Rappahannock Record

Thursday, July 13, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 40 • Three Sections • 50¢

School superintendent resigns

by Joan McBride

PITMAN'S CORNER—Lancaster school superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore has informed the school board that he intends to resign when his contract ends June 30, 2007, closing the chapter on two decades of service to local schools.

"It has been a wonderful professional challenge to be here in Lancaster for almost 20 years," Latimore said about his time in the school division.

He said he's currently considering other "superintendent options" as well as at least one unspecified position after his contract ends next year.

Latimore came to Lancaster Intermediate School as principal in 1987 after holding several teaching and administrative positions in King and Queen County schools, where he rose to an elementary school principal.

He grew up near Saluda, took his undergraduate training at Virginia State College, then his master's at Virginia Commonwealth University. He taught in the city of Richmond prior to his work in King and Queen County.

Virginia Tech granted him a doctoral degree in 2000 and his thesis was, "The Decision-Making Process of a Rural Elected School Board in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

In his June 20 resignation letter to the school board, Latimore noted that accomplishments earned by the school division under his tenure include:

• a national No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

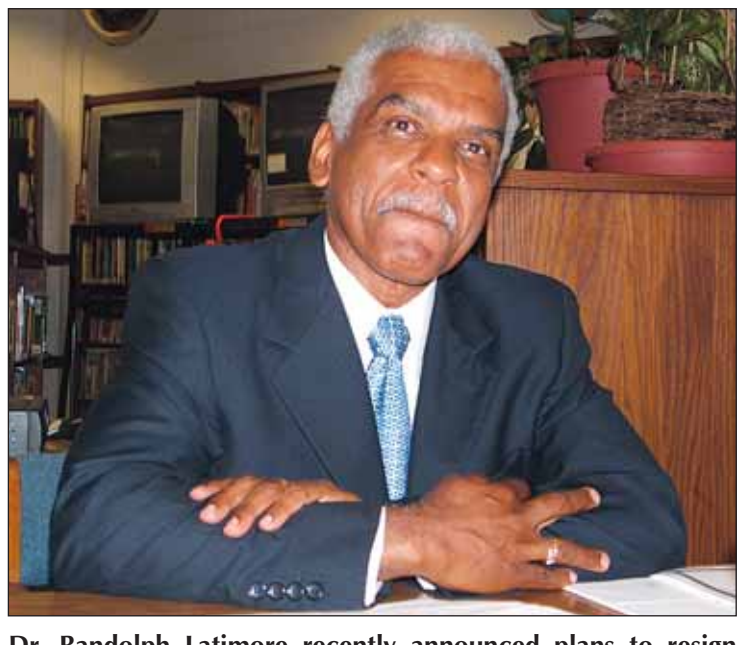
• a national Title I school cited for closing the achievement gap.

• a Virginia Title I Distinguished School, and

• selection as one of the top 100 best U.S. school districts (Offspring Magazine – September/October 2000).

He said he is also proud of increases in student achievement and improvements to the facilities, but what he has enjoyed the most in his time here is working with students, employees, "and the parents and the community."

Latimore is married to a teacher of technology in King William County. The couple has a daughter who is a medical social worker for the Veteran's Administration in Washington, D.C., and a son soon to begin his fourth year at the University of Virginia studying both occupational and physical therapy.



Dr. Randolph Latimore recently announced plans to resign when his contract ends next June.

Crowds walk about Steptoe's

A crowd gathers in downtown Kilmarnock during the first Steptoe's Walkabout as town manager Lee Hood Capps asks citizens to observe a moment of silence in recognition of the contribution to the enhancement of Kilmarnock's Steptoe's District by the late Tanyua Dickenson of the Rappahannock Record and former mayor H. R. Humphries Jr. Other activities included the unveiling of a Kilmarnock historic marker, bands, artists and sales. "We were thrilled by the turnout of area residents and visitors and the fact that everyone seemed to be having a good time," said Rappahannock Art League vice president Agnes Carter, who organized the event with help of local business owners.

Town clerk Jacqueline L. Blencowe swears in council members Barbara Robertson, Carmen Kilduff and Fletcher Brown IV. Also sworn in was Mayor Dr. Curtis Smith in a ceremony that kicked off Kilmarnock's first Steptoe's Walkabout. The next Steptoe's Walkabout will be August 4. (Photos by Audrey Thomasson)

$310,000 riddle remains to be solved by school and county authorities

by Joan McBride

KILMARNOCK—There were a few bright spots at the July 10 meeting of the Lancaster school board although a financial cloud has loomed since last month when the county auditor asserted the schools should have had about $310,000, and the schools said they were out of money and couldn't pay the bills.

On June 29 school board chairman Donald McCann had asked the board of supervisors to meet "soon" with the rest of the school board and the county auditor to "see what the problem is."

In a related matter at the July 10 school board meeting, school superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore informed the board that the division's bills would be paid July 12 out of the new 2006-07 budget which went into effect the first of July.

Latimore also said there appears to be no money in the current budget for parking lot repairs needed at both the primary and middle schools. In addition, a handicapped-accessible ramp is needed to meet the minimum ADA specifications at the primary school.

The superintendent recommended going ahead with the projects, saying that if a closer look at the 2005-06 budget shows the money is really still in the budget, the $7,525 total for cracksealing the parking lots, repairing the asphalt, and building the new $2,134 ramp would be paid.

If the money can not be found in last year's budget, the board could ask for an additional appropriation to cover these items, he added.

On a brighter note, assistant superintendent Merle Stables and primary school principal Lori Watrous displayed an award banner from the Commonwealth's Department of Education recognizing the school's earlier national honor as a 2006 Title I Distinguished School. The award recognized student achievement during the 2004-05 school year for closing the achievement gap with minority students.

In recognition of the national honor, the state also recently awarded the school a grant of $8,500 for professional development.

Stables reported on 10 staff vacancies division-wide which are yet to be filled, noting that several other positions had already been staffed. Vacancies include two at the primary school, two at the middle school, five at the high school, and one speech teacher who will serve all three schools, according to Stables.

If all 10 positions are not filled by July 20, the division will send representatives to a state teacher recruitment fair in Richmond, she added.

Director of maintenance and operations Tim Guill highlighted other bright spots in the division's progress on summer projects. He said the ROTC classroom is completed, the middle school gym floor will be finished by the middle of July, and the majority of the high school's sewer line has been replaced to the septic tank.

Irvington council will show planning video

IRVINGTON—Town council members plan to show a 45-minute video summarizing planning specialist Randall Arendt's Conservation Site Plan tonight (July 13).

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Irvington town hall on Steamboat Road. A related workshop scheduled for July 19 has been cancelled.

Town administrator Gil Unangst will give progress reports on the installation of a new generator and updating the comprehensive plan.

A 2005 conditional use permit for installation of a swimming pool submitted by Dutch Heldsieck will be reviewed by town council. Heldsieck, of 423 King Carter Drive, was unable to attend last year's public hearing to answer questions on his application.

Representatives of Irvington's Steamboat Era Museum are scheduled to report to council regarding the requirement of supplemental funding from the 2007 fiscal year budget, as requested by councilman Norm Mosher at last month's budget meeting.

In other business, council will discuss an Irvington to White Stone bike path, the use of golf carts in town and signage for the town commons.

Heading to the state tournament

Lancaster's Junior Girls All-Stars beat Richmond County, 4-3, last Saturday to win the District XV Tournament and earn a berth in the state tournament, beginning next week in Norfolk.

It's been six years since the Lancaster County Little League has won a district championship and sent a team to the Virginia tournament. For more details, see page A11.

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Northumberland to revisit property reassessment factor

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will meet today (June 13) at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.

Topping the agenda are Virginia Department of Transportation residency administrator Sean Trapani and superintendent of schools Clint Stables.

Following their reports, around 4 p.m., Robert Alman of Wampler-Eanes will lead a discussion on the "neighborhood factor," which was used in calculating the county's reassessment.

Last month, Joe Burrell of Whays Creek suggested during a public hearing that if the neighborhood factor was added to an assessment based on tables and charts, it would be appropriate. However, he said, if the assessment was based on market value and recent sales then adding an additional 30 percent in the form of the neighborhood factor is arbitrary.

"Somebody needs to look at the neighborhood factor to see if it's used properly," Burrell said. "In my case, I may have to move."

The board is following through on his comment.

Public hearings

After a dinner break, the board will reconvene at 7 p.m. in the courts building. Supervisors will consider public comments on requests from:

• William Kirk Neal II to construct a private community marina with nine mooring slips along the shoreline of the Little Wicomico River near Ophelia.

• River Dream Homes Inc. and Double D. Development LLC to construct a private community marina with 14 mooring slips at

(continued on page A16)

Irvington parade pedalers

From left, Feilding and Henry Kaiser gear up for their bike ride in the Irvington Fourth of July parade. Hundreds of folks participated in the annual hometown celebration. More photos appear on page A9. (Photo by Jessica Crabill)

July

13 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.
Summer Art Lessons will be offered at The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for youth in grades 7 to 12. $100. Shauna McCranie is the teacher.
Jumbo Lump Daddy & The Backfin Boys will play folk, rock, country and blues at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield. The free concert will begin at 7 p.m. It's part of a family concert sereis funded in part by the Fieends of the Deltaville Library and the Friends of the Urbanna Library.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at the Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock beginning at 7 p.m.

14 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7:30 p.m.
Itchy Dog will play from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the deck at Smokin' Joe's in Kilmarnock.
The Second Friday Art Walk will be held in Colonial Beach. 224-8411.
Mentors and Mentes Day will be held at Lancaster Community Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Storytelling, crafts, scrapbooking, indoor and outdoor activities, desserts, for ages 6 and up. Pack a lunch. To pre-regsiter, call 435-1729.
Summer Art Lessons continue at The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington.

Dressing for the past

Morag Rosa dresses her daughter, Elizabeth, in a colonial gown at the recent Second Saturday event at Christ Church near Irvington. The Foundation for Historic Christ Church sponsors the event, which includes colonial games, refreshments, crafts and tours, the second Saturday of each month during the summer. Similar activities will be held at Hands on History Day July 20.
(Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

14 Friday

The Fourth Annual Family Boat Building Workshop will open at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.

15 Saturday

Steve Keith will be featured at Donegaler's Irish Pub in Callao. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. 529-9782.
Gerry Maddox will bring "island rock" to the Music by the River family concert series at Belle Isle State Park in Lancaster from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Bring the kids, a picnic and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be crafts before the concert and during intermission.
A Bluegrass Show to benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island. Donations are accepted. 725-3495.
Tim Lovelace will give a concert at the Tibitha Church of God in Reedville at 7 p.m.
Hot Rod Johnny will be featured at Cafe Mojo in Urbanna. 758-4141.
The Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad Annual Truck And Van Show will be held at the Colonial Beach Drag Strip. 224-6288.
Summer Art Lessons continue at The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington.

15 Saturday

The Fourth Annual Family Boat Building Workshop will continue at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The CAPINNE Dinner and Auction will be held at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club near Kilmarnock. The benefit features a gourmet meal, open bar, silent and live auctions. For tickets, call 435-4169.
The Heathsville Farmers' Market begins at 9 a.m. at Hughlett's Tavern/Rice's Hotel in Heathsville.
The Annual Meeting of the Northumberland County Historical Society will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Ball Memorial Museum and Library in Heathsville.
A Cancer Seminar facilitated by The Cancer Treatment Centers of America of Zion, Il., will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northern Neck HELP Center at 15932 Northumberland Highway. Shiloh Baptist Church is hosting the event. Regiister at 580-3717. $10.
The 22nd Annual Cockrell Family Reunion will begin at 10 a.m. at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Recreation Center near Lively.

16 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Cap'n B's at the Golden Eagle Golf Course near Irvington immediately following church services.
The Fourth Annual Family Boat Building Workshop will continue at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Blazing Blades, training in the proper use of knives, hatchets, axes and saws, will be offered at Belle Isle State Park from 1 to 3 p.m.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock, beginning at 11 a.m.

17 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.
Flotilla 3-10 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 472-4387.

17 Monday

Land will be the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers Program at Belle Isle State Park. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
Tesselations-Art Puzzles, a five-day children's art workshop for ages 6 to 12 led by Shauna McCranie, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. $100. Register at 436-9309.
Exploring The Masters, a five-day children's art workshop for ages 6 to 12 led by Shauna McCranie, will be held from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. $100. Register at 436-9309.
The Kilmarnock Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the town office on North Main Street.
The Historical Society for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the G.C. Dawson administrative office in Kilmarnock. 435-6232.
The Northumberland Homemakers will meet at 11 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville. 580-8613.
The National Alliance For The Mentally Ill will meet at 7 p.m. at the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center. 725-0633.
Fish Printing with Audrey Brainard will be held at the Lancaster Community Library from 10 to 11 a.m. For ages 5 and up. Bring an old tee shirt.
A Lancaster County Blood Drive will be held Monday, July 17, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kilmarnock Baptist Church on Church Street in Kilmarnock.

(coninued 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 7 days 7:30 am-5:30pm, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-3. Fresh Arabica Coffees, espresso, cappuccino, fresh baked pastries and sweets, soft ice cream, reading rooms, music, free WiFi for customers.

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

ST. ANDREWS GRILL AT THE TARTAN GOLF CLUB: Open for lunch 10-3. Open Monday, Wednesday thru Saturday. Closed Tuesday. Daily Specials. Homemade Soups, Salads, Seafood and Sandwiches. Call 438-6009.

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. Open Kitchen. Wine & Beer on premises. 62 Irvington Road, Kilmarnock. 435-0070. Mon.-Thurs. 5-9 Fri. & Sat. 5-10.

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.

Homeless Dogs & Cats Praying For A Good Home

There are so many wonderful dogs and cats in need of loving homes. If you are considering adding a companion animal to your family this summer, please visit a local shelter or call the Animal Welfare League (804)435-0822 or (804)462-0091 for a listing of available animals. There is no greater satisfaction than saving a homeless critter who might otherwise remain without hope for the loving family he/she deserves.

Members, ad sponsors, volunteers and shop donations needed and greatly appreciated.

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7321 J. Clayton Highway 14, Gloucester, Va.• Schedule for 07/14–07-20
Monday - Ladies Special $6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG13) 2 HR 37 MIN
Fri. (3:00), 6:00, 9:00
Sat. (12:00, 3:00), 6:00, 9:00
Sun. (1:30, 4:30), 7:30
Mon. – Tues. (5:00), 8:00
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MANS CHEST (PG-13) 2 HRS 31 MIN
Fri. (3:15), 6:15, 9:15
Sat. (12:15, 3:15), 6:15, 9:15
Sun. (1:45, 4:45), 7:45
Mon. – Thurs. (5:15), 8:15
Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military $3.50 for all shows
Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to16yrs. (any show) $3.50
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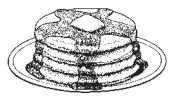
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LITTLE MAN (PG-13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 4:45, 7:25, 9:40
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG13) 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG13) 4:00, 7:15, 10:10
CARS (G) 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
SAT. JULY 15
LITTLE MAN (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:40
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:10
CARS (G) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
SUN. JULY 16
LITTLE MAN (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15
CARS (G) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10
MON.-THUR. JULY 17-20
LITTLE MAN (PG-13) 5:20, 7:35
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 4:45, 7:30
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG13) 4:00, 7:15
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG13) 4:15, 7:25
CARS (G) 4:30, 7:00

Upcoming

(continued from A2)

18 Tuesday

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
The Lancaster Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at the Woman's Club of Lancaster at 1 p.m. 462-0742.
Sea will be the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers Program at Belle Isle State Park. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
Adams Post 86 of the American Legion and the legion auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the post home on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock. 435-1588.
The Northumberland School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the school board office in Lottsburg.
The Republican Committee for Lancaster County meets at 7:30 p.m. at Chesapeake Bank Training Center on School Street in Kilmarnock. The topic will be how illegal aliens receive Social Security benefits.

