# Rappahannock Record

Thursday, May 11, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 31 • Three Sections • 50¢

## *Dr. Ralph Stanley crosses generations, the Commonwealth and the Rappahannock*

**The 2006 Menokin Bluegrass Festival May 6 boasted bigger names and a larger crowd than previous years. Bill Kelso, Old School Freight Train and the Seldom Scene opened the show for Dr. Ralph Stanley (above) and the Clinch Mountain Boys. Stanley, 79, best known for his dirge "Oh Death" in the 2000 film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" said he suffers from arthritis, which inhibits his ability to play an instrument for the length of a show. But he did tickle the audience last Saturday by picking up a banjo for one tune to demonstrate the claw-hammer style he learned from his mother. A native of Dickenson County, it was Stanley's first visit to the Northern Neck of Virginia. The festival, held adjacent to the Menokin ruins, raises money to protect the archeological site from further deterioration and to preserve it as a teaching tool for students and visitors. This year, like last year, the cost of the festival was covered before the first person walked through the gate, said organizer Tayloe Emery. The event attracted 2,000 visitors and raised some $40,000 for the Menokin Foundation.** (Photos by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

# Lancaster supervisors pass 2007 school budget

**by Joan McBride**

LANCASTER—County supervisors on May 4 unanimously approved $8,936,752 in local funds to operate the county schools in 2007, almost $800,000 more than the amount approved in 2006.

The total budget for schools will be $14,444,120. The state's share is $4,628,820; the federal share, $851,743, and other funds total $26,805.

Negotiations among county and school officials had sometimes been tense as supervisors grilled school board members and school superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore on questionable fuel charges, salaries budgeted for specific workers no longer employed, the amount of increase in experienced teachers' pay, and the logic for the school board's requested 17 percent increase in local revenues when $441,105 approved in local funds had gone unused in the 2005 budget.

County administrator Bill Pennell explained the $441,105 was "unused local tax money."

Some members of the school board expressed surprise at the disclosure found in the county audit for the year ending June 30.

Supervisor Pete Geilich observed at one point, "The history of the school board is judiciousness in the way they budget the funds."

"Or they asked for more money than they needed," commented chairman of the board of supervisors F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr.

Geilich stressed in his motion to approve the amount, which is $425,000 less than the school board had been asking, that the money would still be there for all the new positions and programs that had been requested for 2007 by the school board.

Specifically, Geilich identified:

• a step plus 2.5 percent increase in compensation for teachers, secretaries, paraprofessional and custodians.

• a 4 percent increase in pay for all other full-time employees.

• two new Air Force JROTC instructional positions.

• a licensed music teacher for the primary school.

• a licensed special education teacher.

• a bus driver to transport students to the Chesapeake Bay Governors' School for Marine and Environmental Science.

• a new director of budget and finance position.

• funding to increase the number of students attending the Governors' School.

In three separate budget revisions for three successive months, the instruction increases proposed for Lancaster Middle School ranged from $78,507 to $214,716 to $97,347.

At one point Geilich observed, "I don't think there is a person in this room with the exception of Dr. Latimore who understands the budget."

Supervisor Dr. Jack Russell added that it would serve "all of us better" if next time the school board were to "put in goals that

*(continued on page A16)*

## *Fiscal planning continues*

The Lancaster board of supervisors will hold a budget work session today (May 11) at 4 p.m. in the county administrator's office at the courthouse in Lancaster.

The adoption of an appropriation resolution for the entire county fiscal year 2007 budget will take place June 29 during the regular monthly meeting of the supervisors.

## Applying showtime glamour

**Melissa Haydon applies her make-up before taking the stage for last Saturday's annual dance recital at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. Over 100 performers with Miss Linda's School of Dance put on a two-hour show entitled "Believe" for a packed house. The show was a tribute to Disney and its princesses. The production was the second that day. A morning show featured Middlesex County performers. More coverage appears on page A14.** (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

# *'Visiting moms' help support families at home*

*NOTE: This is the second installment in a two-part series addressing early childhood education and related services to Northern Neck parents and children.*

**by Joan McBride**

It's the most important job in the world and the one for which we don't receive any training.

To add to the problem, those little squealing bundles of joy called children appear, sometimes unplanned, and always without an operating manual.

Enter an experienced technician who knows the drill, understands how the nine-month-process works, knows tricks about dealing with all sorts of baby and toddler behaviors, or even provides support and encouragement to an inexperienced parent dealing with a particularly stressful situation or a special needs child.

The only thing better than such an expert technician is a team of helpers who make house calls.

And most counties on the Northern Neck are served by not just one, but up to four programs which fit this description.

Just over 20 years ago, the Virginia Department of Health became very concerned about the "exceptionally high" infant mortality numbers for Virginia's teenagers.

The state devised the Resource Mothers Program to serve this population beginning as soon as possible in a girl's pregnancy, then educating, encouraging, and assisting them and their children up until the child's first birthday.

Some specific goals of the program are

*(continued on page A15)*

# Hearing Monday to address utility rate increases for Kilmarnock

KILMARNOCK—Water and sewer service rate increases will be the topic of public hearings scheduled for the next town council meeting on Monday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the town office at 514 North Main Street.

If approved by council, the per-thousand-gallon base rates for water and sewer will increase by over 180 percent.

For residences, the current base rate of $40 per billing period will increase to $75 while the minimum usage amount is decreased from 6,000 gallons to 4,000 gallons. Users who now pay what amounts to $6.66 per thousand gallons would pay $18.75 per thousand gallons with the increase.

For businesses, the same decreased minimum usage amount would apply and the base rate, now $80, would jump to $150. Businesses who now pay what amounts to $13.33 per thousand gallons would pay $37.50 per thousand gallons with the increase.

A second public hearing will address increases for hooking up to town services. For new connections in town, fees will more than double, from $6,000 to $13,095. Out-of-town connections now costing $9,000 will increase to $16,368.75.

Civil engineers from the consulting firm of Draper Aden Associates, the Richmond firm recommending the price hikes, will be present. Following the hearings, they will report to council on the progress of upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

## *Fleet is blessed and baptized*

**Despite menacing raindrops, the weather held for the length of the 2006 Blessing of the Fleet. Former Del. Albert Pollard delivered the keynote address while choir members from Bethany United Methodist and St. Mary's Episcopal churches led the assembly in singing old favorites such as the Navy hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save," and "This Is My Father's World."**

**Dozens of boats anchored in Cockrell's Creek for the blessing, including some of the area's classic fishing vessels like the Dudley, the Elva C., the Claud W. Somers and the Glenna Fay (above). The event ended with a thrilling flyby of Omega's spotter pilots just as the skies opened and the downpour began.** (Photos by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

## *Remembering fallen patriots*

To honor fallen patriots in military service during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and to recognize the sacrifices of the families they left behind, the Rappahannock Record will publish a special tribute in its Memorial Day edition.

Lancaster and Northumberland residents are invited to contact the Record with the name of their loved one, a photograph, and the date and place of their death. Please include your name and telephone number. Submit items to Robert Mason Jr., Editor, Rappahannock Record, P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482, editor@rrecord.com., or at the Record office at 27 North Main Street. The deadline is May 19.

# Inside


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# May 11 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.
**Al-ANON** meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
**Al-ANON** meets at 7 p.m. at riverside Warsaw Medical Arts building in Warsaw.
**The Wetlands Board** for Lancaster County will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
**The Board of Supervisors** for Northumberland County will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m.
**The Irvington Town Council** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the town office.
**The Interfaith Service Council** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.
**The Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club** will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Ruritan Center in Lively.
**American Legion Post 117** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the post home in Reedville.
**The Mary Ball Washington Republican Women's Club** will hold a Dutch treat luncheon at 1 p.m. at The Tavern in Heathsville. Del. Rob Wittman is the speaker.
**The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association** will meet at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad building at 7990 Northumberland Highway near Heathsville. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Russell Kidwell will demonstrate soldering techniques for coax cable.

# 12 Friday

**Bingo** is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
**The Just Gardens Tour** to benefit The Haven will feature six gardens in Lancaster County. For ticket and tour information, call 435-1271.
**The Wayne T. Holt Band** will be featured on the deck at Smokin' Joe's in Kilmarnock from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

# 13 Saturday

**Steve Keith** will be featured at Café Mojo in Urbanna. The show will begin around 8:30 p.m. 758-4141.

## *Gurley family trio to open park series*

**From left are Macon, Pam and Bill Gurley. The popular trio from Crawford's Corner will open the 2006 Music by the River family concert series at Belle Isle State Park May 20. The show begins at 6 p.m. Families are urged to bring a picnic. There will be crafts for the children. The concert is free; however, the $3 parking fee applies. Concerts will continue in June, July and August.**

# 13 Saturday

**Country Music** will be offered at Donk's Theater on Route 198 in Mathews at 8 p.m. 725-7760.
**The Just Gardens Tour** to benefit The Haven will feature six gardens in Lancaster County. For ticket and tour information, call 435-1271.
**A Community Health Fair**, sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry of First Baptsit Church, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church near Heathsville.
**"Robert E. Lee Right Now"** will be presented by Emory Thomas at Stratford Hall Plantation, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. The lecture will begin at 2 p.m. Reservations recommended, 493-8038.
**The Morattico Waterfront Museum** will hold a flea market and yard sale from 7 a.m. to noon.
**The Northern Neck Computer Users Group** will meet at 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 435 East Church Street in Kilmarnock. Professor Charles Wrightson will give a presentation. The Beginners SIG will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The topic will be an "An Introduction to the Internet."

# 13 Saturday

**A Yard Sale** will be held by the Northumberland County Animal Shelter at the school board office building in Lottsburg,

# 14 Sunday Mother's Day

**The Widowed Persons Service** for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at T&T's in Burgess immediately following church services.
**A Custom Auto Cruise-In** will be held at 4 p.m. at Chesapeake Commons Shopping Center in Kilmarnock. All special Interest vehicles are welcome. Spectators are welcome. 435-6171
**A Mother's Day Appreciation Event** will be held at Ingleside Plantation Vineyards at 5872 Leedstown Road in Oak Grove. Refreshments, tours and tastings from 1 to 5 p.m. 224-8687.

# 15 Monday

**The Historyland Community Workshop** volunteer craft group meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. Guests welcome.
**The First-Place Weight-Loss Class** meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.
**Flotilla 3-10** meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 472-4387.
**The Kilmarnock Town Council** will meet at 7 p.m. at the town office on North Main Street.
**The Richard Henry Lee Chapter** of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a luncheon meeting at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11:30 a.m. Steven Allen Atkinson will speak about the life of Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
**The Historical Society** for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the G.C. Dawson administrative office in Kilmarnock. 435-6232.
**The Northumberland Homemakers** will meet at 11 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville. 580-8613.
**Rappahannock Community College** will hold its 34th Commencement at Glouceser High School at 7 p.m. Dr. Daniel LaVista, executive director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, will be the speaker

# 15 Monday

**The Lancaster Middle School Bands** will be in concert at the Lancaster Middle School theater in Kilmarnock, beginning at 7 p.m.

# 16 Tuesday

**The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band** rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
**Duplicate Bridge** will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.
**Al-ANON** meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
**Adams Post 86** of the American Legion and the legion auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the post home on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock. 435-1588.
**A Yard Sale** will be held by the Northumberland County Animal Shelter at the school board office building in Lottsburg.
**The Corrotoman Senior Citizens** meet at 10 a.m. a the Ruritan Center near Lively.
**The Economic Development Commission** of Northumberland County will meet at the courthouse in Heathsville at 7:30 p.m.
**The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library** board of directors will meet at the museum library at 1:30 p.m.

# 17 Wednesday

**The Rotary Breakfast Club** meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
**The Kiwanis Club** meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
**The Rotary Club** for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
**The Northern Neck Bay Tones** meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kil-marnock. 438-5127.
**A Grief Support Group** meets at 4 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. 435-7585.
**The RFM Quilters** meets at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
**The Bethel Emmanuel United Methodist Men** will hold a yard sale from 3 to 6 p.m. at their building on Route 201 South near Lively.

*(continued on page A3)*

# 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 Street, Kilmarnock. Casual dining with a diverse menu. Full bar with an excellent selection of specialty draft and bottled beers and extensive wine list. Open for lunch and dinner from 11 am-10pm, Tuesday-Saturday. 804-435-7005.

***CONRAD'S UPPER DECK***: Waterside restaurant overlooking the Rappahannock River, specializing in fresh local seafood. Full menu-All you-can-eat buffet starting in June. Boat dockage. Friday & Saturday only. 5-9pm (D) Route 624, Mollusk 642-7400.

***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.

***FADED GLORY CRUISES***: -Irvington "Faded Glory"-the Hope and Glory Inn's classic 1952 Chesapeake Bay dead rise. **Friday Night Crab Cruises:** $65 per person/wine and beer inclusive. Departure 6:30 pm-90 minutes. **Saturday Cocktail Cruises:** $30 per person/Libations a la carte. Departure: 4:30 pm. 90 minutes. Reservations required for cruises-438-6053 and 800-497-8228.

***HOPE and GLORY INN***: ***Dinners at our Chef's Table:*** $65.00 per person++/Four courses/wine paired/one table limited to 18/prix fixe/7 pm. Reservations required for dinners-438-6053 and 800-497-8228. 65 Tavern Road and King Carter Drive, Irvington.

***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 home until 4:00. White Stone. (L) 435-0044.

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Mon. – Thurs. (5:00), 7:30
HOOT (PG-13) 1 HR 30 MIN
Fri. (4:30), 8:15
Sat. (2:30) 8:15
Sun. (2:30) 6:45
Mon. – Thurs. 7:15
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HOOT (PG) 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
POSEIDON (PG13) 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
RV (PG) 5:20, 7:25, 9:35
SAT. MAY 13
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:45
HOOT (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
POSEIDON (PG13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
RV (PG) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:35
SUN. MAY 14
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING (PG13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35
HOOT (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20
POSEIDON (PG13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30
RV (PG) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25
MON.-THURS. MAY 15-18
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 7:15
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING (PG13) 7:35
HOOT (PG) 7:20
POSEIDON (PG13) 7:30
RV (PG) 7:25

# Area Events

### ■ Band concert

The Lancaster High School Band will hold its annual Spring Concert and Dinner May 19 and 20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening in the high school commons.

A Mardi Gras theme will be reflected in the food, music and decor. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children under 12. For tickets, call 462-0697.

### ■ Astrology class

The Soul of Astrology, a one-day class with Adam Gainsburg, will be offered May 20 at the home of Carolyn Hughes at 51 Club Drive in Hartfield. The fee is $85. Preregistration is required. Call 804-815-3448.

### ■ Antiques Show

The Antiques One-Stop Road Show will be at St. John's Episcopal Parish Hall in Warsaw July 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 12 antiques experts will evaluate treasures. Call Richmond County Museum at 804-333-3607.

### ■ Dinner at seven

Dinner at Seven will meet for brunch May 21 at 12:30 p.m. at the Mt. Holly Steamboat Inn. The social group for local singles age 50 and above meets for dinner, brunch and other events each month. RSVP to Judy at jcaples@crosslink.net, or call 462-5430.

### ■ Stewardship Guide

The Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship recently published a 10-page "Stewardship Guide" for property owners in Northumberland County. The guide can be obtained by writing NAPS at Box 567, Heathsville VA 22473.

### ■ RivahFest crafts

More than 100 artisans, crafters and collectibles dealers will offer a variety of merchandise at RivahFest 2006 in Tappahannock on June 17. Vendors will display their wares around the Essex Courthouse Green and along Prince and Cross streets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Upcoming

(continued from A2)

## 17 Wednesday

**Land Preservation Seminars** will be held at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw and Glenns beginning at 10 a.m. $20.

**Sandwich Bridge** will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at noon. 462-0742.

**Pianist Wonny Song** will perform at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock at 7:30 p.m. Music-in-the-Village of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems will sponsor this free concert.

**A Parkinson's Support Group** meets at 2 p.m. at Rappahanock Westminister-Canterbury near Irvington. The guest speaker will be Susan Dietrich, coordinator of the American Parkinson's Disease Association's Information and Referral Center of Virginia

## 18 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.

**Al-ANON** meets at 7 p.m. at Riverside Warsaw Medical Arts building in Warsaw.

**The Planning Commission** for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.

## 18 Thursday

**The Planning Commission** for Northumberland County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.

**The Rappatomac Writers** will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chinn House at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.

