Rappahannock Record

Thursday, August 17, 2006 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-ninth Year • Number 45 • Three Sections • 50¢

Boundary line decision is due in Kilmarnock

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—The boundary line adjustment (BLA) proposed down Waverly Avenue and south of town along Harris Road will return to town council for a vote on Monday, August 21. The council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Despite a number of public and private meetings to correct erroneous information with facts and figures, council continues to be on the firing line with Waverly residents. The majority of homeowners in that area do not want to pay town taxes or pay for water and sewer services when they have private systems that cost them little or nothing.

At one meeting, neighbors expressed astonishment at the town's "high" water/sewer rate structure. Mayor Curtis Smith's claim that they would not be looking at having to hook up for eight to 10 years did not seem to persuade anyone.

"I do not favor the border line adjustment as it affects Waverly Avenue."
—F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., chairman, Lancaster board of supervisors

Many residents are retired and claim they cannot afford additional taxes, even with Smith's offer of a reduced tax rate set at five percent for the first five years and his claim that the town has reduced taxes to offset county increases in the past.

Town manager Lee Hood Capps defended council's proposal saying that due to the location of the neighborhood residents receive many town conveniences and benefits without paying for them. Homeowners counter that the 27 houses down Waverly are not enough to justify the hundreds of thousands of dollars it will take to put in town utilities to serve them and that those services would only bring more development and destroy the farmland buffering their neighborhood.

Despite the town's concessions, most of the homeowners along with a handful of businesses and farmers are waging war against any annexation. For them a contrary council vote tonight may be one battle lost, but it is not the end of the war.

Kilmarnock may be up against a brick wall when the matter goes to the board of supervisors.

(continued on page A16)

See you next summer

The 2006 Music by the River family concert series at Belle Isle State Park concluded last Saturday night with a foot stomping, knee-slapping, hand-clapping performance by bluegrass favorites Jollett Lane (above). From left, band members are Randy Loyd of Bremo Bluff, Kim Pierce of Richmond, Ronnie Shifflett of Elkton and Kenny Whitley of King George. The concerts were sponsored by The Friends of Belle Isle State Park with financial support from The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts, the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club, the Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Men, the Rappahannock Record and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. State park officials noted there was good attendance at all six shows this summer. Concert organizers plan to add two more shows to the schedule next season, to present concerts every second and third Saturday, May through August. (Photos by Robert Mason Jr.)

Rezoning hearings set tonight

LANCASTER—The planning commission for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. tonight (August 17) in the General District Courtroom.

Hearings are scheduled on the requested rezoning of two separate parcels south of Kilmarnock.

R. Cris and Britney Dedmond, owners of Vantage Windows & Doors LLC in Kilmarnock, plan to move their operation to a parcel adjacent to the Nationwide Insurance office at 1164 Irvington Road.

The business seeks a zoning change from R-1 (general residential) to C-2 (limited commercial).

Kaylin Properties will return with additional information as requested by the commission last month regarding a change in zoning from limited commercial to commercial on a Harris Road parcel. The company plans to install mini-storage units and a rental office complex.

In other business, a report will be offered by the agricultural preservation subcommittee on the outcome of its two recent public meetings.

Board and commission to hold retreat

KILMARNOCK—The Lancaster board of supervisors will meet with the county planning commission for workshop Saturday, August 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch at 432 North Main Street.

Board chairman F.W. Jenkins Jr. said it will be an open topic meeting, although the board wants to hear the commission's opinions on how things are going with the comprehensive plan and the key points it is focusing on in the plan.

The board also wants to hear any other issues the commission brings to the table, added Jenkins.

Irvington administrator awaiting a replacement

by Audrey Thomasson

Gil Unangst

IRVINGTON—Town and zoning administrator Gil Unangst will be stepping down from his Irvington post, Mayor Alexander Fleet announced at last week's council meeting.

Unangst came out of retirement last October to take the job on an interim three-month basis when the past administrator retired. He plans to continue to oversee town projects during the hiring and transition of his replacement.

The town is advertising for the part-time position and, according to Fleet, is anxious to hire someone as soon as possible. Applications are being accepted at the town office on Steamboat Road.