18 Tuesday

Exploring The Masters continues at the Studio Gallery.
Tesselations-Art Puzzles continues at the Studio Gallery.
The Northumberland County Economic Development Commission will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville.
The Corrotoman Senior Citizens meet at 10 a.m. at the Ruritan Center near Lively.
The Kilmarnock Garden Club will meet at Kilmarnock Baptist Church at 1 p.m.
The Board Of Directors for the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library meet at 1:30 p.m. in the museum library.

19 Wednesday

The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
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.

19 Wednesday

The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The RFM Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Sandwich Bridge will be played at noon at the Woman's Club of Lancaster. $5. Call 462-0742 for reservations or to get on the waiting list.
Air will be the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers Program at Belle Isle State Park. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
Outdoor Cooking with Virginia Cooperative Extension will be offered at Belle Isle State Park from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. Call 462-5780 by July 15 to register.
Tesselations-Art Puzzles continues at the Studio Gallery.
Exploring The Masters continues at the Studio Gallery.
The Parkinson's Support Group will hold a potluck luncheon at 452 Long Cove Lane in White Stone. RSVP to Rita DePew at 435-9553.
Storytime with Tonya Carter will be held at Lancaster Community Library from 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 2 to 8.
The SAIF Water Committee will meet in the R. Glenn Courtney parish hall at St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Church at 12:30 p.m.

Antique quilt to be auctioned

This pieced and appliquéd quilt (1830 to 1860) is extremely large. The back is of hand-woven homespun material. From an estate in Gloucester, the quilt can be seen at the Kilmarnock Antique Gallery on School Street in Kilmarnock. Bids will be accepted until the Tavern Quilt Guild Gala Auction October 21 at 1 p.m. at Festival Halle in Reedville. Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door.

20 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley will present a concert at Rappahannock Community College in Glenns at 7:30 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
Al-ANON meets at 7 p.m. at Riverside Warsaw Medical Arts building in Warsaw.
Mahjong will be played at 10:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert provided. Tables of three or more. $2 per person. 438-4152.
The White Stone Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at 433 Rappahannock Drive. A hearing will be held on a proposed 4 percent tax on prepared meals. Council also will consider the 2006-07 fiscal year budget.
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.
Tesselations-Art Puzzles continues at the Studio Gallery.
Exploring The Masters continues at the Studio Gallery.

20 Thursday

Hands-On History Day will be held at Christ Church near Irvington from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 can explore the history of Colonial Virginia through archaeology, 18th-century brick making, grave rubbings, and other exciting activities. The event is free. 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. 438-6855.
The RFM Photographers meet at 2 p.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
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 at noon at the Driftwood Restaurant in Coles Point. Email Jriverside@direcway.com by July 17 for reservations.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at the Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock, beginning at 7 p.m.
The Annual Meeting of the American Red Cross River Counties Chapter will be held at 4 p.m. at 39 Harris Road in Kilmarnock.

Area Events

■ Island bluegrass

Bluegrass returns to Gwynn's Island Saturday, July 15. The Dragon Run Band and Liberty Grass with Wayne Willis of Portsmouth will play bluegrass, country and gospel music beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Gwynn's Island Civic League Building on Route 223 on Gwynn's Island.

Admission is by donation. Proceeds benefit the Gwynn's Island Musuem. The Civic League will sell hot dogs, coffee, soft drinks, popcorn, candy and ice cream sundaes. Bands may call Richard or Diane Calis at 725-3495 to join future programs.

■ Give blood

A Lancaster County Blood Drive will be held Monday, July 17, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kilmarnock Baptist Church on Church Street in Kilmarnock. All donors are registered to win a Jeep Liberty. Also, there are free limited edition t-shirts.

■ Summer concert

The town of Urbanna will host a community pot luck dinner and concert July 22 at the town marina at Upton's Point. Family and friends are invited to join musician Steve Keith for a summer night of food and music.

Keith will start playing at 7 p.m. Bring chairs, a dish to share and utensils.

Lifestyle seminar set for students and parents

College students and high school seniors and their parents are invited to attend" What you need to know before you go."

This unapologetic Christian presentation is designed to equip students for the college life ahead with the skill and decision-making ability to build a successful future in every area of life with a dynamic Christian world view.

Guests speakers include Dr. Jim Wright, health related choices and consequences; Mike Young, motivational speaker and Bible teacher; Patricia Means, assistant principal, Lancaster Middle School; and Billy Rutledge, Hatteras Island Christian Fellowship.

The seminar will be held August 1 at the YMCA in Kilmarnock from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call 436-6701.

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Tim Lovelace
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Saturday, July 15
7:00 pm
Tibitha Church of God
Fleeton Road, Reedville
An offering will be received.

Join us in Heathsville for
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Saturday, July 15 • 9-1
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Dec. 21-Jan. 2 "Caribbean Pearls" Oceania Holiday Cruise
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Feb. 24, 2007 "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" Matinee
Norfolk's Chyrsler Hall (Shopping & Show)
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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Two local ladies here in Kilmarnock are celebrating birthdays today. In years past, I have seen them and their husbands dining out together on this day, as they well might have plans to do this evening.

The two are Mildred Loudy and Shelva Gaskins. Mildred was the "Queen of Radio" in the Northern Neck, before she and her husband, Dean, retired, entirely too prematurely in the minds of some of their friends, and Shelva for nearly four decades was one of the most familiar faces in local banking. She is another who retired before I was ready for her to do so.

In 1975 Mildred and Dean opened WKWI, the first radio station in the lower Northern Neck. Dean's voice was the wake-up call for many of us, and Mildred was there by his side, handling the business of the station and making friends with everyone she met.

Mildred is one of the most gifted needle-workers I ever have known. She makes fascinating designs with her threads and has shared them generously with others. She and Dean originally came from the Midwest, but, unlike Dean, Mildred has lost her regional accent. I have thought that Dean's popularity on the air in part might have been attributed to his distinctive tones, which were sufficiently dulcet to soothe, yet still awaken, those sleeping later than usual.

Mildred and Dean built a home in Kilmarnock and have been as close to permanent fixtures as any two can be. For those of us who remember the good old days, Mildred and Dean, by proving that the area was ready for radio, and by bringing that medium to the region, remain the "Voices of Kilmarnock."

Shelva Gaskins is as local as anyone can be. She lives with her husband, Ryland, in whose great-grandfather's house our family resides, down on Prentice Creek, a seagull's short flight from the bay where Ryland has spent much of his career working.

As a youngster, Shelva entered the banking profession, in which she made a great career, most basically spending her time helping people with their business affairs. She had an answer to nearly any question and never seemed to find it the least bit difficult to help folks work through their problems. Shortly before her "youthful" retirement, her fellow employees recognized her as the "Employee of the Year," an accolade richly deserved.

Shelva passes some of her free time traveling around with Ryland's sister, Sue Forrester. They make an interesting duo, Sue the dry wit of the century and Shelva the perfect foil for her humor. In recent years, their jaunts have been joined by their neighbor, Jane Oldham. It is a rare weekend not to see them out and about at estate sales and other ventures.

A few weeks ago I wrote an item about come heres and natives. Today's joint celebrations illustrate what I said at that time. Who could have given more to our community than these two ladies, one who fortuitously came here over 30 years ago, changing our lifestyle for the better forever, and the other born and raised in the Northern Neck, reflecting each day the dynamism of our traditions, passing them along to new generations, and showing that the legacy of the past is as vibrant with the legatees as it was with the progenitors.

Happy Birthday, Mildred and Shelva. You two are truly Great Ladies in the tradition of all that is best in the history of the Northern Neck. "Ad multos annos!"

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

With the budget signed by the governor, it feels good to say that we are no longer in budget negotiations. There is, however, some unfinished business concerning transportation. The legislature will return, likely in September, to begin work on a transportation plan.

Last week I worked with Del. Morgan, the governor's staff, the Secretary of Natural Resources and members of the conservation community including Lee Stephens and Mary Louisa Pollard to suggest amendments to the Land Conservation Tax Credit bill. I am optimistic that the governor will offer amendments to the bill that will be an improvement on what came out of the House and Senate.

Since much of the discussion over the past several months has been about the budget and what has happened and not happened, I want to provide an overview of what actually appears now in the adopted budget. The biennial budget for 2006-08 contains elements important to District 99.

We now have a $72 billion budget that is balanced without a statewide tax increase and includes raises for school teachers, state employees and state-supported local employees.

The budget makes large investments in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and other state waters and will lead to significant environmental progress if we continue the commitment of the budget's first year. In order to insure the long-term success of water quality improvement efforts, we must continue the current level of investment in the bay. It is only with a sustained level of public and private commitment that we have a chance to improve water quality in all state waters.

Public education requires a significant commitment of state resources; this budget includes record funding for such education. The budget includes full funding for the standards of quality in our schools. The standards are required by the state of the local school systems, but were not fully funded in the past.

Also included is $20 million for local school construction through the state's Literary Loan Fund. When leveraged, this will provide $200 million over the biennium in low-interest loans for additional local school construction.

There was much discussion about public safety during the budget deliberations. The major focus was on enhanced penalties for sex offender registry violators and increased funding for compliance and enforcement of these new laws. Public safety will be improved with the addition of 45 State Police officers to enforce and monitor sex offender registry laws; $6.1 million has been added for more officers to monitor sex offenders. The budget also includes funds for the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, including workbooks for students and training for instructors.

In healthcare, the budget includes nearly $700 million in added funding for access to healthcare services through programs such as Medicaid, FAMIS and CSBs. It also addresses the effect on the state of the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program. We added $691 million for better health care access for our citizens and $127 million in new investment for mental health services. We added money for pilot projects to improve access to childbirth services. One of those projects will be a birthing center in the lower end of District 99.

In the coming weeks I will further descibe funding affecting our district and other pertinent new legislation.

Last week was busy in the district with all the Fourth of July festivities. On Tuesday I found myself racing from one end of the district to the other. I started with the Irvington Parade and then traveled to the Dahlgren Naval Base for a celebration where I was able to address the crowd just before the rain began. The fireworks there were cancelled due to thunderstorms, but I did get to enjoy Mother Nature's fireworks from my living room.

On Wednesday, I attended an Agriculture in the Classroom presentation at Richmond County Elementary School. On July 6, I stopped by the coffee shop in Montross for a breast-cancer-awareness event and to speak about the challenges the Mid Rivers Cancer Center is facing from Anthem and Medicare.

If I can be of assistance, call 493-0508, or e-mail, robwittman@verizon.net.

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the July 13, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen).

Litwalton

T. F. Miller was called to the bedside of his daughter, Annie, on Sunday afternoon, who is suffering a relapse of malaria.

Mr. and Mrs. William Y. Chinn will move to their new home at Norfolk in the near future.

Kilmarnock

C.J. Kramer is out after a few days' sickness.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kamps gave a dining to relatives and a few friends on Wednesday.

Millenbeck

W. E. Stevens has returned home from Baltimore.

Dr. R. F. Eubank of Ottoman has been quite sick the past week.

Capt. T. I. Ratcliffe took a crowd to Norfolk last week on his launch the J. C. Eweel.

Ocran

Miss Florence Biddlecome, who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. W. J. Cornelius, returned to her home at Fairport Tuesday.

Mrs. Geo. P. Squires, E. B. Squires and Miss Gertrude Bellows left Tuesday for an extended visit to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Long Island and Niagara Falls.

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

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How to reach us:

To reach members of the staff, dial the main phone number, 435-1701, and then the employee's extension when prompted, or use the e-mail address.

Newsroom Staff:

Robert D. Mason Jr., editor, extension 25, editor@rrecord.com
Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi, extension 23, lvaldrighi@rrecord.com
Reid Pierce-Armstrong, extension 22, rarmstrong@rrecord.com
Katherine Shrader, extension 22, editor@rrecord.com
William R. Fix, copy editor, extension 24, editor@rrecord.com
Correspondents: Joan McBride, Audrey Thomasson

Advertising Staff:

(address e-mail to mail@rrecord.com)
Chris McClintock, manager, extension 13;
K.C. Troise, extension 19;
Marilyn Bryant, extension 11; Rachael Gano, extension 15

Production Staff:

(address e-mail to mail@rrecord.com)
Wayne Smith, manager, extension 27;
Susan Faulkner, extension 18;
Sarah Bedford, Joan Ramsay-Johnson & Gloria Bosher, extension 17;
Brenda Burtner, extension 16

Publishing/Business Staff:

Frederick A. Gaskins, president, extension 20, fgaskins@rrecord.com
Bettie Lee Gaskins, treasurer, extension 21, fgaskins@rrecord.com
Kate Oliver CPA, accounts payable, extension 21, koliver@rrecord.com
Kim Kent, accounts manager, extension 14, ardesk@rrecord.com
Ann Shelton, accounts manager, extension 12, mail@rrecord.com

Subscriptions:

Anna Ticer, circulation manager, extension 16, mail@rrecord.com

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Letters to the Editor

Blasted

To The Editor:

I was surprised, and somewhat dismayed, to see that the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) got off so lightly for shooting "a blast of cold water onto the street" of Reedville during this year's annual Fourth of July parade. I guess the old saying "there are two sides to every story" is true.

The caption under a photograph on page 1 of the July 6, 2006, Rappahannock Record says "some spectators were caught off guard and leapt for higher ground." I wish that is all that happened to me and my family. If you look closely at the featured photograph, you can see the clean water coming from the firetruck turn grey with dirt as it hits the street and splashes the spectators on the side of the road.

That "blast of cold water" picked up the dirt and small stones and completely innudated my 85-year-old father, my 7-year-old niece, and myself. We were covered from head-to-toe with filthy water and pelted by the flying stones. Luckily, neither my father nor my niece were knocked over and injured by the "blast."

However, our plans of going to Horn Harbor House for dinner after the parade were dashed, as we had to go home to get out of our dirty, soaked clothing. I'm sure we would not have been admitted looking like we did.

I believe the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department owes us, and others whose enjoyment of the parade was ruined, an apology. We will think twice next year when we see the Fairfields VFD fire trucks coming, assuming my father and niece are even interested in returning to Reedville.

Art Thomas
Lottsburg

Steptoe's success

To The Editor:

Dancing in the streets, exchanging greetings with old and new friends, making a special purchase, sipping a cool drink while admiring a recently hung art exhibit, adding your own unique touch to a sidewalk painting, and then relaxing with a tasty meal were all part of the scene at Kilmarnock's first Steptoe's Walkbout.

The committee who met weekly to plan the event, the volunteers who always play a vital part in the success of community activities, the 33 merchants, restaurants, and business sponsors who opened their doors or provided support, the newly inducted town leaders all join together to proclaim the event a success.

Steptoe's Walkabout will reoccur the first Friday in August with dogs galore, special treats, more music and art, and other surprises. Plan now to come out on August 4 to enjoy the festivities and the finally completed revitalization of Steptoe's District.

