt from that reqirement and GGCWEB's zoning permit was approved administratively.

Fletcher Brown IV, a member of the commission and town councilman, expressed concern over communication towers going up around town in light of the Main Street revitalization project and attempts to preserve a certain atmosphere with formation of the Steptoe's district. He was especially critical of the issuance of a permit for another tower.

Currently, there are towers along Main Street at Noblett Appliance, Whay's TV and WKWI's radio tower by Holiday Inn Express. Old wooden radio poles are located behind the Flower Cart, town hall and Cablevision.

Kaballero, an internet service provider, has high-speed wireless antennas on top of the water tower next to WKWI and in the next week will be adding an antenna to the water tower behind Booth's. Last December Kaballero negotiated with the town of Kilmarnock for a two-year exclusive use agreement to put their antennas on the town's three water towers.

Graylend Horn of Kaballero attended the meeting to express his concern that GGCWeb's new tower may cause interference to his service. GGCWeb also supplies internet service.

Another member of the commission, Les Spivey, said the commission can not say who can have a permit but can change the zoning code for the future.

Brown said the code and the issuance of GGCWeb's permit need to be reviewed by town council.

Tom Foulkes of GGCWeb said later that his company specifically purchased equipment from the same manufacturer as Kaballero so that it would be compatible and not cause interference to Kaballero's service.

Foulkes also said the company has met all FCC and state requirements for the tower.

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

the county's cell phone service from Verizon to Cingular.

Jett, who has been a loyal Verizon Wireless customer for a long time, said his contract is ready to expire and he may switch to Cingular as well.

In the meantime, Northumberland has slowly crept up the list and, now, "We have gotten to the point where we can work on the real estate portion of the project," Dykstra said.

That means Verizon Wireless will begin identifying property where it can build a tower or place its equipment, and it will draw up lease agreements for that property.

Dykstra noted the three new towers on his drive in and plans to pass the information along to the real estate department.

"From the time we say go, it is an 18 month process," he said. Existing structures, such as those along Route 360, can occasionally shorten the time it takes to improve service.

The supervisors noted that the Burgess tower did a great deal to improve service in the Burgess area. Verizon's equipment improved service for its customers far more than Cingular's new equipment, Eades said. And, Verizon's equipment survived Hurricane Isabel, Dykstra noted.

"It may take us a while, but once we get there, our service is there when you need it the most," Dykstra said.

"It may not be what we want to hear," Jett replied, "but we appreciate hearing the truth."

Wireless internet

Citizens broke into resounding applause after the board approved, 5-0, a permit for another much needed service in the county.

Kaballero was granted a permit to erect a 100-foot tower near Glebe Point to transmit high speed, wireless internet. The tower will provide service for people in roughly a two-mile vicinity, although coverage may extend further.

The tower will pick up a line-of-sight signal from the water tower in Kilmarnock. A similar tower at Clegg's Diesel in Wicomico Church already transmits wireless internet service from the Kilmarnock water tower to the surrounding community.

Graylend Horn said the new tower is part of Kabellero's plan to bring high-speed internet service to all of Northumberland County.

The next spot the company is eyeing is the Virginia Marine Resources Tower on Surprise Hill, which would be tall enough to service a large portion of the county.

The VMRC tower would act as the spoke of a wagon wheel and would connect to smaller towers at Omega Protein in Reedville and other prominent spots around the county.

Ann Thompson said she helped make this happen through a grassroots effort. Appealing to her neighbors through a letter to the editor, she rallied enough interest to convince Kaballero to proceed with the project.

She encouraged other citizens to do the same.

Lancaster Democrats set meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster Democrats will be held at 7 p.m. April 24 at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock.

The speaker will be Democratic nominee hopeful for the U.S. Senate Harris Miller. Miller had a 30-year career in public service. He was a pioneer in the field of Information Technology heading up the Information Technology Association of America which led the charge to make Virginia and the nation global centers for the new information technology.

Also on the agenda will be a report on an April 22 caucus to elect delegates to the First District Convention in May.

For more information on Democratic activities, contact committee chairman Donna Thompson at 436-0605 or visit www.lancovadems.org.

Northumberland Democrats plan April 27 agenda

The Democratic Committee of Northumberland County will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 27, at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The status of delegates and alternates to the First Congressional District Convention will be discussed. The convention in Williamsburg on May 13 will select a candidate to run for the U. S. House of Representatives in November.

Other items of interest and importance will also be discussed.

Fertilize for a healthy lawn

With spring in full bloom, it's time to fertilize the lawn with formulations designed to provide a controlled feeding.

Property owners have the choice of regular fertilizers or new natural fertilizers, and either type will help ensure that the grass will withstand summer stresses and remain lush and beautiful all year long.

