Rappahannock Record

Thursday, July 20, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 41 • Three Sections • 50¢

Tickets galore

Merrill Grasso buys raffle tickets from Northern Neck Rotary past-president Don Kennedy at the Northern Neck Rotary's annual CAPINNE dinner and auction last Saturday at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club near Kilmarnock. The club sold 160 tickets for the popular event. Gross receipts for the fund-raiser totaled some $49,000. Proceeds go to large and small causes and community organizations. (Photo by Joan McBride)

Lancaster school division ends fiscal year in the red

by Joan McBride

PITMAN'S CORNER—When the Lancaster board of supervisors and the school board met for work sessions in April, F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., chairman of the supervisors, praised the school division for its fiscal responsibility during the past several school years in not spending all the money appropriated to it.

Specifically, it was observed that unspent funds for fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 were $381,000 and $441,000, respectively.

However, at those same meetings there were indications from the school division that it might go over budget before the 2005-06 fiscal year ended.

Then at the June 29 board of supervisors' meeting, it was revealed that school superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore had told the county just a few days prior that the school board couldn't meet all the planned expenditures for the 2005-06 fiscal year ending June 30.

Latimore said an additional appropriation of $143,000 was needed.

School board chairman Donald McCann told supervisors at the meeting that he was "confused" and suggested both boards meet with an independent auditor to see how what had looked earlier like about $300,000 in surplus for the year might actually be $300,000 overspent.

Meeting last week, school business manager Sandra Walker indicated that about $159,000 more was needed to finish out the year's obligations.

The need for these additional funds make it appear that the school board overspent its 2005-06 appropriation by about $300,000, although the final accounting will not be known until later this summer when the official county audit is performed.

According to Jenkins in a later phone interview, a complicating factor is that the school division creates its yearly budget by projecting revenues to be provided by the Commonwealth. If the funds—which don't usually come into the county until near

(contnued on page A12)

School system to seek a budget/finance director

by Joan McBride

PITMAN'S CORNER—The Lancaster school board recently established a new position:director of budget and finance.

First advertised six to eight weeks ago, the job duties include finance, accounting, payroll, budgeting, purchasing and risk management, according to an online job posting.

Necessary qualifications for the position were discussed at a July 11 meeting among the school board, administration and county supervisors.

Although the school board had been seeking someone with a CPA background, several supervisors with strong budgeting and finance backgrounds suggested that other qualities were more important for the position.

"I think you need a person who is able to forecast, plan, and not keep books," said F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., chairman of the supervisors.

He strongly emphasized "not keep books" and added, "We have awfully good systems to do that."

The salary will be commensurate with an applicant's qualifications.

School business manager Sandra Walker has been handling many of the duties, but hopes to retire soon.

Council tables proposed boundary line adjustment

Mayor promises August decision

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNACK—Angry citizens stormed the town hall Monday night to protest annexation and got the attention of the town council members.

Guided by the newest council members, Carmen Kilduff and Barbara Robertson, council decided to table a vote on the controversial boundary line adjustment issue until they can meet with citizen groups from each affected neighborhood.

Every available seat was occupied with citizens standing along the walls behind council to fit into the meeting room. Most of the crowd was from the Waverly Avenue neighborhood and included farmers, grain truck drivers and attorneys and employees representing businesses in the Waverly area. After each citizen in turn voiced their objection, the crowd broke out into applause.

Warren Sellew of Waverly Avenue claimed the town just wants their tax money but that most people in the neighborhood are on fixed incomes and can not afford the additional taxes it would cost them. He said one of his neighbors had her income cut in half after the recent death of her husband. "She wanted me to ask council what she should do—eat or pay taxes."

"There's no purpose in extending boundaries," Sellew said. "We don't need you."

Sellew spoke as a representative of Waverly residents, voicing his concerns that the farmland, businesses and homes in that area might all disappear under town jurisdiction.

Councilman Frank Tomlinson took Sellew to task for calling him a few days earlier with rumors that the town was going to put the Purdue Grainery and others out of business. "Rumor, rumor, rumor. We've got to deal with facts and not rumors."

"Do you know how to get rid of rumors?" Sellew answered. "Put it out in the open."

Jim Turner of the Waverly neighborhood asked council if he was going to get a vote in the matter. Claiming to be older than anyone in the room, he said, "Usually there is give or take. Do I have a chance to vote on it or are you going to come down with a gun and take it all?"

Luther Welch, a farmer, complained about the taxes and the fact that the new islands along Main Street hinder grain trucks from getting through town. "I'm a farmer for 70 years. If Purdue has to pay taxes to the county or the town, no wonder I don't get much money for my grain."

Many of the expressed concerns centered around a recent Supreme Court ruling on imminent domain in New London, Conn. The ruling allowed any municipality to take property and then sell it to private developers. Town attorney Chris Stamm assured citizens he believes the ruling would be overturned and that he personally would not support any such action. Kilduff added that property owners are not protected against such action under county jurisdiction and that they were assured Kilmarnock had no such intention.

"This council may not be for it," said Charles Green of Waverly Avenue. "But what about the next council? You folks have not made your case."

Peggy Whaley of Boat House Cove said she lived north of Kilmarnock when town services as water and sewer were promised and not delivered. "Twenty years ago you annexed us in—but they still don't have it up there. What are you offering me for my tax money? Nothing."

Councilman Paul Jones objected, saying the area is provided police protection, state road maintenance, trash collection and street lights and the town had reduced their tax rate to 5 percent for five years. As a resident of that community, Jones claimed it was home owners who waived sewer and water services and not the town.

Another Boat House Cove resident, Dr. Bob Miller, said they had gone through this exercise about a year ago and the town still has nothing to offer residents for their tax money. "If you take us in, none of you will be here because we'll vote you out. All of you."

Representing Chesapeake Boat Basin owners, Lisa and Clayton Holcomb, attorney Raleigh Simmons asked when town services would be available. "If they are available in two or three years then it would be a benefit. But if the town doesn't offer any benefits…or they cannot assure them of services…they would be otherwise opposed."

An employee of Chesapeake Boat Basin, George Thomasson III, claimed Kilmarnock is not waterfront and no matter where they move the town boundaries it will never be a waterfront town. "You're water access. Right now, no one in that area needs police protection because it is a small town. No one has to lock up. But if you open up the area to public boaters and try to make it something it's not—I see trouble ahead."

Thomasson reminded council that farmers and watermen are the history in this area and need to be protected and preserved.

Grain truck driver Ronnie Forrester of Lancaster County talked about the importance of what citizens have to say. "It's time for councils, supervisors, school boards to listen to your people. You'll get a whole lot better cooperation."

After Smith closed the public hearing, both Kilduff and Robertson expressed concern over the lack of communication with citizens and that they had heard some valid points that council needed to address.

Councilman Fletcher Brown IV made a motion to table the vote until engineers could work out a time frame for when town services would be made available in those areas. The motion passed over the dissenting vote of councilman Frank Tomlinson. While no deadline was set in the motion, Mayor Dr. Curtis Smith announced a vote would be taken at the August meeting.

Additionally, Smith appointed Kilduff and Brown to head a committee to work with residents in communities that would be affected by town boundary extensions.

Inside

Books for listening: B7

■ **Softball champs!**
Local Junior Girls All-Stars win district; headed to state playoffs.....**A9**

■ **New laws:**
Commonwealth's attorney reviews legislation adopted by General Assembly.....**A5**

■ **On the farm:**
The few and the proud, a review of the local farming industry.....**B10**

Business.....B8-11
Calendar.....A2-3
Churches.....B2-5
Classifieds.....C1-14
Directories.....C14-15
Obituaries.....B3
Opinion.....A4-5
Police.....B1
Schools.....B6-7
Sports.....A9-11
Public notices.....C12-14
Upcoming.....A2-3,6+

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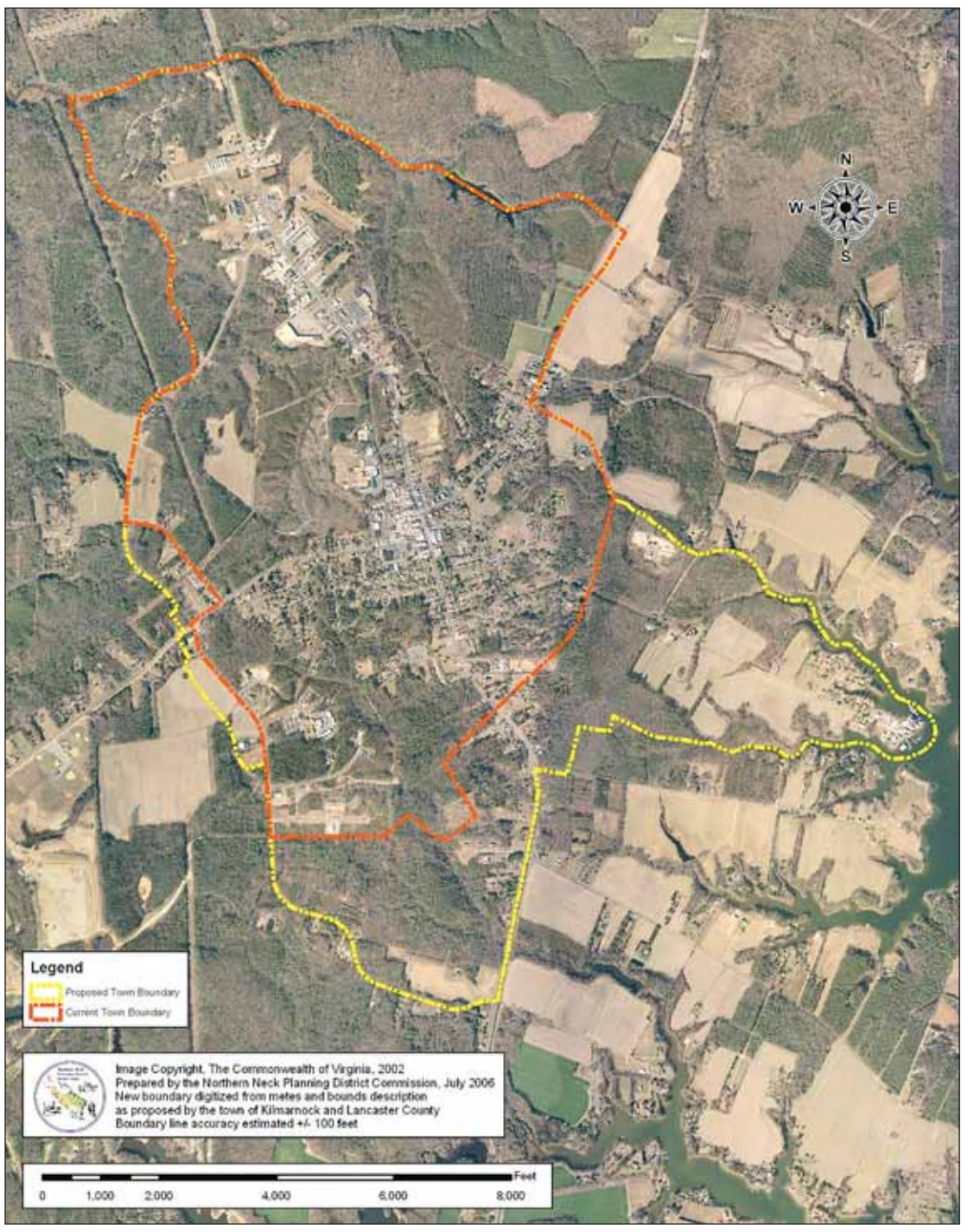


This digitized image prepared by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission shows the existing Kilmarnock town boundaries in orange and the proposed boundary line adjustment in yellow.

Neighbors question Kilmarnock planning commission regarding boundary adjustment

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—As a prelude to the town council's public hearing Monday on proposed boundary line adjustments, a group of citizens attended last Tuesday's planning commission meeting to express their opposition.

Residents in areas bordering town limits wanted to see a boundary survey that showed the proposed new town boundaries.

Town attorney Chris Stamm said the survey has not been completed yet. When asked for an explanation to justify annexation, he said it was to even out the boundaries along natural dividers such as creeks and roads and at the same time make Kilmarnock a waterfront community.

Stamm cut off further discussion by explaining that the commission meeting was not the time or place for a debate and that citizens could express their concerns at Monday's public hearing.

Councilman Fletcher Brown IV explained that commissioners had previously requested a survey as well and told citizens they would check with Stuart McKenzie and Russ Hudnall of Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC) on the possibility of having a map for viewing at Monday's meeting. McKenzie and Hudnall had just given a demonstration of their agency's capabilities for mapping and zoning.

Representing developer Ron DeAngelis, land surveyor Charlie Pruett presented the commission new designs for the Rolling Hills subdivision. At a previous planning commission meeting, residents objected to DeAngelis' proposed multi-family housing saying it would cause traffic problems and not fit with the character of the neighborhood. The new plan proposes single family lots that meet current zoning requirements.

While explaining that nothing is official, Pruett told commissioners the plans now include a common area that would connect the subdivision with town property at First and Main streets in anticipation of a possible bike or hiking path.

In other business, the commission adopted additional wording presented by Stamm to be added to the commercial (C-1) zoning ordinance changes. The addition clarifies that proposed changes to the ordinance will not affect any existing commercial property nor anything currently in the process or pending approval.

The commission also approved new site plans for contractor Neil D. Fridenstine Inc. on Lot 2 in the Technology Park off Harris Road. As proposed, a 5,000-square-foot building would reflect the quality and look of area homes built by Fridenstine. He is planning to convert his Main Street location to retail use.