Among his accomplishments in the few months he has served the town, Unangst is credited with overseeing the procurement and installation of an emergency generator to back up the town water system during a power failure. Additionally, he brought conclusion to a long-standing problem with water drainage adjacent to the Steamboat Era Museum on the Commons and has guided the scheduled update of the town's comprehensive plan. That effort was kicked off July 30 with a get-acquainted meeting between the planning committee and the consulting group of K.W. Poore Inc.

Unangst has agreed to continue overseeing the comprehensive plan process as long as he is needed.

In a discussion by council on the issue of in-town use of golf carts, town attorney Matt Terry referred to state law prohibiting golf carts on public highways. He said the town cannot establish an ordinance to regulate their use without a police department unless it obtains an exemption from the General Assembly. Only the Eastern Shore town of Saxis has an exemption.

At issue is the presence of children operating golf carts on town roads in the evening with only a flashlight as a warning device. According to Terry, those operators are currently in violation of state laws requiring a driver's license and proper head and tail lights and can be ticketed by state troopers or the county sheriff's department.

Council designated Unangst to contact town officials in Saxis to inquire as to how they obtained an exemption.

In other business, council passed a resolution adopting the Northern Neck Planning District's proposed study reviewing drinking water needs and sources with a town contribution of $750, as required by the study. Unangst was appointed to serve on a committee overseeing the study until his replacement can be hired.

Supervisors and citizens concur on several points

by Joan McBride

HEATHSVILLE—Most of the public seemed to be in agreement with Northumberland supervisors on the six items approved at the August 10 public hearing session.

The board approved a change in its meeting times. The supervisors will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month but the starting time is now 5 p.m. for the administrative meeting, which will directly precede the evening public hearing session beginning at 7 p.m.

The board meeting previously began at 3:30 p.m. and there was a dinner break before the evening hearing session began.

In other business, separate conditional use permits were granted for two home childcare centers.

Stephen and Susan Brown were given the go-ahead for their plans at 89 Cedar Lane in Callao where they plan to serve up to 12 children in their family home daycare center.

Lil' Roos Preschool & Child Day Center Inc. is the planned venture of Lori Crawley, Leslie Crawley and Sara Carroll.

The three women propose to operate a preschool for children ages three to school age in addition to offering before- and after-school care at 191 Old Glebe Point Road. The center expects to serve 30 to 35 children.

Several members of the public spoke in favor of the proposed Lil' Roos child day center.

"The neighbors are very pleased with the center and believe they do a fine job," said neighbor Chuck Callaway.

Another conditional use permit was granted to Glenn Lester to develop and operate a gravel pit about a half mile west of Jessie Ball DuPont Highway

(continued on page A15)

Board approves duplex project

by Joan McBride

HEATHSVILLE—"The county is diligent about doing this the right way," Gary Armentrout, developer and principal in Mt. Air Partners, told the Northumberland board of supervisors at its August 10 hearing on his Sloop Cove development near Smith Point.

Armentrout said the partners had stopped work on the planned septic system for their cluster development when they saw they were going to lose a number of units.

Instead they decided to spend $342,000 to extend the sewer line from the Blackberry Road pumping station along Sunny Bank Road then along Smith Point Road to their development—a total of about one mile.

Ten sites have been approved for duplexes. He said the partners didn't want more density than 20 units.

"We want to create an environment for people to live easily with all the outside work taken care of," he explained.

"If we put in and paid for [the sewer line], it opened up another area in the county," said Armentrout. "We want to be good citizens with the county."

The county estimates that 100 homes can be served by the sewer line extension.

However, Armentrout said he never had to proffer to extend a sewer line before.

"We had a chance to flip [sell] at a reasonable profit, but I made a commitment to Mr. Shirley [county zoning administrator]

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Wal-Mart plans stalled by road issues

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Rumors are buzzing about Wal-Mart breaking ground on October 1, but future supershoppers will be disappointed to learn that progress on a Kilmarnock store is stalled in Virginia's Department of Transportation and any talk of a start date is pure speculation.

"We have submitted our updated plans to VDOT but have not received approval," said Laurie Smalling, regional public relations manager for Wal-Mart.

Smalling said engineers will not set construction dates because of the unpredictability of the process time to obtain approvals and permits through state, county and town governments.

