Rappahannock Record

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Commissioner of Revenue delivers real estate bombshell

by Joan McBride

LANCASTER—Commissioner of Revenue George E. "Sonny" Thomas dropped in at the June 1 budget work session of the Lancaster board of supervisors to deliver a bombshell.

Saying he wanted to give the supervisors a little warning of things to come, he proceeded to educate them on the current status of real estate sales and property values in the county, and told them to expect a decrease in the amount of funding from the state in the next few years.

And if the state pays less to fund county services, county taxpayers will have to pay more, he said.

Thomas spoke of a vast increase in the number of real estate sales in recent months, and confirmed suspicions that many homes have doubled in value. He said there were 800-850 sales in 2005.

The problem for the county is that the new homes are appraised and assigned the value for a comparable home as of January 1, 2002, the last time the county reassessed property values. Existing homes which sell are also taxed on their 2002 values.

This means the revenue department is not currently able to tie property taxes to the past few years of skyrocketing market values of real estate in the county.

The mid to high-end market is really active, he said, and gave as examples lots in Hills Quarter going for $100,000 while lots in Kilmarnock were in the $35,000 to $60,000 range.

The commissioner said some folks are now paying a million dollars just for property. He told of three properties which sold in this price range and then the buyers bulldozed the houses standing on the property.

Thomas expressed concern for the diminishing number of affordable homes.

"Builders want to build the million dollar houses," he said. "That makes a problem in supply for working-class people."

The wholesale cost to build a house here is $155 to $160 a square foot.

"That's the cost to builders," he explained. For a 2,000-square-foot home, that would be $310,000 to $320,000.

Supervisor Pete Geilich echoed these concerns saying he knew several people who can't afford Lancaster County houses and have been forced "to go across the bridge to Middlesex."

"You wouldn't believe the traffic" coming across the bridge this way in the early mornings, Geilich added.

Thomas asked the supervisors to authorize a reassessment in 2007 to take effect in 2008. This would be four years from the last assessment.

"If we haven't got real property values closer to the assessed value, the state will penalize the county," he reminded the supervisors.

One penalty would result in the county paying a larger share of the per pupil cost for public school education. As of 2005, the county paid $5,656 of the total $9,131 cost

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Congratulations, Janie!

Christchurch School Class of 2006 valedictorian Jane Connell Williams of Weems graduated last Saturday. From left are Ed Trotter of Lancaster and the Class of 1949, representing the Christchurch School board of governors; Headmaster Jeb Byers, academic dean Dr. Neal Keesee and Williams. She is one of 19 graduates in the class from the Northern Neck.

Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi inspects a check she received in the mail as part of a British lottery scam.
(Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Suspecting scam, sleuth sits on sweepstakes scrip

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Last Saturday was my lucky day.

That's what I thought when my husband, Chris, walked through the door with the mail and dropped a check for nearly $5,000 in my lap.

"Seems we've won the lottery. I didn't enter a lottery, but we won it anyway," he said.

The official-looking letter, with our correct address, stated that we had been declared winners of the British Lotto Co-Operation Sweepstakes Lottery, drawn on April 18, 2006. Seems Chris was one of five $100,000 winners and the lottery was sending us an advance check in the amount of $4,920 to return to them, via Western Union or Money-gram, to pay for non-resident taxes.

After that transaction, we could collect the remainder of the jackpot.

Chris and I laughed at first. Like most computer-users, we get hundreds of "fake" lotto announcements daily in the form of e-junkmail.

Then I started to study the check. The darn thing looked real enough. It wasn't stamped "not a real check." It was paid to the order of my husband and drawn on a bank in Detroit, Michigan. A line across the top stated that the reverse side included an artificial watermark. There were account and routing numbers across the bottom.

The reporter and suspicious mom in me immediately smelled a scam.

"I'm calling the sheriff's office," I announced to no one in particular.

A call there and a quick conversation with the dispatcher confirmed my skepticism.

The dispatcher wasn't familiar with that particular scam, but had heard something on the news recently about it and felt sure the check was a phony.

I'd already surmised that, but without the answers I'd hoped for, my curiousity was still peaked.

I sent my husband, with check in hand, to our bank, where the teller ran it through a machine and verified its authenticity. It was indeed a real check that she

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Northumberland proposes 31-percent property tax hike

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Property taxes may be going up in Northumberland County but, not everyone will be paying more. If the board of supervisors approves its advertised rate of 36 cents per $100 assessed value for 2006, property owners living on the water may see increases of 30 to 100 percent while people living off the water may actually see their tax payments decrease.

The board of supervisors must adjust its 2006 tax rate to compensate for the recent reassessment. Assessed values across the county rose almost 127 percent.

Last year, each cent on the levy brought the county $126,048. This year, with increased property values, each cent on the levy will bring the county $281,094.

To collect the exact same amount of real estate tax as last year, the county would need to lower its rate from the current 61 cents per $100 assessed value to

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Candidates for the top of the Class of 2006

From left are the candidates for Lancaster High School valedictorian Brianne Oltermann and salutatorian Jessie Love; and Northumberland High School valedictorian Leanne Watrous and salutatorian Casey Beatley. The LHS commencement begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in the school gym. The NHS commencement begins at 9 a.m. Saturday on the school athletic field. Read the details on pages B8-9.

Board sets hearings at NHS auditorium

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will meet at 3:30 p.m. today (June 8) in the courthouse for its regular monthly meeting.

At 7 p.m., the board has scheduled five public hearings at the Northumberland High School auditorium in Heathsville.

Supervisors will first reconsider separate requests by Double D Development to construct 32 condominiums along Fleeton Road and Watson Construction for a permit to build a 12-home cluster development on Main Street in Reedville. These two hearings were tabled at the February and March meetings, respectively.

The board will also hear public comment on a request by Clinton and Elizabeth Welch for an exception to the Bay Act to construct a dwelling within the 50-foot resource protection area in White Sands Harbor subdivision. Recorded prior to the Bay Act, this lot contains only .45 acres. Pushed up against a right-of-way on one boundary and water on the other boundary, there is little buildable space on the shallow lot, said zoning administrator W.H. Shirley. The owners are proposing a modest 1,200-square-foot home and are also seeking a zoning exception in order to build within a foot of the utility easement setback.

Robert Saunders is seeking a

(continued on page A15)

White Stone holds public hearing and adopts $157,100 budget in one swoop

by Audrey Thomasson

WHITE STONE—In a meeting last week that was fraught with code violations, the White Stone Town Council passed an unbalanced budget for fiscal 2007 and then voted unanimously to advance a 4 percent meals and beverage tax for a final vote at its next meeting.

Trouble started when the town ran a public hearing notice advertisement that did not include a brief synopsis of the budget nor give specifics as to any proposed new taxes as required under the Virginia State Code. With revenue figures of $157,100 and expenditures of $125,297, the budget contained a $31,803 surplus, causing the budget to be unbalanced.

Additionally, the proposed budget distributed at the meeting listed only the figures proposed for the 2007 fiscal year without including separate parallel columns showing the numbers for the preceding and current year, also in violation of Virginia code.

As a result, no comparisons could be drawn and a 25-percent salary increase for town manager Garey Conrad was approved without comment. Following a closed session, council increased the hourly wages for both Conrad and the town clerk by an additional $3 per hour.

While a budget is intended as a guideline, White Stone's numbers failed to include any figures for a revitalization project of the business district which Conrad said will begin in the second half of the fiscal year. A final infraction occurred when council voted to accept the budget in the same meeting as the public hearing without waiting the required seven days before passage.

"We were unaware of these codes," said Conrad. "We certainly plan to take action to cor-

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Inside

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Business owners respond to new taxes, procedures

WHITE STONE—What if they held a public hearing proposing new taxes and nobody came?

With respect to the six people who did attend last week's White Stone Town Council meeting—two councilmen-elect, two reporting for organizations, a contractor asking to resurface a town parking lot, and a resident interested in beautification—no one was there to complain about paying more taxes.

By their absence, were White Stone citizens reflecting the same distrust of politics as seen at the national level? Or was the meeting simply overlooked because the town billed it as 'a review and possible addition of new revenue' rather than explaining that a public hearing would be held to consider new taxes on prepared meals and beverages, tobacco and business licenses.

"I was told I could come and say whatever I wanted but it didn't matter because they were just going to pass it anyway," said Bruce Watson, owner of White Stone Wine and Cheese. Watson was unable to attend because as chef, he is serving dinner to 30-40 people during the time council meetings take place, "…as do most restaurants," he added.

Watson claimed the mayor and town manager said they would visit the town's business owners to discuss the tax before proceeding. "Nobody's ever talked to us because they don't really want our input. I had to call (town manager) Garey Conrad to come here to discuss it. Garey called after the council meeting in the middle of my dinner service to say they 'must pass the tax because it's a poor town.'"

Norm Faulkner, owner of The Buoy, was not aware the issue was under consideration at June's meeting. "Had I known, I would have been there," he said.

Faulkner is opposed to the tax, claiming it discriminates and isolates certain businesses to carry the tax burden. "It should have been done in the form of a business tax to all businesses." None of the council members' businesses will be affected by a meals tax.

Faulkner said he understood the logic behind their decision. "They think it is money coming from out-of-towners and that everyone else is doing it. I resent townships impacting

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June

8 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
American Legion Post 86 meets at 7 p.m. on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The 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 Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad Building at 7990 Northumberland Highway near Heathsville. Edward Andrews will review plans for the annual field day June 24 and 25.
Northumberland County Deputy Sheriff Roger Briney will speak on gun safety at a luncheon meeting of the Mary Ball Washington Republican Women's Club at 1 p.m. at The Tavern in Heathsville. For more information, contact Jeannie Kling at 580-4050, or kling@usa.net.
A Standard Flower Show will be held by the Rappahannock Garden Club from noon to 4 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington.
An Animal Quest hike will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 2 to 4 p.m. 462-5030.
A Full Moon Canoe trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 7 to 9 p.m. 462-5030.

9 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
Forgotten Spies will play on the deck at Smokin' Joe's Barbecue in Kilmarnock from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
The Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department Fireman's Parade will be held in Colonial Beach. 224-7255.
The Friday Art Walk is planned in Colonial Beach. 224-8411.
A Full Moon Canoe Trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 7 to 9 p.m. $6 per person. 462-5030.

10 Saturday

Steve Motley will perform at Donk's Theater on Route 198 in Mathews at 8 p.m. 725-7760.

Get your tickets for Heritage Appreciation concert

The Rappahannock Women's Chorale (above) will perform with the Northern Neck Big Band and the Northern Neck Bay Tones barbershop chorus in the Heritage Appreciation concert Saturday, June 10, at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. The concert is produced by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts and sponsored by the Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust Company. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and may be purchased at Kilmarnock Antique Gallery and Twice Told Tales; and by phone at 436-9027. Tickets also will be sold at the theater box office prior to the performance, if availalbe. (Photo by Robert Mason Jr.)

10 Saturday

The Music by the River family concert series continues at Belle Isle State Park with The Dragon Run Band and a Gospel Trio. The show starts at 6 p.m.
The Heritage Appreciation Through Music Community Concert will be presented by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. The show will feature The Northern Neck Baytones Barbershop Chorus, the Rappahannock Women's Chorale and the Northern Neck Big Band. $10 adults/$5 students.
The Morattico Waterfront Museum will hold its spring event, Billy's Barbecue, from 4 to 8 p.m. Feasting will begin at 5 p.m. in the James Vick Pavilion. The menu will include Billy's famous barbecue pig and chicken, bean salad, cole slaw, potato salad, sodas, cake and a cash bar. Entertainment will be provided by the Randy Davis Band. There also will be door prizes and horseshoes.
The Wine and Arts Festival will be held at Locust Grove in Walkerton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. $12, children free. 769-8201.
A Yard Sale will be held by the Northumberland County Animal Shelter at the school board office building in Lottsburg.
A White Elephant Sale And Car Wash will be held at the White Stone firehouse from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The 54th Annual Potomac River Festival And Arts & Crafts Show opens in Colonial Beach. 224-8145.

10 Saturday

The Mike Aiken Music and Mojo Fest will be held in Urbanna. Activities will be held at Upton's Point Marina and Cafe Mojo. Schooner cruises will be scheduled for a fee from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A songwriting and sailing seminar with Mike Aiken, sponsored by Singer & Musician magazine, will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Cafe Mojo. Identity Crisis will perform at the marina from 2 to 4 p.m. The festival concert ($15) will begin at 7:15 p.m. at Cafe Mojo with Steve Keith followed by The Mike Aiken Band. For festival concert reservations, visit Cafe Mojo, or call 758-4141.
The Northern Neck Computer Users Group will meet at 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 435 East Church Street in Kilmarnock. The speaker will be Gabe Goldberg, regional representative for the National Association of Personal Computers Users Groups. The Beginners SIG will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The topic will be "search engines and tools for finding things online."
Christ Church will host a "Second Saturday" event for children from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of Christ Church near Weems.
A Fish Fry will begin at 5 p.m. at Buzzard's Point Marina near Reddville following the Reedville Bluefish Derby. $10. Casper will perform.

11 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at the Crazy Crab in Reedville 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 Vineyard Stroll will begin at 1 p.m. at Ingleside Vineyards in Oak Grove. Walk and chat with the vineyard manager, winemaker or proprietor. Wine tasting. Free, however reservations recommended. 224-8687.
The 54th Annual Potomac River Festival And Arts & Crafts Show continues in Colonial Beach. 224-8145.

11 Sunday

The Colonial Yacht Club Boat Parade will be held at Colonial Beach.
A Camper's First Aid program will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 2 to 4 p.m. 462-5030.
A Sunset Canoe Trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. $6 per person. 462-5030.

12 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 33 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7:30 p.m. in Grace House of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.
The Lancaster County School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock.
The Northumberland School Board will meet at 7 p.m. at the school board office in Lottsburg.
The Cobbs Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington. Discussion will focus on the annual meeting, memorial service and a report from the State Conference.

13 Tuesday

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
The Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 7 p.m. at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission building in Warsaw.

(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. Boat dockage. Friday & Saturday only. 5-9pm (D) Route 624, Mollusk 462-7400.

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.

TOWN BISTRO: Casual upscale dining in an intimate setting. Featuring Modern American Cuisine. Wine & Beer on premises. 62 Irvington Road, Kilmarnock. 804-435-0070. Monday-Saturday 5pm till.