July 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. 462-7605..
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.
A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. at Warsaw Baptist Church on Main Street in Warsaw.
The Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will meet at noon at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.
The Democratic Committee for Richmond County will meet at 7 p.m. at the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative building on Pine and Belle Ville. Richmond County Soicial Services director Claudette Henderson will speak.
Reedvile Lodge 321 A.F. & A.M. will hold a stated communication at 7:30 p.m. at the lodge building at Reed Avenue and Main Street in Reedville. Anyone interested in becoming a Mason, may call Fred Biddlecomb at 453-3568.

Keith on the creek

Steve Keith (above) will present a free outdoor summer concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the Town of Urbanna Marina at Upton's Point on Urbanna Creek. Keith is a singer, songwriter and superb musician who draws deeply from traditional and popular music. He blends bluegrass with familiar Irish folk songs, sea chanties, blues, jazz, country and western and originals in a performance that invites audiences to let loose, stomp feet and sing along. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy a hot summer night in the coolest of ways. Folks also may come by boat.

21 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 5:45 p.m.
Steve Keith will be featured at The Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock. The show starts at 7 p.m. 435-7005.
Fully Loaded will play on the deck at Smokin' Joe's Barbecue in Kilmarnock from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Historic Games will be presented at Belle Isle State Park from 2 to 3 p.m.
A Fishing Canoe Trip for those over age 16 will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Adults must have a license.
The Northumberland Public Library will host a summer reading session at 11 a.m.

22 Saturday

Steve Keith will be featured at Upton's Point Marina in Urbanna, beginning at 7 p.m. Bring chairs and a picnic.
Ben Eberline and Michael O'Shaughnessey will rock The Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.
Raymond and Kasey Meeks will perform at Donk's Theater on Route 198 in Mathews at 8 p.m. 725-7760.
The Daryl Davis Band, featuring boogie woogie, rhythm and blues, will present a Bluemont Concert at the Colonial Beach Market Days, beginning at 11 a.m. on the town Green. The concert will begin at 1 p.m.
A Skipjack Cruise aboard the Claud W. Somers departs the Reedville Fishermen's Museum dock at 10 a.m. $20 for museum members; $25 for others. 435-6529.
All Tied Up, an introduction to knots, will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m. at Belle Isle State Park.
An Evening Canoe Trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 5 to 7 p.m. $6.

23 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at T&T's in Burgess immediately following church services.
Steve Keith will give a concert to a church youth group at Belle Isle State Park at 6 p.m.
An Early Bird Hike is planned at Belle Isle State Park from 2 to 4 p.m. $2.
Campfire Cooking will be demonstrated 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.

24 Monday

The Historyland Community Workshop volunteer craft group meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. Guests welcome.
The First-Place Weight-Loss Class meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers, are invited. No reservations needed. 462-6705.
Open Mike night will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gables Coffee and Ice Cream Shop on Main Street in Reedville
Party Bridge is featured at 11:30 a.m. at the Northumberland Woman's Club in Lottsburg. Bring a sandwich. Side dishes, dessert and beverages provided. $5. For reservations, call 580-8205.
Outdoor-able is the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers program. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
One Exploration-Multiple Methods, a four-day art workshop for ages 10 to 15, will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. Shauna McCranie is the instructor. $80. to register call 436-9309.
Studio Art Crafters Workshop, a four-day art workshop for ages 10 to 15, will be held from 2:30 to 3:45. at the Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. Shauna McCranie is the instructor. $80. to register call 436-9309.
The Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee will meet at 1 p.m. at The Brambles Day support at 6253 Buckley Hall Road in Mathews.

24 Monday

The Lancaster County Democratic Committee will meet at 7 p.m. at the Bank of Lancaster Northside branch in Kilmarnock. Retired U. S. Navy Capt. Tom York will address the current crisis involving Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

25 Tuesday

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
Water-wise is the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers program. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
One Exploration-Multiple Methods continues at the Studio Gallery.
Studio Art Crafters Workshop continues at the Studio Gallery.
The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
Edward Watson will speak at 6 p.m. in Wellford Hall at St. John's Church in Warsaw. Audiences should bring a covered dish. The lecture is sponsored by the Northern Neck Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

26 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meet at 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
The RFM Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Fire-friendly is the daily theme for a three-day Jr. Rangers program. The session is from 9 a.m. to noon. $5.
One Exploration-Multiple Methods continues at the Studio Gallery.
Studio Art Crafters Workshop continues at the Studio Gallery.
A Grief Support Group will meet at White Stone United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. 435-7585.

27 Thursday

Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley will present a concert at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw at 7:30 p.m.
Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.

(continued on 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.

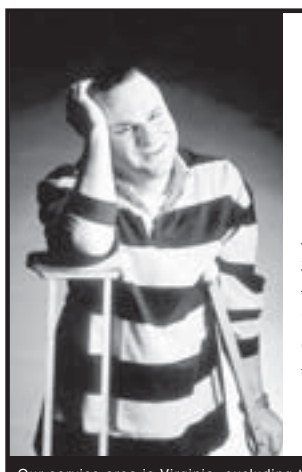
THE STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT: Enjoy casual dining while overlooking the beautiful Piankatank River Golf Club. We offer a traditional lunch menu, gourmet and traditional evening menus and Sunday Brunch selections. Open Tues.-Sat., 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. evenings 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Sunday 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.



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BRKIG (10/01)

HILLSIDE CINEMA (804) 693-2770 (804) 693-7766
7321 J. Clayton Highway 14, Gloucester, Va.• Schedule for 07/21–07-27
Monday - Ladies Special $6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for

MONSTER HOUSE (PG13) 1 HR 31 MIN
Fri. (4:00), 6:00, 8:00
Sat. (2:00, 4:00), 6:00, 8:00
Sun. (2:15, 4:00), 6:00
Mon. – Tues. (5:30), 7:15

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
Shows in parentheses ( ) all seats $3.50/Adults all shows on & after 6pm $5.50
Visit us at www.hillsidecinema.com for show times.
To print money-saving coupon click on *certificate* then *free stuff* icon.

donk's THEATER
Lil Ole Opry presents:
Opry Favorites
Raymond & Kasey Meeks
(Teenage sister and brother act)
Saturday • July 22, 2006 • 8 p.m.
★ PLUS ★
★ All the Opry Regulars ★
★ Shades of Country ★
★ Uncle Jimmy Wickham ★
Adults: $12 • Children under 12: $2
Country Casuals, Mathews 725-4050
Carolina Bar-B-Q, Gloucester Pt. 684-2450
Lynne's Family Restaurant, Mathews 725-9996
The Seabreeze Restaurant, Gwynn's Island 725-4000
The Mathews County Visitor Center, Mathews 725-4229
N&N Services, Woods Cross Roads, Gloucester 693-7614

Brass Polishing OF WILLIAMSBURG
Polishing Brass & Brass Beds
Brass, Copper, Silver & Pewter
Fireplace Accessories
Door Handles/Knockers
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Free Pick-up/Delivery
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Wayne Harris • 757- 220-3466
Cell: 757-810-1677

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located on Route 17 in the Essex Square Shopping Center, Tappahannock • Movie Hotline: 804-445-1166
ADULTS: $7.00 CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER: $5.00
SENIORS 62 AND OLDER: $5.00
ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 ARE $5.00 FOR EVERYONE
* NO PASSES OR COUPONS
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 804-445-1166
No one under 17 admitted to R Rated films without parent or adult accompaniment - ID's required

FRI. JULY 21
MONSTER HOUSE 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
LADY IN THE WATER (PG13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
LITTLE MAN (PG13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 4:45, 7:25, 9:40
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG 13) 4:00, 7:15, 9:55

SAT. JULY 22
MONSTER HOUSE 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
LADY IN THE WATER (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
LITTLE MAN (PG13) 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 (PG 13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 9:55

SUN. JULY 23
MONSTER HOUSE 1:10, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20
LADY IN THE WATER (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10
LITTLE MAN (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG 13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15

MON.-THUR. JULY 24-27
MONSTER HOUSE 5:10, 7:20
LADY IN THE WATER (PG13) 4:30, 7:10
LITTLE MAN (PG13) 5:20, 7:35
YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG13) 4:45, 7:25
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN (PG 13) 4:15, 7:15

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Area Events

■ Safety Day

An Agriculture Safety Day for children six to 14 years old will be held August 19 at the Tappahannock/Essex Volunteer Fire Department from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Subjects include first aid, how to make a 911 call and safe practices regarding water, fire, firearms, sun exposure, electricity, ATVs, chemicals, farm equipment and hidden hazards.

A $2 registration fee covers lunch, snacks, a take-home bag, and a safety day t-shirt. Attendance is limited to 150 children. Registration must be received by August 1. Call Michell Carter at 443-2327, ext. 101, or visit the Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District office.

■ Cat photos

Thursday, July 27, is the deadline to enter the "Purrrrrfect Companon" cat photo contest sponsored by the The Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck. The contest will have three categories: the most relaxed cat, the most athletic cat, and the most humorous cat. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

Each photo must include the cat's name, the category, the owner's name, address and phone number. The fee is $3 per submission. For complete entry details, visit the AWL Thrift Shop at 44 Irvington Road in Kilmarnock, or call 435-0822; or Barb Dietz at 462-5073.

Bay Seafood Festival supports CASA

Kyle Bransford (left) of CASA receives a check from Bill Cronheim of the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club (KIWS) for support of CASA activities. CASA represents neglected and abused children in the court system. The funds donated by the KIWS Rotary Club are raised by the annual Bay Seafood Festival. This year's festival will be held September 8 at Belle Isle State Park. Tickets are $50 and can be purchased online at www.kiwsrotary.org, or by calling 1-800-777-9717.

■ Law enforcement

The Lancaster Senior Activity Center will host "Law Enforcement and Seniors Working Together," a Crime Prevention and Fraud Awareness Hour Monday, July 24, at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Deputy Sheriff Brian O'Bier of the Lancaster Sheriff's Department.

The senior center is at 201 Wiggins Avenue in the Holly Courts apartment complex. The event is sponsored by TRIAD, the Lancaster Sheriff's Department, Bay Aging, and the Virginia Attorney General's Office.

■ Cooling off

Bay Aging will open Senior Activity Centers five days this week, with extended hours and welcomes all residents 60 or older to visit and escape from the extreme heat. Seniors who have no air conditioning are free to visit local Senior Centers in their county. Lunch will be provided. Please bring necessary medications and snacks.

For locations of Senior Centers in the Northern Neck, call 1-800-493-0238; in the Middle Peninsula, call 1-800-693-6109. Call by 11 a.m. Seniors may also sign up for help through the Fan Care and Cooling Maintenance program.

■ RFA exhibit

Through July, an exhibit showing memorabilia from the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts first 20 years will be on display in the lobby of the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The foundation was formed in 1986 to provide funding for the Lancaster Players and has since expanded to encourage and support a variety of performing and visual arts in the lower Northern Neck.

An active partner in the design and development of the Lancaster Middle School Theater, the foundation continues to provide technical and stage enhancements to transform the theater into a performing arts center. Among its many activities, the foundation produces the subscription-based "On Stage" performance series; produces community showcase concerts featuring local talent; provides funding for performing arts programs in the schools; and contributes to the Northern Neck Orchestra, the Rappahannock Art League and other local groups and shows.

■ Potluck supper

The Northumberland County Democratic Committee will gather for a potluck supper Thursday, July 27, at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center on Browns Store Road near Wicomico Church. The regular meeting will follow. Members are urged to "bring a dish and a friend."

Upcoming

(continued from A2)

27 Thursday

Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at the Blue Heron Pub and Grill in Kilmarnock, beginning at 7 p.m.

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 desert provided. Tables of three or more. $2 per person. 438-4152.

Lost and Found, a family fun scavenger hunt, will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 1 to 4 p.m.

One Exploration-Multiple Methods continues at the Studio Gallery.

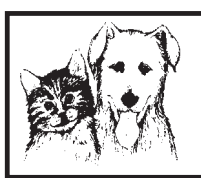
The 71st Annual Kilmarnock Firemen's Festival opens at the festival grounds off Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock and continues through August 5. Rides, games, food and raffles

Studio Art Crafters Workshop continues at the Studio Gallery.

The Board of Supervisors for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.

The Democratic Committee for Northumberland County will hold a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by the regular monthly meeting.

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



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Festival Halle Reedville beginning Wednesday, Aug 2 • 6:15-7:30 p.m.--6 wks. Call ahead to register 580-4505
Call David at 580-4505 for info.

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Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

I should have recognized the omens, but my heart and head were both set on camping at Belle Isle State Park.

For some 14 years I've wanted to camp there. The state acquired the 733-acre tract in 1993 with money from the 1992 Parks and Recreation Bond referendum. The park opened October 25, 1997, and for nine years I waited patiently for the campground to be constructed.

In July 2006, it opened... not just any campground, my campground at my waterfront park with seven miles of shoreline along the Rappahannock River and Mulberry and Deep Creeks. It's open to everyone, just respect it as you would your own.

As soon as I heard the news, I went out and bought a tent, a lantern and other gear. It's been over 20 years since I last camped and what gear I managed to hang on to was in pretty rough shape.

The timing couldn't have been better. I'd pitch my tent on Saturday and enjoy a Music By The River concert.

Upon my arrival at the park, the first shower hit the windshield. By the time I checked in at the front gate, visited my friends at the ranger station and headed to campsite number 27, the rain had passed on.

Pulling into the site, a fat black snake crossed my path—a little rain to cool things off and a little wildlife to liven things up. Right.

In the near 100-degree heat, erecting the tent was a challenge of sweat and nerves. The instructions said it would take two adults. But, I mastered it. All the poles and stakes were there. The rain flap attached easy enough.

With time to spare before the concert, I headed to the bathhouse for a cold shower. The facilities are new, clean and efficient. There's even a laundry.