**The Lancaster Middle School Chorus** will present its annual spring concert in the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.

**The Moving Wall**, a traveling reproduction of the Vietnam War Memorial, will visit the campus of Rappahannock Community College. An opening program is planned.

**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.

**"Play into Summer"** with bridge/mahjongg will be held by the Women's Club of White Stone at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11:30 a.m. The $18 fee includes meal, complimentary glass of wine and chance to win door or game prizes. For reservations, call Helen Withers at 438-4152.

**Master fiddler John Turner** will perform early colonial music at the 48th annual meeting of the Foundation for Historic Christ Church at 11 a.m. at Christ Church near Irvington. A picnic lunch will follow on the churchyard lawn. Admission is $10 by advance reservation only; call 438-6855 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

# Barbershop chorus to join June concert

The Northern Neck Bay Tones barbershop chorus will perform in the "Heritage Appreciation Through Music" concert June 10 at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

Organized in April 2002, the chorus performs locally and regionally. Concert venues have included the Mayfair House, William & Mary, Mount Vernon and Lancaster Middle School. Members are urged to form quartets to sing for special events. The group is directed by Carol Wright.

Among the selections for the Heritage Appreciation concert are "Oh Shenandoah," "Good Old Summertime" and "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

Joining the Bay Tones in the concert will be the newly formed Rappahannock Women's Chorale directed by Brenda Burtner and the Northern Neck Big Band (formerly the Norwood McCarty Big Band).

In presenting the concert, the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts is continuing its 20-year tradition of showcasing local artistic talent and bringing special musical events to the community. The Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust Company are sponsors.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Kilmarnock Antique Gallery, Twice Told Tales, or by calling 436-9027.

# Just Gardens tour is Friday and Saturday

Tickets for the sixth annual Just Gardens tour are available for $12 through Thursday. The tour, Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, takes place in Lancaster County. Tickets will be $15 the days of the tour.

The tour features six gardens in the Laurel Point and Iberis area, rain or shine. Sites include the LaPrade garden in Riverwood, the Wrick garden in Laurel Point, the Queener garden in Laurel Point, the Campbell garden in Laurel Point, the Hoerneman garden in Eagles Landing and the Chrichton garden off Iberis Road.

Advance tickets may be purchased at Greenpoint Nursery in Kilmarnock, Kemper Nursery in Farnham, Mary Young's Herbs in Hague, The Dandelion in Irvington, Colonial Collectibles in Warsaw and Wildest Dreams in Burgess.

Several gardens require moderate walking from the designated parking area to the garden. It is advisable to wear comfortable low-heeled shoes.

The tour benefits The Haven Shelter and Services.

# Quilt to be featured at Heathsville market

The Heathsville Tavern Farmers' Market May 20 will showcase new vendors and the debut of the Friends of the Library 2006 quilt.

Sponsored by the Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern Foundation, the market will open at 9 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. Vendors will set up in the field next to the tavern.

Among the new vendors is Garden Gate Farm, featuring unusual topiaries, and Pearls and More, selling jewelry using freshwater pearls, semi-precious gemstones, gold and sterling silver.

The Friends of the Northumberland Library quilt, "Bloomin' Good Read," will be on display at the library's stand. The quilt was designed by Nancy Brannon.

Quilt raffle tickets are $1 each, or six for $5. A drawing will be held in November.

Garden Gate Farms in Burgess will have a number of topiaries ranging in price from $50 to $900. There will be dragon, dog, cat, turtle, butterfly and rabbit motifs. A four-foot baby elephant may also be on hand, as well as a large giraffe.

"When I started, I never thought of these items as art, but they are," said owner Kim Michaels. "Topiaries will last many years with proper care. Some people add their own touches like annuals to get a splash of color."

Pearls and More in Mathews represents Ayla's Own Jewelry. According to Sherin Stewart, the Pearls and More owner, many of the pieces of jewelry fit very well with the casual entertaining style of the Northern Neck.

The Tavern Restaurant will serve lunch and the Tavern Store will be open. Morning coffee and lunch-time snacks will be available at the foundation stand.

For directions, call 580-3377.

# Steve Keith to perform free concert

Steve Keith will sing and play his banjo, fiddle and guitar at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury's Bazaar Performance Series May 20 at 4 p.m. The concert is free.

Keith has recently returned from a winter in New Orleans, which he said is filled with hope. While there, he worked on houses, played music, and connected and re-connected with the scene that he calls his musical battery.

It's also his professional musical genesis. He was 19 and a student at Tulane University in New Orleans when Babe Stovall invited him to play banjo at gigs in the French Quarter and share the take. Keith's song, "Bourbon Street," is based on those experiences.

"New Orleans is a cultural hotbed," said Keith. "It's very social and open. You are constantly meeting people, networking, jamming, and on and on it goes. That's what I like about it. I love it up here, but this is just the opposite. Up here it's nature and serenity. I love the two."

He and his wife, Laurie, were sailing up the east coast on Rocinante, their sailboat named for Don Quixote's horse and about which Keith has written a love song. To escape the heat, they took a slip in Deltaville during the summer of 1999, played music here and in Richmond and Annapolis, and later bought a place at Windmill Point after Laurie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She died last year.

"She was full of life and enthusiasm and really connected with Lancaster County," said Keith. "She was so at home here. I'm really rooting in here and do love it. My dream is to spend winters in New Orleans, keep that part of my music going, and then spend summers here when there's so much going on."


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## Fiction or Fact

*from Bob's Almanac*

**by Robert Mason Jr.**

Chillin' with Dr. Ralph Stanley at the annual Menokin Bluegrass Festival.

Who wouldn't jump at an opportunity to interview "The Man of Constant Sorrow?"

**Dr. Ralph Stanley**

As The Seldom Scene kicked it up a notch and the audience prayed for another wisp of wind to bring temporary relief from the heat, I climbed aboard Dr. Stanley's air-conditioned bus.

Did I say air-conditioned? It felt like 60 degrees in there as Dr. Stanley, 79, extended a long-sleeved arm to shake my hand in the customary welcome of a Virginia gentleman. He grinned.

I whipped out the pen and notepad for a simple interview. He's heard all the questions before.

Who has been the greatest inspiration or influence on your lengthy bluegrass career?

Without hesitation and with a gleam in his eye, Jesus Christ rolled off his tongue in that raspy tenor recognized throughout the world. "He's given me everything I've got, especially when I sing the gospel songs." A warmth enclosed us.

Of all the songs you share, what are your favorites?

"The gospel songs," he repeated. Mine, too. That's when I put in my request for "Angel Band."

He performed it later on stage with his band, The Clinch Mountain Boys.

After all these years, and all these blessings, why do you continue to pursue a career in bluegrass?

"In October, it will be 60 years," said Dr. Stanley. "I'm more in demand now, I'm more popular now than I've ever been. I'd hate to quit when so many people are coming out to see me. And I still have to make a living. A man's got to work, you know."

He credited the movie and soundtrack "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" and his subsequent "Down From the Mountain Tour" with igniting his popularity and a growing interest in bluegrass music.

The tour featured shows 42 straight nights across the nation before thousands of people. "It reached so many young people," he said.

When will you retire from the music industry?

"That depends. I really don't want to retire from it. I'll probably have to slow down some day. I guess when the Good Lord is ready for me to retire, I'll retire."

Where is the future of bluegrass heading?

"There's lots of young people playing now. Some of them are changing it. But they'll keep it going. I'm pretty traditional. I think there's room for all of it. I hope bluegrass music never dies."

The interview officially over, I hung out a while longer and "chatted" with Dr. Stanley.

We talked about the weather and the pollen. He'd rather have been mingling in the crowd, talking to fans, signing autographs and selling CDs and hats, he said. But his allergies kept him on the bus, preserving his voice for the show.

We talked about Menokin and bluegrass festivals. The festivals, of all sizes and formats, are beneficial to bluegrass music, he said. He plays more auditoriums now, but he played many festivals years ago.

We talked about the Northern Neck and other areas of Virginia. He was pleased to hear there were folks in the crowd from his hometown of Coeburn.

He autographed my CD and introduced me to the mandolin player in the Clinch Mountain Boys—his grandson Nathan, 13.

The future of traditional bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music sounds promising.

## Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

About 30 years ago I became friends with Billy and Danny Franklin, two brothers who can move earth with the precision of a manicurist. They are to dirt what Julia Child is to food. Twenty years ago Danny came over to our place with his bulldozer and transformed a chunk of the woods into a small park. At the time we laid plans for a pond, but as I mentioned in a column several weeks ago, until this spring nothing happened.

Danny is working in the Richmond area these days, and this past Saturday Billy came with his excavator and installed the long-anticipated test pond, about eight by ten feet, and about the same depth. The humus layer of rotted leaves and sticks sat on top of a soupy mixture of sand and clay. As the process unfolded, small trickles of water began flowing from holes in the sides of the excavation.

In no time we had several feet of water. As he went along, Billy moved the material taken out to high ground. Monday's rainfall filled the pond to the brim, and now it looks like the real thing rather than a mere test.

Curly Lewis, who advises on such matters for the Agriculture Department, told us that if the test survived the summer, we could proceed with the full pond in September. At present, it appears that it will take a terrific drought to keep the pond from passing the test.

We were unable to work on Monday because of the rain, but on Tuesday Billy lifted us, quite literally, out of the wake of Hurricane Isabel. The residue of our huge pecan trees, which fell over that long night, have been deposited in the woods, and the back yard has been returned to the "status quo ante Isabel."

The excavator works quickly and with such force that nothing stands in its way. In the barnyard we had the stump of a century-old black cherry tree which was both in the way and a perfect habitat for poison ivy and a groundhog.

Some years ago a friend tried removing it with a small bulldozer, but it stood firm. Not this time. Cherry stumps do not rot well and despite this one having been dead for 20 years, its root system was substantially intact. The matrix of roots still held it in place, only the bark having rotted away, but with one lift it became history.

Our friend, James Butler, is going to plant a crop of hay on the back field, hence we have used Billy's visit to remove all the cutover cherry and mimosa stumps, all of which were still alive. They came out like toothpicks and the field soon will be productive once again.

In a few hours, the skill of the operator and the 15,000 pounds of the excavator have undone years of growth and neglect in areas we did not have the time to manicure. Not only is today the first day of the rest of our lives, it is also happily the first day of the post-Isabel world. May we never see its like again.

## Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Again this week, I report that the state has yet to adopt a budget for fiscal years 2006-08. The budget deliberations are beginning to remind me of the pink bunny on the commercials, beating the drum, "they just keep going and going and going." There have, however, been some actions taken towards finalizing the budget.

The House Finance Committee heard four Senate bills that addressed regional and statewide transportation funding: SB 5013, Funding Transportation in the Commonwealth; SB 5014, Hampton Roads Transportation Authority; SB 5105, Interstate 81 Transportation Authorities; and SB 5016, Supplemental Transportation Funding for Northern Virginia.

These bills were tabled until August. The House Finance Committee reasoned that the House budget bill, which calls for funding all other elements of government except transportation, and proposes the General Assembly return in September, would be a quicker way to resolve the transportation funding issue.

This would allow local and state government to move forward with budgets and to work out the intricacies of transportation funding in September. Similar action was taken in 1986 when Gov. Baliles sought to solve a similar transportation funding issue. So, to have their actions coincide with the House budget bill, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to table the Senate revenue bills until August.

The Senate and House budget negotiators have made progress on the "caboose" budget bill, which completes the budget for the remaining portion of fiscal year 05-06, ending June 30. It appropriates the additional funds received by the state since the 2005 General Assembly. This bill is critical to make year-end adjustments to funding to complete the current budget year. It is my hope that this negotiation will be successful and will lead to discussion of the 2007-08 budget.

Last weekend I found myself out of breath from bouncing from one event to the next. On April 29, I started the morning with Del. Orrock, Del. Peace and Sen. McDougle in Caroline County at a GOP breakfast. From there, I joined Rep. Jo Ann Davis and local government officials, supervisor Woody Hinson and Mayor Pete Bone, at James Monroe's birthplace for a celebration of his birthday.

After that, I headed to opening day of the Northumberland County Little League. Throwing the first pitch of the season was a thrill that was quickly surpassed by the look of excitement and anticipation in the eyes of the Little Leaguers.

Afterwards, I went to Westmoreland to join with the others to honor the service of Tuskegee Airman Charles Bernard Smith. Smith was a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot in World War II, whose courage can only be weakly suggested by the road marker dedicated to him that day.

At the end of the day, my wife, Kathryn, and I had an opportunity to attend a fundraiser for the Westmoreland/Richmond County branch of Habitat for Humanity. We were happy to do what we could for such a great organization, which provides so much to our communities. While I was there, I learned that one of the problems the organization is facing is a lack of volunteers. I urge any individuals who could contribute their time and effort to this organization to call 804-493-1500.

If I can be of assistance, I welcome you to call me at 804-493-0508, or e-mail robwittman@verizon.net. The website of my new blog is robwittman.blogspot.com. Please visit and share your opinions.

## Letters to the Editor

### A traffic light to die for

To The Editor:

How encouraging to read that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors might help get a traffic light at the Irvington and Harris Road intersection.

I was told years ago that three or four people would have to get killed there before anything could be done. My idea at the time, since we are such a civic-minded community, was to ask for volunteers to give up their lives for others in this worthy cause. Now, maybe this can be done a better way.

Miriam MacCarthy Bell
White Stone

### Increase public school funding

To The Editor:

County supervisors need to consider the broad range implications of not passing the proposed school board budget. Competitive salaries and adequate technology are strong draws for qualified teachers.

I would love to live and work in Lancaster County. I am a Virginia State Certified Earth Science teacher and I own a house in Lancaster County. I would like to apply for the earth science position that is anticipated in Lancaster County schools. Unfortunately, I would have to take a $12,000 a year pay cut from my current position as a teacher with 15 years experience in another rural Virginia county. My curriculum is based on having adequate technology available.

I am sure my case is just one of many scenarios that play out when prospective teachers look at Lancaster County public schools. I also am an older taxpayer with no children in public school, but to assume that I want low taxes for these reasons is incorrect. It would also be shortsighted on my part.

As a citizen and a public school teacher, I know that an educated populace benefits all citizens, no matter age or wealth. An under-educated populace lowers the quality of life for all citizens. Under-educated unskilled citizens are burdens on the society. It costs more money to deal with the crime and violence that poverty causes, than to support education which increases employability.

In addition, a community that has nothing to offer the younger generations will leave to find better opportunities elsewhere. If the citizens value their young people, the number one factor to correct this is good, quality public education. It goes without saying, that those that have the means can send their children to very good private schools in the Northern Neck area, but how many of those children actually remain in the Northern Neck once their education is complete? Has there been a drain of young, talented citizens in the past?

For older taxpayers who are from here and realizing higher property taxes because of ever increasing property values, I would venture to guess that despite this added expense, the net worth of those same taxpayers has increased for a net gain of wealth rather than a loss.

For those of us who have come here because of the quality of life should be willing to support public education to ensure that quality of life. It is that quality of life component that makes that investment in real estate increase in value, so if for no other reason, come heres need to support public education with their tax dollars.

J. Poythress
Lancaster

### Pining for good old tunes

To The Editor:

Every time I get into my car and turn on the radio I get angry all over again. What are the new owners thinking of by eliminating the wonderful music so many of us love on WNDJ radio, not to mention the Thea Marshall show which we also looked forward to hearing?

I enjoy country music also, but not as a steady diet. I do hope this is a temporary measure and that we will once again be able to enjoy the good old tunes we heard on "Windy" in the near future.

Audrey Saunders
Kilmarnock

## Letters to the Editor

### Iraqi democracy could end regional dictators

To The Editor:

Last week there was a letter from a liberal Democrat bashing President Bush. The usual complaint is that President Bush chooses to do something about the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center rather than take the liberal Democrat approach: do nothing and wait for another terrorist attack.

The writer states that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld never served in the armed forces. Secretary Rumsfeld was a naval aviator; he retired from reserve forces to take the position of Defense Secretary. The writer must have got Secretary Rumsfeld confused with President Bill Clinton who went to great lengths to avoid military service. President Clinton never took any action against the terrorists during his presidency even though there were numerous attacks against American positions.

The Iraqi people recognize that President Bush is giving them an opportunity to achieve their freedom and they are working hard to make it happen. Reports coming back from American soldiers attest to some degree of success in this endeavor; you won't see these reports in the liberal media.