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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BRKIG (10/01)

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7321 J. Clayton Highway 14, Gloucester, Va.• Schedule for 06/08–06/15
Monday - Ladies Special $6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13)
1 HR 43 MIN
Fri. (4:00), 6:00, 8:00
Sat. (2:00, 4:00), 6:00, 8:00
Sun. (2:00, 4:00), 6:00
Mon. – Thurs. (5:30), 7:45

CARS (G)
1 HR 56 MIN
Fri. (4:10), 6:15, 8:30
Sat. (1415, 4:10), 6:15, 8:30
Sun. (1:45, 4:10), 6:15
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 7:30

Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military $3.50 for all shows
Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to16yrs. (any show) $3.50
Shows in parentheses ( ) all seats $3.50/Adults all shows on & after 6pm $5.50
Visit us at www.hillsidecinema.com for show times.
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Crazy Crab Schedule
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
	5-9	5-9	5-9	5-9	12-9	12-8

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★ Shades of Country ★
★ Uncle Jimmy Wickham ★
Adults: $12 • Children under 12: $2
Country Casuals, Mathews 725-4050
Carolina Bar-B-Q, Gloucester Pt. 684-2450
Lynne's Family Restaurant, Mathews 725-9996
The Seabreeze Restaurant, Gwynn's Island 725-4000
The Mathews County Visitor Center, Mathews 725-4229
N&N Services, Woods Cross Roads, Gloucester 693-7614

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* NO PASSES OR COUPONS
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 804-445-1166
No one under 17 admitted to R Rated films without parent or adult accompaniment - ID's required

FRI. JUNE 9
CARS (G) 4:30, 7:00, 9:35
THE OMEN (R) 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 4:10, 7:05, 9:50
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 5:15, 7:15, 9:20

SAT. JUNE 10
CARS (G) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35
THE OMEN (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 1:00, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:10, 9:20

SUN. JUNE 11
CARS (G) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00
THE OMEN (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:20
X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:25
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 1:00, 4:10, 7:05,
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15

MON.-THUR. JUNE 12-JUNE 15
CARS (G) 7:00
THE OMEN (R) 7:20
X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 7:30
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 7:05
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 7:15

Upcoming

(continued from page A2)

'Once Upon a Time'

The Summer Reading Program starts June 12 at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The creative team of Ann Rose, Tonya Carter and Kathryn Etchison prepare for another summer at the library. The theme is "Once Upon A Time." For more information, call 435-1729.

13 Tuesday

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club will meet at 7 p.m. at the northside branch of the Bank of Lancaster in Kilmarnock. 435-2143.

Boat Talk, an exchange of ideas on classic and wooden boats, will be held at 4 p.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.

Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

The Kilmarnock Museum Board of Directors will meet at 2 p.m. at the museum on North Main Street.

The Kilmarnock Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. at the town office.

The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancasetr Landing Restaurant in White Stone.

A Guided Canoe Trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Bring a lunch. 462-5030.

14 Wednesday Flag Day

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.

The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.

The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.

The RFM Quilters meets at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.

Celebrate Flag Day at Belle Isle State Park. Create a patriotic hiking stick from 1 to 3 p.m. 462-5030.

A Flag Day ceremony will be held by The Knights of Columbus St. George Assembly Color Guard at 9:30 a.m. at De Sales Hall on Church St., Kilmarnock. A Mass honoring all fire, police and service personnel will precede the flag ceremony. The mass takes place in the church at 9 a.m.

14 Wednesday

Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers, are invited. No reservations needed. 435-2755.

15 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.

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 board room at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.

The RFM Photographers meet at 2 p.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529

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.

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

Guest speaker

The Richard Henry Lee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a luncheon meeting June 19 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11:30 a.m. The featured speaker Len Malinowski will speak as James Mercer (above), colonial patriot, attorney and friend of Mary Washington, mother of the first president. Malinowski, a retired assistant attorney general of Michigan for 25 years, serves as a tour guide at the Mary Washington House-Museum in Fredericksburg.

Area Events

■ Flag Day

The Knights of Columbus St. George Assembly Color Guard will lead a celebration of Flag Day on Wednesday, June 14. Flag raising, patriotic songs by the Northern Neck Bay Tones and light refreshments will take place at approximately 9:30 a.m. at De Sales Hall on Church St., Kilmarnock

A Mass honoring all fire, police and service personnel will precede the flag ceremony. The mass takes place in the church at 9 a.m.

■ Marsh grass

The Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship recently received a $4,000 shipment of three kinds of marsh grasses, consisting of 120 flats with 50 plants per flat. Most of it is destined for 35 citizens. NAPS will sell the remainder.

Readers with marshes which need improvement and receive full sunlight for at least half the day, with sediment exposed at mid-tide, and with moderate wave energy, may contact Lynton Land at 453-6605.

■ Fish fry

Andy Kauders, president of Smith Point Sea Rescue, recently announced that the Reedville Bluefish Derby will feature a fish fry on Saturday, June 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be $10. Following the fish fry, Casper will perform.

All derby landside activity will take place at Buzzard's Point Marina near Reedville.

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Fish Fry
Back by Popular Demand
The Reedville Bluefish Derby sponsored by Smith Point Sea Rescue is again offering a fish fry at **Buzzards Point Marina** on June 10th from 5pm to 8pm.
Before, during or after dinner
Check out the vendors selling a variety of items of interest.

The Irvington Chamber of Commerce & Village Improvement Association presents
United States Air Force Heritage of America Band's
Heritage Aire
Celtic Ensemble
Friday, June 16
7 pm
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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

In the late winter of 1967 I read in the newspaper that the Cunard Company had announced the imminent retirement from service of the R.M.S. Queen Mary, once the fastest ocean liner in the world, but then a thirty-odd year relic of a grander era.

The article further stated that the company would retire R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, a slightly younger sister ship, the following year.

At the time, I had no specific travel plans, but soon thereafter I went to the Washington office of Thomas Cook and Son, the world's oldest travel agency, and booked passage on the "Mary" for that July, sailing from New York to Cobh, Ireland, the port of Cork, on the southeastern coast of the Emerald Isle.

I subsequently went to the passport office to apply for a passport, and found that I had barely missed the deadline for applying at the old fee of $5, as the new fee of $10 recently had gone into effect. (Earlier this year I applied to renew my passport, and learned that the fee now is $67.)

I spent the spring getting ready for the great voyage and it seemed no time until my departure date of July 12th was at hand. Friends threw a bon voyage party and my parents went with me by train to New York to see me off. The ship was even bigger than I had expected. I traveled cabin class, the mid-range between tourist class, sometimes called steerage, and the refinement of first class.

I boarded with my parents, found my cabin, but did not meet my random roommate until later in the day. We sailed in late morning and from the deck I could find my parents waving from the send-off crowd. The roommate turned out to be an authority on the Titanic, as well as some of the other great liners, and ironically he had booked this passage for reasons similar to mine, i.e., he wanted to travel on the Mary before it left service.

As we steamed under the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the reality of the trip set in. I went to the steward to book a deck chair for the trip, unaware that a day out of New York the weather would be too cold for sitting outside, but there was so much to do inside that I did not miss it.

The ship's meals were excellent, and my tablemates were mostly English folks going home from visits to relatives in the States. One gentleman had lost an arm in the trenches of World War I, and ate with a combined knife and fork that he adeptly handled with his one hand. Later, he arranged to meet me in London, from whence he drove me to see Runnymede where King John had been forced by the barons to sign the Magna Carta.

Each evening at midnight I joined a small group of diehards who stayed up to watch the ship's clock advance by one hour, the painless way one avoided anything akin to jet lag. By the time we arrived at Cobh, I had spent five 23-hour days, as opposed to latter trips by plane with the five-hour time change scrunched into one night.

One evening I registered to take a tour of the engine rooms down in the hold. I saw the enormous stabilizers which had been added some years after the original launching. They had reduced the ship's speed by one day, but the comfort factor had increased exponentially. All of that came too late, for in 1959 Trans-Atlantic jet travel became the norm when the airlines put the faster planes into service.

Early on the morning of the sixth day, we docked in Cobh harbor, and the side of the ship opened to allow us to pass to the tender to take up to the dock, as the Mary was too large to tie up at port. Along with the passengers and freight being deposited was the shipment which gave the liner the distinctive initials, R.M.S., the Royal Mail Ship.

There were only four more crossings after mine, then the long voyage to the Canary Islands, across the Atlantic, down the coast of South America, around Cape Horn, and up the Pacific to Long Beach, California, where the great vessel entered a new life as a resort hotel. The news media documented that last trip with daily bulletins letting the world know that the end was near. I reminded myself of the similar announcements relative to Winston Churchill's health in the last days of his life two years earlier.

Over the years, I have been to Europe many times since that crossing, but never again by ship, and not with such excitement, enthusiasm and elegance. It truly was the only way to go.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

This is week eight of the special session of the General Assembly and budget negotiations continue. The House and Senate budget conferees have been meeting this week and there has been slow but steady progress on creating a compromise budget.

The budget discussions now center upon capital expenditures. Capital expenditures include the money to be spent on construction of state buildings which include college buildings, hospitals, state office buildings and other material items. They say that the devil is always in the details and these discussions are no different. The differences in these discussions are over how these dollars for capital projects are to be spent. Should there be expenditures to plan then wait to build, or should the planning and building take place at one time? Then there is the discussion about which building projects should or should not be included in the budget.

The budget negotiations have been testy at times with patience running thin knowing that there is the desire to have a proposed compromise budget done by Tuesday, June 6. Gov. Kaine, Sen. Chichester and Del. Callahan will be meeting next week in New York with the various companies that rate the state's financial capabilities.

These companies want an update as to whether the state will have a budget adopted by July 1. It is my strong desire that the budget work be completed so that we have a budget to vote on this coming week. I believe that this can happen.

I have passed on my comments to the budget negotiators on a number of budget items that affect our district. They include a request to restore funding taken away from the Northern Neck Regional Jail, to restore funding for the Land Conservation Tax Credits and also to restore funding for high speed internet planning in the district. I am hopeful that these items will get back into the budget and remain there. I know that many folks are waiting anxiously for the budget to be adopted including local governments and teachers who have to make decisions on contracts with salaries that are conditioned upon the adoption of a state budget.

I began this past week in the district by speaking at a Memorial Day service at Christ Church near Weems and attended the service at Bethel United Methodist Church near Lively. This was a great opportunity to honor those service men and women who have given so much for our country.

On Tuesday, May 30, I attended a Lancaster County Volunteer Recognition Ceremony hosted by Bay Aging. Thursday, June 2, I had the opportunity to give the Commencement Speech for the Northern Neck Technical Center's graduation. I wish those young men and women who worked so hard to earn their certificates great success.

This past weekend was packed full of great events. On Saturday, June 3, I began my day at a community breakfast in Bowling Green. From there, I headed to the Northumberland Relay for Life walk. Then later that evening, I headed to Upperville where I and other environmentally conscious delegates were honored by the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. I also attended two Eagle Scout Ceremonies over the weekend.

I would like to urge you to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. I can be reached by phone at 493-0508, or email robwittman@verizon.net.

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Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the June 8, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen.)

Miskimon

The dry weather has been hard on growing crops, but excellent for bees.

Mathew Meith visited his mother on Sunday last.

Miss Irene Dawson was the welcome guest of Mrs. A. L. Bradshaw recently.

White Chapel

Among those on the sick list are Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Jenkins and children.

R. F. Chilton's horse got cut badly with barbed wire a few days ago.

Miss Gertrude Haynie, after spending a while with her sister at Courthouse, has returned to her home here.

Bluff Point

Chas. Wacker, Jr., of Byrdton and Baltimore, who has been critically ill for several months, has sufficiently improved to attend to business and is now at his factory on Indian Creek.

Miss Lucille Pinckard, of Pinckardsville, is the guest of her cousin, Grace Hurst.

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

Email your NEWS to:

@

editor@rrecord.com

Letters to the Editor

Supervisors have acted responsibly

To The Editor:

The Lancaster board of supervisors have held a number of work sessions on the 2007 county budget. I have attended most of the sessions.

As I have said previously, I personally do not want to have my taxes raised any more than anyone else does. In this instance, I believe that the members have tried to do their best to keep any increase to the minimum, consistent with providing the appropriate level of service.

I say this in the spirit of fairness, not because I agree with everything they do. But in this particular instance they, in my opinion, acted as responsibly as any five individuals could.

Any one of us might select different levels of service or programs. I know I would in a few cases, and I will do so at the public hearing on June 22. Please take the time to get involved. It affects all of us.

Charles Costello
Merry Point

Tourism council efforts commended

To The Editor:

I congratulate Patty Long, who is the Northern Neck Tourism Council (NNTC), for all of the work that she does single handedly to promote business and tourism in the Northern Neck.

It is astonishing what Patty's "office of one" accomplishes with essentially no administrative help, and minimal financial support from the counties of the Northern Neck.

You may recall the successful exhibit of the "Moving Wall" at the Warsaw campus of Rappahannock Community College. This is just one small example of Patty's ability to organize, obtain funds, and get volunteers to manage and produce a quality event with almost no notice. She was assisted in this endeavor by the Richmond County Fair Association.

Patty recognizes that tourism is a vital source of revenue in the Northern Neck, where big businesses are scarce, and small businesses are widely scattered. There are precious few business tax dollars available to contribute to each county's budgets that support a myriad of services to their community, particularly the needy.

Yet, county administrations are reluctant to provide wholehearted and financial support to the council. Counties are all too quick to find creative new ways to increase taxes on their residents, rather than devoting serious, time consuming efforts to bringing in new businesses.

As a business man in Westmoreland County, I can personally vouch for the numerous successful efforts Patty has undertaken; publishing the "Official Guide to the Northern Neck," attracting advertisements and tourists from within the Neck, from the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area, from Fredericksburg, and Richmond. She is constantly seeking new ways to attract tourists to Northern Neck businesses and parks. Recognizing that the Neck does not have the infrastructure to support extended tourist visits, Patty has adopted the pragmatic approach whereby we welcome tourists, want them to enjoy their experience, encourage them to shop and dine vigorously, have a safe trip home, and repeat this experience often. I hope that all of the businesses, residents, and county administrations appreciate and support the outstanding efforts and accomplishments of the NNTC.

F. C. Dugan III
Left Bank Galley, Hague

Defending Sen. Warner

To The Editor:

Unless the author of the "Senator must be retiring," which appeared June 1, is a Native American, there was a time when his ancestors came to the U.S.

There was a time when there was no Immigration and Naturalization Service or quota system. There were potato famines in Ireland, pogroms in Russia, persecutions of Puritans and Jan Hus' Moravian Church.