Refreshed, I ventured across the park to enjoy two hours of "island rock" by Gerry Maddox and to visit with lots of good folk, including members of the Friends of Belle Isle State Park, who sponsor the concert series.

A shower hit about halfway through the show, to everyone's delight. The band played on. I remembered to install the rain flap.

Following the music, the park cleared except for a half dozen occupied camp sites. As darkness approached, I assembled the lantern, fixed a sandwich and got out a couple of books.

By midnight, I had finished *A Dirty Job* by Christopher Moore and was ready to catch some shuteye. If only the tree frogs and bugs would cooperate.

The tent was like an oven. There was no breeze. Even after removing the rain flap to expose the mesh dome, it was still like an oven inside. I stripped and laid on top of the sheets. Within 20 minutes, I was basting in a puddle of sweat.

I pulled a layer of clothes back on, doused myself with insect repellent again and came out of the tent. Throwing a blanket on the ground, I laid back down. Dive-bombing bugs of all shapes and sizes were relentless, so I went back in the tent.

In the tent, out of the tent, in the tent, out of the tent. This went on way too long. And every time I was just about asleep, the generator on the camper next door would kick in to remind me someone was peacefully resting in the comfort of air conditioning.

After what seemed like several hours of torture, I wandered to the bathhouse and took an extremely long shower. Hot, cold, hot, cold. ... When I emerged, the heat, humidity and breezeless conditions had not improved.

I climbed into my GMC, cranked up the air conditioning and toured the park. I spotted several deer and rabbits. Returned to the campsite. reclined the seat and slept in the vehicle for about an hour.

As the sun came up, I staggered to the picnic table. That's where the park ranger found me about an hour later, semi conscious.

Coffee?

Sure I'd love a cup of coffee.

Recuperated now, I'm looking forward to the next overnight experience at my park. I'll wait for cooler weather, or maybe I'll rent a site with a pop-up camper. I hear they have air conditioning.

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

This summer, to be trite, has been a learning experience for me. With a lifetime behind me of caring for animals, I have found much new experiential information about them. Two months ago one of the Elder B.E.'s Rouen ducks produced four ducklings. She was a good mother, but it seemed that she was trying to teach them to eat by eating all the food herself, then stepping back in wonderment why they were not following suit when in reality no food remained.

A month ago we decided to separate them, and immediately the ducklings' growth took off astronomically. This week, with feathers bursting forth, we have found that they have entered adolescence. Quite simply their voices, or should I say quacks?, have changed. What my good wife calls "queaps" have emerged as full-fledged quacks (I refer to their vocal quality, not their medical knowledge).

The pleasant-sounding little cheeps have become boisterous quacks, bordering on the level of a goose's honk. Indeed, they are babies no longer, and I now know that the age of maturity in a duck comes when the quack changes. I also have come to realize how the Chinese can take a newly hatched duckling and stuff it with food for six weeks, and have a marketable Peking Duck on the menu.

The baby goats, which came home with us from a friend's house four months ago, are maturing into delightful young ladies. In their case, my learning curve focuses on the question of table manners. Several weeks ago they learned that they can eat out of the bin while we are trying to get their food prepared for them. Then a few days ago when we momentarily set the dish of delicious, sweet goat food on an old umbrella table, they decided to jump up and start scarfing away at it.

Now they make it quite clear that they do not choose to eat at the table, but rather on the table. They do not like the chickens and turkeys coming to sample their cuisine on the ground, and prefer the privacy of dining alone on top of the table, the fowl being not sufficiently intelligent to hop up to partake.

Last summer, Ann and Wallace Carter gave us a juvenile rooster, a New Hampshire Red by breed. The B.E.s initially named him "Ferdinand," after the shy bull in the children's story of the same name. Now he is the master of his harem of wives, but to date we have had no offspring to prove his fecundity. I attribute the absence of chicks to the mothers' disinterest in setting.

Ferdinand for his part has taken to Jordan, the billy goat. They eat together and spend their time with each other, and Ferdinand roosts immediately above Jordan's abode. In this case, I cannot allude to "birds of a feather" and therefore must assume that their friendship is cross-specie in nature. Ferdinand is the only fowl whom Jordan allows to share his meals. If a chicken or turkey comes near, it gets butted.

I also have come to understand the metaphor behind referring to a human being as a "turkey." Our poor pair of Bourbon Reds simply are not very smart. The hen, whom we call "Tom's Wife," refuses to learn that Jordan will not accept her as a dinner partner, then seems offended that he butts her.

Poor Tom struts around like the Lord of the Manor, but one day I accidentally deflated his ego by squirting him while watering the other fowl. Down came the tail feathers and out came a gobble quite different from his usual boastful blast. The hose is definitely a way to keep a turkey in line.

The heat has been hard on the animals. Their water needs constant replenishment to keep it cool, although the food supply diminishes less rapidly in the heat. This summer truly has been an eye-opener from the standpoint of animal husbandry. Queaps have become quacks; an umbrella table has been recycled uniquely into a goat bar; lastly, turkeys will be turkeys.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Of all the bills that pass the General Assembly, the budget is by far the legislation with the greatest impact. As I pointed out last week, many aspects of public health, safety and welfare are involved. In fact, the budget language is the most far reaching part of Virginia law: if there is language to direct that something be done, it holds the force of law and takes precedence over existing laws.

The Virginia budget approved by the General Assembly provides full funding for K-12 education, gives 4-percent raises to teachers, law enforcement officers and state employees, provides an additional $200 million to fund Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts and an additional $350 million to improve transportation in the Commonwealth.

There were several successful initiatives in agriculture and natural resources. In addition to record funding for bay cleanup, the budget has additional funding and positions for Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Office of Farmland Preservation, and for soil and water conservation districts.

The budget also provided an opportunity to advocate for arts, cultural, and historic entities. I am pleased that it contains funding for the Colonial Beach Historical Society, Corrottoman Civic Center, Foundation for Historic Christ Church, James Monroe Foundation, Kinsale Foundation, Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, Morattico Museum, Northern Neck Farm Museum, Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, Reedville Fishermen's Museum, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern, Richmond County Museum, Steamboat Era Museum, Stratford Hall, The Haven, Westmoreland County Museum and the Westmoreland Poor School Society.

Higher education funding is increased by 15 percent and includes $39 million in financial aid for undergraduates at public and private institutions. We were even able to cut taxes in several areas. We provided for a three-day back-to-school sales tax holiday starting this August that can mean substantial savings for families. We also provided for a long-term care insurance tax credit for premium payments to help ease the burden on seniors. There is also a tax credit to reduce tuition at schools for children with disabilities.

There is legislation before the House and Senate to eliminate the estate tax in Virginia, which, if passed, will help preserve family farms and small businesses.

Part of the estate tax bill includes changes to the Land Conservation Tax Credit Program. The governor has proposed amendments to this bill that remove many of the crippling changes that were part of the original legislation. It is my hope that these amendments will pass.

I thank the readers for their attention and feedback over the last six months, and this newspaper for providing space for these reports. I will continue reporting each week on items that have passed the General Assembly, issues to be considered in the next Assembly and the transportation deliberations that will start in September.

Last week in the district was much slower than the prior week. On July 12, I visited with the Friends of Lancaster County at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. On Friday, I went to Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline for their change of command ceremony. The garrison command switched from Lt. Cmdr. James M. Mis to Lt. Cmdr. Michael S. Graese. I wish both these gentlemen success in their new commands.

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

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Letter to the Editor

Consider a class in marine trades

To The Editor:

Because of the changing face of the Northern Neck, employment as I knew it when I was growing up (okay, so that's a work in progress) has been essentially eliminated.

There is virtually no farming. The rivers and bay cannot support the once-plentiful blue crabs or the diseased oysters. We are a more selective vacation area, so employment within the tourism sector is limited. What's left are gift shops and convenience stores to clerk in, and grass to mow. The housing market is cooling, so there will be fewer building employees needed.

In a few short weeks, school will begin again. Seniors will be facing the concept of leaving the nest next summer. Some 40 will go on to liberal arts colleges. About 20 will go to technical or trade schools. Twenty will enter the military, and the balance of 20 will stay in this area trying to find employment.

I'd like to take this moment to urge those who might not find liberal arts classes their 'cuppa tea,' and those who are considering a second career, to consider the Marine Trades programs at Rappahannock Community College.

What the heck—those of you who just want to know how to do your own engine service can learn as well. Some classes will give you marine certification in specific trades. Some, such as those I teach, will give you real-life experience, plus work ethic, and prepare you for virtually immediate employment.

My mother, who was a teacher, and my eldest daughter who is a teacher, would roll their eyes at the thought of my teaching something other than partying or girl-watching, but it's true: my students work hard, have fun, and leave at the end of classes prepared to give an employer more than he thought possible from a new-hire.

Think about it. Class sizes are limited. Call 333-6700 (Warsaw campus) or 758-6700 (Glenns campus) to enroll. I look forward to seeing you in class.

Grid Michal
Kilmarnock

Letters to the Editor

Kilmarnock doesn't honor promises

To The Editor:

The Kilmarnock Town Council meeting Monday night was an eye opener for me.

I was annexed about 20 years ago with a promise of water and sewage service. Well, guess what; they still have not provided those services behind G.C. Dawson's. They still don't have water and sewage, but that is what they are promising us now.

Let the town make good on their first promise before they make more promises.

Money, money, money. Our tax money is what it is all about.

If the residents of Kilmarnock do not like their water and sewage bill, ask councilman Paul Jones what he pays for his water and sewage. Maybe that is why they do not have town water and sewage yet behind G.C. Dawson's.

Boy's Camp area residents, look out. You are next.

Peggy S. Whaley
Kilmarnock

Truth or treason

To The Editor:

The White House attack against the New York Times is a blatant attempt to galvanize the Republican base for the November elections. The administration obviously wants to keep control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and that's politics.

Sadly however, the administration's policies and decisions are primarily (if not exclusively) motivated by politics. If you have any doubts about this, why did flag burning and gay marriages recently take center stage in Washington when Congress (controlled by Republicans) passed only two major pieces of legislation this year? One bill renewed the Patriot Act while the other bill extended $70 billion in tax cuts for investors and middle-income families.

Not surprisingly, public opinion polls now reveal that most Americans no longer consider Bush either competent or honest. After all, what has he done right? The troops in Iraq are still lacking the armor needed to minimize injuries and save lives. On July 12, 2006, a brave soldier questioned Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld about faulty armor not protecting soldiers from roadside bombs and guess what? The soldier got the usual runaround after he also wondered why the New York police had better equipment than soldiers in Iraq.

Our government is a democracy based on checks and balances which emanate from three equal branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial). Obviously, if one political party is successful at controlling all three branches, our democracy will be at risk.

The treason card has now replaced the race card in Washington's political climate as demonstrated by the right wing attacks on the New York Times and other news outlets. Press revelations, which infuriated the Bush administration, have included tracking terrorist finances, imprisonment of alleged terrorists indefinitely, torturing prisoners of war and wiretapping American citizens without court approval. Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the legal fact (ignored by Bush and third world dictators) that even suspected terrorists must be accorded rights enshrined in the Geneva Conventions.

This administration is hinting that the Times should be prosecuted under the Espionage Act. Most importantly, if newspapers and television commentators are threatened with prosecution based on what is published or discussed, then maybe our democracy is in real trouble. How? Journalists and reporters may temper their critical reporting in order to avoid arrest and prosecution. The political strategy of attacking the press is an old Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew attempt to intimidate news agencies which failed miserably during Watergate.

Instead of lecturing Russian leader Putin about free speech while looking in his eyes, I suggest Bush reread (or read for the first time) the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which basically prohibits any law that restricts our freedom of the press (except for a crime like treason under the Espionage Act).

All fair-minded Americans should condemn President Bush's dictatorial practice of impugning the patriotism of those who disagree with him.

Michael Morchower
Irvington

Reconsider BLA

To The Editor:

Last evening's Kilmarnock Council meeting on a proposed Boundary Line Adjustment was an eye opener. Council was presented with a petition signed by all residents of Waverly Avenue and Boathouse Cove stating they did not want to become part of the town of Kilmarnock.

When asked by various speakers from the proposed area when, if we were taken into the town, we could expect sewer and water, the answer by council was they had no idea but it would not be in the foreseeable future. Council should know by the number of people in attendance and the petition that we are against becoming part of the town.

I was under the impression that if the area you resided in was taken into a town you would receive the same services that residents of the town have. In our case this is not true. The town has not provided sewer to a housing development on North Main Street that has been in existence for 16+years.

It was obvious that this boundary line adjustment is being proposed for only one reason and that is to force the residents to pay town taxes of 14 cents per $100 evaluation.

This will be a real hardship on people with a fixed income.

I implore council to reconsider this ill advised idea.

Robert L. Miller DVM
Boat House Cove

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the July 20,1906, issue of Virginia Citizen).

Fish and oyster notes

The next meeting of the board of fisheries will be held in Hampton, July 25th.

One of the largest man-eating sharks ever seen in this vicinity has been captured in the fish seine in the waters of the lower Chesapake Bay. It was a vicious looking monster, measuring eight feet in length. Old fishermen say that it was the most dangerous type of shark, and that the like of it has been seldom seen about here.

Camp meeting postponed

Wharton Grove encampment, near Weems, has been postponed from Friday, July 27th, to Friday, August 24. The directors thought it wise, owing to the recent small-pox scare in the county, to take advantage of every precaution and for that reason the postponemnent, instead of actual uneasiness.

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

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27 N. Main St., P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400
804-435-1701 • FAX: 804-435-2632
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J. E. Currell, Publisher, 1927-1993

Published weekly except Christmas week at Kilmarnock, Lancaster Co., VA.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Kilmarnock, VA 22482 and additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Rappahannock Record, P. O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400.

Subscriptions (payable in advance): $20 per year in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County; $28 per year elsewhere. Single copy, $ .50.