Agnes Carter
Rappahannock Art League

Fact check

To The Editor:

A letter last week included a political diatribe entitled "Dying for a Mistake."

The writer of that piece claims that most voters aren't happy about the Iraq war. Probably true, but what's new? Lincoln was demagoged over the civil war, Truman over both the Korean War and using the bomb on Japan, and Johnson over Vietnam.

Some of her complaints about mistakes made by the Bush administration are probably valid, but again, what's new? In wars there are always plenty of things to complain about, and indeed some decisions have the potential to turn into real nightmares. Kennedy probably blew the Cuban invasion by dropping air support at the very last minute, which was clearly an integral part of the invasion plan. Kennedy also came out of the Cuban missile crisis looking like a hero because it worked.

However, it turns out that the real heros were several Russian submarine captains, who, having been given prior permission to use their own discretion to fire their missiles, and out of radio contact with Moscow and in very hostile circumstances each independently decided against launching.

The writer in claiming there was no reason to go to war with Iraq, either overlooked or ignored the fact that the earlier war with Iraq was never terminated. War was suspended based on Iraq offering to agree to certain conditions. Subsequently Iraq consistently violated that cease-fire agreement. Patience may be a virtue, but ignoring more than 20 cease-fire violations spread over a decade was a very bad idea. During that entire period, and right up until our re-activation of the war with Iraq the U.S. government (both Republican and Democrat administrations) clearly viewed Iraq as a threat since we continued to maintain a large force in that area.

Sadaam was also busy taking pot-shots at our planes and encouraging terrorism in Isreal by rewarding the families of Palestinian suicide killers. There were obviously very good reasons to invade Iraq, which had little or nothing to do with WMD, and the opposition's arguments against invasion were feeble at best.

The writer contradicts herself when she claims that Bush lied about WMD and in the same breath quotes the CIA director as stating it was a "slam-dunk." There is an obvious distinction between lying and passing on the best information available at the time. In fact, every country's intelligence agency believed that Sadaam had WMDs, including France, Germany, and Russia who all opposed the U.S. position. Why expect a different intelligence assessment by the U.S.? Even Hans Blitz of the U.N. thought Sadaam had WMD. Sadaam himself made every effort to encourage that belief.

In quoting John Kerry, the writer neglected to mention one of Kerry's other infamous claims - as a presidential candidate - that he could build a bigger coalition (namely France, Germany and/or Russia) which was of course impossible, at the same time he was spitting in the eye of the existing coalition by calling it "the bribed and coerced."

Had Kerry been elected president, the U.S. coalition, including even England and Australia, would have quickly dissolved. Kerry either intended to immediately terminate the war (cut and run) or he is too stupid to be dog-catcher.

Denis Ables
Lancaster

BLA spells annexation

To The Editor:

Here we go again with the boundary line adjustment (annexation).

There will be a meeting July 17 at 7 p.m. at the Kilmarnock town office.

Anyone and everyone on Waverly and Boys' Camp Road better be at this meeting to hear how you will pay more taxes. Now the town wants our tax money along with the county (double tax). Where does it stop?

Everyone needs to call your county supervisor. Mr. Geilich is the supervisor for Waverly at 436-0419; call and tell him how you feel.

Let's all band together and stop the town from hitting us with more taxes.

Why is the town of Kilmarnock not going north on Route 3?

Peggy S. Whaley
Kilmarnock

Good decision

To The Editor:

In a recent decision, the Supreme Court informed the President of the United States that the rule of law prevails in this country and that he was not above the law.

Article VI of the Constitution of the United States: "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all the treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land..."

The Court affirmed that the Geneva Convention is a treaty to which the United States is signatory, and, therefore, it is the "supreme law of the land," and the president does not have the authority to suspend its provision. The War Crimes Act which was passed to make violations of the Geneva Convention matters for domestic criminal prosecution is fully enforceable since the Geneva Conventions could not be suspended. The administration's redefinition of torture to allow actions forbidden by the Geneva Conventions may be subject to examination under the War Crimes Act.

The president has attempted an extraordinary expansion of executive power undermining the checks and balances which the founders of our nation carefully crafted into the Constitution. The president has appended to legislation "signing statements" over 750 times in which he claims the power to interpret the legislation as he sees fit and that he is even superior to the authority of the courts. And you thought you lived in a democracy.

The Supreme Court's decision in the week preceding Independence Day was a gift to the nation, reminding us that our Constitution lives and that the Court will enforce it on the executive branch, if need be. The president, with his claims to powers not explicitly granted by the Constitution, has precipitated a Constitutional crisis which we will see played out over the next several years.

As Americans, "we the people" need to understand our constitutional rights and guarantees and to insist that they not be undermined, eroded, or ignored. This is an issue that goes to the heart of who we are as a people. Any time the Constitution is violated there must be full accountability and consequences.

Donna Thompson, chair
Lancaster County
Democratic Committee
White Stone

Letters to the Editor

Treenie Chilton is remembered

To The Editor:

A green plant with yellow spider mums and a large black bow with streamers adorned the bench outside Lancaster House at the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library last week, a symbol of sympathy for the loss of the museum's longtime benefactor and founding member, Catherine "Treenie" Barham Chilton, 91.

Treenie Chilton on her 90th birthday.

The passing of Mrs. Chilton on July 4 is the end of an era. A native of Capron in Southampton County, she arrived in Lancaster County to teach at Lively High School following her graduation from Randolph Macon Woman's College in 1936. It is reported that then State Senator Robert O. Norris saw Treenie walk past the bank in Lively and said, "My heavens, that is the prettiest girl I've ever seen."

Many paying their respects to Mrs. Chilton were former students. Lancaster County's former commissioner of the revenue, Lorena Conner, then a teenager, recalls learning geometry from Miss Treenie the first summer she arrived. They became lifelong friends. Conner in recent years was Chilton's partner at the Holly Ball.

The young teacher was never considered "a come here," according to Nuttsville resident R. Page Henley Jr., Chilton's nephew, whose grandmother, Mrs. "Bessie" Peirce, was young Treenie's mother-in-law. "She was immediately adopted by our family, friends and all of Lancaster County," Henley said. Following her marriage to Chichester Tabscott Peirce Jr., killed in Germany in 1945, she became a native. With her outgoing charm and drive, "She never met a person that didn't become her friend," Henley said.

Chilton's interest in history was suited to the area. She was an early member of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, the Cobbs Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, the Virginia Historical Society, the Northumberland County Historical Society and the Jamestown Society. She was a life member of Historic Christ Church Foundation.

During the 1950s, she served as treasurer in the effort to raise funds to restore and preserve the early county records and the old jail that was rumored to be scheduled for demolition by the county. Directed by Bessie Peirce, Chilton and other members of the history committee of the Woman's Club of Lancaster sold homemade lunches, accepted donations, and sponsored "women-less wedding" shows with local men taking all character parts, to the audience's amusement.

The women restored the 1821 jail to become the county's first library. Many of the preserved county records are now part of the museum's genealogy library.

A lifelong conservationist, Chilton donated land for a small park in Kilmarnock in honor of her second husband, W. Ransdell Chilton, who died in 1973. The park, at the intersection of Main and School Streets, can be enjoyed while sitting at a picnic table away from traffic. As requested by her late husband, she also donated land for the only state forest in the Northern Neck, Chilton Woods, off Route 3 between Lively and Alfonso.

The board of directors, staff, members and volunteers of the Mary Ball Museum and Library remember the dedication and energy of their founder. Once she made up her mind to do something, she got the task accomplished. She was the glue that bound the community to the museum, to which she donated funds, land and Lancaster House, which houses the museum's headquarters, galleries and gift shop.

Since the museum and library's founding in 1958, the complex now comprises the 1821 jail, the old clerk's office, the Steuart-Blakemore Building, Lancaster House and the library.

Chilton's granddaughter, Stephanie P. Peirce, described her as a strong, independent woman, with irresistible charm, who lived life to the fullest. Until the end, she traveled, played bridge, enjoyed the performing arts, did water exercises at the YMCA, attended book and author dinners, participated in Great Decisions, and attended meetings of the many organizations of which she was a member.

The legacy of Treenie Chilton will live on in the many areas to which she contributed, and in the hearts of the people she befriended.

Lyn Neira
Board of Directors
Mary Ball Washington
Library and Museum

Headstone lore

To The Editor:

The July 6 issue featured a picture of the Rev. Richard Newlon and the case he built to display the headstone of Clarissa Pollard Hall at the Kilmarnock Museum. This same issue says the stone was found between Harris Road and Irvington Road.

I would like to elaborate on the finding of the headstone. But for two men who were walking through the wooded area (which is a part of the Johnson property), the stone might never have been found. These men were exploring the area of what was once known as Oakland Farm, home of the late Addison Hall.

They found jonquils blooming, old bottles and partially buried in dirt and debris the headstone of Clarissa Pollard Hall. It was Warren Johnson and his faithful friend Charlie Ball who lifted the headstone from the dirt and hauled it from the woods in a wheelbarrow to the Johnson residence. This was a difficult undertaking but they recognized the stone to be one of significance.

Before the stone found its way to the Kilmarnock Museum, it was tenderly cared for by Warren and Charlie. In an area referred to as "the Park," near the Kilmarnock town sign, which had been cleared and housed a picnic table, lawn chairs, bird baths and feeders, a park bench, a swing for children and beautiful big oak and walnut trees (which Isabel destroyed), the stone came to rest. The stone was erected in cement and cleaned even to the point of hiring someone to professionally clean it. Occasionally someone stopped to look at the grave.

After some 20 years, in the best interest of the headstone and posterity, the Johnsons made a phone call to the Rev. Herbert Hall, who they knew was a relative of Addison Hall. He volunteered to move the stone to the museum where it can be seen today.

Clarissa Pollard Hall was the mother of Henrietta Hall Shuck, the first Baptist woman's missionary to China.

Mary Lee Johnson
Kilmarnock

Playground doesn't meet safety standards

To The Editor:

Born and raised in the town of Irvington, I was thrilled to move back in 2003 to a community that holds fond memories for me. The changes that have occurred in our small town have had dramatic effects, but one thing has not changed, and that is the playground equipment at the Irvington Commons.

I bring this up because the playground is showing signs of serious neglect, posing a safety hazard to the children using this equipment.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), "more than 200,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each year for playground-related injuries." Upon current inspection of the Irvington playground, I found safety hazards in the form of rusty equipment, nonexistent cushioning surfaces and lack of barriers to prevent children from running out onto the road.

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) recommends that metal equipment should be repainted periodically to control deterioration. The swings and slide at the playground are showing rust which could use a layer of paint.

Another area of concern that the NPPS stresses is adequate cushioning surfaces to reduce impact of children falling. Cement, dirt and grass are not considered adequate surfaces. Some suggested surface impact materials include wood chips, pea gravel, sand, rubber tiles or mats. This would also reduce the worn ground areas where water pools raining a potential problem for ice to form in the winter.

The Irvington playground borders Chesapeake Drive by a distance of 50 feet. There is no fence to contain children from running into the street and the hedge that surrounds the neighboring tennis courts creates blind areas for drivers, obscuring their approach to the playground.

I hope the town of Irvington will provide the necessary funding to make improvements and maintain the playground that children enjoy. It is important that Irvington's town council members and its residents address this problem. We need to insure the safety of the young children of this community by taking measures to provide a safe physical environment for them to play.

Elizabeth Barksdale
Irvington

Taxing issues

To The Editor:

A writer last week said "thank God for the rich...they pay high taxes so I don't have to." Doesn't he know that the General Assembly just repealed the inheritance tax on millionaires and billionaires. Its repeal will result in a loss of about $140 million a year in revenue, a tax burden that will be shifted to the rest of us.

The rich don't pay nearly as much in taxes as they used to. As part of the conservative agenda, this administration has given a series of obscene tax breaks to the rich and corporations and that loss of tax revenue is going to trickle down and affect everyone. Most onerous is the reduction of tax on dividends and capital gains—two major sources of income for the wealthy.

How fair is it to allow the rich to pay a lower rate on this income when we have to pay the full rate on our wages?

This often creates a situation where a chief executive officer pays a lower tax rate on his income than his secretary.

And for all of us, there's a new tax in the future that will affect every American. It's the "birth tax." It is derived from our current deficit divided by our population. It now amounts to a tidy debt of $28,000 per living person in the U.S.

We should all be sure to let our children and grandchildren know so they can start saving for that day of reckoning when this national debt, made worse every day by our financing a war which over half of America thinks was a "mistake"—comes home to roost.

Frank Mann
Lancaster

This Side of 60

by Marie Snider

The things in life

People are very different. Some have blonde hair and others have red hair. And some never turn gray despite their age. Some are tall and skinny, and some are short and have to watch their weight.

Some have very effusive personalities, and some are more reserved. Some people are dreamers, and some are "no-nonsense" efficient.

And some are perennial "clutterers," while others are neat to a fault. I tend to be one of those perennial "clutterers."

It doesn't really matter whether you are tall or short, or effusive or reserved. It doesn't even matter whether your house is perfect or you always have clutter around, unless your clutter gets in the way of the life you want to live.

In her book, *Making Peace with the Things in Your Life: Why Your Papers, Books, Clothes, and Other Possessions Keep Overwhelming You and What to Do About It*, Cindy Glovinsky discusses "things" as if they had distinctive personalities.

"None of us owns a single, solitary thing permanently," says Glovinsky. "Things flow through our fingers temporarily on (their/its) way to somewhere else.

"Some things are passed down from generation to generation, others are used for an instant and thrown away, recycled to form new things or allowed to dissolve into earth."

Either way, we have to take care of our things while they are in our possession. And that's the problem.

If you impulsively buy too many clothes, your closet will be in disarray. If you drop your keys just anywhere, you'll have to look for them. If you store piles of paper on your desk, you won't be able to find important documents. If you buy too many tools, you have to find a home for them.

Focusing on the problem of "homeless things," the author has a section titled "Thing Homes." As soon as a thing comes into your life, find a home for it. And always put the thing in its home as soon as you're finished using it.

But what about your guest bedroom that has become a storeroom or your three-foot pile of papers waiting to be filed. That isn't so easy.

Says Glovinsky, go to the area that bothers you the most and survey the mess. Then close your eyes and visualize how you would like it to be. Think about how you use that space. What things should be in that area.

Then begin by taking one "homeless thing" to its proper "Thing Home." You are now on your way to decluttering and organizing your whole house.

Keeping the things in our lives decluttered and organized is a lifetime problem. But says Glovinsky, "No matter how much effort you put into making peace with things, when all is said and done, things are just things."

Nothing you can possibly do with things amounts to a hill of beans compared with what you do with people.

Paying attention to things is important only insofar as it impacts people —yourself included.

"In the final analysis, the best things in life are not things but moments." Moments with friends and family, nature, creativity and discovery.

So always remember things are just things, and work hard to keep them in their homes. Then, no longer worried about things, you will be free to truly enjoy the moments that matter.

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On behalf of the Mayor, Town Council and the residents of Irvington, the Parade Committee would like to thank the following persons for their help with the Fourth of July Parade:

Creative Designs for making the signs.

Mr. Bruce Sanders
Harold Tench & Diane Cook-Tench
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Merrill
Mrs. Barbara Whitbeck for use of their property.

Mr. Phillip Williams
Mr. Jimmy Carter
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Mr. Jeffrey Arnold
Mrs. Ann Meekins
Mrs. Jacquie Colligan
Mrs. Mary Brill
Mr. David Bugg for use of their cars.