There were ideologies such as communism, failed politics and economics, not to mention the Holocaust and Hitler, that brought people to the open arms of the Statue of Liberty who proclaims: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Do we applaud the largesse and vision of Sen. Warner who has cast his vote for amnesty and a reasonable solution, who knows what it is that has made and will continue to make this country great, or do we succumb to the narrow-mindedness of the author of that letter, who attacks the senator, and who would erect along our own borders something akin to the Berlin Wall? Does he forget that such walls are ultimately pulled down in infamy as the human spirit soars over, above and beyond them?

Monika R. Smith
Reedville

A better reason for impeachment

To The Editor:

The esteemed attorney (and friend of mine) from Irvington would have us laud the retired generals (of whom there are six among the many hundreds retired) who have criticized Rumsfeld, however he then denigrates General Michael Hayden, formerly of the NSA, for failing to notice the terrorists who shopped in local Laurel, Md., for groceries and exercised in local spas prior to 9/11. One can't have it both ways.

As to a basis for impeachment, the attorney asks for a better example than Bush's uses of the CIA to cover his "starting the war in Iraq." A better example has already occurred—it took place during the last administration when Clinton talked on the phone to a mother who had lost her son in Bosnia (a conflict authorized by Clinton without the consent of Congress) while paying more attention to the ministrations of Monica Lewinsky and then lying about it.

I really don't think George Bush is concerned by the polls. I find it refreshing after Clinton daily changed his mind according to his ratings. Time will tell whether Bush did a good job or great job.

Was that "major newspaper" by any chance the liberal New York Times? I thought so.

Rebecca Tebbs Nunn
Kilmarnock

Moving on

To The Editor:

For the past four years, it has been my special privilege to serve the children of the Northern Neck as a practicing pediatrician at Chesapeake Medical Group Pediatrics.

I have recently decided to accept a position with another practice in the Hampton Roads area. My last day of practice with CMG Pediatrics will be Friday, July 7, 2006.

Parents will still be able to seek care for their children either at CMG Pediatrics or any of the CMG Family Practice offices.

James L. Tompkins, M.D.
Kilmarnock

Good-bye

To The Editor:

With sadness, I would like to say good-bye to the Northern Neck. I have enjoyed working with the families, fellow employees, and Rappahannock General Hospital.

The knowledge and experience gained here have been immeasurable. The parents and children really have made me feel valued and welcome.

I am leaving to pursue a job opportunity, which will allow me more time with my family.

Cassell A. Jordan, M.D.
Kilmarnock

Love one another

To The Editor:

While cargoes of flag-draped coffins continue to arrive from an Iraq descending into anarchy, while Social Security remains unfixed, while health care costs and gas prices soar, the top priority for our Republican Congress and president is a gay marriage amendment.

The President declares the institution of marriage to be "under attack" by "activist judges" and that "changing the definition of marriage would undermine the family structure."

My observation is that the strength of a family lies mainly in the bond between the people involved and those who play the parental role and they certainly don't always have to be a man and a woman.

Why is it not obvious that the number one threat to marriage and families is not gay unions, but divorce? Now at about the 50 percent level, I can't imagine some family splitting up because a judge married a same sex couple in San Francisco.

It is pretty obvious that all of this "undermining the family" baloney comes from the grand ayatollahs of the "Christian" Right, leaders like James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, whose real goal is to demonize gay people and write discrimination into our Constitution. I am not at all surprised that President Bush and Congress are so willing to pander to this gang—anything to distract us from the messes they've made.

I rarely agree with Dick Cheney, but on this issue he's right. His daughter, Mary, is a lesbian and he thinks Americans should do everything they can to accommodate any type of relationship, and that there should not be a federal policy in this area.

Yes, it makes a tremendous difference when you actually know people from the gay community. In my advertising career I worked with many gays. They were all decent, honest, upright citizens of good character.

Let me remind everyone what Jesus said in John 13: 31-35, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another," and that there is no footnote that disallows this commandment relative to people of the same sex.

Frank Mann
Lancaster

USPS (455-600)

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Letters to the Editor

Here I Am: An American In A Foreign Land

I'm completely alone
Dreaming of the loving touch of her hand
Instead I spit sand.
But I am a soldier.
Every day I drink water wishing it was a cold brew,
But instead I pray not to lose one of my crew.
Maybe today there will be water to shower.
No water, so I combat shower,
Bottles of water, baby wipes and foot powder.
But I am a soldier.
This, I say is the best part of my day.
Somewhat clean and a smile on my face
All while you complain about traffic today
But I am a soldier.
I can think of places I would rather be,
Or people I would love to see.
Instead I look for the enemy
So you can have the right to live free.
I live one year without my family,
You avoid yours like they're the enemy,
But I am a soldier.
I choose to fight for my future,
While you choose not to mature.
I see the worst of human nature
While you lose stature.
But I am a soldier.
I count down months every hour,
You count down until happy hour.
You get drunk and talk of war,
While I stay sober and fight in war.
But I am a soldier.
You complain of running to the store
I hope I don't die en route to our store.
You get upset when there is no cold beer,
I hope I can get some cold water.
But I am a soldier.
Highlight of my day is getting mail,
But you don't even check your mail.
I'm glad to get a hot meal,
You complain about your meal.
But I am a soldier.
I chose to fight for my country. It wasn't for pay or for stature; it was for pride, pride of country and self. I also chose to fight for my future children, yours and everyone elses.
Also for your right to argue politics and freedom, so enjoy while we miss our children's births and lose our family members. Remember this the next time you bad mouth; the jobs we do are sacrifices for you.

by Pfc. Robert Guernsey
of Kilmarnock
stationed at Camp Al Taji, Iraq

Impressed

To The Editor:

I must say that I was very impressed with the presentations about the history of Bluff Point Graded School on the evening of May 15.

The children all did a wonderful job, and their readings were very informative.

I can clearly see that there have been some wonderfully creative sessions with the children. I am very proud of them all. The adults who helped from the Bluff Point Community made their learning experiences enjoyable.

The children's reports about the early history of this school helped me to remember some of the things I did in grade school. The evening's fellowship was very pleasant.

Aline Waller
(Allesia Muschetee's mother)
Weems

Rumors are partially correct

To The Editor:

You may have heard rumors about some upcoming changes in my practice—I want to let you know that sometimes parts of rumors can be true.

Yes, I am leaving my practice in mid-August to go to seminary; but no, I'm not becoming a preacher, and I'm not leaving the practice of medicine entirely. What I am doing is responding to a call I've felt to pursue further training in ethics.

For the next 3 years, I plan on pursuing a degree in ethics, taking courses in Christian ethics at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and medical ethics at the Center for Bioethics at U.V.A. My hope is to write and speak to people about medical ethics from a Christian perspective.

I have been planning, praying and thinking about this for over three years now, and don't take this decision lightly; I'm well aware how disruptive and upsetting a change in doctors can be. With this in mind, I'm happy to welcome Dr. Will Stallings to my practice. Dr. Stallings is a family practitioner who is returning to this area after completing his medical training in Oklahoma. He's a member of a large family in Reedville and is returning home to practice medicine, a longtime goal of his.

Like me, Dr. Stallings is trained in Family Medicine, does minor surgical procedures, colon cancer screening and particularly enjoys geriatrics. In addition, he also enjoys inpatient medicine and will be admitting and managing patients at Rappahannock General Hospital.

Those patients of mine who are in assisted living or nursing facilities at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, Lancashire and Mayfair House, will continue to be my patients. After August, instead of coming to my office, I'll be coming to see you.

Finally, I'm not planning on leaving the Northern Neck—Jennie and I love this area and our friends too much. I plan on commuting for the duration of my training and hope to return to outpatient medicine in some capacity when I'm finished.

Jim Wright, MD, PhD
Kilmarnock

Do you remember?

This photograph of Main Street Kilmarnock in the 1930s shows, from left, a department store that is now Lipscombe Furniture TV & Appliances; Eubank's General Store; the Post Office; Noblett's Grocery, now The Sleep Center; Sunny South Grocery; an unidentified men's shop, now Lee's Restaurant; and Bank of Lancaster, now American Standard Insurance. (Photo courtesy of the Kilmarnock Museum)

Republicans gather for gala

Several local residents attended the Republican Commonwealth Gala on June 3 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. From left are (front row) F. W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., chairman of the Lancaster board of supervisors, Muffin Fitzpatrick, Tim Fitzpatrick, Lancaster Republican Committee chairman Joan Blackstone and Tony Blackstone; (next row) Bill Blocher, Frank Smith, Richmond County Republican Committee chair Lori Duncan, Speaker Bill Howell, First District Representative to the Republican State Central Committee Carol Dawson and Northumberland County Republican committee chair Allen Webb.

Stretching the limitations

To The Editor:

The recent seizure by the Justice Department of cash and other evidence from the office of Rep. William J. Jefferson has brought out an expected chorus of complaint from the liberal left.

Their claim is that Jefferson came from a poor, disadvantaged family, and therefore is, somehow, not responsible for any violations of public trust or felonies of which he might be accused. Therefore, they say, he is unprosecutable.

Well, to answer that challenge, it seems that if a person is recognized as one who, because of an unhappy childhood, should not be held accountable for his or her actions as an adult, it would be the heart of folly to elevate that person to a position of responsibility and public trust. Does this mean that all who are from humble beginnings should be precluded from serving in such positions?

Quite the contrary, says modern political correctness.

Rather, says the Liberal Left, those from humble surroundings should be elevated to improve their self-image.

This, however, would be the political equivalent of "the fox guarding the henhouse." Family background, and humble beginnings are no excuse for lawbreakers. Now, let's address the charge of some congressmen that a congressional office and files are covered by "Congressional immunity." Therefore, those elected congressmen claim, the duly-issued subpoena and seizure of cash and suspicious documents and files are illegal.

Well, not so fast.

The law grants immunity to members of both houses of congress except in cases of treason, felony or breach of the peace. In the case of Rep. Jefferson, the actin of the Justice Department is not an unconstitutional breach of this clause (Article 1, Section 6, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the U.S.), as they claim. Rather the Constitution lends its full support to this action.

You see, Rep. Jefferson is also alleged to have obstructed a previous search of his office, accepted bribes, and stored bribe money in his refrigerator. These are all felonies, and are specifically excepted. Rep. Jefferson therefore has no immunity under the law; rather, the law specifically supports the action of the justice department.

It should be noted that the purpose of Article 1 of the Constitution was to prevent officials of the Executive Branch, including the president, from bringing undue pressure upon any member of the Legislative Branch. It most certainly was not intended as a "get out of jail free" card. It can well be argued that President Bush's extremely generous decision, as is authorized by his office, to seal all records seized from Rep. Jefferson's office for 45 days, may be considered by some as an impediment to a criminal investigation.

Albert (Spike) Nunn
Kilmarnock

Why press 1 for English?

To The Editor:

I am beginning to notice a disturbing trend in our country. It is getting increasingly difficult to conduct business on the phone without someone directing you to press 1 for English.

Why should I have to press "1" for English? Is this not America? Isn't English our common language? Diversity in our people's religions, beliefs, background, ethnicity and race have been an essential part of the building of America. However, without a common language we will have disunity, distrust and confusion.

A look at most countries in the world that don't have a common language shows disunity, separatist parties and even civil war. A common language doesn't guarantee a unified nation, but it certainly helps.

I believe that government, business and school should be conducted in English. I shouldn't have to press anything. If anything needs to be pressed, make it something other than English. When a person comes to this country they should know that learning English is necessary to survive and succeed. We make it too easy for people to live in this country without considering themselves to be Americans.

We should make it necessary to learn the language. We are bringing up a generation of immigrants that can survive in our country without even trying to learn English. Learning the language has to be step one. I understand that we must assist kids in our schools. But we can't afford two educational systems. If we make it too easy to learn English, we will destroy the incentive to learn it.

I know that our country's success lies in acceptance and diversity, not isolation and exclusion, but like it or not, language is the center of culture. The old immigrants came to this county to be Americans. The new ones come here for the goodies. Let's not make the top too lose on the cookie jar. Our constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence are in English and that is good enough for me. The welcoming sign for this country says "give me your tired, your poor, and your huddles masses yearning to be free." It doesn't say press "1."

Lloyd N. Hill
Weems

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LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
JUNE 12, 2006

The Lancaster County School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting June 12, 2006 in the auditorium at the Lancaster Middle School at 6:30 p.m. The school board is seeking input on tuition for out of county students. For discussion purposes, school board is proposing the tuition be set at $1,500.00 per child.

CHESAPEAKE MEDICAL GROUP

Chesapeake Medical Group is interviewing with a Pediatrician at this time and hopes to have the issue resolved as soon as possible. In the interim, our Family Practitioners will be happy to see your child until a suitable replacement is found. If you have questions regarding your child's records, please contact **CMG Pediatrics at 804-435-1152**. CMG apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Births

Austin James Walker

Lewis and Vickie Walker of Ottoman announce the birth of their son, Austin James Walker, born May 16, 2006, at Henrico Doctors' Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He was welcomed home by his two-and-a-half-year-old sister, Kendall Lynn Walker.

His paternal grandparents are Sandra Walker of Lancaster and Lewis K. Walker II of Ottoman.

His maternal grandparents are Cynthia Jeffries and James Edward Smith, both of Heathsville.

His paternal great-grandmother is Essia Gill of Lancaster.

His maternal great-grandmothers are Marie Smith of Heathsville and Marjorie Green of Fredericksburg.

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Will Sigler and children, Meredith and Patrick, of Chester were with his parents, the Rev. Bill and the Rev. Mary Dell Sigler, on Prentice Creek for the recent holiday. Earlier the Revs. Sigler were in Fallston, Md., with their son-in-law and daughter, the Rev. Dave and Dr. Deb Deans and children, Natalie and Evan. The occasion was to attend the ordination of their son-in-law as a minister in the United Methodist Church.

Ms. Maxine Somervell spent several days recently with her sister, Mrs. Ellen Brent Dize Boone in Morehead City, N.C.

Guests of Jim and Ginger Philbrick in White Stone this week are longtime friends Dick and Nancy Cogswell of New London, N.H.

Mrs. Helen Hoffman is a temporary resident of the Mayfair House in Kilmarnock.

Mrs. Anna Marie Snelling of Indian Creek and her son, the Rev. Dr. Michael Browder of Farmville, have returned after a week in Morocco, North Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. John Taliaferro were in Richmond last weekend to care for their grandson, Will, while the parents, Jack and Sharon Taliaferro, celebrated her birthday.

Mrs. Peter Braatz of Indian Creek is spending this week with her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. C.S. Ivie, in Hilton Head, S.C.