Region attracts campers

After last week's welcomed break in the heat and humidity, the temperatures are again on the rise and the weather is perfect for an afternoon of swimming and play on the Aqua Jump on the pond at Bethpage Camp-Resort in Urbanna. Die-hard campers don't mind the sweltering summer temperatures and flock to the area's many campgrounds. For a fun look at the lifestyle of seasonal campers, see page A14. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

Upcoming

August

17 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
A Free Family Concert will be presented by the Middlesex County Public Library at 7:30 p.m. at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield. The program will include The Tri-County Chamer Ensemble, Douglas Fleet, Alouise Riter with Richard and Kathryn Miller, the Men's Chorus of Lower United Methodist Church, Janet Bowman, Dragon Run Bleugrass Band, and Donna Will. 758-5717.
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.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers, are invited. No reservations needed. 435-2755.
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.
Indian Crafts will be demonstrated from 10 a.m. to noon at Belle Isle State Park. $2. 462-5030.
Get Lost survival training will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Belle Isle State Park.
Guitarist Robert Keyes will play at 7 p.m. at Cafe Mojo in Urbanna. 758-4141.
The Gloucester County Fair opens at 6 p.m. at Ark Park on Route 17. The fair continues through August 20 with a carnival and nightly musical entertainment.
No-Name Needlers will gather at 1 p.m. at The Art of Coffee in Montross. 493-0873.
The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will meet at noon at the Pilot House in Topping, The speaker will be member Roy Watts. As a civilian pilot he flew overt, and covert flights in the Far East.
The Rappatomac Writers will meet at noon at the Great Fortune Restaurant in Kilmarnock. Email jriverside@hughes.net, or chestyle@bealenet.com for reservations.

18 Friday

Bingo is played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 5:45 p.m.
Cronyx will play on the deck at Smokin' Joe's Barbecue in Kilmarnock from 5:30 to 9:30 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.
Lynda Smith will headline entertainment at the Gloucester County Fair in Ark. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.
David Schaller will be featured in a Feed The Children Benefit Concert from 5 to 8 p.m. at Chitter Chats Ice Cream Parlor in Reedville.
Campfire Cooking will be presented at Belle Isle State Park from 2 to 3 p.m.
A Sunset Canoe Trip will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. $6.
The Bay Window in Irvington will host a crochet class from 1 to 3 p.m. $20 plus supplies. 438-6636.
The Gloucester County Fair opens at noon at Ark Park on Route 17. The fair continues through August 20 with a carnival and nightly musical entertainment.

19 Saturday

A Bluegrass Show to benefit the Gwynn's Island Museum begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Gwynn's Island Civic League buiilding on Route 223 in Gwynn's Island. The Dragon Run Bluegrass Band hosts the show. Donations are accepted. 725-3495.
Steve Keith will be featured on guitar, fiddle, banjo, harmonica and vocals at Café Mojo in Urbanna. The show will begin around 8 p.m. 758-4141.
Lynda Smith will be featured at Donk's Theater on Route 198 in Mathews at 8 p.m. 725-7760.
Gerry Maddox will perform "island Rock" at the Morattico Waterfront Museum Summer Fiesta beginning at 5:30 p.m. $20 includes a Cajun dinner. 462-9843.
Made From Scratch will be featured at the Gloucester County Fair in Ark at 6 p.m.
R.B. and the Rockers will be featured at the Gloucester County Fair at 8 p.m.
A Bluegrass Jamboree featuring Michelle Nixon and Drive will be held at 8 p.m. at Hummel Aviation in Topping. $30 per person, includes barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas. Tickets on sale at the Pilot House Restaurant (758-2262) and Hummel Aviation (758-9500).
Rockfalls Express will present a bluegrass concert at Yates House Fine Art and Craft Gallery in Deltaville. The show will start at 6 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic. $5. 776-8505.
The Heathsville Farmers' Market begins at 9 a.m. at Hughlett's Tavern/Rice's Hotel in Heathsville.
David Schaller will be featured in a Feed The Children Benefit Concert from 5 to 8 p.m. at Chitter Chats Ice Cream Parlor in Reedville. Donations accepted.
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.
A New World Discoverers program for ages 5 to 8 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Belle Isle State Park.
The 27th Annual Rod Run To The Beach will be held in Colonial Beach.
Lancaster County Veterans and their families will meet at 4 p.m. at the American Legion Adams Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock for dinner. The menu includes fired chicken and homemade ice cream. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m.
The Gloucester County Fair opens at noon at Ark Park on Route 17. The fair continues through August 20 with a carnival and nightly musical entertainment.
Farm Safety Camp will be held at Northern Neck Soil and Conservation District. 443-3571.
Owls Up Close will be held at Westmoreland State Park at 8:15 p.m.
A Benefit Auction will be held at the Richmond County Volunteer Fire Department in Farnham at 10 a.m. A variety of goods will be sold. Proceeds benefit the fire department.
A Mentor Training Session will be held by Northern Neck Together from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. at 865 North Main Street in Kilmrnock. 435-8902.
Ice Age will be shown on an outdoor screen at Northern Neck Solutions Inc. at 72 North Main Street in Kilmarnock. The show will begin at 8:30 p.m.