Ms. Betcie Thrift
Mr. Fred Sanford
Mrs. Barbara Hardesty for driving dignitaries.

Mr. Skip Ferguson for his photographic skills.
Mr. Jim Ferguson for carrying the flag.

Mr. Lee Stephens for announcing the parade.

All the participants, because YOU WERE THE PARADE!

The Parade Committee:
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Mrs. William Ashley Neale Burgess

Burgess–Richardson wed

The marriage of Miss Danna Kelli Richardson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Early Richardson Jr. of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to William Ashley Neale Burgess, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Burgess Jr. of Reedville took place July 8, 2006, at First Baptist Church on Monument Avenue in Richmond. The Rev. Stephen C. Booth officiated.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Early Richardson Sr. of Jacksonville, Fla., Ms. Janet Teague Luke of Flagler Beach, Fla., and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Earl Luke of Palm Coast, Fla.

The groom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Burgess Sr., formerly of Burgess, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald Neale Headley, formerly of Heathsville.

Heather Shibley of Glen Allen was her sister's matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Beatley of Quinton, Dare Burgess of Burgess, Melinda Jones of Mechanicsville, Amy Miller of Richmond and Karen Sizer of Midlothian.

Mr. Burgess was his son's best man. Groomsmen were Christopher Beatley of Quinton, Charles Biddlecomb of Reedville, Stephen Burtis of Roanoke, Richard Crabbe of Richmond, Todd Jones of Mechanicsville, and Jamin Parezo of Baltimore.

Readers in the ceremony were Stephanie Crabbe and Daniel Cho, both of Richmond. Mrs. Linda Shibley was mistress of ceremonies.

The groom's parents hosted the rehearsal dinner at Carlton's. The reception was held at Main Street Station in Richmond which was significant to the bride's father and grandfather, whose careers span some 65 years in the railroad industry.

The bride received a bachelor's and master's from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a teacher with Henrico County Public Schools.

The groom received a bachelor's from James Madison University and a doctorate from George Mason University School of Law. He is currently working as an associate attorney at Sands, Anderson, Marks and Miller, P.C. in Richmond.

After a honeymoon in St. Thomas, the couple will reside in Richmond.

Celebrating 50 years

Gene and Sarah Atkins of Kilmarnock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 1, 2006, at a surprise reception hosted by their family at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Attending were their three sons, Jim Atkins of Sterling, Bob and Steve Atkins of Lanexa, and the couple's brothers, sisters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, daughters-in-law and friends. A social hour and dinner were followed by a toast and gifts. Glenda Atkins and the club staff planned the event.

Births

Todd and Regina Callis of Saluda announce the birth of their son, Sebastian Aaron Callis, May 23, 2006, at Williamsburg Community Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

His older brothers are Nicholas Alexander Callis and Kristopher Callis Conway.

His maternal grandparents are Rebecca Perry of Jamaica and the late Albert C. Perry. His maternal great-grandparents are the late Clinton and Pearl Rogers, formerly of Lanexa, and the late Milbern and Lillie Mae Perry, formerly of Shacklefords.

His paternal grandparents are the late Yvonne Gillentine of Mathews and Melvin Callis of Cobbs Creek. His paternal great-grandparents are Miriam and Ernest Callis Jr. of Tabernacle and Marion and the late Robert Jordan, formerly of North.

His aunts and uncle are Ashley Callis of Richmond and Kerry and Jeff Perry of Mechanicsville.

Sebastian Aaron Callis

Local News

Mrs. Val Robinson returned to her home on July 4 following surgery at Rappahannock General Hospital week before last. Her daughter and her brother, Melanie Burke of Tallahassee, Fla., and Harry Swiggard of Cario, Fla., are with her while she recuperates.

Guests of Dennis and Kim Miller in Lancaster are his mother and brother, Mrs. Louise Miller and David Miller of North Pitcher, New York.

Stephen and Leslie-Ann Sturtz of Portsmouth are the parents of a daughter, Gabrielle Paige, born July 4, 2006. Gabrielle has a brother and sister, Jackson and Celeste. Grandparents are Jesse and Shelia Dize of Kilmarnock and Mrs. Carla Lipscomb of West Point and the late Tommy Lipscomb. Great- grandmothers are Mrs. Audrey Barbour of Hampton and Mrs. Marguerite Sturtz of West Point.

Mrs. Helene Braatz is spending this week with her sister, Mrs. Nancy Lowenstein, in Syosset, N.Y. They will be touring various places on Long Island but especially enjoying Sagamore Hill, the home of Teddy Roosevelt.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spafford were in Charlottesville last Saturday where they attended a Powell family reunion.

Tyler Edwards of Richmond spent several days this week with his mother and grandparents, Ms. Dawn Clarke and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Petty in Irvington.

Mark and Pam Sellew and daughters, Jenna, Amanda and Lindy of Williamsburg, and Brian and Pam Siemering and daughters, Elise and Nichole, of Hickory, N.C., were with their parents, Warren and Augusta Sellew, at their home, Smokey Point in Kilmarnock, last weekend. Others joining them were Ray and Donna Rothermel and Valerie Breeden, all of Richmond, Martha and Roland Shelbourne of Mechanicsville, Helen and Sandy Quillan, Mary Alice Eubank and Ed and Candy Layman, all of Kilmarnock, Virginia Blackwell of Remo, Steve and Gladys Larson of Topping and Tom Babcock of Newport News.

Tommy and Ella Mae Turlington have returned from a long family gathering in the mountains of Augusta County, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fletcher were recently in Charlotte, N.C., with their daughter, Ms. Kacy Fletcher. From there they visited a son, Dr. Wade Fletcher in Savannah, Ga. They visited Ben and Gloria Abbott in Woodstock on the Fourth, then with Tom's brother, Mr. and Mrs. Don Fletcher, in Woodstock.

Mrs. Bryan Conley and son, Joey, of Severn, Md., are with Mrs. George Dixon on Dividing Creek this week.

Krista Smith, Airman, U.S.N. of Fallon, Nevada, is expected home this week to spend two weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith. Her next assignment is in Lamore, Calif.

Don and Pam Grice of Hayes, (nee Whittaker) formerly of Kilmarnock, took the "Chesapeake Breeze" out of Reedville last Saturday to Tangier Island for the day, enjoyed the island and had a great lunch. Returning home, they visited family members of Pam. The Grices had dinner with her grandmother, Frances Fallin of Kilmarnock, Larry and Linda Gordon of White Stone. Wayne Fallin of Dale City joined them. Later they visited with other family members on Indian Creek, Billy and Barbara Fallin of Springfield, Elizabeth Christopher of Indian Creek, Kevin and Kathy Fallin and twins, Mark and Megan, of Manassas and Robbie and Tania Dulany and children, Austin and Madison, of Manassas.

Engagements

Polly Rae Headley and Dr. Matthew Glen Poffenroth

Headley-Poffenroth

Mr. and Mrs. Innis H. Wood Jr. of Kilmarnock announce the engagement of her daughter, Polly Rae Headley of Arlington to Dr. Matthew Glen Poffenroth of Arlington, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Poffenroth, and Ms. Sandy Poffenroth, all of Calgary, Alberta.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late C.H. Headley III and the granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. E.R. Moorman, and the late Charles Headley Jr. and Della Headley Martin. She is a 1988 graduate of Hermitage High School in Richmond. She received a bachelor's in business from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1995. She is currently pursuing a master's at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she is employed as administrator of the Student Health Service.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Western Canada High School in Calgary. He graduated cum laude from Pepperdine University in 1990 with a bachelor's in biochemistry. He received a medical doctorate from Indiana University School of Medicine, graduating magna cum laude in 1994. He recently received a master's of business administration from Johns-Hopkins University. He is the president and chief executive officer of Inpatient Specialists, a practice of internal medicine physicians serving hospitals in Maryland and northern Virginia.

The wedding is planned for September 23.

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Jumbo Lump Daddy concert set for July 13

Jumbo Lump Daddy & The Backfin Boys will open the annual Middlesex County Public Library family concert series at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield.

The free concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13.

Voted the Best of the River Country in the local musician category by readers of Pleasant Living in 2005, Jumbo Lump Daddy & The Backfin Boys will perform folk, rock n' roll, country and blues.

The band, featuring Clayton Neal (vocals, acoustic and electric guitars, and harmonica), Gary Archer (vocals, acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin, and keyboard), Winnie McCrobie (drums and percussion) and Jeff Wingo (bass), has developed a loyal following and a reputation throughout the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck area for performing fun-loving and infectious music.

"Our music reflects the wide range of musical experiences of the members of the band," said Neal, co-founder. "A musical performance by Jumbo Lump Daddy & The Backfin Boys is like taking a road trip down the music highway...you never know what you'll find, but it'll always be fun."

Neal lives in Middlesex County, 40.5 feet from the Rappahannock River. Since age 5, he has enjoyed playing a variety of music as a vocalist and guitarist, performing both as a soloist and in bands, including Buzzard Luck and Stunt Dog.

Archer, "The Tone Chaperone," is a multi-talented musician from Chesterfield County. He is a former member of Union Pacific Band and a noted composer and producer of children's music. A VCU music education graduate, Archer is a public school music teacher in Cumberland County and choir director of Bon Air Christian Church.

McCrobie is a highly regarded musician in the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck. He is a percussionist in the Northern Neck Orchestra, drummer for the Northern Neck Big Band, and vocalist in the Community Chorus. He performed in the house band at Tides Inn for 20 years and with a variety of other local bands, including the Delta Tones. McCrobie is a graduate of the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and has been employed as the band director at Northumberland Middle School for the past 30 years.

Wingo grew up in the Richmond area and because he "wanted to be just like Paul McCartney," started playing guitar at the age of 8. He was young and hadn't noticed that McCartney mainly played bass guitar. Wingo eventually fulfilled his dream and took up the bass. He lives in Midlothian.

The concert is funded in part by the Friends of the Deltaville Library and the Friends of the Urbanna Library.

Belle Isle to host 'island rock' show

The 2006 Music by the River family concert series at Belle Isle State Park will continue on Saturday, July 15, with Gerry Maddox.

A singer/guitarist in the Fredericksburg area, Maddox has performed with various bands for most of his 30-year career. He became a solo performer five years ago.

Maddox performs music by Bob Marley, Alan Jackson, The Eagles, Jimmy Buffett and others.

The music has been described as "island rock" and consists of rock, raggae, rhythm and blues and country.

The free concert is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the picnic area overlooking the Rappahannock River.

Folks are urged to bring their children, grandchildren, neighbor's children, lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be crafts for children and adults prior to the concert and during intermission.

A $3 parking fee will apply.

Music by the River is sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle State Park with financial support from the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts, the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary, the Bethel Emmanuel United Methodist Men, the Rappahannock Record and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Arts Alive presents season

Arts Alive Inc. is selling season tickets for the 2006-07 season at the W.T. Robinson/Sture G. Olsson Civic Auditorium and Fine Arts Center in West Point.

The new season includes five performances and begins September 23 with Jane Franklin Dance.

Performances continue on October 14 with Alexandre Moutouzkine, a Russian pianist; February 18 with Carol Welsman, a vocalist and pianist from Canada; March 18 with the Artie Shaw Orchestra, a big band from the swing era; and May 19 with Mike Seeger, who will perform traditional mountain music from the southern United States.

All performance times are 7:30 p.m. except for the Sunday concerts with Carol Welsman and the Artie Shaw Orchestra which are 3 p.m.

On September 30, Arts Alive Inc. will present a free concert with the vocal and acoustic guitar duo, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart, at 7:30 p.m. at the auditorium. The event is sponsored by Bowen and Johnson, PLLC.

Season ticket prices are $90 for adults, $75 for seniors, and $25 for students. Call 843-3475 to reserve season tickets.

Historical Society to discuss Northern Neck's early history

On July 15, the Northumberland County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting with a daylong program on history.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a brief business meeting, followed by an overview of celebrations planned for 2007, the year marking the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the New World at Jamestown, Virginia. Special events are planned throughout the state.

A lunch will be available from Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern for $12.50, including tax and tip. Reservations are required by July 11; call 580-8581, 529-6886 or 529-5846.

The afternoon program will go far back in time. There is archaeological evidence that Native Americans passed through the Northumberland area as long ago as 12,000 years, at the close of the last Ice Age. The climate in Virginia then would have resembled northern Canada today. Keith Egloff, of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, will provide glimpses into the lives of those paleo-Indians, glimpses made possible by the artifacts they left behind.

Some of those artifacts have been found in the fields of Northumberland, and many of them given to the Historical Society. With the help of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, these have been catalogued and representative samples are now labeled in the new exhibit at the society.

Family night is July 15 in Gloucester

The Gloucester Main Street Association, Middle Peninsula Cruisers and the Gloucester Library invite the public to a free "Blast from the Past Family Fun Night" Saturday, July 15, at Main Street Center in the Gloucester County Library parking lot.

The event will include an antique car cruise in, children's activities and an outdoor movie. The event will begin at 5 p.m. with an antique car cruise in with the Middle Peninsula Cruisers. Cars must be 20 years or older and trophies will be given for Best Chevy, Best Ford, Best Mopar, and Best Import.

Children's activities, such as an inflatable moon walk and a pit crew challenge game, will be provided by Grand Rental Station in Hayes. Giggles the clown will paint faces and make balloon animals.

The library will have a costume contest with a '50s theme and will hand out prizes for the adult best "Sandy look alike" from "Grease" (Olivia Newton-John) and the best "Danny look alike" from "Grease" (John Travolta). There are prizes for the best group "Grease" look alikes. There also will be a contest for children for the best "Grease" costume with prizes.

A disc jockey will spin some 1950s music.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue will be sold. Ware Neck Produce will sell watermelon and cantaloupe slices. Grand Rental Station will sell popcorn and cotton candy.

At sunset, the Gloucester Main Street Association will continue with the "Blast from the Past" theme and show "Grease" on the large outdoor movie screen in the grassy area adjacent to the library. Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

In the case of inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

Support groups schedule potluck

The Northern Neck Parkinson's Support Group and the Parkinson's Care Partners Support Group will combine their July meetings for a potluck luncheon July 19 at noon at the home of Rita and Jay DePew in White Stone. Those who attend are asked to bring a dish of their choice.

Open to the community, the two groups are based at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

The support group includes people with Parkinson's and their care partners and meets the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. The care partners group meets on the first Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Call Rita DePew at 435-9553 to RSVP for the luncheon.

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Contest Rules
• Bring your photo to the Animal Welfare League Thrift Shop (44 Irvington Rd. Kilmarnock, across from Smokin' Joe's Bar-B-Que) or mail your photo to AWL, P.O. Box 163, Box 163, Merry Point, VA 22513 no later than July 27.
• Include $3.00 for each photo submitted (no framed photos, no photos larger than 5x7). Checks can be written to "AWL".
• Each photo must include your kitty's name, the category and your name, address, telephone number. Photos will not be returned by mail but will be available at the Thrift Shop once the contest has ended.
• Photos will be displayed in the AWL Thrift Shop from July 31 through Aug. 12. Customers can cast their vote for their favorite photo in each category.
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Hawley, Kennedy exhibit at RW-C

Carolyn Hawley and Don Kennedy are the artists of the month for July at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. Both are active members of the Rappahannock Art League (RAL) and have earned juried wall space at the league's Studio Gallery.