Guests of Paul and Carol Treakle in White Stone on May 27 were Harriet T. Mattox and daughter, Ann Lackey, and Doris V. Treakle, all of Martinsville, Bill and Alison Mattox of Barhamsville, Greg Treakle of King George, Bryan, Iris and David Treakle of White Stone and Carolyn and Austin Resendiz of Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Covington of Verona were at their Indian Creek home last weekend.

Mrs. Val Robinson of Indian Creek and Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Lee of Weems have returned from Tallahassee, Fla., where they attended the graduation of their grandson, Robert O'Bryan Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Taylor were in Jefferson, Md., several days last weekend with a son-in-law and daughter, Barbara and Clarence Horst. Another daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Mike Parrish and daughters, Hunter and Taylor, of Boonesboro, Md., and the Taylors, helped the Horsts prepare for an open house of their early 1800s home which some family members and friends had not seen.

Christ Church summer programs begin Saturday

Christ Church will kick off its annual summer children's programs Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the season's first "Second Saturday" event.

On the second Saturday of June, July and August, children of all ages and their families are invited to explore colonial history, games and crafts at the church, said eduction director Richard Teagle.

This Satuday's program will feature colonial games such as the hoop and the stick, the bilbo catcher and nine pins. Children can learn how to make a whirligig, a toy popular with youngsters in Colonial Virginia; go on a museum artifact hunt; try on colonial clothing; and try writing with a quill pen.

They will also be able to excavate "shoebox sites" to learn about archaeology and its role in studying Colonial Virginia.

On July 8, Christ Church will host an ice cream social, where children can enjoy tasty ice cream treats while playing colonial games, making crafts, and doing other hands-on activities related to colonial history.

The final "Second Saturday" will take place August 12.

All "Second Saturdays" are free and open to the public, with cookies and lemonade provided at each. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition to the "Second Saturday" program, Christ Church will hold its annual "Hands-On History Day" July 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children can explore the history of Colonial Virginia through hands-on lessons with archaeology, 18th-century brick making, grave rubbings, and other exciting activities. This event is free and open to children ages 6 to 12.

However, all participants must pre-register, and space is limited to the first 25 children to register. Lunch will be provided for all registered participants.

Music By the River

The Music By the River family concert series will continue Saturday at Belle Isle State Park with The Dragon Bun Band and A Gospel Trio. The show will begin at 6 p.m. Families are urged to bring a picnic, blankets or lawn chairs and insect repellent. The Friends of Belle Isle State Park will sell sodas and bottled water. Popcorn is free. There will be crafts for the children. Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley (above) opened the series in May. The free concerts will continue into August.

'On Stage' subscription renewals due

Renewal subscriptions are due for 2006-07 "On Stage" series sponsored by The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts.

Shows will include Piano 4 at 8 p.m. October 21, The Miami String Quartet at 8 p.m. November 6, Saxton's Cornet Band at 7:30 p.m. January 27, the Taylor 2 dance troupe at 8 p.m. February 17, The Richmond Symphony at 8 p.m. March 3 and Club Swing at 8 p.m. March 31.

All shows will be held at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

Series tickets are $135 for adults, $45 for students, $175 for donors and $200 for friends.

Brochures announcing the season, with series order forms have been mailed to current season subscribers and a growing mailing list. The series continually sells out. Current subscribers have until June 30 to renew. Season ticket sales to the public will follow.

Others who would like to receive a brochure may call the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts at 435-0292.

From left are Fred McBride, Joe Dickens, John Pierce, Robert Blankenship, Kenny McShea and Neal Garner.

Neighbors hold Memorial Day barbecue feast

On May 27, neighbors and friends of Corrotoman-By-The-Bay (CBTB) celebrated Memorial Day and the beginning of the summer season by holding a Memorial Day Barbecue.

The "Master Male CBTB Chefs" (John Pierce, Robert Blankenship, Neal Garner, Joe Dickens and Fred McBride) cooked the barbecue and built their grill, "Old Ironside," for the event. They were assisted by the "CBTB Master Lady Chefs.'

The menu included barbecue pork and chicken, sweet potatoes, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs and a large assortment of homemade desserts.

A $25 gift certificate to "Winnie's Wonders" was won by Susan Blankenship, and Jerry Stevens won a 50/50 drawing. Door prizes were won by Pennie McShea, Bill Berger, Ginny Schmidt, Fred O'Daire, Mark Roper and Pat McGhee.

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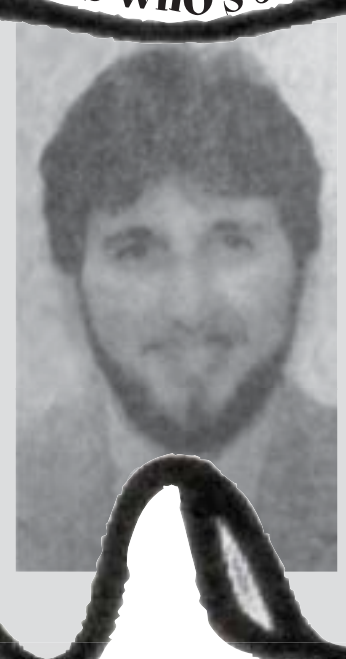

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Fall music festival planned

The Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Men (BEUMM) are planning the "Chili by the Rivah III" music festival September 23.

The festival will be held at the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department pavilion in Lively.

The festival will feature the annual chili cook-off for cash prizes and chili cooking bragging rights for the Northern Neck. Two musical groups will provide live concerts during the festivities and an open 5k Run/Walk will be conducted. In addition, children's events and games are planned and vendors will be selling arts and crafts.

This year BEUMM is pleased to welcome "Code Blue," from eastern Virginia, a high-energy tandem who play a rich assortment of traditional and contemporary bluegrass, as well as their own compositions. They have won many awards and have been touted as rising stars in the bluegrass field.

The duo of Donnie and Lisa Redfoot from southeast Virginia is well-known for their own style of bluegrass, folk and gospel that mesmerizes and entertains their audiences.

The 5k Run/Walk is open to all runners and walkers. The entry fee is $15, which entitles the participant to run the race and admission to the festival. The course is a flat one and the race will begin at the pavilion proceeding through Lively to the Ruritan facility on Route 201 and return, finishing at the pavilion.

General admission is $5 for persons 12 years and older; free for younger folks. The entrance fee will entitle each person to admission; a taste of each chili cooked; a vote for their favorite, and the live concerts and other festivities of the day. The BEUMM will have food and drinks for sale at the pavilion kitchen.

Vendors and chili-cooking teams are still wanted as there is space left. They will set up their booths at 7 a.m. and the general admission gates will open at 10 a.m. For those with self-contained campers who want to get an early start, space will be available Friday evening on the festival grounds.

The fee for a 10'X10' booth for the chili cooking teams is $20. The teams will compete for first-, second- and third-place cash prizes of $150, $100 and $50, as well as the bragging rights for the Northern Neck's "best chili." Winners will be determined by a people's choice vote. The Oaks Restaurant team of Lively is the current chili champions and also holds the award for the best booth. Crafts, arts and business vendor booths at the same size (10'X10') are available for $20.

The festival will have supervised games and events for the kids, so make sure they come along for the fun, music and food.

This is a charity event and the proceeds will go to support the activities of the Animal Welfare League, an animal advocacy group and the oldest organization in the Northern Neck dedicated to animal protection and rescue.

For registration information as a chili cooker, vendor or 5k participant, visit www.beumm.org after June 15. General information about the event can be obtained from the website or by calling 462-5790. Mail applications to BEUMM Chili, P.O. Box 18, Lively, VA 22507.

From left, event coordinator Hack Dean checks a site plan with Joe Hecht and Alan Burgess.

White Stone mayor Lloyd Hubbard purchases the first raffle ticket from WSVFD president Paul Elbourn.

Raffle to replace fair in White Stone

The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department annual country fair has been cancelled and will be replaced by a cash raffle with a drawing to be held at the firehouse September 16.

The fair was a victim of a cycle of poor weather and declining attendance. Seeking a replacement fund-raiser, a cash raffle drew the most interest.

WSVFD members will sell 400 tickets for $100 each to yield 20 cash prizes.

The grand prize will be $10,000, second prize is $2,500, third through fifth prizes are $1,000 each. Sixth through tenth prizes are $500 each. Eleventh through twentieth prizes are $250 each.

The members feel that it's a great opportunity as a fund-raiser and will give 20 of the 400 ticket holders a chance to win.

The September 16 drawing will be held at a dance with a band from 7 to 11 p.m. Ticket holders will receive free admission for two people to the dance. One does not have to be present to win.

Tickets are available from WSVFD members and by calling 436-6242 or 435-2672 and leaving a message.

History trail opens Saturday

The Gloucester Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism recently announced the opening of the 2006 History Trail. Beginning Saturday, June 10, trail sites will be open the second Saturday of each month through October, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Participating sights are Abingdon Episcopal Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Walter Reed Birthplace, Long Bridge Ordinary and the archaeology lab at Rosewell. These buildings and exhibits are usually open to the public on a very limited basis, so this is a great opportunity to visit.

Admission is free with the exception of Rosewell; however, all of the sites gladly accept donations to help fund their maintenance. Rosewell admission is $4 per adult and $2 for children 6 to 12 years.

A History Trail guide and map will be available at the Gloucester Visitor Center on the Historic Court Circle and at each location on the trail.

Fund-raiser for prevention efforts is set

The Northumberland United Prevention Alliance will hold a fund-raiser at Pizza Hut on North Main Street in Kilmarnock on Thursday evening, June 15.

NUPA members will wait on diners and Buzzie the Clown will entertain the kids.

Tips and funds raised will support NUPA, whose goal is to strengthen citizens in Northumberland County in their efforts to prevent substance abuse, school violence, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and school failure.

Call Mike Stevenson at 580-9014 for more information.

Gwynn's Island Festival will be held June 23-24

The 58th annual Gwynn's Island Festival will be held June 23 and 24 at the Gwynn's Island Civic Center.

The festival will open June 23 with a chicken dinner. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 10 and under. Takeout will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The menu will include fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, ham biscuit, pickle and cake. Gwynn's Island Festival souvenir books, 50-50 raffle tickets and festival t-shirts will be for sale near the entrance.

On Saturday activities begin at 9 a.m. with a variety of music, arts and crafts, food vendors, new and expanded children's games, golf putting contests and free blood pressure checks.

Other activities include a motorcycle display (9 a.m.), pet parade (10 a.m.) and lawn mower races (2 p.m.).

The Rescue Squad, Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Coast Guard with boat, Coast Guard Auxiliary and Gwynn's Island Museum will have educational displays.

Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA), Chapter "O" from Williamsburg will display their Gold Wing motorcycles. The GWRRA represents the world's largest single marquis motorcycle organization with over 90,000 GWRRA members and their motorcycles worldwide. There are no parking or admission fees.

The Gwynn's Island Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge for the museum. Lots of interesting books about the island are in the museum gift shop.

The Gwynn's Island Civic Center is on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island.

Festival to offer variety

Land and water are heart and soul of Tappahannock and Essex County—and that will be reflected in a variety of displays in the RivahFest Farmer's Market, Merchant's Row and Marine Area on June 17.

"We've expanded the Marine Area this year," said chairman Tyler Lowery. "More boats, more activities and more information are really going to put the 'Rivah' in RivahFest."

Five local dealers will display more than 25 boats and personal watercraft on the St. Margaret's School campus between Duke and Virginia streets.

Local boat owners will display their restored vintage powerboats on Duke Street between Water Lane and the Rappahannock River.

A croaker contest will be held from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Men, women and children will compete for prizes in seven categories. Contest headquarters is June Parker Marina on Route 17 North. Croaker contest details and an entry form are available at www.rivahfest.com.

The Farmer's Market on Cross Street between Prince and Virginia will feature baked goods, gourmet fixings, roasted nuts, fresh flowers, herbs, honey, handcrafted soaps, pet treats and more.

At Merchant's Row, on Duke Street between Cross and Water, shoppers will find products and services that include sunrooms, insurance, health care, banking and broadband Internet.

The RivahFest Marine, Farmer's Market and Merchant's Row areas will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information,

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Revolutionary city program offers new way to experience Colonial America

A 30-year-old carpenter torn between family and war, a runaway slave seeking freedom from his master, George Washington addressing his troops before the march to Yorktown—these are just a few of the people guests may encounter during Colonial Williamsburg's new, interactive two-day experience, "The Revolutionary City—From Subjects to Citizens."

The program connects guests to the emotional and philosophical climate of the period leading up to and during the American Revolution.

"By involving guests in this significant time period in history, we're hoping to reinvigorate their interest in our nation's past, present and future," said Rex Ellis, vice president of the Historic Area, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. "Citizen participation was as important to the Colonial Americans' fight for freedom as it is for our democratic society today."

To accurately depict the series of major events and scenes that illustrate Williamsburg's central role in revolutionary times, each day consists of a two-hour interactive program, focused on select events that portray Colonial Americans' crucial transition from subjects to citizens.

Day one will feature the collapse of royal government, depicting pivotal events during 1774 to 1776, including British Royal Governor Lord Dunmore's dismissal of the House of Burgesses and the convening of the first Virginia convention. From witnessing a disagreement between a loyalist mother and her patriot daughter, to interacting with the slaves as they weigh the ironies of the freedom their masters seek, as juxtaposed to continued bondage for them, participants will have the opportunity to connect with the characters' personal stories and share the challenges they faced as they separated themselves from British rule.

Day two spans July 1776—September 1781, beginning with the Declaration of Independence and including the British occupation of the city. Participants share the difficulties, turmoil and challenges the citizens of Virginia faced as they join in protests about the high price of goods, stand next to an estranged wife seeking work at a tavern and march with General Washington as he prepares to leave for Yorktown.

"Many of the challenges Colonial Americans faced are similar to the challenges we face today—families are torn by war, parents and children argue about what's right and wrong and political debates are a daily occurrence," said Ellis. "By connecting visitors to the Colonial Americans' personal struggles for freedom, we hope guests will reflect on the liberties we've been granted and develop newfound respect for the benefits of citizenship, as well as the responsibility to participate in the democratic process."

The Revolutionary City program activities take place in the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily. Admission to The Revolutionary City program is included with the Colonial Williamsburg general admission ticket.

To enrich each guest's experience, many of the programs in the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area will complement the Revolutionary City activities, referencing and reinforcing the events depicted. All historic sites will emphasize that citizen participation was at the heart of the matter of democracy, as it is at the heart of America today.

Established in 1926, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is the educational institution that preserves and operates the restored 18th-century capital of Virginia. For more information or reservations, call 1-800-447-8679, or visit www.ColonialWilliamsburg.com.