20 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at the Crazy Crab in Reedville immediately following church services.
A New World Discoverers program for ages 9 to 12 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Belle Isle State Park.
The 27th Annual Rod Run To The Beach will be held in Colonial Beach.
The Gloucester County Fair opens at 2 p.m. at Ark Park on Route 17. The fair continues through August 20 with a carnival and nightly musical entertainment.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock, beginning at 11 a.m.

21 Monday

Flotilla 3-10 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Callao firehouse. 472-4387.
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 6:30 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazerene at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.
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
The Kilmarnock Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the town office on North Main Street.
The Historical Society for Lancaster County will meet at 7 p.m. at the G.C. Dawson administrative office in Kilmarnock. 435-6232.
The Northumberland Homemakers will meet at 11 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville. 580-8613.
The Richmond County Fair on Route 3 in Warsaw will accept entries from 5 to 7 p.m, 333-3420.
The Richmond County Fair Association will meet at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds. 333-3420.

22 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.
The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
The Richmond County Fair on Route 3 in Warsaw will accept entries from 9 a.m. to noon. 333-3420. The fair will open to the public at 6 p.m. and continue through August 26. Carnival, games, contests and nightly entertainment.

23 Wednesday

Gospel Music Night at the Richmond County will feature Katy Beith at 6:30 p.m., 3 for 1 with Mat Lineback of Northern Neck Baptist Church at 7:15 p.m., Parents and partners Fellowship Choir of Shiloh Baptist Church at 8 p.m. and The Cherry Hill Pickers at 8:45 p.m.
The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.

(continued on page A3)

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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.

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FRI. AUG 18
SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
PULSE (PG13) 4:50, 7:25, 9:40
BARNYARD (PG) 5:00, 7:00, 9:20
TALLADEGA NIGHTS (PG13) 4:45, 7:20, 9:35

SAT. AUG 19
SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
PULSE (PG13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:25, 9:40
BARNYARD (PG) 1:05, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:20
TALLADEGA NIGHTS (PG13) 1:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:35

SUN. AUG 20
SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35
WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10
PULSE (PG13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:25
BARNYARD (PG) 1:05, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
TALLADEGA NIGHTS (PG13) 1:25, 4:45, 7:20

MON.-TUES. AUG 21-AUG 24
SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) 5:20, 7:35
WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG13) 4:30, 7:10
PULSE (PG13) 4:50, 7:25
BARNYARD (PG) 5:00, 7:00
TALLADEGA NIGHTS (PG13) 4:45, 7:20

Upcoming

(continued from page A2)

23 Wednesday

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.
The Richmond County Fair on Route 3 in Warsaw will open to the public at 6 p.m. and continue through August 26. Carnival, games, contests and nightly entertainment.
Animal Charades will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 1 to 2 p.m.
Make A Picture Frame will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 2:30 to 4 p.m.
A Grief Support Group will meet at White Stone United Methodist Church at 4 p.m.

24 Thursday

Local Talent Night at the Richmond County Fair will feature Tia Robinson at 6:30 p.m., Destany Hotard at 7 p.m. and karaoke finalists in competition at 7:30 p.m.

24 Thursday

Guitarist Robert Keyes will play at 7 p.m. at Cafe Mojo in Urbanna. 758-4141.
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.
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.
A Bald Eagle Quest will be held at Belle Isle State Park from 10 to 11 a.m. 462-5030.
Make a Hiking Stick will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Belle Isle State Park.
The Parkinson's Support Group will visit the Kauffman Aquaculture Center in Topping. A bus will leave Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington at 10:30 a.m. Call Rita DePew at 435-9553 to order lunch or reserve a seat on the bus.
No-Name Needlers will gather at 1 p.m. at The Art of Coffee in Montross. 493-0873.