Their show, "Have Paints, Will Travel," comprises paintings of her travels to Bermuda, Europe and the maritime provinces of Canada, and his travels to Mexico, Africa, Hawaii and Maine; and a few "back home" paintings of local scenes. Her paintings are watercolors; he works with acrylics, watercolor, oil, collage and collograph.

Hawley's Bermuda paintings are from a "Paint Bermuda" trip in May with seven other artists and instructor Kathleen Noffsinger, who focused upon light, color, and sense of place. They also joined a group of en pleinair or outdoors painters led by a well-known watercolorist in Bermuda.

"In our hotel and in the shopping gallery there were his paintings, and we all had fallen in love with his work before we even met him," said Hawley. "I did those oleanders from watching what he did. I like to paint loosely, not real tight and detailed, and that's the way he paints."

On trips with her husband, Jerry, she photographs scenes or does small sketches onsite and then paints the finished work at home.

A former librarian, church secretary and choir director, Hawley had not painted before moving from Fairfax to Dividing Creek in 1998 and joining the art league.

Longtime friend Pat Ramey has been her inspiration, and she has studied repeatedly with Noffsinger.

The RW-C exhibit starts with Kennedy's whimsical "Arty," a crab with a palette for his back and a paintbrush and paint tube in his claws. The crab was selected for the promotional poster for the Holly Point Art and Seafood Festival on October 14.

Kennedy retired from the military in 1972 and lived in Hawaii, where he began painting landscapes and seascapes in oil. When he moved here in 1982, he joined the art league and expanded his media.

"Most of the people I've studied with have been right here – Jane Stouffer, Kathleen Noffsinger and many others. This is a great resource for this part of the world."

Chairing the RAL Labor Day show for the second year, Kennedy also is an avid golfer.

Children invited for Hands-On History

Christ Church near Irvington will hold its annual Hands-On History Day on Thursday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to explore the history of Christ Church and colonial Virginia through a variety of activities.

Participants will learn about archaeology and its role in studying colonial Virginia by touring the museum and examining some of the original artifacts connected to the church and Robert Carter's Corotoman mansion, which burned in 1729.

Next, participants will try their hand at archaeology by excavating a model archaeological site filled with artifacts representative of the colonial period.

The program will then explore the different technologies colonial craftsmen used to build Christ Church, particularly brickmaking. After closely examining the church's walls, participants will use molds and clay to shape their own bricks, just like Robert Carter's brickmaker, James Bryan, did in the kilns he set up at Christ Church in 1724 to 1726.

In a tour of the church's interior, participants will make grave rubbings to see what they can learn from two seventeenth-century tombstones at Christ Church. They also will try on some of the clothing and play some of the games children had in colonial Virginia. At the end of the day, Christ Church will sponsor a pizza party for all participants. Each child will also receive a souvenir pencil and bookmark from Christ Church.

Hands-On History Day is a free event.

All participants must preregister, and space is limited to the first 25 children to sign up. To register or for more information, contact education director Robert Teagle at 438-6855, visit www.christchurch1735.org, or email fhcc@crosslink.net.

Pam, Macon and Bill Gurley will play for the Rappahannock Comunity College Board Lecture Series.

Gurleys to play campus concerts

Bill and Pam Gurley of Lancaster have been mainstays of the Virginia festival and concert scene for many years. They will be joined by their daughter, Macon, to present a pair of July concerts sponsored by the Rappahannock Community College Board Lecture Series.

This talented family combines solo and harmony vocals with award-winning fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and guitar performances to create music that has been described as "clean and polished, yet still rustic and natural."

The concerts will be held at RCC in Glenns on July 20 and RCC in Warsaw on July 27. Both performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited.

Farmers Market adds vendors

The Heathsville Farmers Market on Saturday, July 15, will feature more produce vendors and the debut of a Heathsville furniture maker. Located at the Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (RH/HT) Complex, the Farmers Market is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Now that it's mid-summer, people will find more produce this month," said Ellen Hollows, RH/HT Foundation volunteer, the market sponsor.

In addition, the July market marks the debut of Andy Pitts Furniture Maker. Pitts has a state-of-the-art work shop in Heathsville where he mills and dries wood for finely crafted furniture. He decided to exhibit in his home area, primarily for getting local exposure.

"I make pieces using local wood. Each item is unique and I can tell people where I got the wood." Pitts remarked.

He plans to bring two book cases, a side table, a coffee table, and storage boxes, all made of a variety of woods including cherry and oak. Prices range from $75 for the boxes to around $1,000 for the book cases.

Pitts recently was recognized as a professional Virginia artisan. In addition, he won a first place at the Rappahannock Art League show last Labor Day.

The Heathsville Farmers Market is located in the field next to the Tavern behind the old court house. Refreshments will be available and the Tavern restaurant will be open for lunch.

Baum to present bonsai show

Ronnie Baum, owner of Tiny Tree Bonsai in Virginia Beach, will present the history, legends, myths and techniques to create a bonsai at the Tuesday, July 18, meeting of the Kilmarnock Garden Club at Kilmarnock Baptist Church on Church Street at 1 p.m.

Bonsai, the practice of growing a single tree in a pot, appeared in China over 1,000 years ago. The early specimens had sparse foliage and rugged, gnarled trunks which often looked like animals, dragons and birds. There are many myths and legends about Chinese bonsai. Bonsai practice and culture have evolved greatly over the past two centuries.

Upright-style bonsai

Baum has been working with the art of bonsai for 23 years. Since retiring, he devotes all his time and energy to teaching and working in his greenhouse. He was the president of the Virginia Bonsai Society for seven years before becoming the president of the Peninsula Bonsai Society. He has lectured and demonstrated at the National Arboretum, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Portsmouth Museum, and many adult education programs in the Virginia Beach area. He has worked with the Chesapeake Master Gardeners and North Carolina Master Gardeners at Currituck.

The theme for the artistic design is "Asian Inspiration," a design in the oriental style. The horticulture classes to be judged are zinnias, lilies, bulbs, annuals, herbs, vegetables and fruits, marigolds, roses, perennials and other classifications.

Guests are welcome; call Barbara Ohanesian at 462-7325; for membership, call Pat Clawson at 462-0442.

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IRVINGTON CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Photos by Jessica Crabill

Dillon O'Keefe claps as the parade passes.

Juliet Wiebe's stunning portrayal of the Statue of Liberty amazed the crowd.

The Hope and Glory Inn master gardener Mitchel Whitmore, niece Katherine Vail and nephew John Vail ride the parade route in the inn's classic Ford pickup.

From left, Irv Owings and William Chapman dressed proudly in Colonial attire.

From left, Jodi Sharp of Plantation, Fla., Ida Sharp of Haddonfield, N.J., and Len Engstrom of White Stone enjoy the festivities.

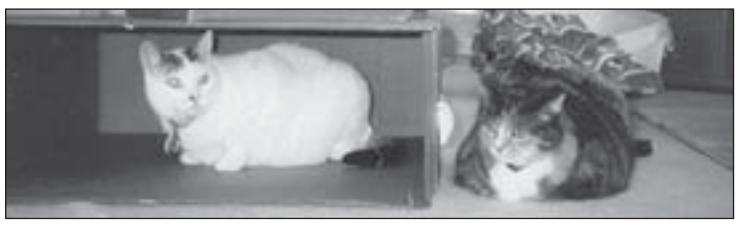
Gibson and Gen. Sterling Wright rode in a unit of honor at the front of the parade. Gen. Wright served as the grand marshal.

Alan Merkel displays his classic 1937 GMC wrecker.

Buzzie the Clown made Sam Shatoff giggle when she honked his nose.

Young entreprenuers David and Will Stinson made their fortune selling lemonade for a quarter.

The Honorable Chandler Luckham and his wife Margaret wait patiently for the parade to begin.



Spot (left) and Camper, friends of Barb Dietz, wait for the results of the cat photo contest.

Cat snapshot contest returns

The Animal Welfare League of Kilmarnock will reprise its popular "Purrrrrfect Companion" cat photo contest to help the league raise funds.

The contest will have three categories: the most relaxed cat, the most athletic cat, and the most humorous cat.

Each photo must include the cat's name, the category, the owner's name, address and phone number. The fee is $3 per submission.

Photos will not be returned by mail. They can be picked up at the AWL Thrift Shop at 44 Irvington Road in Kilmarnock at the conclusion of voting. No framed photos or photos larger than five-by-seven inches will be accepted.

Checks can be written to "AWL."

Photos must be brought to the thrift shop, or mailed to AWL, P.O. Box 163, Merry Point, VA 22513. The deadline is July 27.

Photos will be displayed in the thrift shop from July 31 through August 12. Customers can vote for their favorite in each category. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Winners will be announced August 17. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

For details, call the shop at 435-0822, or Barb Dietz at 462-5073.

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Cockrell reunion to be held July 15

The 22nd annual Cockrell Reunion will be held at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Recration Center near Lively on July 15 at 10 a.m.

Lunch will begin at noon, followed by a short business meeting. Each family member in attendance will be recognized on the family tree.

Special recognition will be given to the youngest family member in attendance. Games will be provided for the children.

A small fee will be charged by the recreation center for use of the pool.

All descendants and friends of William Dandridge and Naomi Bush Cockrell are urged to attend.

Seniors to see K-9 program

The Corrotoman Senior Citizens will meet Tuesday, July 18, at the Ruritan Center near Lively at 10 a.m.

William Joyner of the Virginia State Police will bring his K-9 dogs and demonstrate their abilities.

Attendees may bring a friend, a sandwich, and a prize. Dessert and beverages will be served. Bingo will be played.

The hostesses will be Cellie Bell, Helen Cover, Frances Hayden and Margaret Ransone.

Upcoming trips include Christmas in New York, November 28 to 30; and New Year's Eve in Myrtle Beach, December 30 to January 2.

Day trips include a visit to Riverside Theater to see "Cats," September 6; and "Nunsense," December 6.

For trip reservations, call Hazel Ford at 462-7895, or Fannie Clingan at 435-1713.

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From left, members of Lancaster's Junior Girls Softball All-Stars are (front row) Tiffany Pittman, Kati O'Brien, Nicole Shelton, Takeia Jones and Tyesha Harvey; (next row) Lauryn Turner, Gabrielle Mondy, Brianna Ritchie and Kimberly Crockett; (next row) coach Timmy Pittman, manager Kathy Pittman, Carol Davis, Ariel Grulkowski and coach Derek Jones.

Lancaster junior girls earn state tournament berth

The Lancaster County Little League will send a team to state tournament play for the first time in six years.

The Junior Girls All-Stars, led by manager Kathy Pittman, will make their bid for the Virginia title next week in Norfolk.

Lancaster went 6-1 overall and edged homestanding Richmond County by a run last Saturday to win the District XV Junior Girls Softball Tournament in Warsaw. The team advances to the 2006 Virginia State Junior League Softball Tournament at Azalea Little League Complex with play beginning July 22.

"I'm so excited about this," said Pittman. "This is such a big deal for us. The girls walked on to that field Saturday morning with state in their eyes. They had a mission and that was to go to Virginia Beach to this tournament and they accomplished that goal."

Lancaster's last state qualifying team was in 2000 when the Lancaster Senior Girls All-Stars won the District XV championship.

Lancaster defeated previously unbeaten Richmond County back-to-back last Saturday to earn a berth in the state playoffs.

Katie O'Brien scored the winning run off a shot by Brianna Ritchie in the bottom of the sixth inning and a strong defense took the Warsaw-based team three-up-three-down in the top of the seventh for a 4-3 win.

Lancaster had led 3-1 going into the top of the sixth then gave up two runs to bring up a 3-3 tie.

Nicole Shelton pitched all seven innings for Lancaster in the final and had seven strikeouts.

At bat, Ritchie, Ariel Grulkowski, Takeia Jones and Tyesha Harvey each had an RBI.

Jones and Harvey led at the plate with two hits and an RBI each, while Kimberly Crockett and Gabrielle Mondy had a hit apiece.

Jones turned the only double play of the game and caught a fly for the first out in Richmond County's last at-bat. Shelton retired the final two batters.

Leading the defense were Jones, Shelton, Ritchie, Harvey and right-fielder Tiffany Pittman. Crockett, the catcher, kept the Richmond County base runners in check, throwing out every attempted steal of second.

Jones had the win in a 7-0 blanking of Richmond County to start the championship round earlier that day. She put in seven innings of work with eight strikeouts.

Grulkowski recorded three RBI and Ritchie had a home run for an RBI and run scored to lead the offense. Crockett had two hits and O'Brien one.

Defensively, Carol Davis, the youngest player on the team, turned a double play, catching a fly ball at second and throwing out the base runner at first. She made five outs in the game. Pittman, Harvey and Jones also sparked the fielders with Harvey making four put-outs at first.

Lancaster had worked its way out of the losers' bracket with a 3-2 win over Mathews on Friday with Shelton and Jones splitting time on the mound. Shelton pitched four innings with five strikeouts and Jones pitched three complete with three strikeouts. The two gave up only two hits.

At bat, Jones had two hits and two RBI, Crocket had a hit and Harvey had an RBI.

After getting off to a 2-0 start with a 5-3 win over Essex and an 11-3 rout of Mathews, Lancaster fell to Richmond County, 11-2.

Already with a loss in the double elimination tournament, the Kilmarnock team was forced to upend Richmond County twice for the trophy. Richmond County came into the final round of play Saturday with a 3-0 record.

"That didn't bother them," said Pittman. "They were determined to win. We have a very good cohesive group of good friends as well as players."

The team is currently accepting donations to help defray the cost of the trip to Norfolk.

"Players will be standing at locations around Kilmarnock over the next two weeks asking for donations," said Pittman. "They are also selling team t-shirts for $16 each."

It will cost approximately $750 per day for the team to stay in Norfolk. The all-stars will be there a minimum of two-and-a-half days and could be there as long as a week depending on their success in the double elimination tournament.

From left, members of Lancaster's Major Girls Softball All-Star team are (front row) Danielle Shelton and Rachel Haywood; (next row) Ammoni Roane, Whitney Spence, Emma Hollowell and Nicole Crowther; (next row) coach Skeeter Spence, manager Jessica Thomas, Casey Clarke, Brooke Hudnall, Chelsea Montgomery, Desiree Self, Jamie Ahlborn, Taylor Hinson and coach Dan Reeves.

Mathews edges Lancaster in major girls softball final

The Lancaster Girls Major Softball All-Stars lost by a run to Mathews in extra innings last Saturday in the District 15 All-Star Tournament championship to finish as the runner-up.

Mathews scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth inning to edge homestanding Lancaster, 6-5, and advance to this week's state tournament.

Lancaster's All-Stars went 3-2 in the tournament, losing twice to the eventual district champ.

Mathews went undefeated for the title with a 4-0 mark, routing Westmoreland, 30-4, blanking Middlesex, 6-0, and getting by Lancaster, 6-3 and 6-5.

Lancaster won its first two games, downing King George, 9-2, in the opener, then beating Richmond County, 7-2. Lancaster eliminated Richmond County last Friday night, with a 10-9 win that also advanced the local team to the tournament final against Mathews.

Whitney Spence started on the mound and Casey Clarke finished to lead Lancaster in Friday's win against Richmond County. Clarke pitched five innings with 11 strikeouts.

In Saturday's final, Rachel Haywood put in eight innings of work with 11 strikeouts.