The liberal Democrats should consider one thing; if the Iraqi people succeed in establishing a democracy in the Middle East, it could signal the end of all dictators in the region. This would surely mean that President Bush would be the greatest president of the twenty-first century, even though the century is only six years old.

Jack Jennings
Mollusk

### Rumsfeld served with honor

To The Editor:

While I rarely agree, I respect the right of the anti-Bush, anti-Rumsfeld, anti-corporate America, anti-Republicans to write and say what they please. I do wish they would be more factual.

In a letter to the editor last week, a writer in his diatribe about President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld wrote that "Defense Secretary Rumsfeld never served in the armed forces." This statement is totally inaccurate. Secretary Rumsfeld served with distinction from 1954 to 1957 as an active duty Naval officer, aviator and flight instructor.

Following active duty, the secretary served in the Ready and Standby Naval Reserve until his retirement with the rank of captain.

The record shows that the secretary is truly a man who served with honor in the armed forces of this country.

Tony Callaghan
Lancaster

### School budget is a joint effort

To The Editor:

The Lancaster board of supervisors has set the amount of local funds to support the Lancaster School system for the 2006-07 school year.

Over the past several months, I have attended school board and board of supervisors work sessions and public hearings as an interested citizen. I am no more interested in paying out more of my funds than any other person is. However, for the common good of all of us, we jointly are responsible for supporting our schools and other services. To this end we ask our elected officials to do their best to hold costs down and to provide the very best possible education and services. This task is not easy and many would say almost impossible.

My observations and conclusions are that all concerned have done their best to do the impossible. The whole tone of the process was one of people trying to work together to a common goal: improving the education of our young people so that they will be better able to contribute to the overall economic environment of our county and its citizens. Every line item was scrutinized and questioned. Answers were fully discussed. Final figures were the result of much thought and desire to strike the best balance possible. We will pay more but not as much as some wanted.

The board of supervisors requested that the school system provide ongoing quarterly financial information. This type of accountability is to aid in monitoring the ongoing activity and provide for better communication in future budgeting. Why not expand this accountability reporting to the entire county budget on a quarterly basis and make it available to the citizens by the county website?

These actions will better inform the citizens and provide them the knowledge needed to better participate in their government. It is their money and they are concerned with how it is being spent. For their part, citizens need to get involved in the development phases of all types of governmental activities and not just show up to public hearings. In most cases, it is too late. We can and need to be part of the solution.

Charlie Costello
Merry Point

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## Community Comments:

# May 15 is the deadline to sign up for Medicare Part D

**by John Wilson**

Six years ago, recognizing a major gap in health care for senior citizens, the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic began a pilot program for low-income Medicare patients to help them receive medicines free of charge.

The initiative developed into the Medicare Medication Program, and has resulted in receipt of more than $3.8 million worth of medicines for some 500 patients in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County who live on low, fixed incomes.

Today, however, with the government promoting its new Medicare D prescription plans in conjunction with numerous drug and insurance companies, the clinic program has been forced into significant downsizing. While the program is still being maintained, for the past several months considerable effort also has been spent helping patients get enrolled in Medicare D, since penalties will be imposed on those who do not enroll in one of the government plans before May 15.

Since Medicare provides insurance coverage, the clinic, which serves the low-income uninsured, designed its Medicare program as an outreach effort with area doctors' offices. Medicare recipients are able to see their own doctor and have 80 percent of the cost of each visit covered; however, no coverage had been provided for medicines, which for many added up to hundreds of dollars each month. As a result, many on low incomes did not purchase and take the medicines prescribed, or they relied on efforts at each doctor's office to obtain the medicines for them from pharmaceutical companies.

Applying for these medicines is a labor-intensive process, and difficult to manage and track. Too often, it fell to nurses in each office, taking away from their time with the patients.

In 2000, the clinic began the pilot program and received $6,708 in medicines for a handful of patients; it grew gradually during 2001, when $63,671 worth of medicines were received, and at a more accelerated pace during 2002, when the value jumped to $304,144. Toward the end of that year, the program was redesigned to accommodate volunteers in all aspects of the process—screening patients, applying for medicines, tracking their receipt, trouble-shooting with drug companies, and delivering the medicines received to the appropriate doctors' offices—and a coordinator was hired to develop, oversee and manage the operations. During 2003 the value of medicines received more than doubled, to $630,545, and in 2004, about doubled again, to $1,165,971.

Last year, close to 500 patients from 20 different physicians were enrolled in the program, and the medicines received in their behalf totaled $1,361,200. During the course of the year, the number of patients and medicines had reached the limit that one coordinator and the dozen or so volunteers could handle, and the program was frozen at its current load until it could be restructured.

Then the government announced its Medicare D prescription coverage plans, which has effectively undercut the effort. Medicare D is receiving mixed reviews. For those on very low incomes, coverage can be very good, with no premiums or deductibles and co-pays at the pharmacy capped at $5 for each medicine.

However, patients who weren't already receiving some sort of assistance must apply for this "extra help" in prescription coverage. That must be done through the Social Security Administration, not Medicare, which adds another step in an already confusing process. The clinic hosted several day-long visits by a Social Security representative to help patients apply for the extra help, but that remains a part of the process for those who could not attend the events.

For those who do not qualify for extra help, each of the Medicare D plans—there are 42 in Virginia from which to choose—involve considerably more in expenses. Those who are accustomed to paying full price for medicines or who generally can afford the costs find the new coverage to be satisfactory or better. Those who are just over the 'extra help' limit, however, and especially those on more than a few prescriptions, find themselves facing yet another cost of living, and concern that they will be able to work the costs into their limited budgets.

Patients have been confronted with a bewildering number of choices, along with a bewildering amount of mailings and information, from Medicare, Social Security, drug companies and insurance companies. Each of the 42 plans is different. The monthly premium amount varies wildly. Some plans have deductibles and some don't. Each plan has its own formulary, and each one rates medicines at different levels, making the co-payments vary wildly as well.

Additionally, most plans with lower premiums have a coverage gap, or "donut hole," after the value of their medicines has reached $2,250. From that amount until the value reaches $3,600, patients must pay full price for the medicines rather than the co-payment (generally, 25 percent of the medicine's cost). Beyond the $3,600 "catastrophic" level, prescriptions are largely covered.

Enrollment is advised, regardless of the confusion and costs, since a penalty is imposed after May 15 for those who have not enrolled and who decide later that they need the coverage. The penalty comes in the form of higher monthly premiums.

Medicare patients who have not yet enrolled should do so by May 15 by calling 1-800-633-4227 or visiting www.medicare.gov. They should have their Medicare card handy, as well as a list of their medicines, which they will be able to give to the Medicare representative in order to find, and enroll in, the plan best suited to their current prescription needs.

To help lower their monthly drug costs, they also may want to go through their medicines with their doctor. Since each plan has its own formulary, medicines that have the same function may have a high co-payment on one plan and a lower one on another. Also, if generics can be prescribed in place of name brands, the costs are much lower.

*(John Wilson is the Medicare Mediation Program coordinator at the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic).*

## Letters to the Editor

### Hooked on high-speed

To The Editor:

High-speed internet access has been a major objective of many people who live in the Northern Neck. The ability to grow my business has been severely limited because economical high-speed access has not been available in most of our rural areas.

DSL and cable are available in some very limited areas, but few people can get either of these services. Satellite, which I've been using for four years, does not offer high-speed except for downloading, and its service is severely affected by weather and trees.

One provider has been installing wireless towers and repeaters around Lancaster and Northumberland counties for over a year. They are offering exceptionally fast internet access with speeds up to 1.5 megabytes in both the up and down directions and at very reasonable pricing.

You've probably read one or more previous letters asking interested parties to contact Kaballero. The owner told me it would be better if people contact a person in their immediate neighborhood since each wireless tower/pole installation has a limited range of only one to two miles.

Thus, I'm asking interested people who live in the Mollusk, Ottoman, Millenbeck, Yankee Point, Heritage Point, and Merry Point areas to email me with their name, address, telephone and email (send to tbigford@starband.net).

I'm creating a list and plotting addresses on a map to help a wireless provider identify where best to locate antennas in our area.

Warning: once you experience high-speed access, you will never go back to dial-up (or, in my case, satellite)!

Tom Bigford
Lancaster

### Unnecessary use of a gun

To The Editor:

It's hard to say goodbye when a friend passes on. It's even harder to say goodbye when that friend has been shot twice at close range in a senseless act of coldness.

The good friend that I lost was Augie, a 15-month-old retriever/Newfoundland mix. He lived with two other small dogs, a cat and a kitten. One of the dogs was very old, nearly blind. I never saw or heard an unkind woof or action between them, although Augie was many times larger than his housemates.

When I think of him, I think of unconditional love and a total joy for life.

You see, Augie was killed because someone thought he came too close to his cat. Guns in the hands of the wrong folks will kill. This person should be punished and have his gun taken away. If this person can kill a warm, loving dog in cold blood, who will be next? Perhaps your dog, or cat, or one of your children will accidentally wander where this person sits and waits for the next victim.

By the way, I have a gun. I have completed a gun safety course and train with it in an appropriate place.

Elizabeth Atkins
Mollusk

## This Side of 60

*by Marie Snider*

### Healthy aging

Mostly, we have very healthy meals at our house. We eat oatmeal every day for breakfast. We like salmon, eggs, yogurt, brown rice, vegetables and a little bit of meat. And this time of year, most of our desserts come from the freezer—apples, blackberries and saskatoon berries from our summer garden.

It's a nourishing diet, but sometimes it becomes boring. That's why I often get ideas from my friends at the pool. They have wonderful recipes for delicious casseroles, healthy cookies, soups and salads.

Lois, who grew up in India and is an excellent cook, often talks about complicated Indian dishes she makes. I'm sure they would taste good, but they are too much work for me. So I was glad when she shared a recipe for a simple vegetable curry served with rice.

She suggested a potato and pea curry. At the time, I had no white potatoes on hand so I made it with sweet potatoes. Now it's one of my regulars.

I especially like Indian food because of one specific ingredient—turmeric. It's turmeric that gives Indian food its yellow color. And I recently learned that this interesting spice has unusual medicinal properties.

Turmeric is said to reduce inflammation, slow the growth of bacteria, protect the liver, improve circulation and help arthritis. It also has a specific preventive effect against Alzheimer's disease.

In his book, *Healthy Aging: A Lifelong Guide to Your Physical and Spiritual Well-Being,* Dr. Andrew Weil told about the diet of the long-lived people in Okinawa. Turmeric is one of their staples.

Weil, clinical professor of medicine at the University of Arizona, has gone to the Japanese island three times to try to figure out why the people live so long and are in such good shape.

One time he took his 92-year-old mother along. When he introduced his mother to near-centenarians, the Okinawans began the conversation by stating their age.

"Hello, I'm 96, how old are you?"

"This was quite a cultural shock for my mother, but after a while I think it was refreshing for her to sense the benefits of living in a culture where old age is cause for downright pride," said Weil.

He notes that our nonacceptance of aging is one of the great obstacles to "doing it gracefully."

He believes aging doesn't "suddenly overtake us at some point in life... I find it useful to think of aging as a continuous and necessary process of change that begins at conception.

"Wherever you are on the continuum, it is important to learn how to live in appropriate ways in order to maximize health and happiness."

In his book, Weil shares his secrets for maximizing health. One of the secrets is the therapeutic effect of turmeric.

He also advocates staying physically active, taking naps, getting on top of stress, practicing deep breathing and having the right attitude.

It isn't so important how long you live as "how" you live. Said Weil, the goal is "to live as long and as well as possible, then have a rapid decline at the end of life."

So wherever you are on the continuum, remember to maximize every day of your life. And consider spicing things up a bit with a dash of turmeric for flavor and health.

## Yesteryear in Lancaster

*(A reprint from the May 11, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen)*

### Caught on the fly

Capt. Ramond Sparrow, recently located in Gloucester, has returned to upper Lancaster to reside.

The name of the post office at Warnetta, Northumberland County, has been changed to Harvey's Wharf.

Capt. G.P. Squires, Capt. J. H. Davis, F. G. Newbill, W. R. Rowe and Misses Annie Long and Nannie Mae Squires are attending Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs in Richmond this week. Miss Long goes from there to Salisbury, Md., on a visit of several months to friends.

### Fish and oyster notes

Baltimore packers claim to have made a little money the past season. Not so with Virginia packers or oystermen.

Fishing steamer Rappahannock, of the Morris fisheries, Reedville, is loading with herring for the factories at that place. This is the first time that the factories have gotten up as far as Colonial Beach for fish. It is said that the catch in this section is larger at present than at the mouth of the river.

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


*Thank You*

I would like to say thank you to everyone who encouraged and supported me throughout my campaign. The council has a lot of challenging issues coming up and needs the residents' input and support.

*—Barbara Robertson*

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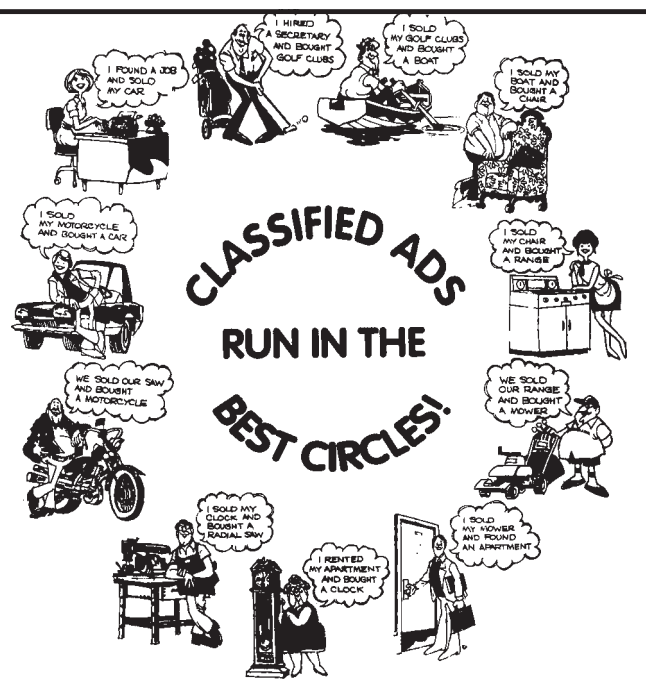


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# Reedville to host Independence fete

Bethany United Methodist Church and the Reedville Fishermen's Museum recently announced that the Reedville Independence Day Celebration will be held Saturday, July 1, along Main Street.

This year's event promises to be even bigger and better than previous years by featuring a full day of activities, fun and food for the entire family.

The event will kick off with the Firecracker 5K Fun Run/Walk starting at 8 a.m. in front of the American Legion building on Main Street. Race day registration will begin at 7 a.m. at the start/finish line. Prizes will be awarded to the top men, women and children finishers.

Mid-day and afternoon events at the museum and church will include an Independence Day Parade, a kid's pie eating contest, face painting, musical entertainment and craft fair.

There also will be a plethora of food vendors offering all-American favorites like barbecue, hot dogs, ice cream and baked goods. The day of fun will wrap up with fireworks extravaganza over Cockrell's Creek beginning promptly at 9 p.m. at the end of Main Street. For more information, visit www.reedvilleindependenceday.com, or call 453-3282.

# Benefit dinner and dance set Friday

On Friday, May 12, there will be a charity dinner and dance from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Beacon in Topping. Profits from the "Spring Dinner and Dance of Hope" will benefit The National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The dance is sponsored by Heads Up Hairworks, and Bristow-Faulkner Funeral Home.

There will be a dinner buffet and cash bar provided by the Beacon. Music will be provided by James Chapman, known as "DJ Bobo."

There also will be a drawing for door prizes donated by Ross's Rings and Things, Carried Away Cuisine, and Main Street Chevron at the end of the night.

Reservations can still be made by calling 776-6778. Dinner and dance tickets can be reserved for $25, or they can be picked up at Main Street Chevron in Kilmarnock or the Pilot House Inn in Topping. Dance only tickets will be available at the door for $10.

For more information on tickets, corporate sponsorship, or door prize donations, call Teri Haskiell at 776-6778.

# Historical society schedules lectures

Two installments in The Banner Lecture Series at the Virginia Historical Society are set for May.

"Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves, and the American Revolution" will be presented by Simon Schama May 23. Schama is professor of art history and history at Columbia University.

"The Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities" will be presented by Thomas R. Pickering May 25. Pickering has served as undersecretary of state for political affairs and ambassador to the Russian Federation, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria and Jordan.