Ron Cox with his exhibit at The Bay School.

Gallery exhibits 30 paintings

"June is Busting Out All Over" is the theme of an exhibit of 30 paintings at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock.

Lancaster Middle School art teacher Marilyn Sprouse judged the exhibit and awarded seven ribbons.

Sibyl Bayne's "Spring Bouquet" received the blue ribbon for its "subtle jewels of color," Sprouse said.

Three red ribbons were awarded. Naomi Myrick's painting "Sunflowers" made Sprouse "feel the breeze blowing through the flowers."

Barbara Touchette's photograph, "Hydrangea in Blue M," was praised for "color values that brought out the inner light."

In Pat Ramey's watercolor "Low Country Swamp," Sprouse could "feel the haunting stillness of the scene accented by the flow of light."

Sprouse also awarded three yellow ribbons. Elise Ritter's "Café I" impressed her with its "inviting quality and restful areas."

Agnes Carter's "See You At the Beach" was "fun and refreshing." Lella Lee Edwards' "Yellow Sky Series" is "very serene" Sprouse said.

The Studio Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit continues through June.

Cox displays work in Mathews

Ron Cox of Kilmarnock is exhibiting his abstract art at The Art Speaks Gallery in The Bay School on Main Street in Mathews.

Cox graduated from Lancaster High School in 1971 and majored in fine arts at Virgina State University in Petersburg where his work has been exhibited. It has also been displayed in Lancaster High School, at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock and Northumberland Public Library.

"Some people look at rainy days as being miserable, but rain is my favorite weather. I apply my brush, pen or pencil and try to express my response to it," Cox said.

The show will continue through June 28 on Tuesdays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For directions to the gallery, call 725-1278, or visit www.bayschool-arts.com.

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From left, Maria Holdsworth, Margaret Ajootian, Dee Wise and Queen Mum Irma Burke of the Red Hat River Mommas receive an award from Carol Sennott of the Rivah Crab Pots for the best parade mobile unit.

Red Hat winners named

Some 300 ladies dressed in red hats and purple dresses descended on Kilmarnock June 3 to celebrate Red Hat Day 2006.

Forty-five groups from Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia participated. The day began at 8 a.m. with a buffet breakfast and concluded with a funny money auction, with many activities in the interim.

Winners were declared in several categories.

Ann Longest of the American Violets won for the most "hattitude" hat. Dorothy Bullis of the Rivah Country Mad Red Hatters won for the most humongous hat. Kathy Cosby of Red Hat Katty Brats won for the most hilarious hat.

Ann Jenkins of the Rivah Country Mad Red Hatters was declared to have the most outrageous costume and the Ocean View Babes were designated the most audacious chapter.

The parade winners were the Red Hat River Mommas of Kilmarnock and the Radiant Ladies Society of Saluda.

The judges' favorite was Ann Jenkins. Karla Kirk of the Red Hot Flashers received honorable mention.

Deborah Carr of Hatters Matters was said to have the best costume for a pink hatter.

Hazel Burton of the Roving Red Hatters received a plaque as the oldest red hatter and Irma Burke of the Red Hat River Mommas was named the eldest queen mother, aka the Queen Mum.

Carroll Lee Ashburn of the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce said the day was "a huge success" and that the Kilmarnock Chamber already has plans in motion for a bigger and better Red Hat Day June 2, 2007.

Rotary hears Irish speaker

Mort Murphy, of Team Nimbus of Ireland, spoke to the Northern Neck Rotary Club on the effect of the formation of the European Union on business in Ireland.

Murphy contrasted the differences in the E.U. and the U.S. While the U.S. is a single country with a union of states, the E.U. is a federation of national states, each with its own identity and laws.

One may travel around the U.S. with only a driver's license, but in the E.U. passports are required and customs and security checks take place at the borders.

The use of a common currency, the Euro, has eased trade in Europe and the value-added tax imposed by the E.U. has created opportunities to balance trade within the E.U., Murphy said.

Ireland was one of the poorer member nations at the inception of the E.U. and received grants for projects to boost its economy. Irish businesses also joined cooperatives to share marketing power.

Now Ireland is the fastest growing country per capita and is considerably richer. It, in turn, is now boosting the pools to assist other nations.

Ireland long suffered a "brain drain," but with added growth is now enticing investment and has a net gain in immigration in recent years, Murphy said. Much of the new investment and business growth has come from the U.S., as well as increased tourism.

Mort Murphy of Castlemartyr, Ireland, spoke to the Northern Neck Rotary Club at its May 31 meeting about business in Ireland.

The Northern Neck Rotary Club meets at Lee's Restaurant Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.

Alzheimer's expert will speak June 14

One of the nation's leading authorities on Alzheimer's disease will address a public gathering June 14 at 3 p.m. at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel. The lecture, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Richmond Chapter, is free and open to all.

Dr. P. Murali Doraiswamy, a physician and faculty member at Duke University, specializes in brain longevity and mental wellness. He will recommend prevention tips and offer his insights into the latest treatments for Alzheimer's.

"We're very fortunate to have Dr. Doraiswamy in Richmond, and he's coming to us at no charge, thanks to a grant from Forest Laboratories. Anyone who has any interest at all in Alzheimer's should not miss this important lecture," said Sherry Peterson, chapter chief executive officer.

A native of India, Dr. Doraiswamy joined Duke in 1995 as its first director of psychiatry and clinical trials. He continues to hold that post today. He is also chief of biological psychiatry at Duke.

Dr. Doraiswamy has served on the National Scientific Advisory Committee for the American Federation for Aging Research. He is also the recipient of numerous awards for his research on aging.

Reservations are required. To RSVP, call the Alzheimer's Association at 967-2580.

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Red Devils finish second in Region A; advance to state "A" soccer tournament

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

It's been a long time since Lancaster soccer fans have had much to cheer about in the post-season. But this year — for the first time in seven years — the roar of the crowd can be heard in state play.

Although the varsity Devils lost the Region A championship, 4-1, to Northampton last Friday, Lancaster hosted Galax in a Group A quarterfinal earlier this week in the team's first state berth since 1999.

Once a regional superpower, the Devils' soccer program has gone through four coaches in six years without much success.

This year, under first-year head coach Amy Stamm, the Devils won both the Northern Neck District's regular season and tournament championships and are 10-5-2 overall.

"I knew the talent was there from the beginning," said Stamm. "My big obstacle was getting them to play as a team."

The Devils advanced to last week's region championship with a 4-0 semifinal win over Appomattox Regional Governor's School and a 3-1 quarterfinal win over King William.

Northampton (19-1) got a pair of first-half goals from Jesus Figueroa in the tourney final before thunderstorms blew through Heathsville for a 90-minute rain delay. The Yellow Jackets came off the extended break to score two more unanswered goals.

Update . . .
Galax High School beat Lancaster, 2-0, Tuesday night in round one of the state tournament, ending the Red Devils' season.
Details will be in next week's Record.

The Devils' only goal came on a penalty kick by Jacob Jackson early in the first half. An overzealous defense drew a handball call in the box just five minutes into the game to bring up Jackson's free kick.

Lancaster's lead held for 12 minutes when Figueroa hit his first. He struck again, slipping a shot by LHS goalkeeper Daniel Robertson, with two minutes to play in the first half.

The game was stopped because of weather with 34 minutes to go in the second half and when play resumed, tournament MVP Roberto Maldonado scored on a penalty kick.

Northampton's Richard Evans capped the scoring with 8:44 remaining.

With most of the play in Lancaster's end of the field, the Devils got off just six shots on goal.

Robertson had 12 saves.

"We didn't play to our ability," said Stamm. "I don't know if we underestimated Northampton or underestimated ourselves. By that, I mean now that the competition is getting stronger we don't think we're as good. They're playing mind games with themselves.

"The defense broke down and our midfield was not as strong as it could have been," she added.

Lancaster blanked the Dragons in last week's semifinal with Leif Mieras scoring the first two goals for the Devils. Justin Guthrie also scored in the opening period to give LHS a 3-0 lead at the break.

Billy Jackson had the only goal of the second half.

Robertson made 13 saves.

Lancaster spotted the Cavaliers a goal, then scored three unanswered to beat King William in a first-round game.

After a scoreless first half, Kendan Shoup opened the scoring for the Cavs about midway through the second period. Shoup got a quick answer from Jacob Jackson four minutes later. Jackson got the ball at midfield and dribbled about 45 yards with three defenders pressing to stick a shot dead center in the goal.

With 15 minutes to play, J. Jackson shot from about 10 yards out, but had the kick deflected. Patrick Oliver was there for the follow and goal for the go-ahead score.

The Devils added a security goal with five minutes to play when B. Jackson headed in a 30-yard lob from Chris Wyvill.

Robertson had nine saves for the Devils.

Patrick Oliver of Lancaster High School fights for possession of the ball in the championship game of the regional soccer tournament last Friday. Lancaster lost by 3 to Northampton after a thunderstorm delayed the game for an hour and a half. (Photo by Conrad Wineland)

Lancaster's Jacob Jackson steals the ball from a King William player during a regional quarterfinal. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Northumberland places atop Lancaster in state track meet

Jerry Jones was one of the two fastest men in Group A last weekend. As the runner-up in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, he led the Middlesex High boys track and field team to a second-place finish in the state meet.

Jones ran the 100-meter in 10.81 and the 200-meter in 22.26 as the scoring leader for the Tidewater District team. Jones scored 16 of Middlesex's 38 points.

Clarke County, with 73 points, won the boys meet at Radford University last Saturday. George Mason was third with 32.

Northumberland was the top finisher among Northern Neck District teams with 20 points for sixth place.

Lavar Rich scored half of the Indians' total with 10 points as the state champion in the 400-meter dash. Rich ran the race in 49.84. Brandon Webb scored a point for the Indians with an eighth-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles in 16.18.

The rest of Northumberland's scoring came from its 4X100-meter and 4X400-meter relay teams.

Lancaster's boys came in 15th out of 47 teams at the state races with 15 points. Essex High was 18th with 11 points.

Jamie Veney led the Red Devils in scoring with 5.5 points. He was seventh in the triple jump (43'9"), seventh in the 100-meter dash (11.12) and ran a leg of the third-place 4X100-meter relay team. Although he was not awarded points, Nick Beale took ninth in the 100-meters in 11.20.

In field events, Lancaster's Kenny Wilson scored three points with a sixth-place finish in the shot put (46'11") and Rakeem Laws scored two points with a seventh-place finish in the discus (136'5").

Although he didn't score, Aaron Holzbach of Lancaster came in 12th in a field of 22 in the mile run (4:57.91).

Also from the Northern Neck District, Matthew Braxton of Essex was the state runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles in 15.41 and was eighth in the 300-meter hurdles in 44.13.

In the girls meet, Yasmine Robinson and Sha Rich led Essex to a fourth-place team finish with 24 points.

Buffalo Gap had the best girls team in Group A, winning the state championship with 90 points, an impressive 47 points better than second-place Clarke County.

West Point was sixth with 31 points for the best finish among Region A teams.

Northumberland had 10 points, all of which came from Monet Stevenson, who is the state champion in the shot put. Stevenson threw the shot 37' 1/2".

Robinson scored 12 points for the Lady Trojans with third-place finishes in the 100-meter dash (12.48) and the 400-meter dash (1:02.55). Rich took fourth in the 200-meter dash (26.41) to score five points.

Although Lancaster's state qualifiers did not score, distance runner Lisa Faulkner finished 15th in the two-mile (13:40.79) and 19th in the mile (6:20.11).

Brianne Oltermann was 15th in the 800-meter in 2:40.80.

Lancaster coach and scoring leaders named All-Region

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

In her first year, Lancaster High varsity soccer coach Amy Stamm has been honored by her peers as the Region A coach of the year and the Northern Neck District coach of the year.

She was presented the awards following last Friday's regional tournament championship game in Heathsville. The Devils lost, 4-1, to Northampton, but have earned their first Group A tournament berth in seven years.

Amy Stamm

Stamm also led Lancaster to its first district championship in seven seasons with a 10-5-2 overall record and a 5-1-2 Northern Neck mark. The Devils also claimed the district tournament trophy.

Three Lancaster players made the all-region first team: brothers Jacob and Billy Jackson, and Leif Mieras. Mieras and J. Jackson are two of Lancaster's five seniors. B. Jackson, a junior, is the district's scoring leader.

Senior Bernie Luna was the only other Northern Neck selection on the first team.

Northampton's Jeremy Gorman was named the region's player of the year and teammate Roberto Maldonado was the tournament MVP.

Edgar Luna and Justin Hobbs of W&L were named to the second team along with Rappahannock's Andrew Harbin and Essex High's Malcolm Ball.

The Northern Neck's Justin Miller and Erika Dahlem, both of Essex, and Marshall Hubert of Rappahannock received honorable mention.

Other Region A players named to the first team were Gorman, Maldonado and Jesus Figueroa of Northampton, Timothy Songer and Michael Polhemus of Windsor, Craig Todd of Mathews and Jay Perry of Appomattox Regional Governor's School.

Others named to the second team were Richard Evans, Jeremy Ayersman and Hector Galvan of Northampton, Regan Hart and Dustin See of West Point, Wesley Southall of Appomattox RGS and Payton Atkins of Surry.

23rd Bluefish Derby slated in Reedville

Hundreds of fishermen are heading to Reedville this weekend for the "granddaddy" of all fishing events in this area, the 23rd Annual Reedville Bluefish Derby.

Centered at Buzzard's Point Marina, the derby benefits the Smith Point Sea Rescue service and awards cash prizes for bluefish and rockfish. Registration day is Thursday, June 8, from noon to 8 p.m. if there are slots remaining. All boats must register and there is a limit of 300 boats. Late registration times are 6:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10.

A captain's meeting is set for 8 p.m. Thursday night at Buzzard's Point and a D.J. will provide musical entertainment.

The band "Leggz" will perform Friday night at the marina and "Casper" will play Saturday when a fish fry is also held and the prizes are awarded.

Fishing days are Friday, June 9, from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, June 10, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Some 27 cash prizes will be awarded along with other prizes totaling over $32,900.

Separate bluefish and rockfish prizes are awarded in the following amounts: 1st largest-$5,000; 2nd-$3,000; 3rd-$2,000; 4th-$1,500; 5th-$1,000, and 6th-$500.

Daily prizes for bluefish and rockfish are 1st largest-$250; 2nd-$200 and 3rd-$150, and there's a daily drawing for a $500 prize.

A croaker contest has been added to the derby this year. Officials hope that by adding croaker to bluefish and striped bass, additional anglers will have a better chance to win some money, said Smith Point Sea Rescue president Andy Kauders.