For the tourney, Haywood recorded 33 strikeouts in three contests and Clarke had 21 in two games.

Crowd gathers for mahjong at local Chinese restaurant

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Kung Pao, General Tso and Fong Wong Gai were served up with a few rounds of mahjong.

No, the Chinese are not invading Kilmarnock. It was lunch at the Great Fortune Restaurant for a group of people addicted to the Chinese game of mahjong—and proud to admit it.

The 16 players who gathered for fun and chow-mien last week are just a fraction of a growing list of 200 area residents whose love of mahjong reflects a national trend. There's been a resurgence of the ancient game in the U.S. from its previous popularity in the 1960s.

This time it is not just grandmothers mixing the small plastic tiles around like a wok of stir-fry vegetables. Men and young people are beginning to take an interest as well. One teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Washington, D.C., has been teaching the game to sixth-graders for years. Teacher Sandy Tevelin says the kids are so addicted they substitute lunch break for a quick couple of rounds. Kids think it is a great ice-breaker for shy students.

Lancaster County players like to gather in homes or meet in places like the White Stone Women's Club and Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Recently the group became truly authentic to the game's origins by starting a first Tuesday of the month club at Great Fortune: Chinese food and mahjong—a true Chinese tradition. However, other than the Chaos and Wongs who own Great Fortune Restaurant, no one present is from China or even related to anyone of Chinese decent.

Robert Hurliman of Laurel Point waits for C.J. Carter of Ottoman to discard a tile at the Great Fortune Restaurant mahjong game last Tuesday in Kilmarnock.

But that does not stop participants from following the principles of the game. Before the clickety-clack of the tiles on tabletops can begin, out come each player's personal trinkets of jewelry and curios—charms intended to ward off evil forces and bring great fortune to otherwise intelligent, sophisticated, church-going players.

Does it work?

"Good heavens, no," a lady with a delightful smile confesses. "Mahjong is full of superstition and tradition. It's all part of the fun."

Mahjong is also a game of speed and cunning. Each player tries to build a winning hand using 13 tiles dealt and traded from others at their table. The concept is similar to the card game Rummy except it involves tremendous skill, strategy and the memorization of a rickshaw full of rules. Local players make no secret of the fact that they refer to their rule book throughout much of the play.

Hong Kong mahjong is played differently from mahjong in the U.S., Japan or Taiwan. The local club prefers the Wright-Patterson Officer's Club Rule Book and a friendly, easy-going competition.

A group of 16 players meet for mahjong and lunch at Great Fortune Restaurant the first Tuesday of the month.

Scoreboard

Virginia District XV All-Star Tournaments

Junior softball Championship
Lancaster 4, Richmond Co. 3
Other games,
Lancaster 7, Richmond Co. 0
Lancaster 3, Mathews 2

Major softball Championship
Mathews 6, Lancaster 5 (7 innings)
Other games,
Lancaster 10, Richmond Co. 9 (7 innings)
Richmond Co. 11, King Gge 1
Mathews 6, Lancaster 3

Senior baseball Championship
Essex 4, Caroline 3
Other games,
Caroline 1, Westmoreland 0
Essex 5, Westmoreland 3
Caroline 8, Lancaster 0
Lancaster 16, King William 6
Caroline 11, Middlesex 0

Junior baseball Championship
Caroline 12, King William 2
Other games,
Caroline 6, Westmoreland 5
King William 6, Westmoreland 4
King William 6, Essex 5
King William 10, Lancaster 3
Essex 13, Richmond Co. 3
Lancaster 22, Northumberland 2
Caroline 10, King William 0
Westmoreland 8, Essex 4

Major baseball
Northumberland 5, Essex 3
Mathews 10, Lancaster 3
Mathews 9, Richmond Co. 1
Westmoreland 11, King Willim 2
Lancaster 6, King George 5
Caroline 9, Lancaster 6
Essex 13, King William 1
Essex 9, Richmond Co. 5
Westmoreland 7, Mathews 3
Middlesex 7, King George 1
Middlesex 11, Northumberland 9

Upcoming Games

Virginia District XV All-Star Tournaments
Major baseball (at Middlesex County Little League Park)
July 11:
(1) Mathews vs. Caroline (6:30 p.m.)
(2) Essex vs. Northumberland (6:30 p.m.)
July 12:
(3) Middlesex vs. Westmoreland (6:30 p.m.)
(4) Winner of (1) vs. winner of (2) (6:30 p.m.)
July 13:
(5) Loser of (3) vs. winner of (4) (6:30 p.m.)
July 14:
Championship round begins at 6:30 p.m.

✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

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

Fri	**7/14**	Sunrise	5:55	High	2:34	**1.8′**	**Tue**	**7/18**	Moonrise	12:27	Low	12:31	0.1′
		Moonset	9:50	Low	9:11	-0.1′			Sunrise	5:58	High	6:10	1.4′
		Sunset	**8:27**	High	**3:00**	1.6′			Moonset	**2:36**	Low	**12:31**	0.0′
		Moonrise	**11:07**	Low	**9:28**	0.0′			Sunset	**8:25**	High	**6:47**	1.7′
Sat	**7/15**	Sunrise	5:56	High	3:24	1.7′	**Wed**	**7/19**	Moonrise	12:58	Low	1:36	0.2′
		Moonset	11:03	Low	9:58	-0.1′			Sunrise	5:59	High	7:11	1.3′
		Sunset	**8:27**	High	**3:53**	1.7′			Moonset	**3:47**	Low	**1:28**	0.1′
		Moonrise	**11:34**	Low	**10:26**	0.0′			Sunset	**8:25**	High	**7:49**	1.7′
Sun	**7/16**	Sunrise	5:57	High	4:16	1.6′	**Thu**	**7/20**	Moonrise	1:34	Low	2:40	0.2′
		Moonset	**12:14**	Low	10:46	-0.1′			Sunrise	6:00	High	8:13	1.3′
		Sunset	**8:26**	High	**4:48**	1.7′			Moonset	**4:56**	Low	**2:27**	0.1′
				Low	**11:27**	0.1′			Sunset	**8:24**	High	**8:51**	1.7′
Mon	**7/17**	Sunrise	5:57	High	5:11	1.5′	**Fri**	**7/21**	Moonrise	2:17	Low	3:41	0.2′
		Moonset	**1:25**	Low	11:37	0.0′			Sunrise	6:00	High	9:14	1.3′
		Sunset	**8:26**	High	**5:46**	1.7′			Moonset	**6:01**	Low	**3:26**	0.1′
3rd Q. - **3:13**									Sunset	**8:23**	High	**9:49**	1.7′

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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420s jockey for a good position at the starting line.

Junior regatta attracts 13 racers

Under a clear, blue sky and with moderate breezes, Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club held its annual Junior Sailing Regatta July 7.

Thirteen young sailors participated. Four sailed Optimist prams, eight sailed two-person 420 dinghies, and one sailed a Laser. Under the watchful eye of the race committee of Bill Johnson, Dee Byrne and Bob Guthrie, five races were held for each class.

After great competition, some bumping, quite a bit of yelling, one man overboard, and several protests, the results were 420s first, Eric Siegel and Michelle Burch; second, Lauren and Allison Sweeney; third, John May and Justin Guthrie; and fourth Hannah Wade and Chris Greene. Among Optimists, results were first, Ben Ma; second, Paul Conner; third, Virginia Margaret Conner; and fourth, Clark Ross.

After the races, all racers, committee members, staff, helpers, parents, and grandparents were treated to a delicious lunch of hot dogs, chips and cakes.

Cycles to race half-mile oval

On Saturday, July 15, Virginia Motor Speedway will host the Burcham Cycles Joe Weatherly Memorial presented by Thurston Spring Service Inc. to be held at the ½ mile dirt track in Saluda and sanctioned by AMA Pro Racing.

It will mark the first time in 36 years that the AMA Ford Quality Checked Grand National Motorcycle tour has visited Virginia.

"We are very excited to bring back the AMA Grand National division to the State of Virginia and to be able to show off our facility to the thousands of fans that will be in attendance," said track general manager Clarke Sawyer. "The last time the national tour was in the state my grandfather Paul Sawyer was the promoter along with Eddie Boomhower; add to it that it is being named in memory of a close family friend and you can understand why this race is so important to us."

Competitor gates will open at 2 p.m.; spectator gates will open at 3 p.m. On-track activities will begin at 5 p.m. with timed practice. Heat races will start at 7:30 p.m. Classes scheduled to race on Saturday include the AMA Ford Quality Checked Grand National 750cc Class (25 Laps) and AMA Pro Sport Invitational Class (12 Laps). The Grand National class will run a full program of heats; semi's and feature while the Pro Sport Invitational will consist of heats and feature.

Reserved and general admission tickets are on sale between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. until Friday, July 14. The ticket window on Saturday, July 15th will open at 3 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are $30; general admission, $26. The top ten rows on the front stretch are reserved seating. All others will be general admission. Fans can purchase tickets by calling 758-1867, or by visiting the speedway office.

An ASA Member Track affiliate, Virginia Motor Speedway is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda and 25 miles south of Tappahannock.

Yankee Point pirates return to Corrotoman

Yankee Point Yacht Club started the month of July with a treasure hunt followed by a picnic at Heritage Point Clubhouse Grounds. The theme of the day-long activity was "Pirates of the Corrotoman." Early on the morning of July 1, boat crews met at the yacht club to collect their treasure maps. Then they raced to their boats and began the hunt for treasure at docks along the Corrotoman and nearby creeks. The crews that found the most booty were awarded prizes at the picnic.

First place in the treasure hunt went to George Currie and Julia Brandt. Jim Young and Joe Urban were second, Warren and Carol Ryan and Judy and Bill Trezenka were third, and Dan and Ellen Huddy were fourth.

The winning crews won glasses and shirts emblazoned with " Pirates of the Corrotoman."

George Currie also won a prize for the best eye patch. No prize was given for the best dressed pirate this year because several complained that their parrots, who normally gripped their shoulders tightly, were given rum by competitors and were lost at sea—or so the "old salts" said.

The afternoon picnic was hosted by Jennifer Schultz. The weather under the tall shade trees at Heritage Point was perfect and the variety of food and drink was delicious. Many pirates and pirate wannabes helped to make the event a great success including Bruce Gibbs, Bar Brooks, Patsy and Mike Brian, Shane Reynolds, Doug Lyle and Billy and Angie McCarty.

The next event at Yankee Point will be the Chet Wells Memorial Crab Feast on July 22.

Bridge Results

All tables were filled for dessert bridge and mahjong played at the Woman's Club of White Stone July 7.

Ronnie Kerr was high bridge scorer for the day. Hostess Lynn Harris received much appreciated help from Ruth McClean, Mary Nivin Stover and Ferne Walker-Bernhardt in arrangement of table decorations, door prizes and supplying home-made desserts and other edibles.

The next dessert bridge and mahjong will be held August 4. For reservations, call Carolyn Reed at 435-0627. The fee is $4 per person.

Five tables of bridge were in play at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury July 5.

Winners north/south were first, Ginger Klapp and Arden Durham; second, (tie) Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard, and Ronnie Gerster and Beverly Oren.

Winners east/west were first, Terry Carter and Liz Hargett; and second, Fran Blencowe and Jane Jarvis.

The next bridge for this group is August 2 at 1 p.m.

Seven tables of bridge were in play July 7 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north /south were first, Arden Durham and Dianne Monroe; second, Barbara Hubbard and Norma Drinnon; and third, Nan and Bill Summers.

Winners east/west were first, Kay Williams and Janey Eppes; second, Joy Straughan and Helen Kinne; and third, Shirley Crockett and Ronnie Gerster.

The next bridge for this group is July 27.

Bicycle helmets are a necessity

If you ever wondered whether bicycle helmets and other safety gear are really necessary, consider this: bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except automobiles.

In 2004, 332 bike-related injuries were serious enough to cause hospitalization in Virginia. Eight bike riders in the state died that year. Of the bike-related hospitalizations, 97 were for traumatic brain injuries, which can cause severe disability. Helmets can reduce the risk of brain injury by 90 percent.

"The single most important thing a child can do to reduce the severity of a bike-related injury is to wear a properly fitting helmet," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D.,M.P.H. "Every bike rider, skateboarder, in-line skate enthusiast and scooter rider needs to wear a helmet every time."

More children and adolescents die from injury than from all other causes combined. The Virginia Department of Health offers these tips to reduce the risk of injury to cyclists and skaters.

Bikes are considered vehicles. Learn and obey the rules of the road. Ride on the right side of the road with the flow of traffic. Use appropriate hand signals. Obey all traffic signs, especially stop signs. Look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Helmets should sit level on the head two finger widths above the eyebrows. Bike helmets must be labeled as meeting the Consumer Product Safety Commission's standard for bicycle helmets.

Use wrist guards and elbow/knee pads when riding scooters, skates and skateboards.

Learn more about bicycle safety by visiting www.vahealth.org/civp/bike/index.asp.

Regatta seeks sponsors

The 11th annual Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta will be held October 6 through 8. The regatta is a major fund-raiser for the Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck.

Don Risk, speaking for the hospice, reported that more than 70 volunteers provide services to its patients. Serving more than 130 patients each month, these volunteers devote in excess of 3,500 hours of their time, drive more than 60,000 miles and make over 1,500 visits each year, all at their own expense.

The Northern Neck Hospice distributes free to its patients supplies such as Ensure Plus, Glucerna (a nutritional supplement for diabetics), bed pads, and briefs for incontinence. The non-profit non-Medicare Hospice is able to purchase these items at a significant tax-exempt discount from retail costs, but still spent almost $14,000 for Ensure Plus in 2005.

Currently, 10 patients served by the Hospice wear life support monitors that they can use to notify the hospital in an emergency. These monitors, provided free, cost the Hospice $4,200 per year. A total of more than $35,000 in supplies are given out free to patients. In addition, the hospice loans out hospital equipment at no charge.

Individuals and businesses can support the hospice through sponsorships of the Turkey Shoot Regatta. Various types of sponsorships are available. Sponsorship opportunities include recognition on the Turkey Shoot program and its website, tickets to regatta events and a Saturday evening barbecue.

There are also other opportunities, such as displaying the sponsor's logo on the regatta hat or shirt or sponsoring a welcome party Friday night, sailors' breakfasts, or a dinner Saturday night. Contributors can sponsor of www.hospiceturkeyshootregatta.com.

For more information, call Allan Young at 438-5317.

Maritime heritage festival planned in Mathews County

The Mathews Maritime Foundation is planning a Mathews Maritime Heritage Celebration September 30, which will be hosted by the Mathews Land Conservancy at Williams Wharf.

The replica of the pilot schooner Virginia will make its first visit to Mathews arriving the evening of September 29 at high tide. She will be escorted by Coast Guard Milford Haven and a flotilla of Mathews boats. There will be free tours of the vessel on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Maritime Heritage Celebration Day will be officially proclaimed by the Mathews board of supervisors, and Dana Brown, Postmaster of Mathews, has arranged for a special stamp cancellation to be provided on site at Williams Wharf that day.

Opening ceremonies will take place at 10 a.m. with an American Legion Color Guard presenting the colors and an invocation honoring those in the past, who built the boats, worked the waters of Mathews and beyond, and who gave their lives during maritime service. Local and state dignitaries will be invited.

Because the maritime industries are changing, and perhaps dying, the Mathews Maritime Foundation felt it important to celebrate the rich maritime heritage of Mathews County and to educate young and old of days gone by, the present and the future possibilities.