Both lectures begin at noon at the Virginia Historical Society at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and $3 for children and students. For directions, call 358-4901.

# Dietrich to speak at Parkinson's group

Susan Dietrich, coordinator of the American Parkinson's Disease Association's (APDA) Information and Referral Center of Virginia, will speak Wednesday, May 17, at the Parkinson's Support Group at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 2 p.m.

The APDA is the largest grass-roots organization for Parkinson's. The information and referral center at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville educates and supports Virginia's Parkinson's community and is situated at University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville.

The progressive disease affects about one in 250 adults, Dietrich said. There are no blood tests to determine Parkinson's. It must be clinically diagnosed and includes varying combinations of slowed movement, or bradykinesia; stiff movement, or rigidity; and tremor. Incidence increases with age.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, Dietrich has been involved with clinical trials for Parkinson's for 15 years. She will describe trials, including a current study of two medications, both already approved, for people with Parkinson's who also have depression. She also will discuss the importance of exercise.

"Exercise is the best thing," said Dietrich. "It is something people can do over which they have some control. So many things in the disease one isn't able to control, but one can have a positive effect on oneself by participating in an exercise program."

She and Dr. Laura Lee, from the university's department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, will observe the NeuroFit exercise program at RW-C.

The free support group is open to all people with Parkinson's and to their care partners. Call Rita DePew at 435-9553 for more information.

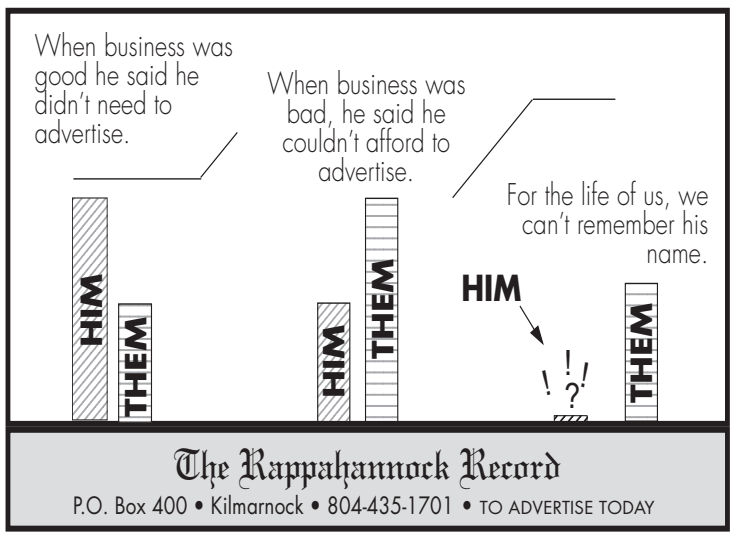
# Clubs to present musical

The Lancaster High School and Lancaster Middle School drama clubs will present their spring musical "Give My Regards to Broadway" at the LMS Theater May 25 at 6 p.m., May 26 at 9 a.m. May 27 at 7 p.m. and May 28 at 2 p.m.

The clubs have been preparing since January. The show includes George M. Cohan tunes including "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "Give My Regards to Broadway."

The story is that Dick Foster is opening a Broadway show, but has problems with money and the leading lady. The characters include Mary Collins, an actress from New Rochelle, and "Legs" Ruby, a Damon Runyon-type bookie who is on the run from the mob. When all appears lost, a financial angel appears with the money for the show and Collins gets her chance at stardom.

Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for adults and are available at LMS, or call Robin Blake at 435-1681.

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# Seniors group to meet

The Corrotoman Senior Citizens will meet Tuesday, May 16, at the Ruritan Center near Lively at 10 a.m.

Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett will be the guest speaker.

Attendees may bring a friend, a sandwich and a prize. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Bingo will be played.

Hostesses for the day will be Elsie Christopher, Fannie Clingan, Vickie Kirby and Lillian Potter.

Trips planned include Ocean City, Md., September 25-29; New England and Nova Scotia, October 7-14; Christmas in New York, November 28-30; and New Year's Eve in Myrtle Beach, December 20-January 2.

Also planned are day trips to Riverside Theater to see "The Music Man" June 7, and "Cats" in September.

To register for a trip, call Hazel Ford at 462-7895, or Fannie Clingan at 435-1713.

# Service breakfast is May 24

The Kiwanis Club of the Northern Neck will hold its annual Community Service Breakfast May 24 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock at 7:30 a.m.

The event will honor volunteers and organizations that work with the Kiwanis Club. Members of the various organizations are urged to attend.

Del. Robert Wittman will give a brief update on the General Assembly.

The fee is $7. Reservations must be received by May 17. Call Jim Evans at 435-1667.

# Simmons is RW-C's May Artist

The Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury artist for May is also its health services activity assistant. Tara Simmons has worked at RW-C three years and has been doing art since she was at Lancaster High School studying under Patricia Bates, who urged her to go to art school.

At Virginia Commonwealth University, Simmons started with a major in painting but switched to sculpture and minored in art history Her eclectic exhibit of 16 pieces includes watercolor, acrylics, dyed silk, glass, and ceramics.

"The glass piece I did in a kiln," said Simmons. "It's called glass slumping. You use a special paper used on the space shuttle to keep it from burning as it re-enters the atmosphere. The paper is commercially available.

"You cut out the designs you want, layer it to get the depth, then put it on the floor of the kiln just like you would a ceramic piece. You put the glass on top and when it melts, it goes down into the crevices of the paper creating a reverse 3-D design. It was something that was taught to us in college."

She creates graphics and drawings for websites, and with acrylics she paints crabs and herons on buoys for the Irvington Farmers' Market. Her Simmons family has been here seven generations, and crabs are a favorite motif.

"I love crabs," said Simmons. "They're so awful looking, but they have a lot of character."

# LMS plans 'hip-hoppin' spring concert

The Lancaster Middle School Spring Chorus Concert, "From Jazz to Hip-Hop," will be presented Thursday, May 18, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

The concert will feature the LMS All-School Chorus, the LMS Jazz Band and the Lancaster High School Chorus. Selections from jazz, Motown, '60s, rock and hip-hop will be presented.

## Engagements

**Wayne L. Newbill Jr. and LeRonda S. Robinson**

## *Robinson–Newbill*

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Robinson of Lancaster announce the engagement of their daughter, LeRonda S. Robinson, to Wayne L. Newbill Jr., son of Wayne Newbill Sr. and Joanne Newbill of St. Stephens Church.

The bride to be is the granddaughter of Thomas E. and Ellaween Robinson of Lancaster and Margaret Owens of Kilmarnock and the late James Owens.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ward D. Newbill of King and Queen and the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson, formerly of Champlain.

Miss Robinson is a 2006 graduate of Lancaster High School. She is employed with her parent's Cheapo Lawn Care Services of Lancaster.

Newbill is a landscaper at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington.

The wedding will be held August 26 at the Masonic Lodge in Kilmarnock at 5 p.m. The couple will reside in the Bertrand area.

Family and friends are invited by invitation only.


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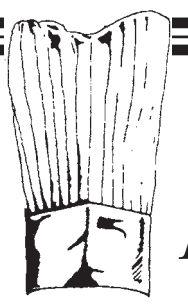
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# Middle school bands to present concerts

The public is invited to hear the Lancaster Middle School concert, symphonic and beginner bands in concert Monday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

Many good things are happening with the band program at Lancaster Middle School this year, according to band director Glen W. Burtner.

At auditions for District XV All-District Band, 10 students were selected to participate in this year's groups. In the Concert Band were Katelyn Keyser and Kristen Connelly on flute, Doug Montgomery on trumpet, Corbin Love on trombone, Chris Weber on baritone horn and Charlie Miller on tuba. The guest conductor was Chris Dunn, band director from Crestwood Middle School in Chesapeake.

Participating in the Symphonic Band were Grace Perkins on alto sax, Carol Davis on trumpet, Carolyn Shrader on French horn and Phillip Humphreys on trombone. The guest conductor was Samuel R. Hazo. He has taught in public education from kindergarten through university level. He has won many awards for his compositions and has served as guest conductor and clinician all over the world.

The threat of bad weather canceled out the second day of the event, but the students were able to learn and perform a concert on Friday night.

In March, the middle school Concert and Symphonic bands traveled to Charles City High School to participate in the Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Area Band Concert Band Festival. The Concert Band, playing grade II level music, received an Excellent rating. The Symphonic Band, playing grade III level music, received a Superior rating. Both groups received a grade of superior on the sight reading part of the festival, said Burtner.

Nineteen students were selected by audition to participate in the Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Area Band, held at Mathews High School March 17 and 18. This is the most students that LMS has ever had selected to participate in the event.

On flute were Katelyn Keyser, Katie Mitchell, Alexandra Barton and Kristen Connelly. Tiena Joyall was chosen to play clarinet, and Marina Mc Grath to play tenor sax. In the brass section, Nicole Shelton, Doug Montgomery, Carol Davis, and Zach Saunders were chosen on trumpet. Carolyn Shrader played French horn. Phillip Humphreys and Corbin Love played trombone, and Chris Weber played baritone horn. Jason Jones was selected on electric bass, and Charlie Miller and Shane Hammell were selected on tuba. Natalie Jackson was selected to play in the percussion section. The guest conductor was Gary Fagan, a middle school band director in Albemarle County and a popular composer of band music at the middle and high school levels. Grace Perkins was also selected by audition but was unable to attend.

Last weekend, the Concert and Symphonic Bands attended the Musicale Festival in Williamsburg. This is a competition festival where bands compete for first, second and third place. The concert band received a Superior Rating and won first place in their division. The Symphonic Band received a Superior Rating and won first place in their division. The Symphonic Band was awarded the Champion Trophy, which is awarded to the band with the highest rating of all the bands participating.

The middle school bands are conducted by Kenny Flester and Burtner.

The April Cruise-In attracted a variety of cars and people.

# *Cruise-In planned May 14*

The next Cruise-In sponsored by the Northern Neck Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America will be May 14 at 4 p.m. at Chesapeake Commons in Kilmarnock.

The first of seven Cruise-Ins planned for this year was held April 9. There were about 60 vehicles ranging in age from 1929 to 2006. Well over 100 people attended the event.

A 50-50 drawing was won by Herman Thompson of Callao. Other winners were Steve Lowe of Heathsville, a large pizza from Pizza Hut; Mike Burgess of Warsaw, Nick Nicholson of Callao, Marianne Disney of Kilmarnock and Paul Stosch of Warsaw each won a buffet meal from KFC. Al Disney of Kilmarnock won a four-wheel balancing and rotation package from Big L Tire.

The club thanks Mike Christopher of Chesapeake Commons, Carroll Lee Ashburn of the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce, KFC, Big L Tire, Pizza Hut and McGinnes Chevrolet-Buick for their support, said Jack Ashburn. "The support of these fine people and businesses has made this event a success and a great asset to the Town of Kilmarnock and we urge you to support them," he added.

To lend support, call Ashburn at 435-6171, or Jim Francis at 436-1154.

# Elegba to perform

Arts Alive, Inc. will present the Elegba Folklore Society Inc. as the final performance of the 2005-06 season series May 12 at 7 p.m. at the W. T. Robinson/Sture G. Olsson Civic Auditorium and Fine Arts Center in West Point. The program will feature African dance, music, and the oral tradition.

Also on May 12, Arts Alive will offer a free lecture, "The Works of Romare Bearden: Collage, Color and Culture" at 6 p.m. in the art room. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts community affairs manager Rubie Britt-Height will discuss Romare Bearden and his development as an artist.

Call 843-3475 to reserve tickets, or stop by the C&F Bank or Tri Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce in West Point to pick up tickets in advance. Single ticket performance prices for the Elegba Folklore Society Inc. are $23 for adults, $18 for seniors and $10 for students.

# LHS bands to present Mardi Gras concert, dinner

The community is invited to hear the bands of Lancaster High School and enjoy an evening of entertainment at a Mardi Gras Spring Concert and Dinner May 19 and 20. The event will be held at Lancaster High School. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children under 12.

Tickets include a Mardi Gras dinner including Cajun or barbecue chicken, rice, salad, veggies, rolls and homemade bread pudding. The LHS freshmen, concert and symphonic bands will perform Mardi Gras theme music. "You will be transported to New Orleans with beautiful decorations, wonderful food, and excellent music," said band director Robbie Spiers. "What a way to spend an evening."

This is an ongoing tradition for the LHS Band, and last year's Red Devil Hoe Down Spring Dinner and Concert sold out both nights, he said.

"I would also like to give a special invitation to alumni band members and their families who were the "stars" of the show in the past," said Spiers. "I would love to see the old members back again."

Tickets are available at the high school, or by calling the Lancaster High School Band Room at 462-0697, or Spiers at home at 435-6580.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the dinner and show begin at 6:30 p.m.

# *American Red Cross shifts into adventure*

The American Red Cross and Greenbrier Chrysler-Jeep, part of the Southern Hospitality Auto Group, recently announced the "Roll With It" campaign.

Every time one signs in to give blood or platelets to the Red Cross from May 1 through October 1, they will automatically register to win a 2006 red Jeep Liberty, courtesy of Greenbrier Chrysler-Jeep in Chesapeake.

Because folks can give blood every 56 days, three specially designed Jeep themed shirts in a variety of colors will be given away.

There will be special promotions and blood drives scheduled throughout the summer where donors can double their chances of winning.

On October 18, 2006, a winner will be drawn from the Mid-Atlantic Region's blood drive sign-in sheets.

For the past five years, the Red Cross has been forced to issue an emergency appeal for blood during the critical summer months due to a lack of donations.

The simple act of donating blood can make a life-saving difference for someone battling cancer, a patient in need of surgery, an accident victim and many others.

To give, one must be 17 years of age or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and experience good health. For more information on blood donation, visit www.weneedblood.org, or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.


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# VIMS to host annual Marine Science Day

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will host the fourth annual Marine Science Day, rain or shine.

The public may visit one of the nation's leading research and education facilities with a focus on estuaries and the coastal ocean. Scientists will host exhibits and laboratory tours, speak with visitors of all ages about projects in the Chesapeake Bay and around the world.

Opportunities for memorable learning experiences are plentiful for children. Collecting and observing aquatic animals from the York River, a Junior Seafood Chef activity, "treasure hunting" with GPS units, sitting in on 10-minute science talks, and creating sea life prints and educational crafts are all available for children of various ages.

Marine Science Day seafood cooking demonstrations provide information on bay species along with a recipe and tasting. This year's demo will be "Serving up Cownose Rays."

Art will take center stage at 11 a.m. when local groups and individuals march in the Paper Parade of Marine Life wearing costumes they've created with paper maché. Bob Zentz, performer of maritime songs and stories, will accompany the parade and deliver two entertaining performances in a river-side tent.

Visitors may also choose to tour VIMS' Teaching Marsh, a one-acre restored wetland that creates a wonderful setting for leaning the ecological importance of tidal and non-tidal marshes. The shellfish hatchery will share current breeding and genetics research and the processes used in growing oysters. Boarding a converted landing craft to speak with scientists and vessel operations personnel will give the public a chance to see the challenges of near-shore research.

Visitors can learn about sea grass restoration efforts; water quality; real-time buoy data; critters that live in the mud, on oyster reefs, and seagrass; and critters that can't be seen at all with the human eye. Information on the status of blue crabs, oysters, and diseases in striped bass will be available, along with information on fish-tagging programs, computer modeling of the bay's food web, and trawl surveys. Visitors can speak with researchers just back from Antarctica or from a local tributary.

There is no charge for admission or parking. Marine Science Day 2006 is sponsored by Chesapeake Bank, Dominion, Ferguson, The Owens Foundation, Wanchese Fish Company, John and Julie Dayton, Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal, Ken Houtz Chevrolet-Buick, Kanawha Land Company, Southside Bank and the York Chapter Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

For additional information, call 804-684-7846.

Jane Langloh (left) receives the "Volunteer of the Year Award" from board president Marsha Sitnik.

# Museum honors its volunteers

The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library board of directors held a luncheon for their volunteers recently at Rappahonnock Westminster-Canterbury. Board president Marsha Sitnik gave a presentation emphasizing the fun to be had, friendships gained and value of volunteers.

The Mary Ball has a wealth of archival material both in its museum and in its extensive genealogy library, she said. Many volunteers assist in the herb garden, gift shop, library, provide tours, as well as help with exhibits and programs.

A special award was given to longtime volunteer, and past secretary of the board, Marguerite "Dixie" McCaig. McCaig is well known locally as an historical interpreter. She chaired the museum collections committee, and served as library liaison and researcher.