Croaker prizes are 1st-$1,000; 2nd-$500 and 3rd-$250.

Smith Point Sea Rescue is a totally volunteer rescue unit which serves boaters from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River and across the Chesapeake Bay to the Eastern Shore.

For more information, call Jett's Hardware 804-453-5325.

Rappahannock Almanac

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

Fri	**6/9**	Moonset	3:46	Low	4:56	0.2′
		Sunrise	5:44	High	10:29	1.2′
		Moonrise	**6:45**	Low	**4:43**	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:26**	High	**10:54**	1.6′
Sat	**6/10**	Moonset	4:22	Low	5:42	0.1′
		Sunrise	5:44	High	11:15	1.3′
		Moonrise	**7:53**	Low	**5:29**	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:27**	High	**11:39**	1.7′
Sun	**6/11**	Moonset	5:07	Low	6:28	0.1′
		Sunrise	5:44	High	**12:01**	1.3′
		Sunset	**8:27**	Low	**6:14**	0.1′
	Full - **2:02**	Moonrise	**9:00**			
Mon	**6/12**	Sunrise	5:44	High	12:25	1.7′
		Moonset	6:03	Low	7:14	0.0′
		Sunset	**8:28**	High	**12:47**	1.3′
		Moonrise	**10:00**	Low	**7:02**	0.0′
Tue	**6/13**	Sunrise	5:43	High	1:12	**1.8′**
		Moonset	7:09	Low	8:00	0.0′
		Sunset	**8:28**	High	**1:34**	1.4′
		Moonrise	**10:51**	Low	**7:51**	0.0′
Wed	**6/14**	Sunrise	5:43	High	2:00	1.7′
		Moonset	8:21	Low	8:46	0.0′
		Sunset	**8:28**	High	**2:23**	1.4′
		Moonrise	**11:34**	Low	**8:43**	0.0′
Thu	**6/15**	Sunrise	5:44	High	2:49	1.7′
		Moonset	9:36	Low	9:34	0.0′
		Sunset	**8:29**	High	**3:15**	1.4′
				Low	**9:38**	0.0′
Fri	**6/16**	Moonrise	12:08	High	3:41	1.7′
		Sunrise	5:44	Low	10:23	0.0′
		Moonset	10:50	High	**4:10**	1.5′
		Sunset	**8:29**	Low	**10:37**	0.1′

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

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

Varsity soccer

Region A Tournament
Final
Northampton 4, Lancaster 1
Semifinals
Lancaster 4, Appomattox Regional Governor's School 0
Northampton 1, Mathews 0
Quarterfinals
Lancaster 3, King William 1
Northampton 3, Windsor 0
Mathews 3, W&L 2
Appomattox RGS 3, Arcadia 2

Upcoming Games

Varsity soccer

June 9:
Group A semifinals at Radford University
Clarke County vs. winner of Lancaster vs. Galax (noon)
Northampton vs. winner of Radford High School vs. Stonewall Jackson (2 p.m.)

Correction

In a cutline accompanying a soccer photo last week, a Lancaster High player was erroneously identified as Jacob Jackson. The LHS player was in fact his brother, Billy Jackson.

Club Golf

Hole-in-One

Richard Bowditch of Lottsburg on May 27 hit a hole-in-one on #12 at Quinton Oaks Golf Course in Callao. Bowditch used a 4 hybrid on the 178-yard shot. Yogi Biggs witnessed the feat.

Quinton Oaks Ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association on May 31 played a "Bingo, Bango, Bungo" tournament. Terri Sartori had two birdies, Linda Dennis, Kay Miller, Betye Garner and Darlene Bean had a birdie each.

Sara Goodwyn and Judy Wise had chip-ins and Maggie Dennett and Wise shared low putts with 29.

Quinton Oaks Senior League

The Quinton Oaks Senior League first-flight winners for May 31 were Bob Sunbury and Bobby Albrite. Other weekly winners were Bob Drew, Gary Gill, Frank Gino, Kevin Moores, Don Rawlings, Gerard Belanger, Bruce Berry, Cabot Caski, Tom Cernicky, Stan Rembisz, Jake Russell and Ray Wiersman.

Shooting closest to the pin were Caski on #3, Marion Dongieux on #8, Rembisz on #12 and Ray Herron on #17.

ICYCC 18-holers

The Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club 18-holers on May 31 played a total points tournament. First-flight winners were Seale George, Virginia Henry, and Susan Hill. Second-flight winners were Linda Price, Meredith Townes and Lois Pancoast. Third-flight winners were Jody Kirtland, Harriet Baggett and Emily Pomerleau. Townes had a chip-in.

Baggett, Vivian Graham, Nancy Hall, Henrey, Rachel Jackson, Carol Johnson, Nancy Monroe, Lori Richardson, Maria Schreyer and Townes had birdies in May.

Tartan Golf Club

In recent Play Day men's action at the Tartan Golf Club, Toodles Sadler was first; Buddy Stone, second; and Butch Miller, third.

In Sunday Twilight action, Susan Troubetzkoy and Windy Waggener were first; Hal and Lynda Muller, second; Pete and Nancy Stur, third; and Ron and Ann Silver tied with Bill and Jinx Wright for fourth.

Capt. Ryan Rogers and first mate Kenny Nance pose in a covet-worthy position aboard the Midnight Sun at the start of the third annual Croaker Smoker tournament. Girls, from left, are (front row) Leslie Garland, Whitney Thompson, Roxsey Quilter, Jessica Griffin and Sarah Bedford; (next row) Dorolena Bowis, P.J. Bugg, Brandy Edwards, Liz Seigler, Meghan Jones and Melinda Jones; (next row:) Emily Williams, Tracy Gochenour, Nicole Ford, Rachael Gano, Ginny Barnes, Angela Fraser, Tina Burgess, Paige Biddlecomb, Laura Shackleford, Shannon Timberlake and Dare Burgess.

The girls of the Midnight Sun place fourth in Croaker Smoker

by Rachael Gano

I'm sure it was an uncommon site at Buzzard's Point Marina the morning of Saturday, May 27. Twenty-three identically clad women climbed aboard their chartered boat, all minds on one thing….catching the biggest croaker the Chesapeake Bay had to offer. Why identically clad? Well, I'm not sure if there was any fishing strategy involved, but it did look good.

Thus began the third annual Croaker Smoker fishing tournament. Started as a tournament for friends by Ronnie Shackleford of Wicomico Church in 2004, it has since evolved to include our group of women who gather once a month for Girls Night, an evening away from the pressures of husbands, boyfriends, kids and home.

As we boarded our 50-foot chartered boat, the Midnight Sun, I'm sure it didn't take Capt. Ryan Rogers and first mate Kenny Nance long to realize they were in for a long day. After cruising the bay for an hour to reach the perfect spot, lines were dropped into the water with a satisfying splash. Quickly, shouts of "Eww!" and "I got one!" began to ring out, and Capt. Rogers and Kenny became a blur as they good-naturedly helped bait, reel, and unhook fish.

As the day wore on and the sun blazed, the true fisherwomen separated themselves from the pack, never budging for fear of losing their prime fishing positions. The other, less dedicated girls retired aboard the flying bridge for an afternoon of gossip and sun worshipping. However, every woman aboard caught at least one fish, though our discriminating captain threw back all but the biggest and best.

Back at Buzzard Point to weigh in, we were a bit disappointed to learn that our best hope for winning, a croaker caught by Sarah Bedford of Reedville, and weighing a little over a pound, was only large enough to merit a fourth-place finish, one place below receiving any prize money.

Ron Hardin took first with a 2.02 pounder. John Buchanan garnered second place with a 2.01 pound fish, and Glen Lester finished third at 1.45 pounds.

Despite this crushing blow to our morale, we rallied to enjoy an evening of good food (fried fish, of course), good music, and good friends. After all, there's always next year.

Good sports

From left, Timmy Pittman presents Middlesex coach Dan Anderson the sportsmanship award at the Pittman's Farm and Marine Memorial Day Jr./Sr. Girls Softball Tournament two weeks ago at Dreamfields. King George won the tournament; Mathews was second. The tournament included five teams with two from Lancaster County's Little League.

Getting in Step

Registration is open through June 19 for dance classes at the Lower Northern Neck YMCA in Kilmarnock. From left are Creative Movement dance students ages 3 to 5 India Hodges, Karen Jordan, Victoria Brown, Olivia Smith, Mia Kotelec, Lily Reihs and Faith Heron. Call 435-0223.

Bridge Results

Seven tables of duplicate bridge were in play May 29 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners north/south were first, Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard; second, Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams; and third, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham.

Winners east/west were first, June and Dick Pigeon; second, Virginia Adair and Judy Peifer; and third, Margaret Livesay and Marilyn Reed.

The next bridge for this group is Wednesday, June 14, at 1 p.m.

Duplicate bridge was played June 1 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Ronnie Gerster and Cynthia Birdsall; second, Barbara Hubbard and Norma Drinnon; and third, (tie) Babs Murphy and Beverly Oren, and Ilva Doggett and Carolyn Reed.

Winners east/west were first, Iris Panzetta and Grace Nagel; second, Shirley Crockett and Marilyn Burkholder; and third, Margaret Livesay and Helen Hopton.

All tables were filled for dessert bridge and mahjong at the Woman's Club of White Stone June 2. Jane Jarvis was high bridge scorer for the day.

Chairwoman Ginger Philbrick thanked committee members, Peg Stone, Peggy May and Kay Weiler, for arranging for table decorations, door prizes and supplying homemade desserts and other edibles. The fund-raiser is a regularly scheduled event the first Friday of every month and provides funds for the Woman's Club charitable causes.

The next bridge for this group will be July 7. Contact Madeline Hooper at 435-3803 for reservations at least 5 days in advance. Reservations are $4 per person.

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Rappahannock Record

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Aeronautical Society to meet at Pilot House

The June 15 noon luncheon meeting of the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will be at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.

The speaker will be retired U.S. Navy Capt. E.R. (Bing) Kalus, who earned his Navy Wings in 1964, and will talk about aviation's development, including the use of balloons during the Civil War, before the famous flight of the Wright Brothers airplane.

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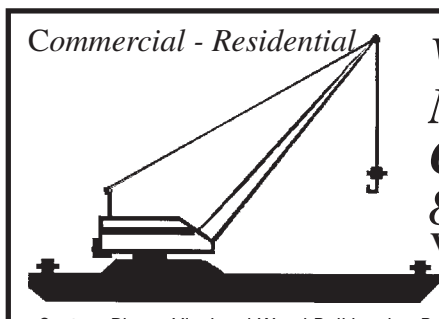

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Rage wins tourney

The Northern Neck Rage 12 and under fastpitch softball team (above) won the Virginia USSSA Fastpitch American Gasket & Seal Elite NIT. The Rage went 4-0 in the June 3-4 tournament in Prince George. From left are (front row) Bethany Pritchard, Elizabeth McCarthy, Amanda Brown, Nicole Crowther, Casey Clarke and Whitney Spence; (next row) Megan Payne, Raquel Pierce, Rachel Haywood, Caroline McClure, Morgan Lewis, Danielle Shelton and Kathryn Brann; (next row) Chip McCarthy and Reggie Brann.

Exercise tips for seniors

It's important for people of all ages, especially seniors, to stay active.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, being physically active can reduce one's risk of dying from heart disease and decreases the risk for colon cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Physical activity also helps control weight; contributes to healthy bones, muscles and joints; relieves the pain of arthritis; reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression; and can decrease the need for hospitalizations, physician visits and medications. Indeed, there's a lot riding on incorporating exercise into one's lifestyle.

There's no better time than now to start exercising. Be sure to check with a doctor before increasing physical activity, especially if there is family history of chronic disease, chest pain, shortness of breath, high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, blood clots, infections or fever, joint swelling, hip surgery or a hernia.

Here are some tips to help get started:

• Don't just jump into a fitness routine. First, stretch the arms, legs and back. Start off slowly, gradually increasing the pace of exercise. Don't do too much too soon. For example, start with 10 minutes of walking before going to 20 and then 30 minutes. For a strength-training program using weights and machines, talk to a fitness instructor on how much weight to life and how to use the machines properly.

• Exercise should make one feel better, not worse. A little soreness, discomfort or fatigue is normal. Listen to the body—if lightheaded, short of breath, a sudden, severe headache, sweating excessively, or pains in the chest, stomach or anywhere else, stop exercising. If symptoms persist, contact a doctor.

• If medication or a condition alters heart rate, don't use the pulse as a judge of how fast the heart is or should be beating.

• Wear the proper protective equipment for the activity. If biking, wear a helmet. If in-line skating, wear a helmet as well as knee and elbow pads.

Protective gear should be of good quality and fit properly. It may be expensive, but it's an expense that is well worth it.

• Watch out for the elements. If it's hot, exercise in the early morning or early evening when it's cooler, or stay in the shade and wear lightweight clothing. If it's cooler, dress in layers, and be careful of ice and snow.

• It's especially important to stay hydrated when engaging in exercise. Drink before, during and after exercise to prevent dehydration.

• A cool down is just as important as a warm up. Stretch arms, legs and back to bring heart rate back to its normal level.

Physical activity is the arthritis pain reliever

To 1.5 million Virginians, fighting the pain of arthritis is a daily battle. Increasingly, health professionals recognize that moderate physical activity can help ease the pain and increase mobility.

The term arthritis describes more than 100 diseases and conditions that affect joints and surrounding tissue. Among the most common forms of arthritis are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia. Osteoarthritis occurs when the cartilage covering the joints breaks down. Rheumatoid arthritis is characterized by swollen, painful and deformed joints. Fibromyalgia is a chronic condition that causes widespread pain in muscles, tendons and other soft tissue.

Research shows that physical activity and weight loss can help people with arthritis reduce the pain, move more easily, feel more energetic and keep muscles, bones and joints healthy. Losing as little as 11 pounds can reduce the risk of knee osteoarthritis by as much as 50 percent.

"Starting moderate physical activity early helps head off pain that can reduce your activity level," said Brunilda Caro-Justin, manager of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) arthritis program. "Most people who stick with a regular exercise program start to feel better in four to six weeks."

VDH recommends the following physical activity tips to help relieve the pain of arthritis.

• Start slowly: 10-15 minutes at a time. Build up to 30 minutes a day most days of the week.

• Water exercises, especially in a heated pool, benefit almost everyone with arthritis because it puts less stress on your joints and strengthens your entire body.

• Walking helps improve energy and strengthens your heart.

• Ride a bike, indoors or outdoors.

• Combine range-of-motion exercises with aerobics.