Member: Virginia Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

Printed on recycled paper.

All items submitted for publication are subject to inclusion in digital or other electronic formats for use in other Rappahannock Record products.

2006 General Assembly and Gov. Kaine enact new legislation

by C. Jeffers Schmidt Jr.
Commonwealth's Attorney
of Lancaster County

During the 23 years I have served as Commonwealth's Attorney of Lancaster County, it has been my practice to survey some of the new state laws passed by the General Assembly each year. Most of these new laws took effect on July 1.

The 2006 General Assembly (which dates to 1619) convened on January 11, 2006, and was originally to have adjourned 60 days later. Because of disagreement about the budget, the General Assembly did not finally adjourn until recently. It considered approximately 3,287 bills, of which 1,749 bills passed. When legislation is passed by both houses of the General Assembly, it must be signed by the governor to become law.

Criminal and traffic laws

It will be a new class 1 misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 12 months in jail and $2,500 fine, for a person falsely to identify himself to a law-enforcement officer as to his real identity after having been lawfully detained. Assault and battery of a judge engaged in his public duties will be a felony offense. Teacher aides and school bus drivers are provided a limited exception to assault and battery charges while maintaining order and control. Cutting a phone line or maliciously preventing communication by disabling or destroying a telecommunications device with the intent to prevent another person from summoning law-enforcement, fire or rescue services will be a class 1 misdemeanor. Brandishing a machete with a 12-inch or longer blade will become a crime.

In any criminal or traffic case in a general district court, if the court rules a statute or ordinance unconstitutional, the Commonwealth may transmit the case to the circuit court for a determination of constitutionality. The Commonwealth may thereafter appeal the determination to the higher appellate courts.

There are certain new punishments, monitoring requirements and conditions for persons determined to be sex offenders. The sex offender website will include persons convicted of all registerable sex offenses. The State Police, or the Department of Corrections if a person is incarcerated, will be required physically to verify sex offender registration information. Failing to register as a sex offender may be a felony and may require global position system monitoring.

A sex offender will be required to be photographed every two years and to submit to having a DNA sample taken. Sex offenders may not loiter within 100 feet of a school or child day program. Sex offenders will be prohibited from working or volunteering on the grounds of a school or day care center and will be prohibited from residing within 500 feet of a school or day care center. Local school boards are required to develop and implement policies to provide information to parents regarding registration of sex offenders and the availability of information on the registry website. School boards must develop protocols for the release of children to persons who are not their parent. Private school institutions will receive electronic notification of sex offenders nearby. Public and private institutions of higher education are required to transmit electronically information about applicants who have been accepted for admission to the State Police for comparison with criminal information networks and sex offender registry. The Department of Motor Vehicles is required electronically to transmit applicant information and change of address information for the same purpose.

There will be mandatory minimum terms of confinement of 25 years for certain sexually violent offenses. In addition to active sentences, the courts are required to impose suspended sentences with probationary periods requiring active supervision and electronic global position system monitoring. Certain sexually violent offenders who have been civilly committed will be subject to mandatory global position system monitoring on conditional release.

C. Jeffers Schmidt Jr.

In addition to other penalties, there will be mandatory six-month driver's license suspension for the unlawful purchase or consumption of alcohol or use of a fake identification to purchase alcohol by an underage person. There will be a mandatory license suspension of up to one year for purchasing alcohol for an intoxicated or underage person. A guest must be 21 years old or accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse to be served alcohol in the home of another.

Tattooing minors without parental consent or without medical supervision or complying with health and safety requirements and disclosure provisions will be criminalized. The sale, rental, loan or commercial display of a sexually explicit video or computer game to a juvenile will be criminalized.

Virginia officially eliminated the imposition of capital punishment for a minor under the age of 18 at the time of the crime in compliance with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year.

The retail sale of certain drugs to make methamphetamine, namely ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, has been restricted to behind the counter. No more than 3.6 grams may be sold daily to an individual. Enhanced penalties and five-year mandatory minimum penitentiary terms have been created for subsequent offenses of drug distribution. The mandatory minimum may be waived for subjects who cooperate fully with the prosecution. A new criminal procedure allows trial testimony about marijuana field test results in simple marijuana possession cases after the defendant has received notice of the right to request a full chemical analysis by the Department of Forensic Science.

The authority has been expanded to find a dog dangerous, and criminal penalties for owners of dangerous dogs which cause injury have been expanded. A dangerous dog registry is required, and courts may order neutering as well as liability insurance or a surety bond to cover injury caused by a dangerous dog.

It will be a new felony punishable by up to five years in the penitentiary to engage in a motor vehicle race and cause serious bodily injury to another person. Causing death to another person while engaged in a motor vehicle race will be punishable up to 20 years in the penitentiary. The definition of reckless driving will include driving at the speed of 20 m.p.h. or more over any posted speed limit, or driving in excess of 80 m.p.h. A new procedure permits detention and arrest upon receipt of a message by radio or other wireless telecommunication device from another officer who observes violation of a traffic light signal. Fines for driving in HOV lanes without the required occupants have increased substantially. Maximum speed limits of 45 m.p.h. in a 55 m.p.h. zone have been imposed for school buses. They may travel at 55 m.p.h. on an interstate highway. Previously buses had a 35 m.p.h. speed limit with students aboard.

A third offense within 10 years of driving on a suspended, revoked or restricted operator's license because of a DUI-related offense will be a class 6 felony, punishable up to five years in the penitentiary. A locality may provide by ordinance that restitution for law-enforcement or emergency services may be required at the time of sentencing of persons convicted of drunk driving, reckless driving or other serious traffic offenses.

General or local interest

While funding to alleviate traffic congestion and make road improvements was addressed in the budget adopted by the General Assembly and approved by the governor, other significant areas funded in the budget were $1.5 billion funding increases for K-12 education, including four-percent pay raises for teachers; $200 million for Chesapeake Bay clean-up; $40 million for early childhood education programs; $120 million for community mental health and mental retardation programs; $39 million in financial aid to needy college students. An annual sales tax holiday was created during the weekend August 4 to 6 for the purchase of school supplies, clothing and footwear. State employees were granted pay increases.

In November the ballot will have on it a referendum question whether the state constitution should be amended to define marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman.

During the next few weeks, the Commission on Virginia Courts in the 21st Century will hold public hearings to consider whether to recommend a single-tier trail court system with specialty dockets and specially trained judges, replacement of elected court clerks with trial court administrators, appeals of right in most civil and criminal matters and a statewide public defender system. A public comment form is available at www.courts.state.va.us.

As Commonwealth's Attorney of Lancaster County, I frequently contact our legislatures to make comments about existing or proposed laws, and any of our citizens may consider doing the same. Those with internet access may reach the state legislative website at http://legis.state.va.us where there is a searchable database for all legislative information, including full texts of the bills. Most libraries have a free internet connection. There is a toll-free number at the General Assembly where a message can be left for a representative. The number is 1-800-889-0229.

Those persons who have questions about new legislation, or other criminal and traffic matters, may contact C. Jeffers Schmidt Jr., Lancaster County Commonwealth's Attorney, at Lancaster Courthouse, 462-7240, e-mail cjeffers@lancova.com, or consult a licensed Virginia attorney-at-law.

The Commonwealth Attorney has placed the directory of lawyers who are members of the Northern Neck Bar Association in the local banks, the library and other public places. A good resource for legal advice with a minimal consultation fee is the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service which can be reached at 1-800-552-7977.

Letters to the Editor

New challenges for home buyers

To The Editor:

The rising cost of homeownership is becoming an acute problem in Virginia and across the country. Yet, the U.S. Senate is considering legislation that could increase the cost of purchasing a home.

If passed, parts of Senate Bill S.190 would fundamentally alter a foundational pillar of our successful housing finance system. These parts would place caps on the amounts loaned reducing funds for mortgages. This is a terrible idea that will have severe consequences for home buyers and the housing market.

Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been helping working-class Americans become homeowners for decades by investing in the mortgage market to ensure interest rates are reasonable and affordable home financing is readily available. GSEs are also credited for making commonplace innovative products like the popular Pre-payable-without-penalty, 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage. This product has been instrumental in expanding homeownership and helping build homeowners' personal wealth.

Although GSEs have stumbled in the last few years with some accounting irregularities, they remain invaluable to potential home buyers and the housing industry. No one is seriously arguing that Congress should not tighten their oversight regulation in an effort to help the GSEs resolve their accounting issues. We all want the GSEs to be strong and financially stable.

However, enacting legislation, such as S.190, that forces the GSEs to divest the bulk of their investment portfolio and imposes extensive, strict new accounting rules is not acceptable. This bill essentially limits their capacity to continue offering flexible home and financing programs. That will increase the cost of homeownership for those who can least afford it.

Virginia's homeownership rate is nearly 70 percent. That was unthinkable 40 years ago. But finding affordable housing is still a challenge for many Virginia families. This is particularly true for folks who live in rural regions. Throughout the state lack of housing, limited financing options, interest rate hikes, exorbitant property taxes and the increasing cost of utilities and building materials are all contributing factors to the problem.

That is why the GSE programs are so critical. They target their efforts to meet the needs of home buyers in underserved areas to promote homeownership. Furthermore, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac work with local banks in rural communities to ensure they have access to sufficient financial resources to offer financing to their customers. If GSEs did not provide this resource, community banks would be reliant on local funds that may not be adequate to underwrite financing.

The success of the GSEs programs is demonstrable. Clearly, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and the other housing GSEs are fulfilling their mission of expanding homeownership to more Americans. But there are still many families that need assistance.

The extreme aspects of legislation like S.190 would be a devastating blow to the GSEs and millions of citizens they serve. The House of Representatives has already approved a responsible GSE reform bill that strengthens Congressional oversight without jeopardizing the GSEs' ability to perform. Senators would be wise to follow suit.

William F. Blocher
Lancaster

Representation denied taxpayers

To The Editor:

On June 22, 2006, at a combined meeting of the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors and Northumberland County School Board, it was voted to build a new combined middle school.

This decision-making process was done as part of the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) and has been behind closed doors, as allowed by the PPEA. The public has had no input to remodel, repair, or build a new middle school nor build a combined middle/high school. Lastly, the public, specifically the taxpayers, have had no voice in approving this project as part of a voter referendum.

The cost of this project is a maximum of $39,999,830. This amount exceeds the total of the 2007 fiscal year county budget of $30.7 million by approximately $9 million.

To avoid a referendum, the following scheme is being employed as described in the county's own press release. "Payment for the project will be done through a lease-purchase agreement. Under the agreement, the county and school board will grant a ground lease for the site to a non-profit issuer of tax-free municipal bonds, such as an industrial revenue authority. The county will have no legal obligation on the bonds. The issuer will lease back the completed facility, and the county school board will make annual lease payments, subject to annual appropriation. The county/school board will own the facility at the end of the lease term after making the payments. The annual lease payments are included in the 2007 fiscal budget that was just adopted."

It is claimed that the county will have no legal obligation on the bonds. If the county fails to make the payments, the county loses possession of the building. That is an obligation in my book. Future boards will be bound by the action that the current board has now taken. Northumberland County does not have an industrial revenue authority, so the county will use another authority located somewhere else in the state.

The inclusion of the phrase "subject to annual appropriation" is used to avoid voter approval of long term debt. This language has been regularly employed by localities to avoid voter approval. Northumberland County has used this scheme to avoid voter approval on the courts building debt of approximately $1.7 million and the payments for the county's participation in the Northern Neck Regional Jail of approximately $3 million.

The annual lease payments are included in the 2007 budget just adopted is correct, specifically 6 cents per $100 of the 36-cent-rate is the annual payment.

The above described scheme is used specifically and directly to avoid a voter approval for long term debt. The Virginia Constitution, Article VII, 10(b) requires voters to approval long term debt, with exceptions, none of which apply to this financing scheme. Northumberland County got voter approval for the Northumberland Elementary School and that amount was only $6 million. This project is at least 6 times greater than that amount but yet we are not allowed to vote on this project.

I voted for the Northumberland Elementary School project. I am a parent of a seventh-grader at the Northumberland Middle School, I attended both schools and I regularly visit the schools as part of my work, so I am aware of the conditions of the schools. I would have therefore strongly considered voting for this project, but I will not be able to so now. My rights are being circumvented, at a minimum, violated at worst.

Taxpayers have not been able to put their two cents (voter referendum) in on this project, but come this fall, taxpayers will put their 6 cents per $100 on their tax bills to pay for this project. Northumberland County thanks you very much.

Thomas H. Tomlin
Heathsville

Seeking information on Brook Vale P.O./Store

To the Editor:

I am working on the proposed project, 0003-051-V13, C501. It consists of widening Route 3 from two lanes to four lanes with a median from south of the Lancaster County Court House Historic District and ends south of Route 614.

In 2000, cultural resource studies were conducted and successfully coordinated with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. We are aware of the presence of the historic White Marsh Church and have shifted the road so that all of the widening will occur to the other side of the road, opposite the church.

Before the project is ready to be constructed in several years, an archaeological survey will be conducted in the area opposite the church. In this vicinity we know that the Brook Vale P.O. and Store was in operation between 1900 and 1960 and around 1972 the building was demolished and removed.

If anyone knows of or possesses photographic images of the P.O./Store building it would greatly help in our research of the site that the building stood on.

Please consider my request for help in locating pictures of the Brook Vale P.O. and Store.

Call or email me with any information: 540-899-4033, Helen.Ross@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Helen P. Ross, VDOT
Regional Cultural Resources
Manager, Fredericksburg

What leash law?

To The Editor:

What's happened to the dog leash law? Three times here lately our two garbage cans have been turned over in a cart and strewn all over the back lot. Late one day Owen caught a big pretty white dog enjoying himself.