Jane Langloh was honored with the "Volunteer of the Year Award." A retired nurse, Langloh serves as co-chairman of the library. Many seeking help with their family genealogy have been assisted by Langloh at the museum library. A gourmet cookie baker, she has provided a wide variety of cookies for museum members and guests at recent exhibit openings.

Marguerite "Dixie" McCaig

In their absence, Margaret Hill and Don Phillips were also awarded special recognition as Mary Ball Washington volunteers.

For museum membership information, or to become a volunteer, call the museum at 462-7280.

## Answers on Aging

**I would like to give my two children and three grandchildren cash gifts from my estate. How much can be set aside for gifting each year? Are there any restrictions I should be aware of?**

You can give cash gifts of up to $11,000 as an individual, or $22,000 as a couple, every year to an unlimited number of children, grandchildren, and their heirs without having to pay any gift taxes from your estate.

The person who receives the gift is not required to pay income tax on the gift. If the gift exceeds the annual gift tax exclusion, there will be no tax payable until total lifetime taxable gifts exceed $1,000,000. Any such taxable gifts will reduce the real estate tax exemption available at death dollar for dollar.

With the creation of a new law, effective February 7, 2006, if you were to gift all of your money and needed to apply for Medicaid to pay for long-term care, the state would "look back" 60 months or five years to calculate the amount of gifts you have given and advise you as to how many months you would be ineligible for Medicaid coverage.

An experienced elder law attorney or estate planning attorney can help safeguard you when providing gifts to your loved ones. To locate an attorney in your community, visit www.seniornavigator.org and type in the topic "Attorney" and your ZIP Code.


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# JEWELRY FACTS

BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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# Planning process is outlined for Rotarians

Don McCann, marine surveyor, chairman of the Lancaster school board and vice chairman of the Lancaster planning commission, visited the Northern Neck Rotary Club May 3.

McCann's presentation outlined the background and process involved in the development of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and covers a scope of issues likely to face political jurisdictions in the future. Some of the issues and functions of the plan include: a statement of county policy; a guide to the board of supervisors; public intent; communication to developers; educational tool; and a legal document showing foundation for decisions. The plan incorporates land usage, agricultural and production of food and fiber, trends, natural resources, geographic factors, employment, public transportation, need for affordable housing, and flood as well as a myriad of other factors defining the commerce and habitability of the area.

The commission devises and presents the plan as an advisory to the board. The commission has no decision-making authority and the plan is subject to adoption or rejection by the board, according to McCann. For instance, the issue of access to the water is an issue coming before the commission for which a recommendation was made to the board. The plan presented was set aside by the Board of Supervisors.

McCann related that the commission has been accused of operating in a closed door environment, but pointed out repeated efforts to obtain community involvement through meetings and hearings. Hearings, for example, were recently held in each magistrate district in the county with limited public attendance. Topics of concern coming out of the hearings included: maintaining the rural nature of the county, preservation of natural resources, public access, mix of housing, economic development, expand opportunities for employment and clear-cutting ordinance.

The issue of clear-cutting of forests seems to be at the top of the sensitivity index at present due to recent clearings along well-traveled roads in the county. The commission has become an arbitrator receiving input from the various camps. On the one hand, property rights in a rural area where timber farming is a traditional method of commerce verses those who have aesthetic interests and are not use to the temporary eyesore that results from clear-cutting. This is but one of the conflicting public concerns of residents that comes with the inevitable development of the area according to McCann.

The comprehensive plan is now outdated and is in the process of review by the commission. Where and how to grow becomes the elusive issue faced by the commission. DC Consulting Firm, Land Design Inc. has been retained to assist in the process.

McCann said that the need for public input cannot be underemphasized as the plan must include the wishes of the community. Some 12,000 additional household units are possible in the county according to a study recently conducted by McCann. Changes and improvements in infrastructure, such as sewer improvements, may dramatically change this possibility.

Growth will occur.

The comprehensive plan will become an important tool for all to use as a guide to facilitate the orderly accommodations that will be required to respond to future demands.

The Northern Neck Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays at Lee's Restaurant on Main Street in Kilmarnock at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and programs on important issues.

# Author recreates 1608 Chesapeake Bay voyage

Chesapeake Bay naturalist and author Susan Schmidt retraced Captain John Smith's 1608 voyage of discovery around Chesapeake Bay and wrote up what she found, published in March by Johns Hopkins Press, *Landfall Along the Chesapeake: In the Wake of Captain John Smith*.

She will share these experiences with neighbors and communities May 19 through 21.

Schmidt's lecture and book blend tales of Smith's adventures, the Jamestown experience, bay ecological history, Native Americans then and now and her observations during her 100-day, 2,500-mile expedition on her 22-foot boat.

Susan Schmidt

Her daily ship's log weaves history and science, weather and seamanship. On each river and creek she quotes Smith's journals on matching wits with Powhatan, meeting Pocahontas, surviving thunderstorms, ambush and a stingray barb.

At anchor on secluded waters, Schmidt observes swans and dragonflies, lightning and sunsets; in port she interviews colorful characters and working watermen about blue crabs and oysters. Scientists explain the bay's nitrogen overload, water-level rise, anoxia, Pfiesteria, Kepone and the Ghost Fleet. Native American chiefs discuss their heritage.

Ashore, Schmidt walks on her ancestor's farm, now a military chemical dump, and climbs a grandfather's lighthouse. Despite her despair at bad air quality and diminished fisheries, and her dread of high wind and rough seas, Schmidt expresses gratitude for small-town hospitality and the navigation skills her father taught her.

Schmidt will meet the public to sign books on May 19, at noon at The Supply Room in Hanover Shopping Center in Ashland and at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble-Short Pump in Richmond. She will present lectures May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Rappahannock River Yacht Club in Irvington; and May 21 at 2:30 p.m. at Yorktown Historical Museum in Yorktown and at 5:30 p.m. at the College of William and Mary Bookstore in Merchants Square in Williamsburg.


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Lancaster's Lucy McCann scrambles safely back to third after being caught in a rundown by the Indians during a varsity game last Tuesday.

# Lady Devils hang in there for a win

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Abby Robbins of Lancaster slides into third during a varsity game against Northumberland last week.

Brandy Gilbert scored the tying run and Kori George the game-winner last Tuesday as Lancaster's varsity Lady Devils came from behind to edge Northumberland, 5-4, in a Northern Neck District softball game.

Lancaster put together a three-run rally in its last at-bat to improve to 1-3 in the district and 6-8 overall.

Natalie Stickel reached base on an error to lead off in the bottom of the seventh. Stickel got out, but Sarah Caudle reached first on a fielder's choice and moved around on a walk to Gilbert.

Kori George, who batted 2-for-4 with a run and RBI, scored Caudle with a single and Gilbert tied the game by stealing home on a wild pitch. George crossed home for the game winner when the NHS catcher dropped the ball on a fielder's choice.

"I was really proud of them for not giving up," said LHS coach Dave Zeiler. "We gave up three runs in the top of the seventh but kept fighting."

Tiffany Lee was the winning pitcher. She gave up six hits, walked two and struck out nine. At bat, she went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Madison Smith batted 2-for-4 with a run and RBI and Caudle was 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Lee and Gilbert combined on the mound last Monday for a 14-3 win over West Point.

Gilbert got the win, pitching four innings without giving up a hit or walk. She struck out four. Lee went three innings to allow two hits, walked three and fan five batters.

At the plate, the Devils got hits from all but two batters with Madison Smith leading the pack.

Smith was 3-for-5 with a run and two RBI. Caudle was 2-for-3 with two walks to score three times, while Lee was 1-for-3 with two walks for two runs scored and an RBI.

Gilbert batted 1-for-3 and drew three walks for two runs and an RBI and Lucy McCann was 1-for-1 with four walks for two runs and an RBI.

The Lady Devils will host Washington & Lee today (May 11) and travel to Rappahannock Tuesday, May 16. They wind up regular season play Thursday, May 18, at Northumberland.

## Scoreboard

**Varsity baseball**
Northumberland 12, Lancaster 1
West Point 7, Lancaster 2

**Varsity softball**
Lancaster 5, Northumberland 4
Lancaster 14, West Point 3

**JV softball**
Lancaster 13, Northumberland 2
Lancaster 11, West Point 1

**Varsity soccer**
Lancaster 4, Northumberland 3
Lancaster 4, Middlesex 2

**JV soccer**
Middlesex 2, Lancaster 0

## Upcoming Games

**Varsity baseball/softball**
May 11:
Northumberland at Essex
W&L at Lancaster
May 16:
Rappahannock at Lancaster
Northumberland at W&L
May 18:
Lancaster at Northumberland

**JV baseball/softball**
May 11:
Essex at Northumberland
Lancaster at W&L
May 16:
W&L at Northumberland
May 18:
Northumberland at Lancaster

**Soccer**
(JV 5:30 p.m.; varsity 7 p.m.)
May 12:
Northumberland at Essex
W&L at Lancaster
May 15:
Northumberland at W&L
Rappahannock at Lancaster
May 16:
Middlesex at Lancaster
May 18:
Lancaster at W&L

**Lancaster County Little League**
**Minor league softball**
May 9:
Lancaster at Mathews (6:30 p.m.)
May 13:
Lancaster at Mathews (10 a.m.)
May 16:
Lancaster at Middlesex (6:30 p.m.)

## Pit Stop

**Virginia Motor Speedway**
**May 6 results:**
No races.

**May 13 upcoming races:**
*(VMS is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda. Pit gates open at 3 p.m..; spectator gates open at 4 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).

Lancaster's Tim Blake scoops up a grounder at third and checks the Northumberland runner before throwing to first during a varsity game last Tuesday.

# Indians trample Devils, 12-1

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Lancaster coach Collin Rice hopes the second round of Northern Neck District play his team starts this week is better than its first.

The varsity Devils lost their third district baseball game last week to fall to 1-3 in the league and 5-9 overall.

Lancaster makes its second run through the district beginning this week and has four games remaining before the tournament starts May 23.

Right now, the Devils will just barely make the tourney cut as the fourth-place team. Essex and Rappahannock are in a fight for first and the Indians are in third. Washington & Lee is in fifth place and is the only team LHS has defeated.

The Indians had no trouble getting by the Devils last week, routing Lancaster 12-1 at Dreamfields.

James Jackson and Adam Benson combined on the mound with Jackson going 4 1/3 innings with two walks, four strikeouts and six allowed hits. Benson put in 2 2/3 innings of work with two strikeouts, one walk and eight allowed hits.

Lancaster scored its only run in the first inning after Tim Blake was hit by a pitch with two outs. Jonathan George's single moved Blake to third to put him in scoring position for an RBI single by Jonathan Frith.

Frith went 2-for-3 with an RBI to lead the offense. Michael Saunders was 2-for-4, George went 2-for-3 and Jackson batted 1-for-2.

Northumberland rallied in the fourth inning, batting through the lineup and beyond; 13 went to the plate for 10 hits and nine runs.

West Point opened big last Monday, scoring five runs in the first inning en route to a 7-2 win over Lancaster.

Frith, the starting pitcher for LHS, came off after 1 2/3 innings. He allowed three hits and walked two. Unfortunately, the defensive support wasn't there with the Devils making three fielding errors while Frith was on the mound.

Jonathan Somers finished, giving up two hits, walking three and striking out four in 6 1/3 innings.

"Our pitching rotation has been hurting since we lost William [Saunders] before the Mathews' game," said Rice.

Saunders is likely out as a pitcher for the season with a shoulder injury, but is able to fill in as designated hitter.

M. Saunders led Lancaster's offense against the Pointers. He went 3-for-4 with a run scored. J. Somers batted 2-for-3 with an RBI and Josh Jett was 1-for-2 with a run.

The Devils have four games left before the district tournament begins on May 23. They host Washington & Lee today (May 11) and Rappahannock on Tuesday, May 16.

# Red Devils kick up two wins

The varsity Red Devils edged rival Northumberland, 4-3, last Monday to remain undefeated in Northern Neck District soccer.

Lancaster got a hat trick from Billy Jackson and out-shot the Indians 21-9. The Devils improved to 3-0 in the district and 5-3 overall with two weeks remaining in regular season play.

Jackson scored unassisted about 10 minutes into the game, then stuck in a penalty kick after being tripped in the box with 20 minutes to play to give the Devils a 2-1 lead at the half.

The Indians tied the contest at 2-2 early in the second period before Jacob Jackson scored on a penalty kick for another go-ahead goal for the Devils. Northumberland locked the match at 3-3 with 15 minutes to play, but B. Jackson sealed the win for LHS, sticking in his second PK and his third goal of the night with 10 minutes remaining.

In goal for LHS, Daniel Robertson had six saves.

B. Jackson scored two first-half goals to give Lancaster a 3-2 lead and the Devils shut down Middlesex's offense in the second half last Wednesday as LHS beat the Chargers, 4-2, in a regional game.

J. Jackson also scored for the Devils in the first half and B. Jackson capped the scoring with the lone goal in the second half.

Lancaster managed the win despite having three starters out with injuries, including Robertson. Fill-in goalkeeper Trevor Winnstanley made 10 saves.

Junior Varsity

Middlesex shut out the JV Red Devils last week, 2-0.

The Chargers scored both goals in the second half.

Sam Frere had nine saves in goal for the Devils, who are 1-7 overall and 1-2 in the district.

Both the JV and varsity squads will be in action tomorrow night (May 12) when Lancaster hosts Washington & Lee.

# Lancaster track teams dominate district quad

Lancaster's boys outscored their toughest competition by 42 points last Wednesday as the Devils' track and field team beat Washington & Lee, Northumberland and Rapppahannock in a Northern Neck District quad.

The Devils won six events and took four out of five places in two separate field events to score 100 points. Washington & Lee was the next best team with 58 points, while Northumberland finished in third with 48 and Rappahannock scored only two.

Lancaster had a dual victory with the girls' team scoring 102 points to win that meet. Washington & Lee was the runner-up with 77 points, Northumberland was third with 32 and Rappahannock was fourth with just three points.

The Lady Devils won eight events en route to the victory.

In the boys' meet, Kenny Wilson, Jamie Veney and Quinton Henderson led Lancaster's scorers with Wilson winning the shot put (45'10") and taking second in the discus (127'5").

Henderson also excelled in the field, winning the long jump (19'8") and placing second in the triple jump (37'1"). On the track, he was the runner-up in the 400-meter in 59.6.

Veney won the triple jump by clearing 40'6" and came in second in the 100-meter dash in 11.53, just behind winner and teammate Nick Beale in 11.5.

Rakeem Laws beat out the competition in the discus throw (127'5") and came in fifth in the shot put (37'5").

The Devils nearly swept two events, taking first through fourth places in the discus throw and triple jump. Laws was first, Wilson second, Gary Wardlaw third (104' 6 1/2") and Andre Lee fourth (99'8 1/2") in the discus throw. Veney and Henderson finished first and second respectively in the triple jump while the Beale brothers, Nick and Rodney, took third and fourth.

Lancaster also secured three spots in the 800-meter run with Aaron Holzbach winning the race in 2:18.1, Brett Jarvis finishing third in 2:21.5 and Clinton Bennett taking fourth in 2:21.9.

Linn Baumgardt, Lisa Faulkner and Tabitha Rinehart won two events each as the top scorers for the LHS girls' team.

Baumgardt led the jumpers, winning the long (13'7") and triple (27'6) jumps. She also took second in the high jump, clearing 4'6".

Rinehart also cleared 4'6" to win the high jump and finished the 110-meter high hurdle race in 19.2 to win that event.

Faulkner led the distance runners, winning the mile in 6:20.1 and the two-mile in 14:03. Lancaster's Erica Patton took third in both of those races with a 6:43.9 in the 1600 and a 15:14 in the 3200.

Tonesha Scruggs of Lancaster won the 800-meter run in 2:58.8 and was followed across the finish line by teammate Brianne Oltermann. Oltermann took second in the 800 (3:03.3) and second in the 300-meter hurdles (1:03).

Lancaster's Ashley Reese was the runner-up in both the shot put (25'5") and the discus (84'10"), while Tatiana Sanders placed third in three events including the triple jump (26'3"), the long jump (12'7 1/2") and the 110-meter high hurdles (20.2).

# Derby fleet expected to fill by tourney time

Smith Point Sea Rescue president Andy Kauders last week indicated that tournament officials have high expectations that the maximum of 300 boats for the 23rd annual Reedville Bluefish Derby will be reached before the June 8 deadline.