24 Thursday

The Richmond County Fair on Route 3 in Warsaw will open to the public at 6 p.m. and continue through August 26. Carnival, games, contests and nightly entertainment.
The Democratic Committee for Northumberland County will meet at 7 p.m. at the Northumberland County Public Library in Heathville.

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

Area Events

■ Fish Fry

The Nelia Tingle Fellowship of the Fairfields United Methodist Church in Burgess will sponsor a fish fry August 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu includes fried fish, fried oysters, cole slaw, boiled red potatoes, hush puppies and dessert. The fee is $10. Take-outs are available, call 453-2631.

■ Family concert

The Middlesex County Public Library will present its fourth free family concert Thursday, August 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield. Local talent night will feature the Tri-County Chamber Ensemble with Linda Kay Douglas, Anne Baltrusaitis, Mia Swan and Laura Evans Holland.

Other acts will include Douglas Fleet, Alouise Ritter with Richard and Kathryn Miller, the Men's Chorus of Lower United Methodist Church, Janet Bowman, Dragon Run Bluegrass Band and Donna Will.

■ Benefit concert

A Feed The Children benefit concert featuring David Schaller playing rock, blues, folk, country and Christian music from the 50's through the present will be held August 18 and 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. The venue is Chitter Chats Ice Cream Parlor on Main Street in Reedville.

The free concert will be sponsored by St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Fleeton. Donations will benefit children at the orphanage in St. Petersburg, Russia. A donation drive will be held to buy fresh fruit, dairy products and medical supplies.

■ Gallery concert

The Groovin' at the Gallery concert series continues Saturday, August 19 at the Yates House Fine Art and Craft Gallery in Deltaville.

Rockfalls Express, a bluegrass/country band will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic. Admission is $5 per person; children under 12 are free.

■ Bluegrass show

The Dragon Run Band and Cricket Hill will headline a bluegrass, country and gospel music show at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building Saturday, August 19. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Donations will be accepted. Proceeds benefits the Gwynn's Island Museum. Concession items will be sold. For directions, call 725-3495.

■ Past display

The Bay School will hold an exhibit entitled "Mathews Past" in the Arts Speaks Gallery August 22 to September 15. Mathews citizens have lent their memorabilia and artifacts so that others can view Mathews from previous generations.

Photographs, army uniforms, postcards, school pictures, memorabilia from businesses and handmade kitchen utensils will be on display. The Gwynn's Island Museum will also have a display.

■ Waterfront concert

Steve Keith will be featured at an end of the summer outdoor concert August 25 at the Urbanna Town Marina at Upton's Point. The free show will start at 7 p.m. Bring a picnic, and a chair or blanket. Dancing shoes are optional.

■ Drumming workshop

Percussionist Rusty Eklund will teach the ancient rhythms of African drums August 30 at the Old Tobacco Warehouse in Urbanna at 6 p.m. for children and at 7 p.m. for adults. The fee is $15 per session. To register, get a form at Urbanna Town Hall, or call Suzanne at 804-815-0062.

Eklund has spent eight years in Mali, West Africa, studying music and culture. He has a bachelor's and has traveled, worked and studied in 25 countries on five continents.

Online resource holds open house

Connect Rappahannock coordinator Leslie Franklin (right) and intern Mark Hickman recently held an open house to acquaint folks with the site's "Business & Economy" topic area and its "Career Resources" e-mail list. The online resource supports the work of local nonprofit organizations: churches, schools, governments and volunteers. Tools at its website include a regional calendar, searchable lists of volunteer opportunities and nonprofit services, an e-mail list, and a listing of nonprofit and local government job opportunities.

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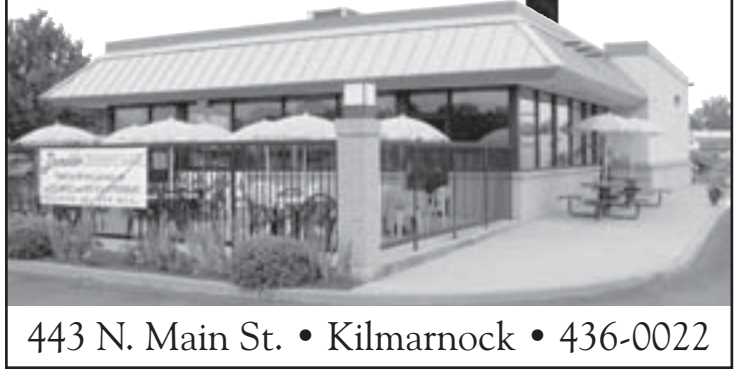

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Benefit Shrimp Dinner for Sammy George

Lively Pavilion
August 26, 2006
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$15.00 Per Person
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Available at Chesapeake Bank in Lively, Lively Drug Store, from any ULVFD Fireman, or by calling 462-6291.