Let's please put a stop to it.

Irene H. Lewis
Kilmarnock

Email your NEWS to:

@

editor@rrecord.com

Services slated monthly at White Marsh

To The Editor:

I had the great pleasure of attending a service Sunday night at White Marsh United Methodist Church. The doors of that beautiful historic church have been closed too long.

We were spiritually enriched by the music rendered by The Mathews Neighborhood Choir. It was truly a wonderful praise in music that moved everyone in attendance.

There will be services in word and music on the third Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The music will be rendered by different groups and individuals in the area.

I hope that more will come to receive a blessing while sitting in the church from which all Methodist churches in the area were organized.

Margaret Ann Luckham
Irvington

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6:00 PM dinner is served and Raffle winners announced
7:00 PM Silent Auction closes and high bidders announced
7:30 PM Live Auction begins

If you would like to attend or help sponsor this event, please contact David Nobles at 804-776-0551 for more information. Deadline for reservations is August 14, 2006.

Sponsors:
Brigett Perrine/ Handmade Quilt • Boat US /Kayak • Browns Marine/TBD • Della Nobles/ Handmade basket w/wine&cheeses • CCA Georgia/ Tarpon fishing trip • CCA Georgia/ Redfish trip • Steamboat Restaurant • Pinakatank River Golf Club • Deltaville Auto Sales & NAPA • CCA Florida Fishing Trip to Coasta Rica • John Barber Art

Mrs. Adam Stephen Grayberg

Grayberg-Wood nuptials are held

The marriage of Miss Leigh Anna Wood of Richmond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Wood of Chester, to Adam Stephen Grayberg of Richmond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Grayberg of New Jersey, took place July 15, 2006, at The Gardens at Sunday Park in Midlothian. Mervin C. Withers, uncle of the bride, officiated.

The bride is the granddaughter of Mrs. Glenn C. Withers of Callao and the late Irving A. Withers, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Wood. The groom is the grandson of M. Cass Lightner of New Jersey and the late Mrs. Hazel Lightner, and Mrs. Shirley Grayberg of Arizona and the late Robert Grayberg.

Miss Adrianne B. Wood was her sister's maid of honor. The reader was Mrs. Leah W. Pond.

Daniel R. Grayberg was his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Joshua E. Barrowclift and William D. Heyer.

The rehearsal dinner, given by the groom's parents, was held at the Melting Pot. The reception was held at the Gardens at Sunday Park. The couple will reside in Richmond.

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Day of Pisgah Forest, N.C., were guests from Thursday through Sunday of Mrs. Eunice Thrift. Mrs. Day was the invited guest of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum to christen the museum's John Smith boat, an exact replica of the boat Capt. John Smith used to explore the Chesapeake Bay.

Bob Butler and Gene Small hosted the Bluff Point Ecumenical Men's Sunday Breakfast Group at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury with 15 members present.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Nystrom of Boca Raton, Fla., visited Mrs. Arthur Dize last weekend and were among those attending the Peter Nystrom-Lana Kolmakova wedding and reception in Topping on Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. John Taliaferro were in Richmond last weekend with their son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Taliaferro and little son, Will.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bromley have returned home after a week in Wildwood, N.J., with her sister, Mrs. Lois Rogers, to celebrate Lois' 80th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Packett of Harrisonburg were in the area last weekend visiting Mrs. Curtis Packett and family. Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Keyser, friends from Wicomico High School days, and Miss Jamie Packett of James Madison University, joined them for dinner. Upon their return to Harrisonburg, Mrs. Packett had to be hospitalized.

Mrs. Peggy Jo Conner of Montpelier and Mrs. Donna Slade of Wake Forest, N.C., were with their mother, Mrs. Anna Jo Saunders, in Kilmarnock last weekend.

Mrs. Mary Lyons of Chase, Md., spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Charles Blades, on Waverly Avenue.

Guests this week of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Butler at their home, Hollyhurst, on Jarvis Creek are family members, Pamela and Jane Glockengizer of Littlestown, N.J. James Carillo of Chesapeake Beach, Md., arrived on his yacht to join the family at Hollyhurst.

Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Quillan, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Larson and Mr. and Mrs. Chase Withers celebrated Chase's birthday at Ann's in Glenns. On Monday evening, the Quillans attended an evening of music at Lower United Methodist Church in which Mrs. Larson was a participant.

Richard and Eliza Wright enjoyed this past week with granddaughter, Cora Elizabeth Wright of Roanoke. While Cora was here, they toured Stratford, Wakefield, Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg. Joining them for a trip to the Science Museum in Richmond was daughter, Robyn Thomas of Tappahannock.

AO Krista Smith, U.S. Naval Air Base, Fallon, Nev., arrived on Tuesday to spend a month with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith. She will be leaving in mid August for the U.S. Naval Air Base, Lamore, Calif., where she is assigned to the USS Lincoln.

W.R. Keyser entertained the officers of St. George Assembly #2821, Knights of Columbus for supper and a planning meeting on Wednesday evening.

Engagements

Virginia Dare Burgess and Gregory Orion Jones

Burgess-Jones

Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Burgess Jr. of Reedville announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Virginia Dare Burgess of Burgess, to Gregory Orion Jones of Heathsville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Orion Jones of Heathsville.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald Neale Headley and the late Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Burgess Sr. She is a 2000 graduate of Northumberland High School and received an associate's degree in nursing from Rappahannock Community College and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. She is a registered nurse at Riverside Tappahannock Hospital. Miss Burgess was presented at the Holly Ball in December 2000.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Tiffany R. Cockrell of Burgess and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Orion Jones Sr. of Richmond and the late Mrs. Hallie Jones. Mr. Jones graduated from Northumberland High School in 2000 and is employed with Sound Structures Inc. in Heathsville.

A September 30 wedding is planned.

Jill Lynn Kamarek and Adam James Wight

Kamarek-Wight

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Kamarek of Virginia Beach announce the engagement of their daughter, Jill Lynn Kamarek, to Adam James Wight, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Wight of Lively.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Mrs. Esther Sample of Virginia Beach and the late John Sample, and Mrs. Gail Myers of Port Charlotte, Fla., and the late William Kamarek.

She received a bachelor's in marketing from East Carolina University. She is an account executive for TEKsystems in Reston.

The prospective groom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wight, formerly of Natick, Mass., and the late Mr. and Mrs. Pat Monti, formerly of Ventura, Calif.

He received a bachelor's in finance at James Madison University. He is a financial analyst for Jones Lang LaSalle in Washington, D.C.

An October wedding is planned at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church.

John Gill Walker and Kara Ashley Alexzander

Alexzander-Walker

Tisch Alexzander of Telluride, Colo., and Gary Lee Hohnbaum of Mesa, Ariz., announce the engagement of their daughter, Kara Ashley Alexzander of San Marcos, Calif., to John Gill Walker, also of San Marcos, a suburb of San Diego. Walker is the son of Ferne F. Walker-Bernhardt of Kilmarnock and the late William B. Walker Jr.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Telluride High School and a 1999 graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The prospective groom is a 1991 graduate of Christchurch School and attended Hampden-Sydney College. He received a bachelor's in recreation management in 1997 and a bachelor's in 1999 in psychology, both from Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison.

Walker is employed at The Home Theater Store and Design Center in Solana Beach, Calif. Miss Alexzander is employed by a lighting distributor in the same area.

The wedding date has not been set. Telluride is the probable location. They will reside in San Marcos.

Polly Rae Headley and Dr. Matthew Glen Poffenroth

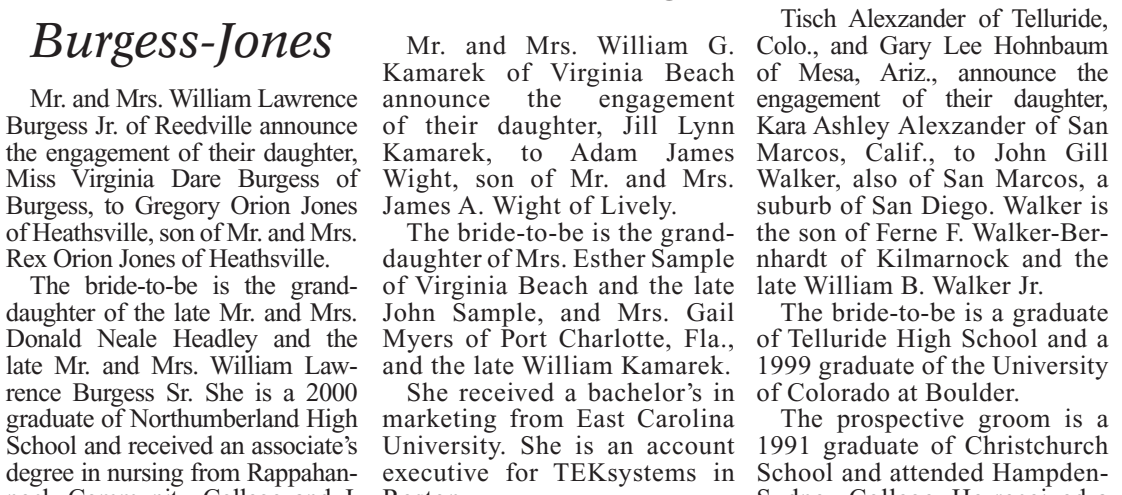
Headley-Poffenroth

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 Charles .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 1992. She received a master's from American University in 1995. She is 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.



Three parties in one

A mega party celebration was held June 10 at White Stone Baptist Church. It honored Phil and Ginger Ruit's "100th" birthday (both turned 50 years old), their son Joseph Joyal's graduation from high school and daughter Tiena Joyal's graduation from middle school. All four are moving to South Daytona, Fla. this summer. Eighty-six people attended the party. Their daughter, Michelle Joyal of Carlisle, Pa., was there to help celebrate. From left are: Joseph and Tiena Joyal, Phil and Ginger Ruit and Michelle Joyal.

Celebrations
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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Mr. and Mrs. Lee Johnson

Johnson/Woolard wedding celebrated

Mr. and Mrs. Carlie Woolard of White Stone and the Rev. and Mrs. Thom Davis of Atlanta, Ga., announce the marriage of their mother, Hazel Woolard of Irvington, to Lee Johnson of Florida and Wisconsin. They were married July 4, 2006, at the home of the bride's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carlie Woolard, on Antipoison Creek. The Rev. Thom Davis, son-in-law of the bride, and the Rev. M.P. White officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Carlie Woolard. Becky Davis of Atlanta was her mother's matron of honor. The bride's granddaughter, Miss Lydia Davis, was the bridesmaid. Rachel and Elizabeth Woolard, granddaughters of the bride, were the flower girls.

Ron Johnson of Milwaukee, Wisc., was his father's best man. Kathy Johnson, daughter-in-law of the groom, read a love poem. Becky Davis sang "When God Made You."

Jason and Jonathan Davis, the bride's grandsons, were in charge of photography and video. They also provided fire works following the ceremony. Taylor Woolard, grandson of the bride, distributed bubbles to the guests.

After a wedding trip to San Francisco, the couple will winter in Florida and spend the summer in Virginia and Wisconsin.

Engagements

Michael Troy Allen
and Jessie Nichole Harcum

Harcum-Allen

Walter Harcum of Lancaster and Jackie James of Irvington announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessie Nichole Harcum, to Michael Troy Allen, son of Walter and Patsy Allen of Newport News.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lancaster High School. She received a bachelor's in liberal studies from Longwood University in 2002. She teaches at Gloucester High School.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Peninsula Catholic High School. He received a bachelor's in history from Christopher Newport University in 2003 and is attending Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond.

An April 2007 wedding is planned.

Births

Charles, Chad
and Megan Seay

Megan Pruett Seay and Charles Edward Seay Jr. of Sandston announce the birth of their son, Charles Edward Michel Seay III May 20, 2006, at 6:33 a.m. at Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Hi grandparents are Melody and Gerald Pruett of Ashland, Brenda Seay of Sandston and Charles E. Seay Sr. of Aylett.

His great-grandparents are Thelma R. Hayden of Bertrand and Barbara and John Seay Jr. of Charles City.

Raffle to help scholarship

Cobbs Creek potter Rita D'Amico's Mathews Celebration Platter depicts things she loves about the county.

"Fishing, crabbing, watermen, the lighthouse, herons, sailing, they're all there," said D'Amico.

The piece is one of the two prizes for the Mathews Art Gallery's annual scholarship raffle.

The platter is carved on front and back surfaces. After the first firing, multiple layers of glaze are applied. D'Amico says that while the vessel is considered an art piece, it was high fired to make it safe to hold food.

The other prize is Mathews artist Buddy Southall's original oil painting of Horn Harbor.

Southall said the boat in the picture was always there. When he lived in the Horn Harbor area, he would sail past the spot often, admiring the quiet and peace each time.

"You can see a little piece of the boathouse in the picture. I never could see any house. It must be hidden by the trees." Southall said.

Raffle prizes include an oil painting by Buddy Southall and a platter by Rita D"Amico.

Raffle tickets are $2 each or three for $5 and are available at the Mathews Art Gallery at 206 Main Street or from MAG members. The drawing will be held September 9. Money raised provides funding for the art group's scholarship.

'Groovin' at the Gallery' music series is July 22

Yates House Gallery in Deltaville recently announced its "Groovin' at the Gallery" music series.

Folks are urged to bring a blanket, picnic dinner, and friends to the concerts.

On July 22, Gary Archer and Clayton Neal of Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys, will be featured.

On August 5, Intelligence from Richmond will be featured.

On September 2, Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys will be featured.

All performances will be from 6 to 8 p.m. The gate will open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets will be $5 per person and can be purchased in advance. Children ages 12 and younger will be admitted free. For advance tickets, call 776- 8505.