The maximum was lowered from 500 boats to make a more manageable and safe tournament for everyone, he said.

The tournament will be held June 9 and 10 at Buzzards Point Marina near Reedville. Eligible species which will qualify for over $32,000 in cash and prizes are bluefish, striped bass and croaker.

Tournament Director Roger Wilkins attributes the early response to the inclusion of croaker. He said that many fishermen feel that even if the weather keeps them from going to their favorite deep water spot, they can still save the day by fishing for croaker in more sheltered waters.

The Fish Fry will be back on Saturday evening at Buzzards Point Marina. The fish fry dinner will be followed by dancing with Casper. Friday night's entertainment will be by Leggz.

To register for the tournament, visit www.reedvillebluefish-derby.com, or call Roger Wilkins at Jett's Hardware in Reedville at 453-5325.

## ✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

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

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fri** | **5/12** | Moonset | 5:17 | Low | 6:10 | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunrise | 5:59 | High | 11:48 | 1.3′ |
| | | Moonrise | **7:53** | Low | **6:02** | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:06** | | | |
| **Sat** | **5/13** | Moonset | 5:48 | High | 12:06 | 1.7′ |
| | | Sunrise | 5:58 | Low | 6:51 | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:07** | High | **12:27** | 1.3′ |
| Full - 2:50 | | Moonrise | **9:01** | Low | **6:41** | 0.1′ |
| **Sun** | **5/14** | Sunrise | 5:57 | High | 12:46 | 1.7′ |
| | | Moonset | 6:27 | Low | 7:33 | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:07** | High | **1:07** | 1.3′ |
| | | Moonrise | **10:08** | Low | **7:21** | 0.1′ |
| **Mon** | **5/15** | Sunrise | 5:56 | High | 1:28 | 1.7′ |
| | | Moonset | 7:15 | Low | 8:16 | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:08** | High | **1:49** | 1.3′ |
| | | Moonrise | **11:12** | Low | **8:04** | 0.1′ |
| **Tue** | **5/16** | Sunrise | 5:55 | High | 2:12 | 1.7′ |
| | | Moonset | 8:14 | Low | 9:01 | 0.1′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:09** | High | **2:34** | 1.3′ |
| | | | | Low | **8:51** | 0.1′ |
| **Wed** | **5/17** | Moonrise | 12:08 | High | 3:00 | 1.7′ |
| | | Sunrise | 5:55 | Low | 9:50 | 0.1′ |
| | | Moonset | 9:21 | High | **3:24** | 1.3′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:10** | Low | **9:44** | 0.1′ |
| **Thu** | **5/18** | Moonrise | 12:55 | High | 3:53 | 1.6′ |
| | | Sunrise | 5:54 | Low | 10:41 | 0.1′ |
| | | Moonset | 10:33 | High | **4:19** | 1.3′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:11** | Low | **10:43** | 0.1′ |
| **Fri** | **5/19** | Moonrise | 1:34 | High | 4:50 | 1.6′ |
| | | Sunrise | 5:53 | Low | 11:35 | 0.1′ |
| | | Moonset | 11:46 | High | **5:19** | 1.4′ |
| | | Sunset | **8:12** | Low | **11:48** | 0.2′ |

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

PM times are in **boldface type**.
Unusually high & low tides are also in **boldface**.
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Lancaster pitcher Nicole Crowther (left) didn't allow a hit and struck out four in two innings against Montross in middle school softball last week.

From left, members of the Lancaster Middle School softball team are (first row) Rachel Haywood and Danielle Shelton; (next row) Tiena Joyal, Katie Lackert, Desiree Selph, Shamika Johnson and Natalie Jackson; (next row) assistant coach Amy Crowther, Ashley Rose, Nicole Crowther, Gina Shores, Ammoni Roane, Carol Davis and coach Gerry Lee.

# *Lancaster Middle School softball team is 6-6*

Daniel Shelton and Nicole Crowther had three hits each last week to lead Lancaster Middle School's softball team to a 15-2 win over Montross.

Shelton also had three RBI and Crowther recorded two runs batted in.

Desiree Selph and Shamika Johnson had two hits and two RBI each, while Ashley Rose and Katie Lackert both had a hit and RBI.

Crowther was the winning pitcher, putting in two innings of work with four strikeouts and no allowed hits. Closer Rachel Haywood didn't give up a hit and fanned seven batters in three innings.

Haywood has three wins on the season against Peasley, Northumberland and Montross. Crowther has wins over Montross and Northumberland.

With a 6-6 record, the Lady Devils lost twice to Grafton and once each to Peasley, Queens Lake, Toano and Northumberland.

# LMS posts 5-1 district record

Grafton defeated York, 12-2, last Monday to win a Lancaster Middle School tournament that spanned two weeks.

The baseball/softball tournament began April 15 at Dreamfields, but was delayed because of rain and hail. The championship game was moved to York County.

Former New York Yankee pitcher Jim Coates threw out the first pitch to open the five-team lineup that included Peasley, York, Grafton, Lancaster Middle and Lancaster High's junior varsity team. The JV Devils filled in for absent teams from Page and Northumberland.

The JV squad defeated Peasley, 4-1, in the first round and moved through the winners' bracket by beating Grafton, 3-1, and York, 5-2. The JV Devils conceded their spot in the championship game to York.

Lancaster Middle dropped its first round game, 3-1, to Peasley then lost, 14-1, to York.

Grafton slaughter-ruled Peasley by 12 runs to earn a berth in the tournament final against York.

Peasley won the Sportsmanship award and finished third overall.

Tournament director Billy Barrack said the event, despite it's rain delay, was a fund-raising success and thanked sponsors Jim Holmes, Morning Star Builders, Mike and Linda Weber, Rhonda Self and Christie Dawson. Dawson helped to organize concession stand volunteers, Robin Blake announced the games and Carroll Lee Ashburn assigned volunteer umpires.

In another middle school tournament, Lancaster went 1-2 at the Tangle with Toana in Williamsburg last Saturday. Participating teams included Toano, St. Christopher's, Queens Lake, Northumberland, James Blair, Page, York and Lancaster.

James Blair scored seven runs in the fourth inning to defeat Lancaster, 13-5, in the first round. York beat Lancaster, 8-3, before LMS came back to win its final game, 5-1, over Queens Lake. Josh Pittman got the win. Hitters for Lancaster were Pittman, Will Barrack, Ryan Reynolds, Sam Brockman, Tiko Henderson and Ty Laws.

In another game last week, Lancaster had a slaughter-rule win over the Montross Eagles in LMS's last home game.

Alex Williams started on the mound and Chris Buzzell had the win.

At the plate, Buzzell went 3-for-3, Barrack was 2-for-3 and Colie Haydon was 2-for-2. Other offensive leaders were Robert Crowther, Justin Gordon, Shawn Lee, Chris Weber and Ryan Hudson.

The LMS Northern Neck District record is 5-1.

# Harvey and Shelton duo pack punch in JV softball

Tyesha Harvey hit a three-run homer and Nicole Shelton pitched five innings of no-hit softball last week as the JV Lady Devils picked up a pair of wins.

Lancaster improves to 10-1 overall and 3-1 in the Northern Neck District.

The Lady Devils routed West Point, 11-1, last Monday in a regional contest, then outscored rival Northumberland by 11 runs last Tuesday for a 13-2 district victory.

Takeia Jones picked up the win against the Indians, retiring 16 batters at the plate, allowing five hits and walking only one.

Lancaster had eight hits and drew nine walks in the outing with Harvey and Brianna Ritchie leading the offense. Harvey went 2-for-3 with a run scored and three RBI off a home run. Ritchie was 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

Kimberly Crockett batted 1-for-3 and Shelton was 1-for-4. Both girls scored twice. Tiffany Koscienski also scored twice and Jones crossed the plate three times.

Shelton put two runners on base on balls to give up a run, but didn't allow a hit and struck out seven batters to lead Lancaster over the Pointers.

At bat for the Devils, Crockett

*(continued on page A12)*

# Sports Shorts

### ■ River Ride

On June 3, the Northern Neck Boat and Bike show will be held at Naylor's Beach to benefit the Richmond County Family YM CA.

The gate fee is $5 per vehicle. Prizes will be available in multiple categories. For a vendor or dealer application, call 333-4117.

### ■ Boating course

On May 20, the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron will offer Boat Virginia from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville.

In recognition of National Safe Boating Week, the course will be presented free of charge. Call Twy Williams at 529-5093, or Chris Wynkoop at 462-5137 to register.

### ■ Bridge lessons

A follow-on course of six sessions will be held for those who attended Beginning Bridge Lessons and anyone who wishes to brush up on basic bidding and play of the hand.

The sessions will be held Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of Lancaster Clubhouse starting May 16. The cost for the sessions will be $36. To enroll, call Betty Thornton at 462-0742, or come on May 16.

### ■ 3-on-3 tourney

The Middlesex High School Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Charger basketball program will co-sponsor the "One Way to Play 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament" beginning at 9 a.m. June 10 at Middlesex High School in Saluda. Trophies will be awarded in the following three divisions: open; 35 and over; and 13 and under.

Teams are urged to include at least 4 players and each participant will receive a t-shirt. The entry fee is $50 per team. Proceeds will go to the Middlesex FCA and the MHS basketball program. To register, call Neil Bailey at 776-7627, or George Morris at 758-8383; or email nbailey@mcps.k12.va.us, or grmorris@mhs.mcps.k12.va.us. Include names of all participants, shirt sizes and in which division a team will participate.

### ■ Lukemia cup

The 8th Annual Leukemia Cup season gets under way this week with a Kayak Tour of Wilton Creek and the Junior Challenge Races at Christchurch School, both on Saturday, May 13.

For information, visit www.leukemiacup.org/va, or call 800-766-0797.

# Little League Report

### Minor Girls

The Mathews Angels edged the Lancaster Fireballs, 6-5, last Friday in a minor league softball game.

Cassie Haydon started on the mound for Lancaster, striking out three and walking two in two innings. Reliever Kelsey Clarke walked four and struck out two in four innings.

Emily Lux had a hit and RBI and Haydon had two hits to lead Lancaster's offense.

Defensively, Micaela Pittman and Haydon led the Fireballs. Pittman ended the first inning with a catch at second and a throw to first for the third out, while Haydon made the play to end Mathews' second at-bat.

The Fireballs return to Mathews this Saturday, May 13, for a 10 a.m. game against the Braves.

# Prime Tyme basketball camp to begin June 19

The Northumberland Family YMCA will hold Prime Tyme developmental basketball camp 2006 June 19 through 23.

Prime Tyme was established in 1991 to develop a reasonably priced, accessible and high quality basketball camp for youth ages 5 to 18 in the Northern Neck.

The basic program includes fundamental stations in the mornings, lunch, contests for trophies and games. Camp days will begin a 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Early arrival service will begin at 8 a.m.

Girls ages 5 to 10 and boys ages 5 to 9 will meet at Northumberland Elementary School at Claraville. Boys ages 10 to 13, girls ages 11 to 18 and boys ages 13 to 18 will meet at Northumberland High School in Heathsville. Team experience is not required.

Tuition is $65 per youth prior to June 1 and $80 per youth after June 1. A $5 discount will apply to each additional immediate family member.

# Club Golf

### Quinton Oaks Ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association on May 3 played a "Skins" tournament.

Ten birdies were carded: two by Carol Reese and one each by Cheryl Putt, Joan Frie, Betty Hall, Kay Miler, Judy Wise, Bettye Garner, Terri Sarori and Maggie Dennett.

Reese, Dennett and Sara Goodwyn each had a chip-in. Putt and Linda Dennis shared the low putts honor for the day.

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association on May 1 played a low net tournament at Village Green in Callao. Winners were first, Darlene Bean; second, Dennett; third, (tie) Lorraine Holley and Mille Dickens; fifth, Carol Uhfelder; and sixth, Dennis.

Reeese hit closest to the pin on hole 3; Sartori on hole 14. Goodwyn was first in low putts; Dennis, second.

### Piankatank River Ladies

The Piankatank River Ladies Golf Association on May 4 played a blind nine. First flight winners were Carol Lloyd (38) and Lindy Hatch (38).

Second flight winners were Karen Gorin, (45) Pat Olsen (48), Sheila Lia (48), Barb Keefe. (480.Third flight winners were Vivan Shackleford (43) and Ann Stanley. Flight four winners were Darlene Cumberland (48) and Patty Rosenberg (50).

### ICYCC men

The Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club men's mid-week winners were Buddy Stone, Ned Crocket and Dick Orosz.

Mixed scramble winners were first, Turner Williamson, Judge Dixon Foster, Dr. Broaddus Gravat (65); and second (tie) Les Kilduff, Matt Ficklin, Lois Spence and Clifford Lucas, and Bill Gibbs, Randy Thompson, Jim Georgiadis and Ellie Davis.

### ICYCC 18-holers

The Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club 18-holers on May 2 played a round of best ball of threesome. Winners were first, Molly Gatchell, Nancy Galloway and Harriet Baggett; second, Nancy Monroe, Jeanne Kenny and Vivian Graham; and third, Linda Price and Mickey Kirby,

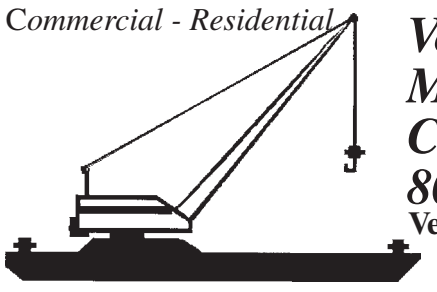
Ladies posting birdies for the month of April include Barbara Hope on holes 2 and 4, Lori Richardson on hole 2, Seale George on hole 14, Muffin Fitzpatrick on hole 8 and Audrey Saunders on hole 17.

### Tartan Golf Club

In recent member/member men's action at the Tartan Golf Club, Welby Saunders and Scotty George were low gross winners amd Don Holt and Cruger Ragland were second. Hal Muller and Dick Huffman were low net winners and Chappy Wake and Charles Talley were second.

In women's action, Isabelle Buch and Barbara Armfield were low gross winners and Lynda Muller and Nancy Sturm were low net winners.

In Sunday twilight play, Ron and Ann Silver tied for first with Dick and Peggy Sevila. Hal and Lynday Muller were third.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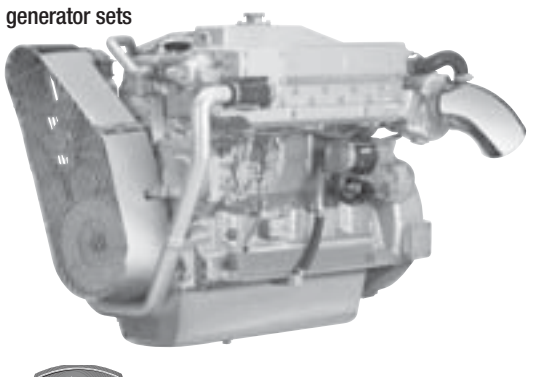
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# Safety checks to be offered at Yankee Point Marina

The boating season begins with washing, waxing and mechanical tune-ups. It should also include a Vessel Safety Check, says the U.S. Coast Guard.

Boaters can have the check done May 20 at Yankee Point Marina on Myer Creek just off the Corrotoman. Examiners from CG Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock will be available at the marina from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are not required.

The Vessel Safety Check is a complimentary boat inspection conducted by members of the auxiliary and other organizations, confirming that it meets both federal and state requirements for safety.

**Mike Sachen (right) of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 completes a Vessel Safety Check for M.J. Chewning on her boat Carmarann in Weems.**

No citations are issued and the results of the safety check are not reported to any enforcement agency. A decal is awarded to display if the vessel has passed the examination.

The inspection will include items such as life jackets, registration, navigation lights, fire extinguishers, distress signals and required sound signaling devices.

All of these items are currently required by state and federal laws and, if missing or non-operating, can result in a citation if your vessel is inspected by the Coast Guard or other law enforcement officers.

The Vessel Safety Check gives you a risk-free way to check that you meet the legal minimums and to potentially avoid a citation later. It also leads to a safer boating experience for your family and friends.

Boaters can call CG Auxiliary Vessel Examiner Jim Wroth at 435-0376 to schedule a vessel safety check at any time.