• Dancing, gardening and washing the car are good exercises, too.

VDH provides funds, training and technical assistance to local arthritis projects in the Three Rivers health district. Staff members work to increase awareness and education about arthritis and promote the benefits of physical activity and self-management programs for people with arthritis. For more information, visit www.vahealth.org/cdpc/arthritis or www.cdc.gov/arthritis.

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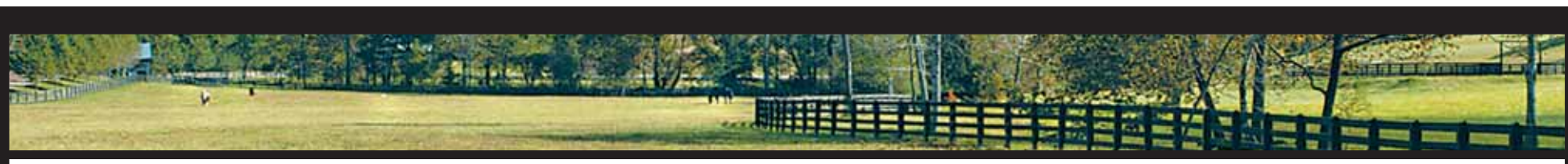

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Gov. Tim Kaine and his father-in-law, former Governor Linwood Holton, attended the Lower Northern Neck YMCA's annual "Ball in the Hall" fund-raiser last Saturday. The auction alone raised over $68,000, which will benefit the Y and local children. (Photo by Conrad Wineland)

A Doctor Speaks

by George Moore, MD

Preventing skin cancer

The three types of skin cancer are basal and squamous cell carcinomas, and melanoma. Basal cell skin cancer is the most common and fortunately the least dangerous. It usually appears on the face as a reddish bump that turns slowly into a sore and scabs over. The cancer is easily removed by outpatient surgery or topical medications. It is caused primarily from sun exposure early in life.

Squamous cell cancer is very common and almost as curable as basal cell, but more dangerous since it can spread. It, too, develops from sun exposure early in life. A type of skin lesion called an actinic or solar keratosis can be the forerunner of squamous cell cancer. If you have skin lesions that don't heal right away, see your physician for an evaluation.

Melanoma is less common, but more dangerous than basal or squamous cell cancers. It can start from an existing mole, or as a new dark skin patch. It may appear on body parts seldom or never exposed to the sun. Among Caucasians, the lesions are most often seen on the trunk and extremities. For African-Americans, the cancer tends to arise on the hands and feet. Blistering sunburns early in life as well as repeated daily exposure may be the cause. Melanoma incidence is rising faster than any other cancer in the U.S. for reasons not understood. Between 1973 and 1994, the incidence of melanoma increased 120 percent, and the mortality rate attributed to melanoma rose 40 percent. It is now projected that 1 in 82 women and 1 in 58 men will develop melanoma over their lifetime. Some 55,000 new cases with 7,600 deaths occurred in 2005.

In spite of recent rumors, you might think that you are better off without sunscreens. That is not true. The subject is hard to study, since over the years many products have changed, making it difficult to track the effects of various types. People also use sunscreens in different ways, often inadequately.

Scientific studies do exist. One set has proved that sunscreens do not promote the risk of melanoma. Sunscreens definitely protect against sun-induced lesions called the actinic or solar keratoses and thus against squamous cell cancer. But as yet, no one has shown that sunscreens protect against basal cell cancer or melanoma. Uncertainty arises since studies of adults don't take childhood exposure into account.

Sunscreens are designed to protect against sunburn and sunburn protection is not the same thing as skin cancer protection. Sunscreens should not be used for "safe tanning." There is no safe way to tan, so do not rely on sunscreen as your sole strategy for cancer prevention. Some studies have shown that using sunscreen with a high sun protection factor (SPF) leads to risky behavior among those hoping to get a tan without sunburn.

Sunscreens should always be a part (but only one part) of an intelligent strategy for preventing skin cancer. For broadest protection, choose a product containing titanium dioxide or zinc oxide, or else avobenzone, also called Parasol 1789. Look for a SPF rating of at least 15 for adults and 30 for children.

The best way to prevent skin cancer is to limit sun exposure. Don't sunbathe or try to tan, especially in the middle of the day. Use sunscreens, but remember that the most effective protection comes from long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, umbrellas and sunglasses.

White tight woven tea shirts can be helpful at the beach, but wet clothes are less protective than dry.

Remember that skin cancers of adults are a result of sun exposures when young whether one is white, brown or black.

Bowling Results

Summer League

The Alley Dusters won two games against All in Fun when Terry Stillman bowled a 324 set and Wilson Evans rolled a 322 set. Jack Cook had a 105 game. For All in Fun, John Forrester bowled a 307 set. Elsie Henderson had a 121 game and Harry Donavan rolled a game of 99.

Team Woodie won three games against the dummy team when Woodie Evans bowled a 362 set and Betty Steffey rolled a 328 set. Beverly Benson had a 118 game and Theresa Davis bowled a game of 100.

The Summer League needs more bowlers. Those interested may come to Evans Bowling Center in Kilmarnock June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Virginia Vignettes

Were the first Africans brought to Virginia as slaves?

In 1619 a group of some 20 Angolans arrived in Virginia on a Dutch frigate, which had taken them from a Portuguese vessel. These first Africans were likely Kimbundo-speaking Christians from Ndongo, where 4,000 had been captured in 1618. Although probably considered slaves by their captors, they apparently were accorded the status of indentureship in the Virginia colony.

As indentured servants, they were required to serve a four-to-seven year contract as laborers. Thereafter, they would be free to hire themselves out or work their own land, as Antonio Johnson did on the Eastern Shore.

By the 1640s, however, the colony was passing laws that clearly discriminated against Africans, preparing the way for a black slave labor system by the end of the century.

(Anthony Parent and Ronald Heinemann. Old Dominion, New Commonwealth: Virginia, 1607-2007. Brought to you by the Online Virginia Encyclopedia (OVE) at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Set to debut in 2007. Visit www.VirginiaVignettes.org.)

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From left (front row), Dr. Anne Tyler Netick, governor of the Jamestowne Society, presents the Chesapeake Bay Company Charter to Judith B. Conner of Mount Holly, organizing governor; (next row) Sheri Hillman of Woodbridge; Will England of Montross; Susan Rager of Coles Point; Beatrice England of Montross; Diane Scott of Carrollton; Cora Sue Spruill of Tappahannock; Mary Stuart of Irvington; Margaret Taylor of Tappahannock; Joseph Netick of Charles City; William B. England Jr. of Montross; John Paul Hanbury of Irvington; Ann Carter Lee of White Stone.

Bay Company gets its charter

At an organizational meeting at Christ Church near Irvington, The Chesapeake Bay Company of the Jamestowne Society was awarded a Charter by Jamestowne Society Governor Dr. Anne Tyler Netick.

The charter was approved by the Jamestowne Society Council at their November 12, 2005, meeting. The company draws members primarily from a seven-county area including Lancaster, Middlesex, Essex, Richmond, Northumberland, Westmoreland and King George.

The Jamestowne Society was organized at Jamestowne Island for educational, historical and patriotic purposes. The society has grown to over 6,000 members with 31 local companies throughout the United States. The object of the society is to discover and record the names of all living descendants of those early settlers who made the great sacrifices to establish an English speaking nation, and to unite those descendants to honor the memory of their settler ancestors, to record their deeds, and to do homage to the birthplace of Virginia and the nation.

Membership is extended to those descendants who can trace their lineage to stockholders in the London Company or to those who owned land or who had domiciles in Jamestowne or on Jamestowne Island prior to the year 1700. It is presumed that governors, secretaries of state, treasurers, attorneys general and auditors general of the colony, clerks of the general court, Anglican ministers, and members of the governor's council and of the House of Burgesses before 1700 all had their domiciles at Jamestowne during their terms of office; therefore, their descendants are eligible to join the society.

Prospective members are encouraged to contact Judith B. Conner, organizing governor of the Chesapeake Bay Company at 472-4171. A list of qualifying ancestors can be found at www.jamestowne.org.

Armchair calculations . . .

To figure how the new rate will affect your 2006 property tax payment, take your 2005 assessed value, divide by 100 and multiply by .61; then take your 2006 assessed value, divide by 100 and multiply by .36. Subtract the 2005 amount from the 2006 amount to determine whether you will pay more or less with the new rate.

Current assessed values are available on the county's home page at www.co.northumberland.va.us. The old assessed values are available under the "Government Services" page by clicking on "Land Book."

Here is how the proposed tax rate will affect some of Northumberland County's elected officers and top officials.

Official	Position	'05 Tax	'06 Tax	Difference
Stables	superintendent	$1,075.43	$1,509.48	+ $434.0
Sumner	sch. board	$1,028.46	$ 928.80	- $ 99.66
Booker-Kirby	treasurer	$ 541.68	$1,382.40	+ $840.72
Long	supervisor	$ 752.13	$ 600.12	- $152.01
J. M. Jett	sch. board	$2,313.12	$3,162.60	+ $849.48
Self	supervisor	$ 780.19	$1,519.56	+ $739.37
Eades	administrator	$ 890.60	$1,083.24	+ $192.64
Scripture	sch. board	$ 358.68	$ 337.32	- $ 21.36
McKenney	Com.atny.	$ 781.41	$ 649.44	- $131.97
Phillips	sch. board	$1,531.71	$1,784.88	+ $253.17
Russell	supervisor	$1,628.70	$2,404.80	+ $776.10
Haynie	supervisor	$ 675.88	$ 591.48	- $ 84.40
R. Jett	supervisor	$1,098.00	$1,497.96	+ $399.96
S. Thomas	clerk of court	$1,704.34	$2,178.36	+ $474.02
T. Thomas	com. revenue	$1,501.82	$1,541.52	+ $ 39.70
Middleton	sheriff	$ 943.06	$ 873.00	- $ 70.06

▼ *Northumberland budget work . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

28 cents per $100.

But, to balance the budget and cover a $2.1-million increase in expenditures, the county needs to increase the rate another 2 cents to 30 cents per $100.

And, to cover the debt service for the new middle and high school, the county needs to increase the rate yet another 6 cents, bringing the final levy to 36 cents per $100.

That tax rate is still one of the lowest in the state, said county administrator Kenneth D. Eades. Citizens living in modest conditions may find that the new rate even lowers their taxes while generating $2.3 million in additional revenue. Property owners living in large waterfront homes will see a considerable increase in their annual payments (see box).

The proposed $30.7-million budget represents an almost $4 million- or 14.8-percent increase over the current fiscal year budget.

The board of supervisors will consider public comments on the tax increase and the proposed budget during a hearing June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Northumberland Courts Building at 32 Judicial Place. Approval of the budget is currently set for June 22.

The proposed budget includes $15,191,505 for Northumberland County schools, representing an $811,000 local increase. The school board had initially requested a $1.3-million increase in the local share, but reduced that amount at the county's request by cutting salary increases from 6 percent to 4 percent, eliminating new reading specialist and math specialist positions, dropping new bus purchases from three to two and reducing the employer health insurance contribution from 90 percent to 80 percent.

The budget now proposes a 4-percent salary increase across the board for county and school employees.

The supervisors also cut the tourism council's requested increase of $10,000 to $7,500 and the free health clinic's funding increase request of $18,000 (for increased usage) to $4,000.

Increases included in the proposed budget are:

• $100,000 in additional county employee Virginia Retirement System contributions,

• $75,000 to start saving for the next reassessment,

• a 5 percent contribution increase to all fire and rescue squads,

• a new clerical position in the Commonwealth attorney's office,

• $15,000 in gas and fuel expenses,

• $26,000 in the refuse collection contract due to increased tonnage in recent years, and,

• $40,637 in county funding to the social services department.

The actual proposed budget of $30,709,360 includes a beginning general fund balance of $5 million, estimated revenue from local sources of $12,414,954, other local sources of $2,485,611 and state and federal sources of $10,808,795.

The budget includes proposed expenditures of $1,273,490 for general government administration, $636,125 for judicial administration, $2,788,064 for public safety, $1,080,697 for public works, $2,927,849 for health and welfare, $15,900,173 for education, $150,000 for community development and $503,703 for non-departmental expenditures.

The budget estimates an undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year of $4,178,747.

As proposed, Irvington's 2006-07 budget is in line with current plan

by Robert Mason Jr.

IRVINGTON—As proposed, the Irvington town council is considering a $312,660 budget for 2006-07. The total represents a $7,600 increase over the current fiscal year.

However, in-out line items total some $176,000, including a $148,000 T-21 grant to restore the steamboat Potomac pilot house at the Steamboat Era Museum, a $6,000 state fire grant that eventually goes to the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department, and $22,000 from Chesapeake Academy for its electricity billed to the town by Virginia Power.

Major estimated expenditures include $29,000 in gross wages, up $3,000; $43,079 in the miscellaneous line, up $20,708; and $30,000 for the Steamboat Era Museum, unchanged.

No money was budgeted for infrastructure improvements. In the current budget, $15,000 was earmarked for improvements at the Commons. As proposed, $3,000 is budgeted under grounds maintenance at the Commons.

Major anticipated revenue sources include $38,000 in sales tax, up $3,000; $75,000 from the occupancy tax, up $5,000; and $9,500 from auto tags, unchanged.

Following a public hearing last Thursday, Mayor Alexander Fleet indicated council would take formal action on the proposed budget at its June 8 meeting.

Meanwhile, the proposed budget is subject to change. Significant changes would require another hearing.

A last week's hearing, Jeff Bishop raised questions regarding the lack of funding earmarked for infrastructure improvements while a rather large amount is going to the museum. He said he's not opposed to funding for the museum, but noted there may be other projects which would benefit residents as well. The occupancy tax proceeds might be used for other item as well, he said.

Fleet noted the 2 percent occupancy tax proceeds are used primarily for tourism. He said funds also have been applied to the Irvington Farmer's Market and other tourism spending.

Council member Norm Mosher said that, indirectly, funds put into a new generator for the town well support tourism also. If the electricity goes off, The Tides Inn and The Hope and Glory Inn won't have to send tourists away because they don't have water, he said.

He noted that funding for hiking and biking paths would also benefit tourism.

The town also recently installed a sidewalk from the River Cottage to the Chris Mart, added Fleet.

Bob Westbrook asked if any consideration has been given recently to the proposed bike paths from White Stone to Irvington and Irvington to Kilmarnock.

When the projects were introduced a few years ago, they would have involved the Virginia Department of Transportation, the county and the towns. However, funding has been an issue.

Everybody wants it, but the money just isn't there for it, said councilman Rannie Ransone.