Additionally, an application of broadleaf weed controls should be applied. It takes several days for weeds to begin to twist, curl and wither away. If the application is done properly, spot weed control should be all that's necessary for the rest of the season and into the summer.

The rainfall that normally occurs this time of the year should be sufficient for proper growth. If there's less rain than normal, Lawn Doctor recommends watering heavily enough to wet the soil to a depth of six to eight inches. Lighter water can produce shallow roots.

Lawn Doctor also recommends paying careful attention to mowing at this time of year, to avoid scalping grass that's growing faster than normal because of rains. Raise the mower height, and gradually lower it until the cut is back at its original height.

Avoid mowing wet grass, to prevent clumping and the possibility of lawn disease. Most lawn diseases are weather-related and will disappear when the weather changes. Fungicides are not normally recommended, but controls can be applied on a curative basis, if necessary.

It's a good practice to keep children and pets off treated lawns until they've been thoroughly watered, so the materials penetrate into the soil and are completely dry.

For more details on how to keep the lawn looking healthy and beautiful all year long, call Lawn Doctor at 1-800-452-9637.

MAIN STREET WATCH

Eight months and counting down. The end is in sight.

At least that was the word at last week's Kilmarnock planning commission meeting regarding the Main Street revitalization project.

According to councilman Fletcher Brown, Conrad Brothers Inc., the primary contractor for the work, projects the completion date will fall between June 23 and 26.

Sidewalks along the first block of North Main from Bay Trust to the Flower Cart will be completed about May 10.

By the end, the town will have spent nine months encased in a cloud of dirt and bombarded with the head-numbing sounds of jack hammers and earth-moving equipment.

Shop owners in the thick of things have complained of lost customers, blocked access, no place to park or walk, service disruptions and traffic tie-ups that belong in big cities—not little Kilmarnock.

But don't put those ear plugs away just yet; extensions are already in the works.

Through additional grants and private partnerships, street and sidewalk work will be extended to include areas near Verizon, Bank of Lancaster, The Christmas House and Dr. Brooks Johnston's dental office on Waverly Avenue.

▼ *April showers turn ugly as weekend weather reaches extremes . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

Folks should also remember that hail often precedes a tornado, said Hudson.

The storms that hit the Northern Neck over the weekend were what forecasters call super cell thunderstorms, which often produce hail and strong winds with rotations.

"Mainly this time of year, you get colder air aloft and heating on the ground, which makes these storms stronger," said Brian Cullen with the National Weather Service.

According to Cullen, the funnel clouds associated with Thursday's storms were never expected to touch ground and become tornadoes. Oddly enough the dry conditions in the Northern Neck may have saved the area from several damaging tornadoes.

The drier the ground the less likely the funnel clouds will touch down, according to Cullen.

"But if there was damage on the ground that we don't know about associated with a funnel cloud, then it would be classified as a tornado," he added.

The severe storms that moved through Lancaster County Saturday night brought horizontal hail.

In upper Lancaster County, specifically in the Morattico, Belle Isle and Merry Point areas, the hail shredded holly leaves, pine cones, twigs and flowers.

"It sprayed leaves and debris up to the second story of our house," said Richard Kantor, who after the storm measured eight-inch thick hail drifts at his home in Drum Point.

The pelting "that left hail floating in the creek and created an edge of ice" lasted between 10 and 15 minutes, he said.

"It knocked off about half the leaves on our flowering magnolia," said Kantor. "It made bullet size holes, clear holes with fractured edges, in the leaves.

"If you take spinach and chop it up, that's what our flowers and plants looked like," he added. "After it was over there was this beautiful fog. And on the ground, it was a kind of soup of rainwater with leaves, dogwood flowers, ice pellets and slicks of yellow pollen."

Kantor referred to the storm as one of the big three weather events he has experienced since moving to Lancaster County. He ranks the hail storm right up there with the ice storm of 1998 and Hurricane Isabel.

Although the weekend storms didn't cause power outages comparable to those during the ice storm or hurricane, the volatile weather kept Virginia Dominion Power and Northern Neck Electric Cooperative crews busy.

According to Al Smith, external affairs manager with Virginia Dominion Power, that company had 16 customers in the four counties of the Northern Neck without service Thursday, 531 without electricity Friday and another 697 without power Saturday. None of its customers lost service during the storms Sunday night and early Monday morning.

Northern Neck Electric had a total of 111 customers without service during the four-day period. None of those, however, were in Lancaster County, according to Bill Clark.

Because of the recent rains, Northumberland County has lifted its outdoor fire ban. The 4 p.m. burning law remains in effect. Lancaster County is expected to also lift its ban when the board of supervisors meets Thursday.