## *Seahorse sailors host regatta*

**The Christchurch School sailing team hosted a Virginia Interscholastic Sailing Association regatta April 29. Poquoson High School was first; Christchurch, second; Kecoughtan, third; Maury, fourth; Norfolk Collegiate, fifth; St. Christopher's School, sixth; and Smithfield, seventh.**

## *Historian visits power squadron*

**Civil War historian and director of the Virginia War Museum, John Quarstein, discussed the battle of the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia at the April meeting of the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron in Wicomico Parish Episcopal Church. From left are Quarstein autographing books for Mike Egerer, Twy Williams and Bette Sowers. To participate in NNSPS programs, call Chris Wynkoop at 462-5137, or visit chrismaya@toast.net.**

## *24 boaters complete course*

Some 24 boaters improved their skills in boat handling and operations, navigation, safety equipment and waterway regulations by completing a recent "America's Boating Course."

The course was taught at the Lancaster Community Library by members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock and co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Completing the course were Morgan Stewart, Rodney McMordie, Connie More, Ruth Taylor, Andrew Sreb, Ashley Ziviello, Madison Ziviello, Harold Taylor, Thomas Carini, Dennis George, Britney Jones, Todd Miller, Curry Motley, Nancy Paul, Lawrence Emerson, Steven Sayloe, William Reckert, James McArdle, James Franch, Jeffrey Arnold, John Franck, Charlene Franck, John Owen and Joshua Mattes.

The course will be offered again June 3 in Kilmarnock from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course is for boaters who don't have time for a more comprehensive program. Completing it satisfies the Virginia certificate requirement for 14- and 15-year-old PWC operators. Call Don Gallagher at 435-2084 to enroll.

"How To Read A Nautical Chart" will be offered May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will cover the information on nautical charts including water depth, bottom type, landmarks, buoys, day markers, light characteristics and bridge heights.

On May 27, "GPS For Mariners" will be offered from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This course will explain how GPS works, how to use it for safe navigation and how to avoid common mistakes.

Both courses are $35. Call Wally Dawson at 462-7701 to enroll.

"Basic Coastal Navigation" will begin September 14. It will continue for eight sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

"Advanced Coastal Navigation" will follow for eight sessions beginning October 10. Call Bill Johnson at 435-2254 to enroll in these courses.

Boaters wishing to schedule a free vessel safety check may call Jim Wroth at 435-0376.

## ▼ *JV softball . . . .*

*(continued from page A11)*

was 2-for-4 with a run scored and Katisha Crippen was 1-for-1 with a run. Shelton drew a pair of walks to score twice. Other batters with a run each were Jones, Harvey, Brianna Ritchie, Ariel Grulkowski, Heather Davis, Tiffany Pittman and Livvy Gill.

The Lady Devils will go to Washington & Lee today (May 11) and end regular season play May 18 at home against Northumberland.

Find out what's happening.
Call 435-1701 for a subscription.

# Bowling Results

### Ladies League

Young Country won three games against Northern Neck Surgical Services when Linda Lake bowled a 341 set with games of 111, 113 and 117. Betty Steffey rolled a 326 set with games of 101 and 128. Cathy Savalina had a 317 set with games of 101 and 121. Theresa Davis bowled a 308 set with games of 103 and 107. For Northern Neck Surgical, Bev Benson rolled a 316 set with games of 107 and 118. Elsie Rose had a 114 game and Terry Stillman bowled a game of 106.

Callis Seafood won three games against Lively Oaks Girls when Donna Thomas bowled a 367 set with games of 102, 121 and 144. Elsie Henderson rolled a 317 set with a 131 game. Betty Evans had a 314 set with a 135 game and Mary Savalina bowled a 313 set with games of 113 and 119. For Lively Oaks, Patsy Headley rolled a 331 set with games of 104, 104 and 123. Jean Reynolds had a 325 set with games of 106 and 120. Debbie Dodson bowled a 304 set with a 123 game.

R.P. Waller won three games against Abby when Ilva Jett bowled a 301 set with games of 102 and 104. Marsha Nash rolled a 341 set with games of 101, 106 and 134. Dee Atkins had a 302 set with a 118 game. Ola Nash bowled a 312 set with games of 106 and 112. Claudette Hames rolled a game of 105.

TCH Oil won two games against Yeatman's Forklift when Sandra Evans bowled a 334 set with games of 104 and 143. Marie Piccard rolled a 301 set with a 111 game. Vickie White had games of 101 and 106. Vivian Callaway bowled a 109 game. For Yeatman's, Alma George rolled a 322 set with games of 100, 103 and 119. Pat Harris had a game of 101.

High average: Betty Steffey, 113; Sandra Evans, 109; Nancy Carter, Lynn Gordon, Theresa Davis, Donna Thomas, Pat Harris and Marie Piccard, all 108.

**Standings**

| | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| TCH Oil | 33 | 12 |
| Yeatman's | 30 | 15 |
| Callis Seafood | 30 | 15 |
| Lively Oaks | 27 | 18 |
| R.P. Waller | 24 | 21 |
| Young Country | 21 | 24 |
| N.N. Surgical | 15 | 30 |
| Abby | 1 | 44 |

### Men's League

On April 27, Sal's Pizza won the second half of the season and first place for the year when the team won two games and lost one against D&L Marine Construction. For Sal's, Clay Gill bowled the high set of 357 with games of 121 and 130. Bob Huff rolled games of 134 and 129 in a 355 set. Wayne Condrey had games of 130 and 120. Bill Hendershot rolled a 123 game. For D&L, Steve Hinson bowled the high set of 322 with a 109 game. Doug Hundley rolled a 106 game and Dana Stillman had a 106 game.

H&S Printing won three games against Evans Bowling Center when Louis Coates bowled the high set of the week of 399 with games of 161 and 133. John Hollowell rolled a 129 game. Gary Hodges had games of 116 and 115 and Billy Hudson bowled games of 112 and 111. For Evans, Bunks Mitchell rolled the high set of 379 with games of 128, 120 and 131. John Forrester had two games of 127 and122. Richard Savalina bowled a 116 game.

Cap't. John's won two games and lost one against J&J Construction when Herbert Hammock bowled a set of 379 with games of 123, 142 and 114. Ryan Dawson rolled the high set of 387 with games of 150 and 138. Ernie George had a 121 game. For J&J, Steve Edwards tied for high set of the week at 399 with games of 128, 119 and 152. Frank Perkins bowled games of 117, 139 and 117 in a 373 set. Rolaid Lewis rolled a 130 game.

In addition to first place for the season and the year, Sal's Pizza also had the high team set and the high team game.

Wayne Condrey had the highest average. Clay Gill bowled the highest set and Curly Lewis rolled the highest game.

### Mixed League

Kenny Kent led the Untouchables in winning three games from All in Fun with games of 131, 128 and 125 in a 384 set. Raymond Sisson bowled a 333 set. Mary Kent rolled a 117 game. Deloris Atkins had a 111 game and Gladys Sisson rolled a 104 game. For All in Fun, Vergil Henderson bowled a 106 game. Julia George had a 101 game and Harry Donavan rolled a game of 96.

Guys and Dolls won two games against Woodie's Angels when John Forrester bowled a 313 set. Marie Piccard rolled a 307 set and Robert Piccard had a 101 game. For the Angels, Theresa Davis bowled a 325 set. Betty Steffey had a 313 set and Woodie Evans rolled a 307 set. Beverly Benson bowled a game of 103.

High game: Kenny Kent, 181; Marie Piccard, 164; John Forrester, 158; Betty Steffey 157; Gladys Sisson, 156; Theresa Davis, 155.

High set: Theresa Davis, 415; Marie Piccard, 412; Betty Steffey, 409; Kenny Kent and John Forrester, 408.

High average: Kenny Kent, 115; Betty Steffey and John Forrester, 110; Theresa Davis, 109; Raymond Sisson and Woodie Evans, 108.

**Standings**

| | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Woodie's Angels | 26 | 19 |
| Untouchables | 26 | 19 |
| Guys and Dolls | 24 | 21 |
| All in Fun | 14 | 31 |

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From left are Tom Smith, Charlie Hock Jr. and Barry Kennedy.

# Hock wins trap shoot

Charlie Hock Jr. of White Stone won the recent trap shooting event at The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club range. Hock scored 44 out of a possible 50.

Tom Smith was second with a score of 40 and Barry Kennedy was third with a score of 39.

Fifteen club members participated, shooting 25 rounds on the regulation trap field and an additional 25 rounds on the wobble trap. The total of the two events yielded scores for the match.

The regulation trap is shot 16 yards behind the clay target throwing machine, five shots from each of the five stations. The trap throwing machine is in a bunker out of view of the shooter and moving continuously right to left. The shooter does not know at what angle the target will appear.

Wobble trap is shot from five shooting stands that vary in height, but are in line with the throwing machine. The wobble trap machine varies from right to left and up and down. Five shots are fired from each shooting position. The first shot at each station is a single clay target. The second, third, fourth and fifth shots are all report doubles.

All participants said they would like to see additional trap shooting matches scheduled.

The next event will be a sporting rifle match Saturday, May 13, at 9 a.m. for 22 caliber rifles with open or peep sights (no scopes). Shooters will fire from a standing position at targets placed at varying distances.

# Seahorse Roundup

The Christchurch School varsity girls tennis team last week defeated St. Margaret's School, 7-2

In singles rounds, Jess Crabill of Christchurch defeated Molly Jones of St. Margaret's, 8-2.

Hannah Lidicker of Christchurch defeated Willis Blair of St. Margaret's, 8-1.

Madeleine Przybyl of Christchurch defeated Fid Snyder of St. Margaret's, 8-6.

Saori Kaneko of St. Margaret's defeated Whitney Edwards of Christchurch, 8-3.

Da Hae Lee of St. Margaret's defeated Jessie Sciacchitano of Christchurch, 8-6.

Laura Ransone of Christchurch defeated Meghan Sish of St. Margaret's, 9-7.

In doubles, Edwards/Crabill defeated Snyder/Bukela, 8-4.

Lidicker/Przybyl defeated Lee/Kaneko, 8-1.

Ransone/Sciacchitano defeated Caron/Kim, 8-1.

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## Firemen's raffle prize

**The grand raffle prize for the 71st annual Kilmarnock Firemen's Carnival is a 2006 Ford Focus. At left, carnival president Melvin Gordon receives the keys from Robbie Crowther. Carnival vice president Tom Jones is behind the wheel. Raffle tickets are $10. Tickets are available from Kilmarnock firemen and at Crowther Ford; 3,000 tickets will be sold. The carnival will be held July 27 to August 5. The drawing will be August 5.**

# Bridge Results

Eight tables of bridge were in play May 4 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Ilva Doggett and Carolyn Reed; second, Arden Durham and Shirley Crockett; and third, Bev Oren and Babs Murphy.

Winners east/west were first, (tie) Peggy Dent and Terry Taylor, and Jane and Lee Connors; and third, Betsey Heller and Nancy Hall.

The next bridge for this group is May 25.

Five tables of bridge were in play at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury on May 3.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Ginger Klapp; second, (tie) Beverly Oren and Babs Murphy, and Ilva Doggett and Helen Kinney.

Winners east/west were first, Dianne Monroe and Cynthia Birdsall; and second, Virginia Adair and Judy Peifer.

The next game for this group is June 7 at 1 p.m.


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The Jungle Book's wild children put on a playful performance.

Dancers line across the stage at the end of "Shake a Tail Feather."

Instructor and choreographer Linda Coffield organizes her youngest dancers, Cinderella's mice, during last week's dress rehearsal.

A timid mouse, Karen Jordan, clings to her mom before performing in "Bippidi-Boppidi-Boo."

Volunteer mom Donna McGrath frantically calls for black eyeliner to draw the nose on a little mouse.

# Beyond the glitz and glamour, dance students must 'Believe'

**Photos and story by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi**

It was five minutes before showtime and the backstage moms were missing a set of ears. The fuzzy, pink and gray ears, a crucial costume accessory for Cinderella's 16 little mice, were nowhere to be found. Panic set in.

Every detail, from the high hair buns to the glittered false eyelashes, had to be perfect for the annual dance recital last Saturday at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

So, occassionally a mouse was out of step or a dancing flower missed a beat, but overall the two-hour performance was awe-inspiring.

Linda Coffield, owner of Miss Linda's School of Dance and simply "Miss Linda" to her students and their parents, has been coordinating the production for two decades in Kilmarnock.

Over the years, it's grown from a few dance numbers for a couple dozen performers to an all-out Broadway-like affair with 100 dancers. Professional photographers snap pictures during the hectic dress rehearsal two days prior to the show. Hair and make-up must be exact. A local florist sets up shop in the commons area at the school on show day. The dancers are showered with flowers and trinkets from adoring parents, grandparents and fans after the performance.

Coffield, who teaches locally through the Northern Neck Family YMCA, is a former professional dancer, director and choreographer. She started teaching dance 22 years ago and has been bringing her talent and knowledge to Lancaster County for 20 years. She also teaches in West Point and Middlesex County.

In fact, last Saturday's 2 p.m. performance was the second that day. An 11 a.m. show at LMS featured dancers from nearby Middlesex County. The West Point recital was held two weeks ago. Coffield had about 100 dancers performing in each show.

She recalled her start in Kilmarnock in 1986 with 12 dancers, four each in three different classes. Within a few years, enrollment had doubled.

Literally, thousands of hours of instruction and preparation go into the annual performance. This year's "Believe" show was a tribute to Disney and its princesses. The magical show included Disney favorites Jasmine, Cinderella, Tinkerbelle, Snow White, Alice, Sleeping Beauty and Belle, along with fun characters, Herbie the Love Bug, Chicken Little and a monkey from the Jungle Book.

Coffield said the Disney magic isn't just about beautiful gowns, of which there were plenty, or living happily ever after.

"It's the kind of magic that can be found in believing in yourself, seeing the good in those around you, and living each day to its fullest," said Coffield.

A dancing harem performs to Princess Jasmine's theme song, "A Whole New World."

The dancing flowers in Alice in Wonderland patiently wait to be called to the stage during the second act of Saturday's show.

Intermission was a hectic time backstage as dancers changed costumes for the second act.

Mothers wait patiently as the performers have professional photographs taken after dress rehearsal.

## ▼ 'Visiting moms' help support families at home . . . .

(continued from page A1)

to prevent pre-term, low-weight births and infant mortality.

The Resource Mothers also help the young parent stay in school or continue working, delay repeat pregnancies until adulthood, and take steps toward a solid future.

Carolyn Hankison, local program director and nurse, says her staff is "really trying to keep teens from getting pregnant the first time."

Another program is Healthy Beginnings, a private nonprofit organization whose director, Patricia Hein, has a background in social work.

Hein's organization serves pregnant women and families until the children are age six.

"We really believe that a very critical time in a child's life is the beginning," she explains. "Infant and parent bonding and attaching is critical."

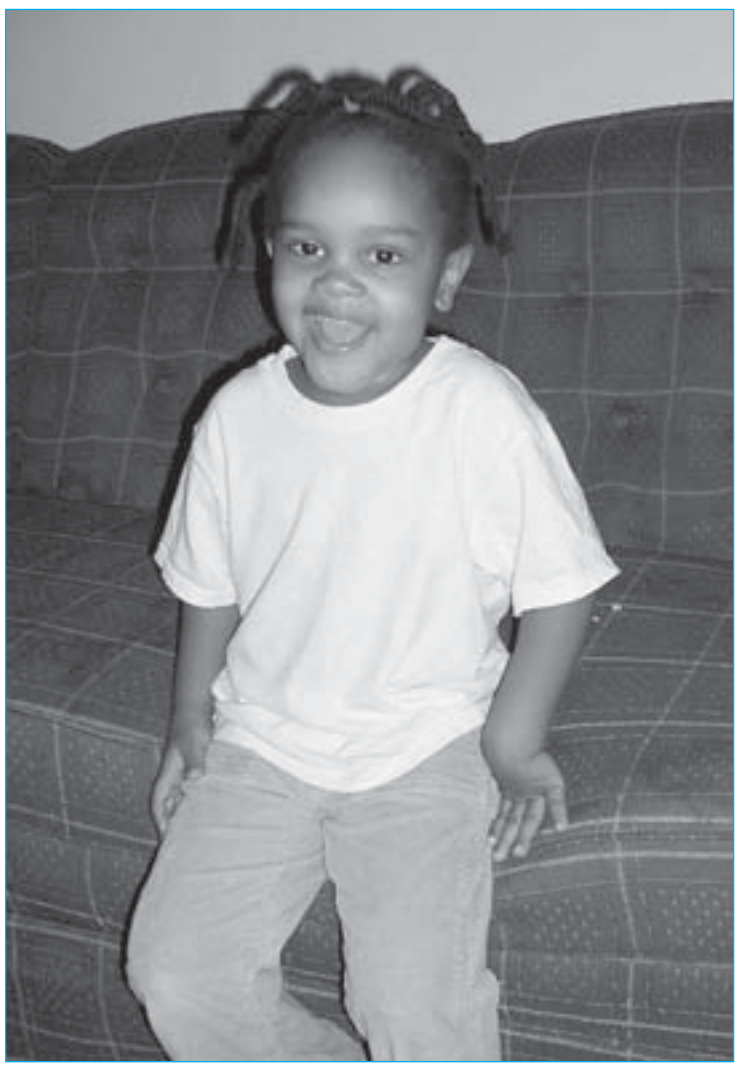
The program's focus is improved health for children and parents, school readiness, and increased family stability.