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.

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

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

For more information, call 436-6701.

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The Northern Neck Rotary Club would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for donations of items and services which were purchased by generous patrons of this year's CAPINNÉ Dinner and Auction to benefit programs and charities in Northumberland and Lancaster Counties. The event proved again just what can be accomplished by the community working together for the benefit of those in need. Thank you all for your help.

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Tavern quilt guild lists 2006 Quilt Gala activities

The Tavern Quilt Guild will hold it's fourth biennial Quilt Gala of the Northern Neck October 21 and 22.

An auction with auctioneer Manuel Haynie will take place Saturday, October 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Festival Halle in Reedville. Antique and new quilts will be auctioned, including bed size quilts, wall hangings and baby quilts. The public may enter quilts to be auctioned.

Some 25 percent of the final auction price will be collected for the guild. A reserve may be put on quilts. The guild also reserves the right to reject quilts they deem unsuitable for sale.

A silent auction will take place Saturday morning and again on Sunday, October 22, from noon to 5 p.m.

A quilt show, "Celebrating History, Piece by Piece," will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. at Festival Halle. Categories are wall quilts, bed quilts, group/class quilts, wearable art, miscellaneous and invitational quilts. A vendor's area will be set up next to Festival Halle in the American Legion Hall, which also includes a boutique of hand-made items by guild members.

The Tavern Quilt Guild will present the 2006 traveling Hoffman Exhibit at the guild's new meeting place, in the new Transportation Museum directly behind Rice's Hotel /Hughlett's Tavern (RHHT) at 73 Monument Place, Heathsville. Every year, a team from Hoffman Fabrics chooses an upcoming fabric design, and then issues a challenge to quilt, clothing, accessory, and doll makers to create original items using the fabric. The challenge curator and a group of assistants jury the entries, and then a team of judges selects the award winners.

The juried collections then travel to be exhibited by quilt and other fiber guilds, shops, museums, and textile shows. This exhibit is included in the price of the gala ticket, or may be seen separately for $5. Also being exhibited in the Transportation Museum will be a collection of antique sewing items.

The Tavern Quilt Guild will offer five different quilt classes featuring nationally known teachers. Each six-hour class will be held, either in Reedville or Heathsville, between October 20 and 22. Each class is $45.

Elizabeth Hamby Carlson will offer a workshop for "Burgoyne Surrounded." She will help quilters design their own version of this classic quilt, which includes pattern drafting, color and value placement, calculating yardage and adding appliqué.

She also will teach a "Strawberry Fair" Album workshop. While working on one of the classic 10-inch blocks, participants will learn template free hand appliqué for all skill levels.

Lois Smith will teach "Focus on Fabrics." Participants will have 5-inch circles appliquéd onto a 6-inch square to showcase Japanese (or other collection) fabrics; for beginner/intermediate. She also will offer a design class, "Fibonacci Lends a Hand. Participants will go back in history and borrow a number sequence from a 13th-century mathematician, Leonardo Fibonacci; all levels.

Jane Hall will offer a workshop, "Mariner's Compass." Learn to piece this traditional pattern with absolute accuracy, using freezer paper foundation for an 8-inch block. She also will do quilt appraisals, verbal or written on October 21.

To register for classes or appraisals, call Liz at 472-3498.

The Tavern Quilt Guild was formed 10 years ago. The guild is affiliated with and supports RHHT. A quilt, "Storm at Sea," designed and pieced by the guild, including a stunning Mariner's Compass, will be auctioned to benefit RHHT.

The cost, which includes the show, mimosas, auction, Hoffman Exhibit, and vendor area, will be $10 in advance and $15 at the door.

For tickets, call 443-3953. Information is available at www.rhhtfoundation.org/tavern_quilt_guild.htm.

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Virginia Food Festival set August 2 at raceway

Tour Virginia with your Taste Buds at the 25th annual Virginia Food Festival August 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

The menu will include specialties from across the Commonwealth. From Tidewater Virginia there will be steamed crabs, corn-on-the cob, baked sweet potatoes and peanuts. From Virginia's Piedmont region there will be fried farm-raised catfish, pork barbecue, country ham biscuits, deviled eggs, apples and peaches. From the Valley and Southwest Virginia there will be grilled leg of lamb, barbecued chicken, turkey tenderloins and roast beef sandwiches. There also will be ice cream sundaes, apple tarts a la mode, cold drinks or draft beverages. Tickets are $25 each.

Entertainment will include The Fat Ammons Band and The Big Boss Combo. There will be contests for cow milking, watermelon eating and egg tossing. An "Ask the Green Expert" booth will feature professionals in the nursery, landscape and turfgrass industry to answer questions.

Tickets are sold only in advance.. No tickets will be available at the festival.

Mail ticket requests to the Virginia Agribusiness Council, P.O. Box 718, Richmond VA 23218. Include name, address, number of tickets, payment to the Virginia Agribusiness Council and a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope.

Visit www.va-agribusiness.org and click on "Virginia Food Festival" to order by Visa or MasterCard, locate a ticket outlet, or to learn more about the Festival Fun Packages.

For additional information, contact the Virginia Agribusiness Council at 643-3555, FoodFestival@att.net, or www.va-agribusiness.org.

Master Gardners course to be offered in the fall

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will offer the Master Gardener Training Course beginning September 5 and continuing through mid-November.

Training sessions will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Sessions will alternate between the community rooms in the Lancaster and Northumberland libraries. No more than two absences will be allowed during the course. Each student is required to present a project to the class and pass an open book final exam.

The time commitment for the classes is 50 to 60 hours with additional time needed for reading and study prior to each class.

Following completion of the course, project presentation and final exam, each student will become a Master Gardener intern. During the next calendar year, it is necessary to complete 50 to 60 hours of volunteer work on Master Gardener projects to become a full-fledged Master Gardener.

The fee for the course is $95. To enroll, send a check for $95 made out to Northern Neck Master Gardeners. It should be sent to Northumberland County Extension Office, P.O. Box 400, Heathsville, VA 22473. Enrollment in the course is limited to 25.

For further information, call Jinny Estell at 580-6609.

Market Days slated for Sept. 8-9 in Mathews

The 32nd annual Mathews Market Days Festival will be held September 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists will display and sell their artwork at the annual Mathews Art Group Show and Sale.

The "No Name" Antique and Classic Car Show will be held at the Lee-Jackson/Thomas Hunter School Complex September 9. Boy Scout Troop 114 will sell hot dogs, popcorn and drinks at the show.

A book sale in the Orrell Annex behind the library will benefit the Mathews Memorial Library Fund. Bay Quilters will be in the John Warren Cook room of the main library.

A 5K/10K run and walk to benefit the Mathews County Land conservancy will take place early September 9.

A craft and quilt show will be held.

A Youth Corner for children 12 and under will include rides, a pet parade and Buttons the Clown.

A Saturday night street dance beginning at 8 p.m. will feature Joey and the Jammers.

Memory Walk registration opens

The Alzheimer's Association opened registration July 18 for its 17th annual Gloucester Memory Walk September 16.

The event is expected to attract more than 100 people. Walkers can stroll at their own pace along a one-mile or three-mile course beginning at Botetourt Elementary School.

"This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. I hope everyone who has a friend or loved one with Alzheimer's will join us in this walk," said Holly Jonak, manager of special events and outreach for the association's Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck branch. "We've had terrific support from the community in the past, and I'm confident we will have it again this year," she said.

Jonak suggested four ways that people can participate in Memory Walk: assemble a team of walkers; become a sponsor for $500 to $10,000; become a Memory Walk volunteer; or donate a service or product to support the event.

The Gloucester event is one of some 600 Memory Walks taking place across the country this fall. Past walks have raised more than $200 million for programs and services to support Alzheimer's patients.

Memory Walk sponsors include Genworth Financial Corp. of Richmond, Creative Memories, Kindred Healthcare, Dominion Resources and Markel Corp.

To register, call 967-2580, or visit www.richmondalzheimers.org.

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Lancaster's District 15 champions open state softball tournament play Saturday in Norfolk

The Lancaster Junior Girls All-Star Team will represent District 15 at the 2006 Virginia State Junior Girls Softball All-Star Tournament in Virginia Beach beginning Saturday, July 22.

The Lancaster Little League standouts won a berth in the double-elimination state tournament by defeating Richmond County back to back, 7-0 and 4-3, for the district championship July 8. The team posted a 6-1 overall season record.

The District 15 champs face the District 1 champs at 11:30 a.m. Saturday on field # 2 at the Azalea Little League Complex in Norfolk. The winner advances to a Monday, July 24, game at 11 a.m., the winner of which would play a semifinal game at 3 p.m. Monday.

The final game is set for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, but could extend to another game at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 26, due to the double-elimination rules.

The loser of the District 15-District 1 contest plays again at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 23. The winner advances to a Sunday game at 4:30 p.m., the winner of which would play at 12:30 p.m. on Monday. The winner of that game would play again on Monday at 5:30 p.m., the winner of which would play a semifinal game at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

To get to the Azalea Little League Complex, fans may go to Gloucester and get on Route 17 South to I-64 East towards Hampton/Norfolk. Get off I-64 at Exit 281 and merge onto North Military Highway (Route 165 South). Go .5-mile and turn slight right onto East Princess Anne Road (Route 166 South). Go 1.2-miles and turn left onto Sewells Point Road. Go .1 mile and it becomes Village Avenue. Go another .1 mile and turn left onto Pineridge Road. Go .1 mile to the complex at 1130 Pineridge Road.

Lancaster Junior Girls All-Star team coach Derek Jones offers some last minute batting tips to second baseman Carol Davis.

Omega Protein Reedville plant general manager Lyell Jett (left) presents a check for $750 to Lancaster Junior Girls All-Star team rightfielder Tiffany Pittman and coach Timmy Pittman. Omega Protein is the team's "Golden Glove Sponsor" for covering a day's worth of expenses on the team's trip to the 2006 Virginia State Junior Girls Softball All-Star Tournament.

Chris Carmell caught a limit weighing 11 pounds, 8 ounces, on the first day of competition in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League All-American. He trailed the leader by a mere three pounds.

Fishing for prize money makes sense for Carmell

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

For as long as Donna Helmuth of Weems can remember, her son, Chris Carmell, has had a passion for fishing.

"Chris was a kid who, when he was little and just learning to read, would walk around with a Bass Masters catalog in his hand," said Helmuth. During a live broadcast last week on Fox Sports Net, she watched her son compete in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League All-American tournament in Hartford, Conn.

Had Carmell won, the victory would have been lucrative. Robert Walser of North Carolina left the high-stakes tournament a happy and much richer man with a $140,000 payoff.

But for Carmell, who has won almost $20,000 in tournament prizes since October, it wasn't about the money. It was about the title.

"The All-American is the guy who works five days a week and then throws his stuff in the truck and takes off fishing for the weekend. It's the working-man's title," said Carmell of Virginia Beach.

He finished 24th in a field of 48 of the nation's top fishermen and took home $7,500 for his three-day effort. On day one, he weighed a limit of 11 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 3 pounds behind the leader. He had a three-day total of 24 pounds, 22 ounces.

Fox Sports Net tagged along with Carmell, rigging a movie camera inside his hat and another on the bow of his boat. He also had a cameraman ride along.

"That was a first for me," he said. "And we had to keep coming in to change the film. That messed me up a little."

Carmell's trail to the BFL All-American began a year ago. He competed in five qualifying events to make it to one of the eight regionals. He finished second in a regional at Buggs Island in South Hill last October, winning $6,000 and a spot in the All-American. The top six fishermen from each of eight regionals qualify.

Carmell was the only Virginia angler fishing on the pro side in the tournament in Hartford. There were two fishermen from Virginia in the amateur division.

Carmell grew up fishing freshwater ponds in Lancaster County, where he fell in love with the sport.

"I started off on Chase Pond, Thorndike Pond, all the local farm ponds," he said.

Junior Brent of Richmond took him to Buggs Island for the first time and "then I was hooked," said Carmell. "About six months later I bought my first bass boat."

A tugboat captain by trade, Carmell says, "When I step off that boat I don't want to see that water again until I have to."

Instead, he gets in his 20-foot Ranger bass boat and heads for fresher water, fishing on average 120 days a year.

He's won several team tournaments in the upper Rappahannock River where the fresh water produces some big large mouth bass.

With his sights set on next year's All-American, Carmell has already fished in three qualifying tournaments. The 2007 BFL All-American will be held on the Ohio River in Kentucky.

Youth at highest risk for watercraft injuries

Summertime for many means family vacations and leisure activities. This includes the use of watercrafts, which can be quite enjoyable provided they are used appropriately.

Risky behavior on these crafts, such as Jet skis and Waverunners, can be quite dangerous with potentially serious results.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, 25 percent of all boating accidents involve such devices and the majority of accidents occur in youths and teens.

"In 2002, 17- and 18-year-olds accounted for most injuries," said Victor Calise, United Spinal Association's director of sports marketing.

The University of Florida reported that injuries unique to personal watercraft include: closed head trauma, spinal cord injuries and trauma to chest and abdomen (internal).

"Injuries are usually caused by roll-overs, side-swipe collisions, or head-on collisions," said Calise. "With approximately quarter of a million people in the United States with a spinal cord injury, our goal is to help educate the public so that some of these types of injuries can be avoided."

United Spinal Association, an agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with spinal cord disabilities, offers tips on personal watercraft safety:

• Wear safety equipment, including a life jacket, eye protection, a wet suit, gloves, proper shoes, and a helmet. Make sure everything fits properly and always operate personal watercraft with the safety lanyard attached.

• Be alert of other watercrafts and be cautious of the terrain.

• Never operate personal watercraft while intoxicated or taking medication.

• Don't operate personal watercraft at night.