Vendors and educational exhibitors will focus on the maritime industries and Mathews County.

Sports Shorts

■ **Aviators to meet**

The Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will hold a luncheon meeting Thursday, July 20, at noon at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.

An aviation video from the chapter's collection will be shown and discussion will follow. Members are urged to attend. Anyone interested in flying will be welcomed, and may join at the meeting.

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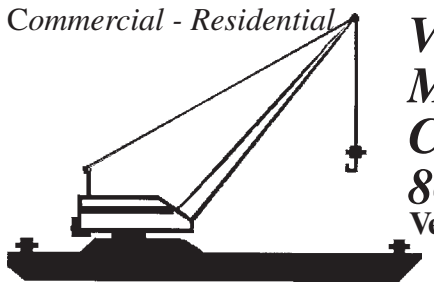

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Truck event pulls a crowd

A crowd gathered at the Lively pavilion last Saturday for the Dragon Motor Sports Lively Truck Pull to benefit the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department. Above, Jerry Young of Fredericksburg in his big red GMC turns in a 252.98-foot pull. His top speed was over 18 miles per hour. (Photo by Conrad Wineland)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardening Tips

Caring for trees and shrubs

Take care that newly planted trees and shrubs receive a thorough soaking each week. Soak the ground; do not sprinkle it lightly. It is helpful to make a shallow depression around plants to collect water.

Mulch around trees and shrubs. This practice reduces weeds, reduces fluctuations in soil temperature, retains moisture, prevents damage from lawn mowers and looks attractive.

Mulch promotes faster growth of trees and shrubs than grass or ground-covers. Research has shown that many trees and shrubs, including dogwood, Japanese blackpine, cottonwood, forsythia, and Burford holly had growth reduced significantly by ground-covers and grasses growing up the trunk.

When trimming grass with a power tool that uses rapidly spinning monofilament line, be careful around your trees and shrubs. Bark can easily be damaged, opening the tree to insect and disease problems.

A Doctor Speaks
by George Moore, MD

For smokers only

You smokers have it rough. Not only do you face an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, respiratory problems, and other deadly diseases, you should also know about the following lesser known hazards.

Root canal infections–smokers are 70 percent more likely to need treatment for root canal infections than non-smokers, according to a new study in the Journal of Dental Research.

Tooth loss–previous research found that you are also twice as likely to lose your teeth, since smoking contributes to periodontal disease. Pack-a-day smokers can expect to lose an extra two teeth per decade.

Impotence–male smokers have an increased risk of impotence (erectile dysfunction) according to a recent Australian study. For smokers in their 40s, the risk increases 350 percent and for those in their 50s, 600 percent.

Wrinkles—long-term smokers have thinner, less elastic skin than nonsmokers, so they are more likely to develop serious premature wrinkling and other signs of aging.

Gray hair—your risk of having your hair turn gray prematurely is up to four times more than nonsmokers.

Baldness—men who smoke are twice as likely to lose their hair as nonsmokers.

As you can see, smoking can harm nearly every organ or function of the body. Maybe it's time to quit.

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From left are James Franklin, Hunter Koonce, Grayson Kuhla, Allison Grainer, Joshua Franklin, and Brad Grainer.

Six youth graduate from Jr. Ranger Class

Belle Isle State Park recently announced the graduation of this summer's first class of Jr. Rangers.

"The three-day program held many exciting events for the young rangers-in-training," said park interpreter Mark Tassone.

Among their many activities, the Jr. Rangers experienced hiking, crafts, seining, canoeing, and kite-making, all while broadening their understanding of the environment and the creatures within it.

Upcoming Jr. Ranger programs include sessions July 17 to 19 for ages 5 to 8; and July 24 to 26 for ages 9 to 12. Space is limited; call 462-5030 for reservations.

Tournament bound

A couple of Northern Neck natives will coach in the Cal Ripken League Southeast Regional baseball tournament next week in Nashville.

Ryan Hinton of Glen Allen, formerly of Miskimon, and K.C. Haydon of Richmond, formerly of Millenbeck, will lead the Glen Allen All-Stars 11-and-under team in the Tennessee tourney July 20-26.

Hinton, the team's manager, will make a return trip to the big show. He led the Glen Allen 12-year-olds to the 2004 Southeast Regional championship game in Florida. That team lost in the final to the eventual national champions.

The Glen Allen American League team's trek to regional competition began two weeks ago with a championship win over the Glen Allen National League, 12-11, in the district tournament in Rockville.

Glen Allen went 4-0 in that tournament, then turned in another undefeated performance in Arlington last weekend in the state tournament. The All-Stars edged Waynesboro, 8-7, then got by Greene County, 5-4, and defeated New Kent, 14-7, before downing Herndon, 6-2, in the tournament championship for another 4-0 playoff mark.

Haydon, the son of Diane and Terry Haydon of Millenbeck, is the team's assistant coach.

He and Hinton both graduated in 1995 from Lancaster High School, where they played for the Red Devil baseball team. The two also played for Lancaster County Little League teams.

Hinton coached four years for the Lancaster Little League while Haydon umpired and for one season coached the LHS JV baseball team.

Hinton is the son of Harvey Hinton of Miskimon and the late Bonnie P. Hinton.

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Bowling Results

Summer League

All in Fun won two games against Team Woodie when Vergil Henderson bowled a 128 game in a 338 set. Betty Evans rolled a 312 set. Harry Donavan had a 97 game and Elsie Henderson a game of 87. For Team Woodie, Betty Steffey bowled a 339 set. Woodie Evans rolled a 337 set. Beverly Benson had a 326 set and Theresa Davis rolled a 321 set.

The Alley Dusters won two games against the Left-Overs when Wilson Evans bowled a 146 game in a 380 set. Terry Stillman had a 139 game in a 377 set. Dana Stillman rolled a 315 set and Jack Cook had a 102 game. For the Left-Overs, John Forrester bowled games of 132, 132 and 130 for a 394 set. Marie Piccard had a 137 game in a 366 set and Sandra Evans rolled a 337 set.

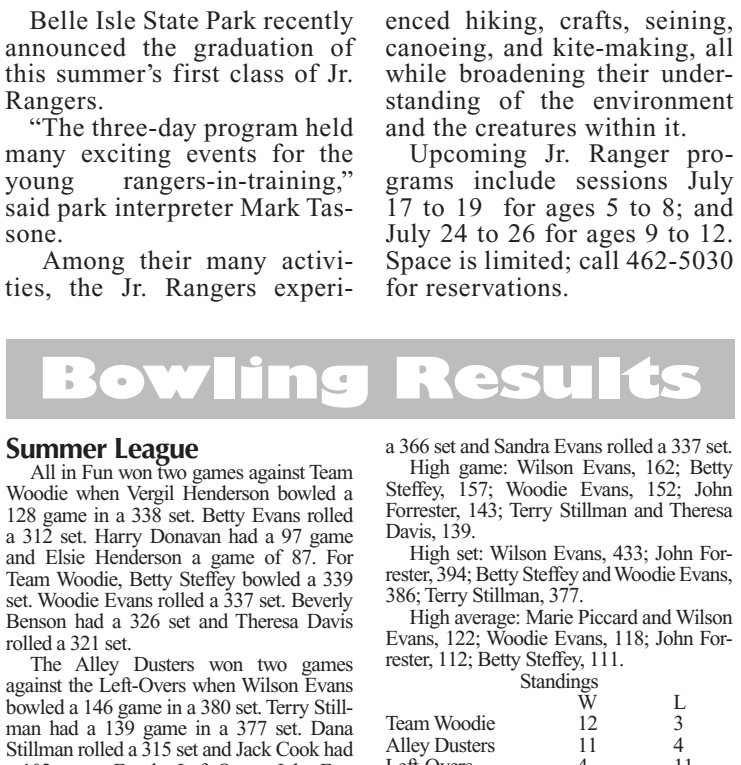
High game: Wilson Evans, 162; Betty Steffey, 157; Woodie Evans, 152; John Forrester, 143; Terry Stillman and Theresa Davis, 139.

High set: Wilson Evans, 433; John Forrester, 394; Betty Steffey and Woodie Evans, 386; Terry Stillman, 377.

High average: Marie Piccard and Wilson Evans, 122; Woodie Evans, 118; John Forrester, 112; Betty Steffey, 111.

Standings

	W	L
Team Woodie	12	3
Alley Dusters	11	4
Left-Overs	4	11
All in Fun	3	12



Waterfront dining

This fish hawk (osprey) caught this bluefish in Windmill Point Creek on Fleets Island and brought it to a stump in front of Kendall Acors' house. As proud as any fisherman, he enjoyed his dinner.

Club Golf

Quinton Oaks Ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies Golf Association on July 5 held a red, white and blue tournament. Players were required to play from one white tee and one blue tee on the front and back nines, along with their regular red tees.

First-flight winners were low gross (tied) Maggie Dennett and P.J. Kienast; first net, Barb Sanders; and second net, Cheryl Putt.

Second-flight winners were low gross (tied) Bev Thompson and Harriet Baggett; first net, Gus Bunting; and second net, Jean Lee.

Dennett, Putt and Terri Sartori tied for low putts with 26; Carol Reese had two chip-ins and Sartori and Darlene Bean each had one. Reese, Baggett and Alice Rawlings had birdies.

Tartan Golf Club

Steve Hall shot even par for two days to win the Tartan Men's Club championship. Hall played very steady with 2 birdies and 2 bogies both days. Ryan Kent won low net honors with a total of 125.

Gross winners were first, Welby Saunders; second, Cruger Ragland; third, Alex Ragland; fourth, Ron Hugate; and fifth, Scotty George. Second low winners were (tie) Chappy Wake and Arthur Abbott.

In play day results, Barbie Armfield won low gross; Pat Kirby, low net and Gus Bunting second net.

Men's winners were first, (tie) John Burton and Mike Broderick; third, Richard Huffman; fourth (tie) Herbie Hammock, Les Cashwell and Arthur Abbott; seventh, M.P. White; and eighth (tie) Hal Muller and Bob Granacher.

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Towles Landing celebrates community Fourth of July

The community of Towles Landing on Ingram Bay in Wicomico Church celebrated Independence Day with it's third annual community parade on July 1 at 10:30 a.m, around the square at Towles Landing.

The grand marshal was TSgt. Christopher Wright, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq. TSgt. Wright, the son of Rebecca Wright, of Wicomico Church, was riding on the back of a 1953 Herndon fire truck driven by Carrol Groff and Val Conner.

The parade theme was "America The Beautiful." Entries included floats and vehicles of all sorts filled with children. There were trucks, bicycles, golf carts, antique cars, floats, and lawn tractors all decorated in red, white, and blue.

The grand-prize float was titled "Greetings from America." Taylor and Ellie Hubbard, Katelyn Lane, Toby and Collin Phelps, and Alexis and David Wright were on board. The first-place float was titled "Betsy Ross." Elyse, McKenzie, and Michael Bailey, and Faith Hattersley were on board. The second-place float was titled, "Miss Liberty." Nicholas Tagliara and Chris Keller were on board.

Festivities in the afternoon included a community picnic, a duck race, sack races, hula hoop contests, frisbee toss, bean bag toss, and putt-putt contests. There were patriotic painted tattoos and jumping activities along with prizes for the children.

"Betsy Ross" won first place.

"Miss Liberty" won second place.

"Greetings from America" won the grand prize in the Towles Landing Fourth of July parade.

Virginia Gardening
by Jim May

There are some plants that every garden should have in them. Viburnum is one genus that has so many interesting and different species that it needs to be on the list and the other is Hydrangea.

After all, what other genus of woody plants has flower shapes ranging from flat to round to cone-shaped; colors from white to pink and blue and everything in between and sizes from 2 feet to vines over 30 feet tall? None other that I know of.

The flowers of hydrangeas are categorized by their shape. No matter what the species, those with round flower clusters are called mop heads or snowballs, named after the most well-known species with that flower shape, Hydrangea macrophylla, or the big leaf hydrangea.

This plant is hardy in zones six to nine, making it suitable for anywhere in Virginia. It should, however, be planted in a protected area out of winter winds and some protection from afternoon sun is recommended in the warmer parts of the state. Amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, like compost or peat moss, and keep the soil moist to avoid wilting.

The color of the flowers on this species is the subject of much experimentation and debate. I don't pretend to be an expert on this, but my understanding is that it is the concentration of aluminum ions in the soil that makes the color of the blooms change from blue to pink. Aluminum becomes more available to plants at a low, or acid pH and the flowers will be blue. Aluminum sulphate can be worked into the soil to make this change. 'Nikko Blue' is an old-fashioned cultivar that has reliably blue flowers, especially in acid soils.

Pink flowers appear on plants in higher pH, or sweeter, soil. Obviously, this color variation is dependent on the cultivar chosen and if you try to change a blue cultivar to pink or vice versa, it will confuse not only the plant, but you as well. 'Forever Pink' and 'Pia' are two compact varieties with pink flowers.

Some cultivars of the big leaf hydrangea have flattened flowers, and are called lacecaps. They have unusual flowers with an airy, delicate look. The flower clusters typically have fertile flowers in the center, ringed by larger sterile flowers. This effect is amplified in variegated cultivars that have flowers or leaves edged in white, cream or even pale lime color.

The smooth hydrangea (H.arborescens) flowers on new wood and can be pruned radically in fall or early spring. This shade lover produces so many light pink to white flowers that one of its common names is Hills of Snow hydrangea. Probably the best smooth hydrangea cultivar is the superior 'Annabelle.'

Peegee hydrangea (H.paniculata 'Grandiflora') can reach 10 to 15 feet in height and many times is trained to look like a small tree. This old-fashioned shrub is so large and coarse that it can overwhelm small landscapes and should be reserved for areas where it can spread out. It blooms in late summer when few other plants are in flower. Its graceful, arching branches and long, cone-shaped clusters of flowers open white and age to beautiful shades of rose. Smaller cultivars such as 'Tarvida' are available.

Oakleaf hydrangea (H.quercifolia) is well named, for its leaves do look like oak leaves. This southern native offers something in every season. In summer, it has cone-shaped clusters of white flowers up to one foot long. The deep green leaves turn shades of red, orange and are quite spectacular.

The bark is a rich cinnamon brown that exfoliates, or peels with age. This plant has a rather coarse texture, but used in mass plantings it can be quite impressive. Its fall color alone makes it worth planting. 'SnowFlake' and 'Snow Queen' are two large cultivars that reach six feet. 'Sikes Dwarf' and 'Pee Wee' are smaller ones that reach only three feet.

Climbing hydrangea (H.anomala petiolaris) is a woody clinging vine unmatched by any other. This robust climber typically reaches heights of over 30 feet, but can be kept in bounds by pruning. Its dark green, glossy leaves are especially handsome all summer and when gone, the deep rich cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark is exposed. Its flowers are white, flattened and fragrant.

This plant likes some afternoon shade and in the eastern part of Virginia that is essential. I have seen it growing up brick chimneys and stone walls to great effect. Every season brings out another fine feature and it has a certain three-dimensional quality that gives depth to the structure it is covering when the leaves are gone. It is an amazing plant and highly recommended.

If you do not have any hydrangeas in your landscape, you ought to give them a try and give your garden a new look with these old-fashioned favorites. These versatile, old-fashioned shrubs not only produce sumptuous petals of color to add beauty to your garden, they add graceful layers of texture to any landscape.