Visiting workers encourage parents to read to their kids and even take families to the library.

Two monthly group sessions offer informative speakers or topics and allow parents to socialize and offer support to each other.

The English as a Second Language client population is growing, reports Hein. About 30 percent of her clients are Hispanic.

An affiliate of a national nonprofit organization in 430 communities and locally a program of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Bureau (MPNNCSB), Three Rivers Healthy Families targets its services to pregnant women and moms on Medicaid until the children go to school.



**J'miaya Boyd (above), 3, and mother, Tiana Noel, are served by Healthy Beginnings.**

Healthy Families strives to see that every child is born healthy, enters school ready to learn, and grows in a safe and nurturing environment.

Home visitors or service providers focus on supporting the parent as well as supporting parent-child interaction and child development.

Debbie Lancucki, director, has a degree in early childhood education.

While all of the previous programs serve pregnant mothers, children, and families, the fourth program may be called in to assist clients with special needs.

Rural Infant Services Program (RISP), another agency of the MPNNCSB, boasts a whole team of family support workers with special expertise, including a physical therapist, an occupational therapist and a speech therapist.

According to director Kathy Phillips, "We use a really strong team approach. We do a really comprehensive evaluation of the family first; they are the most important part of the team."

RISP infant educators first focus on the child's strengths. "We always build on those," explains Phillips, who has a master's degree in early childhood education.

Services can be provided to families with special needs children up to the child's third birthday.

Phillips says it's not always easy to identify the results of their services to government entities."Our driving force is family, " adds Phillips. "The family tells us when it works."

### Visiting Mom Directory

For more information about programs mentioned in the accompanying article, contact the following:

- Resource Mothers: 333-4043
- Healthy Beginnings: 333-4999
- Three Rivers Healthy Families: 758-5250
- Rural Infant Services Program: 758-5250

# Election winners confirmed

LANCASTER—Voter registrar Peggy Harding has released the official results of the May 2 election.

She noted Monday that there were discrepancies in some of the unofficial numbers previously published. Although election results remain unchanged, the inaccurate numbers may have given readers the wrong impression regarding voter turnout, she explained.

The inaccurate numbers came from the State Board of Elections internet site and not the registrar's office.

According to Harding, Curtis H. Smith was elected mayor of Kilmarnock with 161 votes. There were 14 write-in votes.

For Kilmarnock council, Barbara Robertson received 142 votes; Carmen Kilduff, 126; Fletcher L. Brown IV, 122; and Paul S. Jones, 115. There were four write-in votes. Robertson, Kilduff and Brown were elected to council.

Of the town's 843 registered voters, 201 participated in the election for a voter turnout of 24 percent.

In Irvington, Robert S. Westbrook received 130 votes; Ralph D "Rannie" Ransone, 123; William H. Evans III, 121; Robert H. Fleet III, 102 and Norman G. Mosher, 83. There were no write-ins. Westbrook, Ransone and Evans were elected to council.

Of the town's 465 registered voters, 205 participated in the election for a voter turnout of 44 percent.

In White Stone, Lloyd B. Hubbard Jr. was elected mayor with 39 votes. There were no write-ins.

For White Stone council, Randy S. Reeves received 37 votes; Lee Anne Washington, 32; and R. M. "Mac" Davis, 29. There were five write-in votes. Reeves, Washington and Davis were elected to council.

Only 40 of the town's 279 registered voters participated in the election, for a voter turnout of 14 percent.

# Northumberland board to convene

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors meets at 3:30 p.m. today (May 11) at the courthouse at 72 Monument Place.

The board will hear reports from Virginia Department of Transportation residency administrator Sean Trapani, superintendent of schools Clint Stables and county administrator Kenneth D. Eades.

Pim Montgomery will offer a safe boating proclamation.

Fran Warren and Sheriff Wayne Middleton will lead a discussion on the animal shelter.

Dr. Greg Haugan will facilitate a discussion on Chapters 2 and 6 of the comprehensive plan.

The board will break for dinner around 5 p.m. and reconvene at the courts building at 32 Monument Place for eight public hearings.

The board will consider requests by:

- Mallard Bay Property Owners Association to extend an existing pier and add 14 mooring slips on the Great Wicomico River within Mallard Bay Subdivision.
- Malcolm J. Long to construct a boathouse on Bridge Creek at 659 Sweet Hall Drive near Sunnybank.
- Gregory and Shirley Smith to construct a boathouse on Ellyson Creek at 95 Wicomico Harbor Drive near Ophelia.
- Harold and Margaret Murphy Kobika Estate to construct a dwelling within the 50-foot buffer on Circle Drive in Bay Quarter Shores.
- Robert B. Davis Jr. to construct an assembly hall adjacent to Bethany Baptist Church in Callao.
- Arthur John Armstrong to establish a cluster home development near Vir-Mar Beach.
- Hilda Berry to construct a boathouse on the Great Wicomico River within Great Wicomico Bluff Subdivision.

The board also will consider an ordinance to set a deadline for the Board of Equalization.

# Fire department equipment request moves up the ladder

**by Audrey Thomasson**

WHITE STONE—Plans to equip the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department with the "jaws of life" received an unexpected boost from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was enthusiastically welcomed by town officials at last week's council meeting.

Mary Jones, program officer for the Rural Development Division of the USDA, came to White Stone to tour the site for the new firehouse. In an earlier meeting with Mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard, Vice Mayor David Jones, fire department president Paul Elbourn and town manager Gary Conrad, Jones announced USDA would reallocate all unused funds from the 2006 budget, some $50,000, toward the purchase of the crash/equipment truck for the town's volunteer fire department.

The equipment truck will be used by firemen responding to serious car accidents in which victims are trapped in their vehicles and must be extracted by the special heavy-duty equipment known as the "jaws of life."

Conrad said the town's grant application to purchase the truck missed the USDA's current fiscal year deadline, so was directed to the 2007 budget.

"Because some rural areas across the U.S. have not spent the funds allocated to them this past year, White Stone's volunteer firefighters will be the beneficiary," he said.

Conrad said obtaining the crash/equipment truck is a two-year process involving a year of administrative work and then another year to build the vehicle. Receiving grant money sooner will move things along.

The town's original grant application requested $96,000 toward the truck's estimated purchase price of $250,000. Conrad said the town will have to make up the difference and will be applying for a 4 percent interest loan from USDA's rural development department. There is also the possibility of receiving more grant money.

The town council also will be seeking USDA loan and grant money toward building a new firehouse behind houses across the street from the existing firehouse on Chesapeake Road.

"Based on the per capita income of White Stone residents, the town qualifies for up to 75 percent of the total allowable costs for a new facility," Conrad said.

He also reported that the fire department has received delivery of a new 3,500-gallon capacity tanker truck.

In other business, council passed a resolution endorsing the Northern Neck All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (D). The plan is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for emergency preparedness which each jurisdiction must adopt to qualify for federal funds.

Councilman-elect Mac Davis announced that the town's newly designed internet website will be up and running in June. Davis presented working copies of information he had gathered for each of the web pages. County Website of Alexandria, the design and host company, will be responsible for posting the information.

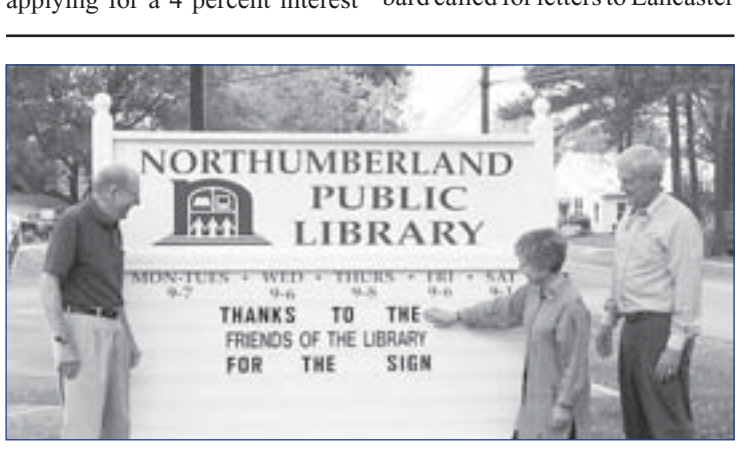
Council approved web pages addressing contact numbers for all utilities, emergency services and town officials, as well as links to other government sites and tourism and relocation services.

Davis said future site pages will offer residents the ability to view city codes, ordinances, and applicable fines and fees. It will also be possible to download permit applications for submission to town hall.

Reviewing the history of a past proposal for a bike path between Irvington and White Stone, Hubbard called for letters to Lancaster County administrator Bill Pennell and bike-path advocate and local resident Donald McCann in order to reactivate the process. In attendance was Irvington councilman-elect Robert Westbrook, who asked the mayor to include a letter to Irvington town council as well.

Councilman Jack Boles opened discussion on a prepared meal and beverage tax of 2 to 4 percent. In prior meetings, council has expressed a need to generate additional revenue for White Stone without putting a financial burden on local residents. The proposed tax came before council in a public hearing in April 2005, but was tabled for a year.

After some discussion, Jones asked that before implementing any further action on a tax, the public needed to be informed and invited to participate. Council agreed to open a public input session at the June 1 town council meeting.




**Looking over the new Northumberland Public Library sign were, from left, Jay Walker, Jayne McQuade and Bill Estell.**

# Library has new sign

The Northumberland Public Library has a new county landmark: an all-weather bulletin board recently installed in front of the building. The white sign, with the library name in blue, was funded by the Friends of the Library.

"The bulletin board is a valuable communications medium," said library director Jayne McQuade. "It will quickly let people know what's going on at the library."

Library trustees president Bill Estell referred to the sign as a "wonderful addition to the library."

"I can only say, for the Friends of the Library, we're proud to have done our part," said president Jay Walker.


**The Swift-Walker Families would like to "Thank" everyone who participated in the 6th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament**

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*Special thanks to all the Volunteers and Participants for helping us to raise funds to benefit Rappahannock General Hospital's Cancer Treatment and Education Center.*
*The Swift and Walker Families*

# Playground improvements caught in bureaucratic web

by Audrey Thomasson

IRVINGTON—For two years, Elizabeth Gardner has been waging a campaign for safe, modern playground equipment for the Irvington Town Commons.

Gardner, the mother of two pre-schoolers who lives outside Irvington, said the playground in the Commons is not considered safe by current standards and needs to be updated and the old equipment replaced.

According to studies by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are nearly 200,000 playground-related injuries requiring emergency room visits every year across this nation. Because of efforts like Gardner's, however, the CPSC says the old fashioned playgrounds of steel equipment and hard landings are changing.

Rides considered risky, like the merry-go-round, are disappearing. New planning incorporates such things as flow and placement of rides, ideas that will prevent children from coming down the slide and taking a foot in the head from a kid on the swing set.

Safety additions like a bar at the top of the slide ensure that kids sit instead of slide down on their sock-covered feet. Surfaces of pea gravel, sand or rubber mats will cushion a fall from the jungle gym.

The CPSC says today's playgrounds are safer and maximize the play-to-learn potential with age appropriate equipment that improves social, intellectual, emotional and physical development.

Gardner has not been content to sit around at the local coffee shop and wait for town officials to get the ball rolling on bringing the playground up to codes set by CPSC. She enlisted the help of two other area residents, Camille Bragg and Tom Richardson.

Annie Gardner sits at the top of the old fashioned slide while her friend, Sophie Scott, plays on the swing.

The three started a fund-raising campaign with a goal of $40,000. So far they have $5,000 in commitments from other young families in the Irvington and White Stone areas as well as from older residents with an interest in a safe place for their grandchildren to play when they visit.

The Irvington Village Improvement Association donated another $5,000 toward the cause.

Gardner, a former political consultant in Washington, D.C., has also explored the availability of matching grants from sources such as the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"It's not a matter of finding the funding," she said. "There is money out there. We're taking care of that end. But we have hit a wall in getting approval from the town council."

The council in recent months has delayed action on several proposals for the Town Commons, citing the need to develop a master plan for use of the space. In February, councilman Norm Mosher was asked by council to produce a plan that could be used as a starting point for discourse with citizens.

Mosher presented the plan at last month's town council meeting during a discussion on finding a permanent site for the steamboat Potomac pilot house.

Displaying a mock-up of the Commons that incorporated a relocation of the pilot house and a fenced-in playground along King Carter Drive between Chesapeake Bank and the Steamboat Era Museum, Mosher was able to add a stage area in the northwest corner where the playground currently sits. He also added a quarter-mile jogging path with exercise stations along the way and a formal entry to the grounds. Open space remained to accommodate the monthly Farmers' Market.

Mosher's plan prompted little immediate discussion and council decided to consider it later as part of the town's updated comprehensive plan. That plan is under bid review by the town planning commission and will likely be the subject of several hearings in coming months.

For Gardner's group and their children, it looks like the playground improvements may not be decided soon.

# Irvington Town Council schedules pool hearing

IRVINGTON—A public hearing will be held tonight (May 11) during the Irvington town council meeting to address an application for conditional use. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall.

Charles Walker is seeking a conditional use permit to install a swimming pool at 5144 Irvington Road. The planning commissione last week recommended council approve the request.

Town administrator Gil Unangst will update council on the arrival and installation of a 45 KW emergency generator as back-up for the town's water supply. Additionally, he will report on the progress of work on a ditch behind the Steamboat Era Museum and the status of a bid review process by the planning commission for development of a comprehensive plan.

Also on the agenda is a presentation by Bill Evans on the Northern Neck All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (D) which has been under review by a steering committee. Council will be asked to pass a resolution approving the plan for emergency preparedness as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## ▼ *School budget . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

are measurable."

At several times during the process, school board members and the superintendent did not have concrete answers for precise questions regarding the meaning of certain budget numbers.

Jenkins strongly urged the supervisors to request a quarterly review of the figures in the future.

According to Jenkins, "They need to develop a truly good budget variance report that is all inclusive."

Much discussion centered around how often the school board should send reports to the supervisors.

It was decided that the local dollars would be appropriated twice a year—July 1 and December 31—with a quarterly report in between and a budget variance report each time.

Pending more details about the total county budget, neither the supervisors or Pennell would comment on the possibility of a tax rate increase to fund the larger school budget.

## *Remembering fallen patriots*

To honor fallen patriots in military service during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and to recognize the sacrifices of the families they left behind, the Rappahannock Record will publish a special tribute in its Memorial Day edition.

Lancaster and Northumberland residents are invited to contact the Record with the name of their loved one, a photograph, and the date and place of their death. Please include your name and telephone number. Submit items to Robert Mason Jr., Editor, Rappahannock Record, P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482, editor@rrecord.com., or at the Record office at 27 North Main Street. The deadline is May 19.

Rappahannock Record

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*$0 down, 0% A.P.R. financing for terms up to 12 months available through July 10, 2006 on all new Kubota RTV900 utility vehicles, Tractors & Construction Equipment. Example: A 12-month repayment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 12 monthly payments of $83.34 per $1,000 borrowed. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. See your dealer for complete details.
**$0 down, 0% A.P.R. financing for terms up to 36 months available through July 10, 2006. Example: A 36-month repayment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 36 monthly payments of $27.78 per $1,000 borrowed. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Eligible products: ZD, BX1500, BX1800, BX1830, BX22, BX2200, BX2230, BX23, B2630, B3030, MX5000F/DT, M4900, M5700, M6800, M8200, M9000, M95SDSC/SDSCC, M105SHC/SHDC/SDSC/SDSCC, M110 & M120. All other new Kubota serialized products qualify for $0 down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 12 months. See your dealer for complete details.

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