• Never stand up on personal watercraft or maneuver it through another watercraft's wake.

• Avoid sudden sharp turns and excessively high rates of speed.

• Passengers should always hold on tight and alert the driver if they are in danger.

• Never operate a personal watercraft in water that is less than 2 feet deep.

"Make sure to read your personal watercraft owner's manual, and know your state laws regarding personal watercraft usage," said Calise.

United Spinal Association offers free publications online, including Stay Safe, which provides information and advice for children on how to avoid injuries. Download this and other publications at www.unitedspinal.org.

United Spinal Association is a national membership organization for people with spinal cord injuries or disorders. Approximately 700,000 Americans have disabilities of the spinal cord as a result of traumatic injury, multiple sclerosis, polio, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, spina bifida and other diseases.

Membership in United Spinal is free and open to any individual with these disabilities, regardless of age. For more information on United Spinal Association, call 800-404-2898, or visit www.unitedspinal.org.

Sports Shorts

■ Rage takes second

The Rage 14U team placed second in the silver bracket at the Softball Nation's Virginia State Championship at RF&P Park in Glen Allen July 8 and 9. The Rage fell to the Glen Allen Blitz and beat the Virginia Flames and the Orange Crush, before losing to the Dixie Chicks in the championship game.

Keia Jones and Nicole Shelton represent Lancaster on the Rage 14U team.

■ Sunday cycling

Northern Neck Cycling bicyclists will meet Sunday, July 23, at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot south of the Great Wicomico bridge. Bicyclists of all ages and abilities are welcome to join this easy 30-mile ride. For directions, call 435-6716.

Bridge Results

In Marathon Bridge results for Group A, the winners were Elaine Weekley and Barbara Shanklin; second, Shirley Crockett and Jane Conner.

Six tables of bridge were in play July 11 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Judy Peifer and Ginger Klapp; second, Arden Durham and Jane Hughes; and third, Ilva Doggett and Rebecca Hargar.

Winners east/west were first, Anne Haynie and Barbara Lawrence; second, Virginia Adair and Jim Hazel; and third, Terry Carter and Fran Blencowe.

The next date for this group is Tuesday, July 25, at 1 p.m.

Six-and-a-half tables of duplicate bridge were in play July 12 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners north/south were first, Arden Durham and Dianne Monroe; and second, Judy Peifer and Virginia Adair.

Winners east/west were first, Grace Nagel and Iris Panzetta; second, Ginger Klapp and Anne Haynie; and third, Terry Carter and Bill Howard.

The next bridge for this group will be Thursday, July 20, and Monday, July 24.

Pit Stop

Virginia Motor Speedway
July 15 results:
Grand nationals - Jared Mees, first; Joe Kopp, second: Bryan Smith, third.
July 22 upcoming races:
(VMS is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda. Pit gates open at 3 p.m..; spectator gates open at 4 p.m. Track activities begin at 6:15 p.m.)
Late models (35 laps), **sportsmen** (30 laps), **modifieds** (25 lap), **chargers** (25 laps), **all-Americans** (15 laps).

✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

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

Fri	7/21	Moonrise	2:17	Low	3:41	0.2′
		Sunrise	6:00	High	9:14	1.3′
		Moonset	**6:01**	Low	**3:26**	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:23**	High	**9:49**	1.7′
Sat	7/22	Moonrise	3:07	Low	4:37	0.2′
		Sunrise	6:01	High	10:11	1.3′
		Moonset	**7:00**	Low	**4:22**	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:23**	High	**10:43**	1.7′
Sun	7/23	Moonrise	4:05	Low	5:27	0.1′
		Sunrise	6:02	High	11:02	1.3′
		Moonset	**7:49**	Low	**5:14**	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:22**	High	**11:31**	1.7′
Mon	7/24	Moonrise	5:08	Low	6:13	0.1′
		Sunrise	6:03	High	11:49	1.3′
		Sunset	**8:21**	Low	**6:02**	0.1′
		Moonset	**8:29**			
Tue	7/25	Sunrise	6:04	High	12:15	1.7′
		Moonrise	6:12	Low	6:55	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:20**	High	**12:33**	1.4′
New - 12:32		Moonset	**9:02**	Low	**6:47**	0.1′
Wed	7/26	Sunrise	6:04	High	12:56	1.6′
		Moonrise	7:15	Low	7:33	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:19**	High	**1:13**	1.4′
		Moonset	**9:30**	Low	**7:30**	0.1′
Thu	7/27	Sunrise	6:05	High	1:33	1.6′
		Moonrise	8:16	Low	8:09	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:19**	High	**1:52**	1.4′
		Moonset	**9:53**	Low	**8:12**	0.2′
Fri	7/28	Sunrise	6:06	High	2:09	1.5′
		Moonrise	9:15	Low	8:43	0.1′
		Sunset	**8:18**	High	**2:30**	1.5′
		Moonset	**10:15**	Low	**8:53**	0.2′

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

PM times are in **boldface type**.
Unusually high & low tides are also in **boldface**.
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Josh Jett earns Eagle

Josh Jett

Josh Jett, the son of Tom and Susan Jett of Lancaster, has been awarded his Eagle Scout Badge.

Jett is a member of Troop 222 in Lively. He earned 25 badges on his way to earning his Eagle rank. His scoutmaster is Steven Pittman.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Josh built wood duck and bat boxes for the Belle Isle State Park.

A picnic reception was held at the Park Pavilion for Jett July 9.

From left are Eunice Jones, Devonta Butler, William Jones and Scoutmaster Sam Bridgman.

Devonta Butler advances to Scout

Boy Scout Troop 215 in Wicomico Church held its first Court of Honor advancing Devonta Butler to the rank of Scout.

Butler is looking forward to his first summer camp experience which will be held at T. Brady Saunders Scout Camp in Goochland County.

Troop 215 is the newest chartered Boy Scout Troop in the Northern Neck District and is still recruiting boys from the fifth grade or 11 years of age through age 17.

Scouting is youth ministry. All parents and boys in this age group in the Wicomico Church and Browns Store area are urged to consider joining. Meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Wicomico Church Episcopal Church.

For more information, call Sam Bridgeman at 453-5906.

A Doctor Speaks

by George Moore, MD

Getting the Best Care at Home

If you need to be hospitalized, chances are your days as an inpatient will be numbered. During the last 10 years, the length of the average hospital stay has declined by about 20 percent.

As a result, people are spending more time recuperating at home after–and sometimes instead of—being hospitalized. Although the trend toward shorter hospital stays is driven largely by economic concerns, in the right circumstances and with good supervision, home care can improve treatment by boosting morale and limiting the possibility of hospital-acquired infections. Most patients say that they prefer recovering at home.

The mainstays of home care are your physician, social worker or hospital discharge planner, and visiting nurse as well as other personnel such as health aides and homemakers; physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapists; and nutritionists. Most patients also need support from family members and friends.

Your physician will identify the services you need and refer you to organizations (such as the hospital discharge planner, a visiting nurse service, or a local home care agency) that can supply the appropriate personnel. Your doctor must prescribe each service, both to be sure it's appropriate, and to verify that insurance regulations are satisfied. Your physician is central to your care and will be kept informed of your progress, especially by the nurse who visits you at home.

Your visiting nurse will provide skilled, hands-on help and instruction in tasks such as administering IVs, changing bandages, giving injections, draining incisions, and keeping feeding tubes and IVs clean. She will also routinely check your blood pressure, heart rate, and other vital signs, and identify additional services you may need.

The home health aide will help with bathing, walking, dressing, and taking oral medications; a homemaker may shop, cook and clean (though such services are rarely reimbursable); and social workers may help you locate resources and cope with stress that often accompanies illness.

Most home health-care personnel are professional and trustworthy. But bringing strangers into your home can be disturbing—especially when you are ill. To complicate matters further, agencies may not send the same staff members every time. Another problem is that sick people usually require assistance in short bursts and professional help is generally available only in blocks of time

A well-managed agency should have a 24-hour phone line for emergencies. It should also periodically send supervisors into the field to evaluate patient progress; furnish you with written records on request; ensure confidentiality; and prepare statements that explain all costs and payment options not covered by insurance. It's important to use a state-licensed, Medicare-certified agency. Earlier this year, the Case Management team at Rappahannock General Hospital was very helpful when I needed assistance for my wife and myself.

In the Northern Neck, I have noted the rather high number of elderly persons who live alone in their private homes. Most came here as retired couples to enjoy the beauty and quiet of our area but an unexpected loss of a loved one has resulted in being alone. A large number remain in their homes and cherish their independence. Most do well but advancing years may be unnoticed until illness or an accident strikes.

A fall, perhaps, may lead to a broken hip.

In my opinion, there is a need for elderly singles to make use of homemaker services while they are still well. Family members may live at long distances and visit infrequently. Friendly neighbors may also disappear. Often, the person is left alone for indeterminable periods of time. Critical decisions are difficult when alone. And this is where contact with a home care agency should be helpful. There are services in our area that are

(continued on page A11)

Habitat golf tourney slated for August 23

Habitat for Humanity Lancaster/Northumberland Counties Inc., is securing individual entries and hole sponsorships for its eighth annual Benefit Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held August 23 at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems.

The format will be captain's choice open to men and women, 4-player teams, flighted by handicap. Check-in and lunch will be from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Competitions will begin with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Individual entries are $65, hole sponsorships are $100.

A free round of golf at a Mid-Atlantic course will be awarded to the first 25 teams to register.

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 Hariet Baggertt; 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 club

In Sunday Twilight play at the Tartan Golf Club, winners were first, Ron and Ann Silver; second, Charlie and Bobbie Armfield; and third, Ed and Isabelle Bunch.

In men's play day action, winners were first (tie) Charlei Armfield and Butch Miller; third (tie) Randy Meadows and Bucky Deihl; fifth (tie) Arthur Abbott and Herbie Hammok; and seventh (tie) Rob Silver, Hall Muler and Dick Huffman.

Piankatank River ladies

The Piankatank River Ladies Golf Association on July 13 played a low gross tournament. First-flight winners were first, Jeanne Rogers (79); second, Kim Walthall (80); and Chong Hudgins (83).

Second-flight winners were first, Pat Olson (91); Barbara Keefe (92); and third, (tie) Nina Carter and Vivian Shackelford (93).

Third-flight winners were first, Ruth Wallace (7); Linda McMackin (103); and third, Betty Dunn (108)

Junior River Series

Some 22 junior golfers played last Monday at the Tartan Golf Club. The tour travels around the Northern Neck. Winners in the ages 6 to 10 group are first, Alex Nelson (32); and second, Trent Newsome (34).

Winners in the ages 11 to 14 group are first, Jeremy Gilbert (41); and second, Robert Crowther (46).

Winners in the ages 15 to 17 group are first, Zach Hall; and second, Doug Hohenberg (74).

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Fred Ajootian (left) and Betty Taylor

Betty Taylor wins match

Two 82-year-old shooters, Betty Taylor and Fred Ajootian, took first and second places in the 100 yard, 20 shot offhand, iron sight, military match fired July 15 at the White Stone range of the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club.

Taylor fired a 141-0Xs. Ajootian fired a 140-2Xs. T. Nance had a 140-0Xs for third place.

The next event will be a falling plates pistol match July 29 at 9 a.m. Call Barry Kennedy at 435-2909 for more information.

From left are Floyd Darden, David Green, Brent Self, Doug Walker, Trudy Walker, Larry Jenkins, Mary Jenkins and Macey White.

Local Friends of NRA group recognizes generous sponsor

The Northern Neck Friends of NRA committee recently thanked Brent Self of Lancaster for being a "Pioneer" sponsor.

He was presented a cast of the 2006 Friends of NRA National Sponsor Statue, "The Paratrooper" and a Kimber Eclipse Custom II .45 caliber pistol by committee members.

The Northern Neck Friends of the NRA committee will hold its annual banquet and auction at Festivale Halle in Reedville on October 7. There will be food, fun, and excitement along with high quality auction items, including limited edition NRA prints and firearms, and several special drawings for guns.

Proceeds from the Friends of the NRA fund-raiser benefit The NRA Foundation and are used to promote youth firearm safety and education programs, hunter training, shooting range development and marksmanship training locally in Virginia.

For tickets, call chairman Floyd Darden at 435-2577, or secretary Mary Jenkins at 580-0879.

Shooting sports banquet to feature raffle and auctions

The Northern Neck Committee of Friends of the NRA (FONRA) will hold its annual dinner and fund-raiser at Festival Halle in Reedville October 7.

The organization raises money for civilian shooting programs, such as youth shooting clubs, hunter safety, "Women on Target," sports shooting camps and 4-H shooting clubs. Two recent events were partially funded by FONRA. In April, a shooting sports camp was held at the range of the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club in White Stone. Children accompanied by a parent, experienced shotgun, rifle, pistol, and archery shooting. Each child was supervised by an experienced shooter, and the club's NRA certified instructors.

In June, the popular NRA event, "Women on Target," held at the club's range, gave 49 ladies from the Northern Neck area an opportunity to shoot various types of firearms, under the individual supervision of experienced shooters, and NRA certified instructors.

Attendees may tour exhibits, buy raffle tickets for the many guns and other items of interest to shooters and outdoor people, have a delicious meal, and bid at the auctions held during and after dinner. Tickets are on sale for a raffle for 30 guns, one each for 30 days during September.

Local businesses are participating as underwriters, or sponsors.

Raffle tickets for 30 guns in 30 days are $30 each. Tickets for the dinner fund-raiser are $40 each. Raffle and Lottery tickets are available in Kilmarnock at Stylish Eyes, and at White Stone Pharmacy. For other ticket locations, see RPRClub.com.