(Jim May is a retired Extension agent from Christiansburg. His specialty is horticulture. His column is sponsored by the Virginia Green Industry Council and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services).

Williamsburg theme park wins prestigious award

The results are in and theme park fans around the world have voted Busch Gardens Europe in Williamsburg as the "World's Best Theme Park." The Theme Park Insider Awards are given each year based on votes cast at www.ThemeParkinsider.com. Only the site's 12,000 registered members—theme park fans from all 50 U.S. States and 80 countries—are eligible to cast ballots.

"This is a tremendous honor for Busch Gardens Europe and all of its employees because it acknowledges not only our great rides and shows, but also our beauty, theming, dedicated world-class guest service and overall park experience," said Donnie Mills, general manager of the European-themed park. "To be recognized by Theme Park Insider, a site created for and read by people who know and love this industry, is a privilege that reaffirms our efforts to provide world-class service to every one of our park guests."

The win is a first for Busch Gardens Europe, though the park's "Curse of DarKastle" ride won Theme Park Insider's "World's Best Theme Park Attraction" award last year. The awards were first given in 2002.

Theme Park Insider is a consumers' guide to the world's most popular theme and amusement parks. It has been named the top theme park site on the internet by Forbes and Travel+Leisure magazines and was the first internet publication to win a major journalism award.

For more information, visit buschgardens.com or ThemeParkInsider.com.

Busch Gardens Europe is an Anheuser-Busch Adventure Park.

Answers on Aging

My husband passed away late last year. I deposited money in the bank which became a part my husband's estate as a result of the sale of his parents' house. Am I required to pay taxes on the proceeds from the sale?

A tax return for the deceased's final year of life is required, and a return may be required for the deceased's estate as well. The tax return(s) should be completed by the executor of the deceased's will. A determination will need to be made by a professional tax advisor as to whether any taxes will be due.

To locate a tax advisor in your area, visit www.senior-navigator.org and type in the topic Financial Planning and your Zip Code.

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Hurricane Katrina victims seek vouchers

Baby Katrina Webb, 10 months, with big sister Courtney Webb, 8, and little friend Destiny Harness, 2, were among three former New Orleans families who drove to Lancaster County last week in search of FEMA housing assistance vouchers to take back to their temporary homes in Houston. Little Katrina was born August 29, 2005, during Hurricane Katrina and was named after the devastating storm. (Photos by Joan McBride)

Brothers Joseph Williams, 5, Jaheim Williams, 2, and Joseph Lewis, 10, drove 22 hours from Houston with two other families to arrive in Lancaster County on a hot July day in search of FEMA assistance. The county processed vouchers for them.

Beautification awards announced

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck recently presented awards to four Northern Neck groups in recognition of their efforts to improve the appearance of their surroundings and community.

Recipients are Rappahannock Community College, the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and Bethany United Methodist Church, the Rappahannock Garden Club for the landscaping at the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic and the Westmoreland Garden Club for the interpretation and maintenance of the Presidents Garden at the Westmoreland County Museum and Library.

The recipients were honored at a luncheon reception at the home of past president Suzanne LaPrade.

"Conservation of our resources and attention to our surroundings are important goals of the garden club," said president C.J. Carter. "We felt that this year's recipients all embodied a spirit of community pride and responsibility."

Flo Goode, conservation and beautification chairman for Lancaster County, presented the award to Mary Loftus of the Rappahannock Garden Club. Goode commended the group for the design, creation and maintenance of the gardens at the clinic building in Kilmarnock, which, she said, is much appreciated by the patients and staff.

Mary Loftus of the Kilmarnock Garden Club (left) receives the Garden Club of the Northern Neck's 2006 beautification award from Flo Goode.

In Richmond County, Rappahannock Community College president Elizabeth Crowther accepted the award on behalf of the college for the plantings around the Chinn House and the landscape design throughout the campus. "They provide a colorful and elegant display that creates a place of beauty in the Warsaw community," said county chairman Ann Terhune.

Crowther, in turn, praised the efforts of facilities manager Mark Beaver, who was also present.

In introducing the award for Northumberland County, county chairman Marguerite Slaughter praised the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and Bethany United Methodist Church for bringing together several community groups to create a garden of native grasses, plants and shrubs along their shared Cockrell's Creek shoreline.

The award was accepted by museum executive director Chuck Backus and Wanda Boley of Bethany Church. The project is now being administered by the Northern Neck Master Gardeners as a teaching garden to demonstrate attractive ecological landscaping alternatives to homeowners.

Westmoreland County chairman Jane Laughlin presented the award to Joyce Hobbs of the Westmoreland Garden Club for their support of the Presidents Garden at the museum in Montross over 50 years. Hobbs was accompanied by garden club vice president Karen Jenkins and Mary Encinger, curator of the Westmoreland County Museum and Library.

Carter Society holds 10th annual reunion

The Carter Society met June 22 to 25 in Lancaster County for its 10th annual reunion.

Some 40 Carter "cousins" and connections attended. A few came from Hawaii. Most trace their ancestry to Colonial Virginia and Robert "King" Carter of Corotoman, or Capt. Thomas Carter of Barford, both of Lancaster County. A new member is descended from Giles Carter of Henrico County.

The reunion began with an afternoon and evening of greeting cousins and exchanging family information at the Rappahannock River Yacht Club in Irvington. Smokin' Joe's of Kilmarnock catered the barbecue dinner.

On Friday, June 23, the group visited Christ Church. They were welcomed by Bob Cornelius. Camille Bennett presented an "Introduction to the Foundation for Historic Christ Church." Robert Teagle presented "Carter Houses in Virginia." Miriam MacCarthy Bell presented an exhibit of paintings of Carter-related homes and sites. Architect Nathaniel P. Neblett gave the keynote presentation and a tour of the church. Fest Catering of White Stone provided a buffet lunch. The group met for dinner at Rose's in Kilmarnock.

Saturday began with a breakfast membership meeting at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock. Tours of present and former Carter-associated homes and sites included Bondfield, the 1854 home of Wallace and Ann Carter; Yankee Point, formerly the property of Capt. Thomas Carter's father-in-law, Maj. Edward Dale; Midway, the 1842 home built by Addison Carter; St. Mary's Whitechapel, where the Dale and Carter families worshiped; the Mary Ball Museum, and the Lancaster Courthouse, with portraits of Maj. Edward Dale, Capt. Thomas Carter II, and Robert "King" Carter; Verville, home of Mr. and Mrs. Ammon Dunton Jr., on property was once owned by Capt. Thomas Carter I and his wife Katharine Dale Carter; the Merry Point Ferry, operated in 1691 by Robert "King" Carter; and Clifton, home of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hudnall, formerly owned by Landon Carter.

The Brake Pad of Kilmarnock provided box lunches. The evening speaker was historian Charles Willard Hoskins Warner of Warsaw, descended from Capt. Thomas Carter. Willaby's Cafe in White Stone provided a buffet dinner.

On Sunday the group attended services at Christ Church with Rev. David May officiating. The group then took a brunch cruise aboard the Miss Ann.

Coordinators of the reunion were Margaret Gunn, Bob Lumsden and Dick Zieman. For more information, visit www.cartersociety.org or write P.O. Box 1864, Chesterfield, VA 23832.

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Notes

MARY BALL WASHINGTON MUSEUM & LIBRARY

by Charlotte Henry

Our journey through the Courthouse Historic District continues with the last two houses on the north side of the main road within the 37-acre tract.

We will go a bit beyond those bounds to a site where a fine home, important both historically and architecturally, once stood.

The first of the two houses toward the east is a relatively small one-story structure which may have been built in the late 1930s when a little more than one-half acre was carved from the "Old Parsonage/W.G. Beane" two-acre lot and sold to Archie Beane. It has always been a private home.

We have a precise date for the large, handsome two-story house which anchors the district's northeastern boundary. A column about Lancaster of April 7, 1897, in the Fredericksburg Free Lance includes the following. "Mr. J.H. Davenport, a merchant here, has been building what will be a pretty home for his young family. It is opposite the rectory (Protestant Episcopal rectory on the south side of the main road) and next door to the Methodist parsonage, and being situated upon high ground will make an attractive residence." This house and a large tract are the only private property which has remained in the same family for over 100 years.

Interestingly, this handsome house was not included in the original limits of the historic district. In a letter dated March 1984, Ann Burrows, then executive director of the MBWM&L, petitioned the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission to consider extending the boundary to include the Davenport house. After an evaluation, the commission agreed, and the structure became an historic landmark.

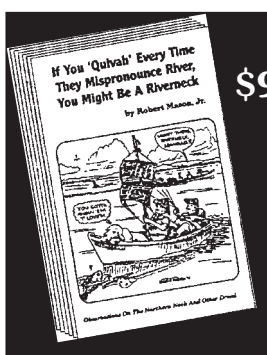
Next we go to a site now occupied by a row of adjoining and as yet unoccupied shops. Their new facades front what had been until recently a pawn shop operating in what was more notably the second Post Office building in the village. Its architecture was more utilitarian than attractive, but it served its purpose for many years. That building's predecessor, were it standing today, would be among the notable historic attractions in the county. It is now another vanished landmark.

The last photo of the Hughlett house before it was razed.

Unseen by the passerby, a reminder of the families who lived in that early home exists at the rear of the property. It is a small cemetery with seven grave markers and a memorial plaque naming another 10 individuals whose headstones no longer exist. The earliest date of a burial is 1839. The most evocative stone marks the final resting place of 22-year-old Daniel Slacum. The inscription on his marker reads, "Daniel P. Slacum, Co. D, 9 Regt. Sept. 3, 1864, Died in Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond Virginia of wound received in battle near Petersburg, June 29, 1864."

This house is remembered by some folks today, called the Hughlett house. It had a succession of many well-known residents and dated to an era before the Revolutionary War. Had it been preserved, it would have been the last colonial structure in the village. Apparently razed in the late 1930s due to its general deterioration and perhaps infringing on the newly widened roadway, it is fortunate that a description was recorded in an Historic American Buildings Survey.

An excerpt of the report reads, "The front of the house was of five bays with a central door. The plan consisted of a central hall with two rooms on either side. The west room had distinguished trim, perhaps dating from the Revolutionary period, and apparently later than the house itself." The report makes special note of the "two external chimneys at each end some with effects built with brick 'tumbling'...it is normally a Dutch or Flemish characteristic...seldom seen in Virginia." The house was cited in a 1786 survey of the prison bounds when it belonged to a large landowner, Severe Galle. Further study will someday reveal its origins.



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Asphalt work is a welcome sight in downtown Kilmarnock

Contractors laid down an asphalt leveling course earlier this week in preparation for a final surface layer to be completed by the end of the week. Sidewalks on the work extensions at Waverly Avenue and in front of the Christmas House should wrap up next week. Over the next 90 days, project manager Joe Staton will check job details and make corrections such as lowering the wattage of street lamps and adjusting traffic monitors on the signal lights. Main Street project improvements will be finalized when new street signs are hung, he said. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

General Assembly restructures utility tax

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

RICHMOND—Citizens who have been cursing the utility tax adopted by Northumberland County almost two years ago may be thankful now.

Within the fine print of this year's approved General Assembly legislation is an amendment allowing the state to start collecting consumer utility taxes on telecommunication bills.

Beginning in January 2007, Virginia will assess a monthly 5 percent tax on the charges for land lines and cell phones in all counties across the state.

Only those localities that had already adopted a utility tax – like Northumberland – will see any of that money returned to the county coffers.

Both Northumberland and Lancaster residents will have the charge on their phone bills, but only Northumberland residents will benefit from any of that funding.

Unfortunately, since Northumberland did not adopt a tax on the cell phones, it will only see a return on the land lines.

The state will also assess a 5 percent tax on cable and satellite television bills, pagers and voice over the internet (VoIP) services. Additionally, the state will charge a 75-cent "911 Tax" to each local landline and wireless number.

Some other fees currently appearing on bills, such as the Cable Franchise Fee and the Local E-911 fee, will be removed.

The state will collect the utility taxes into a large pot and refund counties a percentage based upon their collections for 2006.

Northumberland is currently collecting about $250,000 per year from its utility tax, said county administrator Kenneth D. Eades.

He anticipates that the county will bring in less money through this new program, although the program is intended to be revenue neutral. An economic impact study last year showed that the tax collection program would result in a $34 million deficit for the state, Eades said.

"Five percent is not enough to cover the cost that some localities were charging," he explained. Northumberland County had capped its tax to no more than $3 per bill. Other counties in the state had no such cap.

"They knew going into it that they were going to come up short," Eades said.

Del. Rob Wittman said he voted against the bill because of the initial negative impact it would have on some of the counties in District 99.

Eades further anticipated that the state will soon start collecting utility taxes on electric bills as well, because it saves the company from the hassle of managing the funds and returning them to the localities.

Northumberland began collecting the utility tax in 2005 to help fund the construction of a new school. The county's capital improvements account now holds almost $2 million.

Eades said the county will use that fund to pay for some portion of the new school project, whether it be furnishings and other materials or the initial debt service payments. He said some of the capital improvement funds could also help pay for some smaller but needed projects around the county.

First 2006 West Nile virus activity reported

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced today that a mosquito pool recently collected in Fairfax County tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the first indication of West Nile virus activity this season in Virginia.

"This positive test indicates we are experiencing a somewhat earlier onset of West Nile virus activity this year. A West Nile virus positive mosquito pool this early in the season may mean we can expect more virus activity this year," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "This is a reminder of the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding areas around the home and protecting against mosquito-borne illnesses."

Last year, Virginia's first West Nile virus activity was detected in mosquitoes in Henrico County in mid-July. There was one confirmed human case of West Nile virus Virginia in 2005. A total of 16 birds, one horse and 319 mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile virus in Virginia last year. West Nile virus was first detected in Virginia in the fall of 2000.

West Nile virus is spread to birds, humans, horses and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not get sick. People who do get sick usually suffer a mild flu-like illness. People over age 50 are at greatest risk of serious illness, such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

VDH recommends the following tips to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- Make sure window and door screens in your home are functional and in place.
- Use insect repellent products registered with the Environmental Protection Agency such as products containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Turn over, drain, or remove containers in yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, buckets and toys.
- Fill in or drain root-ball holes (from downed trees) or any depression that holds water for more than a week.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps, flat roofs and boats.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.

For more information on West Nile virus, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov and click on "Mosquito-borne Diseases."

▼ *Supervisors . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

the mouth of Warehouse Creek near Lilian.

- Malcolm J. Long to construct a boathouse on Bridge Creek at 659 Sweet Hall Drive.
- Roger O'Bier to operate an automobile graveyard at 2112 Hacks Neck Road.
- Odis Cockrell to construct a 64-foot-long extension to his commercial pier on the Great Wicomico River at Glebe Point.
- Kaballero.com, applicant, and Northumberland County, owner, to erect a 120-foot tower for high-speed broadband internet service at 11705 Northumberland Highway, the Horsehead trash collection site.
- Melrose United Methodist Church to construct a multipurpose building directly across Melrose Road from the church.
- Margaret York, owner, and Double D. Development LLC, applicant, to construct a private community marina with 18 mooring slips on a cove of Cockrells Creek behind S.F. Barnes Store in Fleeton.

The board also will consider amendments to the zoning ordinance pertaining to gazebo-type structures, pier sizes and private storage buildings.

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