Westbrook also suggested the town consider installing a sidewalk along the remainder of King Carter Drive. He asked if such a project would be town's responsibility, or the state's.

Mayor Fleet said he would ask town manager Gil Unangst to look into it.

Restaurant owner seeks extension of alcohol hours

IRVINGTON—Leading off the Irvington Town Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight (June 8) will be a public hearing to discuss a conditional use permit sought by Douglas Reed, owner of The Local, 4357 Irvington Road.

Reed has applied to extend the hours of serving beer and wine from 7 p.m. to midnight for both indoor and outdoor service at his shop.

Among other matters on the agenda, the 2007 fiscal year budget is due for adoption.

Additionally, town administrator Gil Unangst will report on the installation of the town's emergency generator, work on the drainage ditch at the west side of the Commons, and the selection of consultants to assist the town in updating its comprehensive plan.

John O'Shaughnessy, treasurer of the Steamboat Era Museum, will report on the museum's budget.

Davis wins Sowers' quilt

Bette Sowers of Heathsville (left) helps hold a hand-stitched quilt won by Earl Davis of Kilmarnock (right) in a June 3 drawing. Sowers donated the quilt to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at Northumberland Elementary School. She was the co-captain of the "Buggin For A Cure" team sponsored by Chesapeake Bank.

Support for reading program

Historyland Community Workshop member Pam Key (left), recently presented a check to Youth Services Coordinator Tonya Carter at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The donation will be used during the Summer Reading Program. For a program schedule, call 435-1729.

▼ *Board meeting . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

permit to establish a merchandise assembling shop on Route 360 in Callao. Located on property zoned for business, the shop would make signs. Currently, the zoning ordinance does not specifically allow Saunders to establish a sign shop without special permission. Saunders currently operates his business out of his home.

Double D Development's request to build a private community marina on Warehouse Creek has been postponed.

The meeting will conclude with a joint public hearing with the planning commission and the board of supervisors on Northumberland's proposed comprehensive plan.

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$5,000 grants available for first-time home buyers

Mortgage lending specialist Paula Owens of Chesapeake Bank will be in the Lively Branch at 2824 White Chapel Road June 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss the Affordable Home Loan and First-Time Home Buyers' programs offered by the bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Owens will be available by appointment to speak to those interested in buying or building a home, receiving a first-time home buyers' grant, credit counseling and budgeting.

In 2005, the bank approved $35,000 in grant funds to first-time home buyers to help meet the down payment and closing costs; $30,000 has been approved so far this year.

Most grant recipients were counseled to repair their credit prior to receiving loan approval. The bank has up to $250,000 available for first-time home buyers' assistance in 2006.

Call Owens at 435-1181, or e-mail powens@chesbank.com before June 20 to schedule an appointment.

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Relay event attracts youth

Close to 200 cancer survivors, relay walkers and runners came out for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Northumberland/Lancaster event last Saturday at Northumberland Elementary School in Claraville. Pictured above (from left) behind luminaries in honor of loved ones are Brad Smith, Nick Slaughter and Emily Rice. Pictured below (from left), representing Zion Baptist Church, are Kimberly Dobyns, Micaila Coleman, David Jeffries and Daniel Jeffries. (Photo by Joan McBride)

Kilmarnock okays $3-million budget

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—A review of the proposed fiscal 2006-07 budget and establishing a procedure to fill two council seats were the focus of a special Kilmarnock Town Council meeting Monday night.

After a public hearing resulted in no comments from the 10 people in attendance, council voted to pass the 2006-07 fiscal budget on for final approval at its regular town council meeting, June 26. Showing total revenue of $3,037,000 against expenditures of $2,578,000, an anticipated surplus of $459,000 was transferred into the Capital Improvement Fund.

In deciding on the appropriate process for filling two vacancies on council, council went into closed session to work out a solution. At issue was a condition of the town charter requiring the appointment of a successor within 45 days of a vacated position. Because Emerson Russell's seat was vacated at the May 15 council meeting, an appointment must be made by June 29.

A second council vacancy will be created when councilman Dr. Curtis Smith is sworn in as mayor in July.

It was decided that the current council will make the first appointment at the June 26 meeting and the second appointment will be made after the mayor and newly elected council members are installed.

Resumes and letters of intent from those interested in the council seats will be accepted at the town hall until 5 p.m. June 21.

A swearing-in ceremony for the mayor and new council members will be held July 7 during a 6-7 p.m event to also celebrate the completion of the downtown enhancement project. The evening will mark the town's first Steptoe's Walk-About, a first Friday event when businesses will remain open in the evening for shoppers.

Council also addressed problems contractors are facing with the old roadway prior to being able to mill, grade and pave. They emerged from a closed session to approve $90,000 in additional funds. Problems in higher than usual grades and soft spots were caused by years of resurfacing the roadway. Approval is subject to review by a special committee.

In other council business, Camille Bragg received an enthusiastic response to her request for a children's playground in the heart of the Steptoe's District as part of the Main Street plan.

She and councilman Fletcher Brown IV targeted a small piece of land owned by the town on Waverly Road behind Lee's Restaurant and parking lot. The grassy area is ideal for children because it is away from traffic but convenient to shops and neighborhoods.

Bragg was then appointed to head a special citizens committee and coordinate the project with Brown. She will report to council on their progress.

MAIN STREET WATCH

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—On time. That's a phrase one doesn't hear much around "The Promise Land," but contractors say that despite encountering a few problems and delays they are on target to complete the Main Street project on time, June 23-26.

Almost all the lamplights are working. Fuses will correct the problems for the two remaining.

The Bank of Lancaster's brand new sidewalks are being ripped up so the new walkways can be extended to that area. Crosswalks at Irvington Road and on Main Street at the bank will be finished soon.

Joe Staton explained that construction is playing havoc on the traffic monitoring cameras that regulate signal lights. With no center lines, plenty of pot holes and orange barrels everywhere, cars weave in and out and the cameras can not pick up accurate readings.

The roads will be milled and graded over the next two weeks and trenches will be cut for electrical wires.

There will be no more planting until September. Where only mulch fills the islands in the center of the road, crepe myrtles will be added in the fall.

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

per pupil.

F. W. Jenkins Jr., chairman of the board of supervisors, expressed the supervisors' dilemma. "We are close to valuing people beyond their means" to pay their property taxes.

Thomas agreed, saying, "The poor will pay a disproportionate" portion of their income for taxes compared to the tax bite their more affluent neighbors will pay out of their larger earned or interest incomes.

Jenkins summarized the implications of Thomas's information and the accompanying facts and figures into a grim pronouncement: "We're going to need to raise personal property taxes."

▼ *White Stone budget . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

rect the mistakes. We may hold another meeting on June 22 to take another vote."

Conrad said small towns like White Stone can usually slip under the radar with what "… the Virginia Municipal League (VML) considers minor infractions."

VML is an association and not a legal body. A call and email to VML attorney Mark Flynn were not returned.

Because the public hearing notice did not specify a proposal to add a 4-percent tax on prepared meals and beverages or any other tax under consideration, the legality of the procedure or passing such a tax also comes into question.

In the discussion on a meals and beverage tax, councilman Jack Boles corrected the minutes of a previous meeting, saying he did not propose a 2-percent meals tax, but only the higher figure of 4 percent.

In support of his proposal, Boles said, "A lot of the taxes you're calling upon will call on town people only. The meals tax will call on all people who visit here rather than just town people. You can't go anywhere to eat without paying a prepared meal tax. The prepared meal tax will not hurt anyone."

Jack Johnson argued that council should adopt the meals tax and also two other measures to create new sources of revenue, a tobacco tax and an annual tax on businesses, rather than imposing the other taxes in coming years. "I don't want to see it done piece-meal."

There was a consensus by council that new taxes will be needed for future initiatives, including capital expenditures for the revitalization of downtown and expanding town boundaries.

▼ *White Stone merchants . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

our businesses when they don't understand what it takes for us to administer it," he said.

Faulkner explained the process does not happen in a matter of seconds, as Conrad claimed at the council meeting. "It is an accounting matter that takes time to compile numbers and fill out and submit work sheets," he said.

Barbara Ancarrow of Rocket Billy's agreed.

"It takes bookkeeping and changing registers. I'll have to redo my computers and pay my bookkeeper extra," she said. "I'd bite the bullet and do my patriotic duty if it was necessary. But this town doesn't need it. They have a budget surplus. The restaurants here are all small. Why not pass a business license tax that is shared equally?"

Rocket Billy's has a reputation for bargain meals, she said. About 90 percent of customers are local and many are on a fixed income.

"Some have to count their pennies to pay for their meal, so I cut the price in half for them," said Ancarrow. "This is probably the only hot meal they get. We tried to fight the meals tax, but we were told it's going to happen no matter what we do."

The additional tax could kill business at the Paperback Writer Coffee Shop, said owner Penny Latham.

"We have a lot of retired people who will look at that $4 latte and reconsider. Going from $3.95 to over $4 is a psychological thing," she said.

"How can they do this at a time when gas prices are skyrocketing?" asked Latham, who also owns the antique shop Penny Lane. She said her Memorial weekend traffic at the shop was off this year, attributing the decline to people staying home because of higher gas prices.

There are about 70 businesses in White Stone. However, few owners live in the approximate one-square-mile area that comprises the town limits. Many expressed concern that their interests are not represented or appreciated.

"The people making these decisions have never had a restaurant or retail business so how can they decide for us?" Latham asked. "All of us work 15-hour days. I'm here all the time. We need to make sure our time is well spent."

While several business people would not speak on the record, there was a consensus that the town has not informed them of its plans nor solicited their input. Many wanted to know how the additional revenue will be used.

"Richmond has a 4 percent prepared meals tax, but they have museums, parks and services to support," said Watson. "What does White Stone plan to do with the money? They want to tear up the town like Kilmarnock, but they haven't talked to businesses about its impact on us. They have already made up their minds."

While town council passed an unbalanced budget that shows a revenue surplus of over $30,000, the council members were vague as to what they intend to do with the extra funds or revenue generated from new taxes. Council discussions centered on White Stone's Main Street Enhancement project and boundary line adjustments that would bring some surrounding neighborhoods into the incorporated town, a plan that must first win approval in district court.

Barry Mandell, owner of Bay Country Studios and liaison between the White Stone Business Association (WSBA) and council, reflected a general frustration with town leaders.

"They have not been forthcoming on how the money is going to be spent," he said, adding that the tax and redevelopment plan are being pushed on business owners. "We need to study and learn from the mistakes made in the development of Kilmarnock's Main Street project. What we are trying to do is slow this thing down. I don't want to pick up the newspaper on Thursday and find out that the road is being torn up on Monday morning."

Mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard and Conrad were invited to address members of WSBA at their April meeting. While Conrad claims he explained everything, members say they left as confused as when they came.

"We could not get straight answers on anything," Mandell said. "People wanted to know whether the plan included burying a sewer line or if they planned to come back later and tear it all up again. We were told that they would go around and talk to businesses. That has never happened."

Mandel is not opposed to plans that would enhance the town and businesses. "We just want to know that our concerns are being considered."

Referencing the town's plan for installing a round-about in the intersection in front of The Buoy, Faulkner said it would close off access and destroy his business. "Whoever had that hairball scheme…is a nut," he said.

Ancarrow and her husband gave up their business as the first owners of The Annabelle Lee restaurant due to sewer problems. Health department officials restricted them to one meal service a day because the sewer system could not handle more. "With rent increases, we couldn't make money serving only dinner. The sewer and water are a problem for all the businesses. Council kept saying a fix was coming, but it never came."

Latham echoed others' concerns over "…things slipping by unnoticed. We shouldn't have to worry about whether we are getting accurate information from our town council. Whether we live in town or not, we have the right to know."

"Council is supposed to represent the people. They're not going by what the people want," Ancarrow said.

▼ *Suspecting scam . . . .* *(continued from page A1)*

could cash and deposit into our account. There was no guarantee the funds were available, so she suggested not spending the money right away.

Chris returned home with the check.

Now I was even more determined to get to the bottom of the scam. Most popular ones, including the famous Nigerian money scam, ask for money up front before the big payoff.

With this scheme, the con men were sending money to us.

Maybe I could dupe the con artists, cash the check, tear up the letter and not send back our "non-resident taxes." What's to keep someone from doing that? I wondered.

Maybe the bank the check was drawn on didn't even exist. I located the number for Comerica Bank & Trust, NA in Michigan. Sure enough, it was a legitimate financial institution, but the gentleman I spoke with couldn't divulge any information about specific accounts.

The next step was to Google the account holder, Ready Pac in Irwindale, California, which I found was a produce company.

Now, why would a produce company in California issue checks through a bank in Michigan for a British lottery in Canada? The plot thickened.

A call to Ready Pac accounts manager Curtis Viverette helped clear up the whole mess.

According to Viverette, about 500 of his company's checks had been intercepted (a fancy word for stolen, I'm assuming) and issued by a bogus British lottery.

How exactly do the scammers make their money, I asked.

People cash the checks, call the lottery headquarters and follow the money wiring instructions before the forged checks bounce.

"A few people have actually wired the money," said Viverette. "One woman I spoke with went even further. She didn't just wire the money, but she was told if she sent an extra 10 percent above that she could get her winnings faster. So she sent that too."

Viverette said the scammers are fairly slick. They cheat a few people, get $15,000 or $20,000 then stop answering the phones and clear out of their headquarters before getting caught.

Unfortunately, because the con men are based in Canada, local authorities have no jurisdiction.

"We're working with the FBI, but this is small stuff," he said.

Some of the 500 checks have shown up in Virginia, Tennessee, New York, "really all over," said Viverette. "They're not focusing on any one area."

According to William Smith, vice-president of EVB, had I cashed the check and spent the money before it was returned as a forgery, I would be accountable to the bank for the $4,920.

EVB has contacted the sheriff's department several times over the past couple of months regarding possible scams.

According to a statement on the U.S. State Department website, 419 different schemes began in the mid-1980s after oil prices caused severe economic upheaval in Nigeria. Many of the e-mail lotto scams today originate in Nigeria and are often called a 419 scheme. However, British lotto frauds are on the rise.

In every swindle, the desire is for easy cash, not only by the scammers, but also by the lucky lotto winner lured by several thousand dollars of free money.

There are usually no lottery winnings waiting in the wings, only con men lurking.

If something is too good to be true, it usually is, a lesson I learned, thankfully, without losing a dime.

So for my good deeds and for not trying to scam the scammers, I'm getting a supply of coupons for Ready Pac veggies. Maybe last Saturday was my lucky day after all.

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