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▼ *Doctor Speaks . . .*

(continued from A10)

trustworthy, unobtrusive and understanding. A call to one should result in a short visit to get to know you and ascertain your particular needs. Perhaps, you may need someone for a few hours a month, week or day—a person to do the laundry, clean the house, shop for food, or just keep company. You will make the decisions. The goal is to have the help you need to stay well.

Insurances including Medicare may not reimburse you for this type of service, but private charges tend to be reasonable.

Although I do not know all the service agencies available in the area, I can recommend two of them that have worked with me. E-mail "gdbdzb@yahoo.com" for one. Another service by e-mail is "wekare7@yahoo.com." Ask your children to help. They will be more assured that you are getting the best care if they can find the service that you need to live a long and wholesome life, even if alone.

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How hot was it?

It was so hot that Pinkie, the neighborhood cat of Walnut Court in Kilmarnock, stole a drink out of the bird bath. (Photo by Lynn Bonner)

Citizens and supervisors discuss assessment

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—A handful of people had a lot to say about the way the real property assessment was conducted in Northumberland County last year.

The board of supervisors invited Robert Alman of the Wampler Eanes assessment company to its July meeting to discuss the method the firm used to ascribe values to property countywide.

Some supervisors were particularly concerned about the "neighborhood factor."

Joe Burrell of Whays Creek said last month that he was charged a 30 percent neighborhood factor on top of the fair market value for his property, which is in a subdivision without any amenities or homeowners association.

Alman explained to the board and the public last week that the neighborhood factor was not used in particular subdivisions, the way one may normally think of a neighborhood.

The neighborhood factor is an adjustment that brings the calculated price of a house up to fair market value, he said. The factor does not apply to the value of the land, which is based solely on recent sales in the area.

According to Alman, houses were first given a grade, the best being A-plus, depending on the quality of construction and condition.

A square footage formula was used to calculate a dollar figure.

Because a "C" grade house would not sell for the same inland in Lottburg as it would in on the waterfront in Fleeton, the neighborhood factor was applied to bring the house to a "fair market value price" based on recent sales in the area, Alman said.

Waterview homes recieved a 20 percent adjustment. Waterfront homes earned a 30 percent adjustment and areas that were considered excellent waterfront were adjusted by 40 percent.

Houses in villages also required an adjustment, Alman said. For example, properties in the village of Heathsville were given a 10 percent adjustment.

Several people in attendance pointed out some egregious errors and calculations made by the assessors and noted that only some of those were fixed through the appeals process with the assessor and the board of equalization.

"We try to do as fair of a job as we can," Alman said. "It's not a perfect science."

At this point, the assessment books have been closed and signed, but property owners can still appeal their individual cases in Circuit Court.

"The code requires that you do an assessment that is the same for all," said supervisor Richard Haynie, who moved that the board seek an opinion on the neighborhood factor and whether it was fair.

Haynie later withdrew his motion, and the board asked Wampler Eanes to provide a breakdown of the 10 neighborhood factors that were applied and examples of how they were used.

Wampler Eanes will also provide the county with its formula for assessing structures on properties prior to applying the neighborhood factor.

While this information will not change the assessment, it will help the supervisors to better explain the process to citizens.

The board has discussed conducting assessments on a four-year rather than a six-year cycle in the future. It may also consider hiring a regional assessor to share with other counties in the area, one who would be more familiar with the local market.

VDH offers cool tips to beat the heat

RICHMOND—As temperatures across the state reach record highs, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses.

VDH recommends the following tips to keep cool in hot weather.

• Drink plenty of fluids.

• When working outside, drink fruit juice or a sports beverage during exercise to replace salt and minerals lost from sweating.

• Plan outdoor activities around the heat. Go out in the morning or at night when it's cooler. Resting frequently when outside will give the body a chance to recover from heat.

• Avoid exposure to the sun. Avoid sunburn and wear light clothing. Sunburn limits the body's ability to keep cool and causes loss of body fluids. Use sunscreen and wear a hat.

• Limit physical activity until the body adjusts to the heat.

• Do not keep children or pets in cars with windows rolled up.

• Use the "buddy system" if working outside.

• Relatives and friends should check on elderly family or neighbors throughout the day during heat waves.

•If the home does not have air conditioning, go to a shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help the body stay cooler when going back into the heat.

"Exposure to extreme heat can cause serious illness," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "It's important that people stay in air conditioned buildings and keep hydrated."

Residents who qualify for the Virginia Department of Social Services Energy Assistance Program can get assistance cooling their homes. For more information on what's available, contact the local health or social services department.

Marianne Henderson displays the series that includes a stamp designed from her photograph.

Henderson's photo inspires postal stamp

The U. S. Post Office recently issued a series of 39-cent stamps called "Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives."

Representing the Chesapeake Bay, 'Largest Estuary' is a stamp created from a photograph that Marianne Henderson took at Windmill Point.

Henderson was contacted by a company called PhotoAssist in Bethesda, Md., because they had seen her images posted on her stock agency's website. PhotoAssist, who organized the project, then purchased the rights to use the photograph as a stamp reference. An artist designed the stamp from the the photograph.

"What a thrill it is to see the stamp, and remember the October evening at Windmill Point when I waited and watched the heron, taking shot after shot in the beautiful sunset," said Henderson. "Fortunately, I was in the right place when the bird started to take off from the rock."

People ask if the sun and the water were really that vivid, and Henderson assures them that the color rendition is perfect.

"Those of us who live near the bay know that there are evenings when the sun colors the water just like that," she said.

Spivey appointed to council; Brown to serve as vice mayor

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—In his first town council meeting as mayor of Kilmarnock, Dr. Curtis Smith weathered a public hearing of angry citizens and the establishment of new commercial (C-1) ordinances, then got down to the business of appointing someone to fill his vacant seat on council and set up committee heads for his administration.

Les Spivey was appointed to serve the remaining two years of Smith's council seat. Stepping up from the planning commission, Spivey will also serve out his commissioner's term which ends in September.

In nominating Spivey, councilwoman Barbara Robertson praised his work as a commissioner and his dedication in serving the town in the development of the comprehensive plan.

Fletcher Brown IV got the nod from council to serve as vice mayor. Brown also serves on the planning commission.

Carmen Kilduff and Spivey were appointed to the administration and finance committee with Paul Jones to serve as an alternate member.

Jones and Spivey were appointed to the water and sewer committee with Kilduff to serve as an alternate.

Frank Tomlinson and Barbara Robertson were appointed to the streets committee and Brown and Kilduff to a streets sub-committee.

Brown and Tomlinson were appointed to the police and public safety committee.

Kilduff and Jones were appointed to an emergency preparedness committee.

A special committee was set up to oversee plans for a new town hall and the sale of the old one. The Government Center Committee will consist of Smith, Robertson, Kilduff and Jones.

Following a public hearing on changes to the commercial (C-l) ordinances, a unanimous vote by council put them into affect with a riding amendment that grandfathers all existing businesses and any permits currently pending approval. No one spoke during the hearing.

A request was made by Dr. Matt Shifflett on behalf of the YMCA for the mayor to sign a proclamation announcing September 16 as Kid's Day America.

Elizabeth Gardner reported the playground committee has asked for bids from vendors for equipment. The committee will apply for 50 percent of the estimated $50,000 costs in grants and hopes to raise 25 percent in contributions from the community and 25 percent from the town.

Joe Staton's report on Main Street work progress included a welcomed completion of all asphalt work. Contractors still must program traffic monitor cameras to keep traffic flowing smoothly through town and finish curb and gutter work on sidewalks along Waverly Avenue. The town will add bike racks, garbage cans, signs and banners. Planting on the center islands will take place in late September.

▼ *School system ends year in the red . . . .* *(contnued from page A1)*

the end of the fiscal year—fail to materialize in the same dollar amounts as projected, budgetary adjustments must be made in the bottom line.

Jenkins said he believes the school board and administration "did not knowingly overspend their money," but admitted he didn't know for sure which funding categories had been overspent.

After almost 13 years as a county supervisor, Jenkins said he has come to the conclusion that school boards can easily get caught up in the minutia involved in running the school division. This makes it hard to exercise the proper oversight of finances, he added.

In fact, at several public meetings and work sessions in the past few months the school board chairman, school board members and county supervisors expressed difficulty in understanding the cumbersome and idiosyncratic school division budget.

At one April joint meeting, Jenkins, a former banker, complained of having "a terrible time trying to understand" the school budget. "It's the hardest exercise I've ever had in budgeting," he added.

On previous occasions, school board members have voiced bewilderment at financial information which came to their attention in a public meeting, notably the fact that hundreds of thousands of dollars had been unspent in recent years.

At the joint meeting on July 11, the supervisors suggested that if the school division were on the same accounting software as the county government, it would be easy for any member of either body to see what was happening in the school budget or county budget.

There could be the kind of "transparency" in the budget which McCann had expressed a desire to initiate during those April work sessions.

The county has been on the Bright System accounting software since the mid 1990s, but the school division has not been willing to switch even though many divisions in Virginia use it.

It was noted that county employee Glenn Rowe, who is in charge of the county information systems, is knowledgeable in this software and would be able to save money for the county in minimizing the needed services of a third party for installation and training.

Supervisor Pete Geilich suggested at the meeting that the county would pay for the system if the school division chooses to use it.

"In my mind, it would put us all on the same page," supervisor B. Wally Beauchamp added.

Jenkins stressed that adding a variance report as part of the tracking at the central office is critical to both the school division itself and to the county so that both bodies can keep informed about various budget categories and line items.

This type of report shows the amount budgeted for each category, the total that has been spent in any and all categories, and how much money remains in the budget for each category.

By the end of the meeting, no indication was given by either the school board or the central office staff of their interest in switching over to the Bright System software used by the county.

Tornadoes can strike anytime and anywhere

When it comes to hurricanes, we've all become used to the idea of "hurricane season," when we know we need to be prepared. But, when it comes to tornadoes, there's no such thing as a "tornado season."

Tornadoes can strike anywhere, anytime and you need to be ready.

Of the 24 tornadoes the National Weather Service confirmed in 2005, four occurred in January; the others occurred in May, July and August. Each tornado was rated an F0 or F1 on the Fujita scale, with winds of up to 112 mph. None were associated with the kind of tropical storm activity that can often cause Virginia's tornadoes.

"Tornadoes can happen anywhere, anytime, with little or no warning," said Michael Cline, Virginia Department of Emergency Management state coordinator. "There are simple steps that families and businesses can take to be prepared. Most importantly, they should know what to do when a tornado is near."

Environmental clues that indicate an approaching tornado include a dark, often greenish sky, large hail and a loud roar similar to a freight train. The general rule for tornado safety is "go low and stay low." Go to the lowest level of the structure away from windows and crouch in a low position with head covered.

"Anytime there is severe thunderstorm activity, a tornado is possible," said Wakefield Warning Coordination Meteorologist Bill Sammler. "Everyone needs to be prepared for tornadoes and listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for tornado watches and warnings."

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service offer several tornado safety tips.

Know the difference between a watch and a warning. A tornado watch means weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. If a tornado watch is broadcast, stay tuned for further information and possible warnings. Be prepared to take cover if necessary.

A tornado warning means a tornado has actually been sighted. Warnings are issued for individual counties and include the tornado's location, direction and speed. If in or near its path, seek shelter immediately. Don't attempt to look for the tornado. Many Virginia tornadoes are obscured by rain and may not be visible at all or until it is too late to take cover.

Know the names of counties, cities and towns. It will be easier to track the tornado's direction if familiar with the geography of the area.

Find appropriate shelter and protect oneself while there. In homes, go to the basement, or a small, windowless interior room such as a closet, bathroom or interior hall on the lowest level of the house. Avoid windows and protect the body from flying debris with a heavy blanket or sleeping bag. Do not spend time opening windows to equalize pressure. It is ineffective in reducing tornado damage.

In mobile homes, leave immediately and seek shelter inside a nearby sturdy building or lie down flat in a ditch or depression away from the home and cover the head. Mobile homes are extremely unsafe during tornadoes.

In open buildings such as shopping malls, gymnasiums or civic centers, try to get into a restroom or hallway. In larger buildings, these areas are usually made of concrete block and will offer more protection. If there is no time to go anywhere else, try to get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris. Cover the head.

Outdoors, try to find shelter immediately in the nearest sturdy building. If no buildings are close, lie down flat in a ditch or depression and cover the head.

In automobiles, get out of the vehicle and try to find shelter inside a sturdy building. If no buildings are close, lie down flat in a ditch or depression and cover the head. Do not take shelter under a highway overpass or bridge. Debris is often swept under them and can cause serious injury or death.

Planners to consider Harris Road rezoning

LANCASTER—The planning commission for Lancaster County on July 20 will consider a request to rezone almost 11 acres on Harris Road from C-2 (limited commercial) to C-1 (commercial).

A related public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the General District courtroom at the county courthouse.

Kaylin Properties proposes to build 322 mini-storage units as well as rental office space on the parcel.

Flotilla 33 grows by four members

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 recently added four new members.

Brian Kennedy, Eddy Whichard, Richard Chenery and Brian McArdle were sworn in July 10 by past-flotilla commander Jerry Hawley and flotilla vice-commander John Mill.

The new members completed a Department of Homeland Security background investigation and can begin their Auxiliary duties and training.

Each can specialize in one or more missions including public education, vessel safety checks, environmental protection and aid-to-navigation maintenance. Other members specialize in on-water safety patrols under the direction of Coast Guard Station Milford Haven.

Mill announced that John Hoekstra has completed his coxswain qualification. Ginny Herbermann and Howard Montgomery have qualified as crew. The qualification process includes training, study and demonstration of competence in seamanship, communications, navigation, first aid and crew coordination.

For a vessel safety check, call Jim Wroth at 435-0376. For information on membership, call Mike Sachen at 438-9202.