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Saturday, September 2, 2006
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Carnival Grounds at the Pavillion 10 a.m.-5p.m.
AND End of Summer Dance at the Pavillion 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
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Bungee Bouncing /Jumping
Dalmation Moon Bounce,
Rock Wall, Fire Truck Slide
Featuring Bake Sale, Yard Sale, Egg Drop, Baby Contest, Arts/Crafts/Vendors/Live Entertainment and Music, Fire Truck Rides, Food, Games, Rides for Kids, Prizes
Grand Prize Raffle
Win a 16 KW Propane Home Generator
$10 per ticket (selling fast!)
Only 2000 tickets will be sold. TICKETS on sale now from any fireman and at various locations throughout the county.
Remaining tickets sold the day of the event.
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Yard Sale-Call 462-6049 Parade—Call 462-7168 or 462-5513
Arts/Crafts/Vendor Dispays—Call 436-3739

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

MARTHA'S VINEYARD—This year on our annual family jaunt to New England we have taken a day to come here to see the island known in recent decades for "the beautiful people" who flock here for getaways. I suppose today the term "beautiful people" is a bit jaded and passé, recalling the parlance of the 70's and 80's, when the social elite wintered skiing in Gstadt, Switzerland, and summered here by the sea.

Happily, we have not encountered any of them, but we have enjoyed some good seafood, traipsed around Oak Bluffs, and toured Edgartown, Vineyard Haven and Aquinnah. In every direction the scene looks like a fitting subject for Claude Monet at best, or a postcard marketer at worst. Truly, we are seeing the place at its best.

We came by steamship, the Brandt Point, from Hyannis, where we had spent the night at a motel in walking distance of the docks, an area which is a veritable melting pot of all things marine. Luxury yachts and sailboats moor against rusty hulks of workboats, all of them juxtaposed with the steamships and car ferries to the Vineyard and Nantucket. The trip takes 95 minutes. Tourists of every nationality are on board, as well as a few ancient natives, who look as if they have seen it all before, and sit back chuckling at the one-day come-heres.

We purchased our tickets at the gate from a young lady who is a student at The College of William and Mary, although she lives in Connecticut. We signed up for the island bus tour, which began as soon as we disembarked from the steamer. Our driver was Lesley Ann, a lady of 59, who is a seventh-generation resident of the Vineyard. What she has seen herself, and what she has absorbed from the generations before her, she combined with a delightful sense of humor. When we passed one of the dairy farms on the western shore, one of the cows was reclining, chewing the cud. Lesley Ann referred to a cow in such a position as "ground beef."

We saw the Victorian cottages at Oak Bluffs, built by Methodists in the nineteenth century on the sites of tents where they had gathered for revivals. To this day, most of them do not have heat or air conditioning, although today they are kept up by owners long removed from the religious heyday of over a century ago. We went on to Edgartown, the most beautiful town on the island, and saw many of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century structures which have survived. The little metropolis seems so typical of New England in its layout and architecture, a true gem, which I wish it were easier to visit, but I am sure the residents do not share such touristy thoughts.

Farther down the coast, at a sharp point jutting out into the ocean, is Aquinnah, an ancient Indian settlement, where a nineteenth-century brick lighthouse still does the work which its builders intended. There the cliffs are even more beautiful than those of Dover, England, with multi-colored segments bristling in the sunlight. In the distance lie the five Elizabeth Islands, only two of which are inhabited.

We slowly worked our way up to Vineyard Heaven, another picture-book village against the sea. All of the construction there, as is the case in most parts of the island, is sided with cedar shingles. In the course of our circumnavigation of the Vineyard we missed the center where the jetport welcomes "the beautiful people" to so great an extent that yesterday Lesley Ann told us there were 97 personal and corporate jets there.

At the end of the tour we lunched on a lobster roll sandwich, which the waitress told us would be the largest we would ever see. She was correct, and the one sandwich was sufficient for the four of us. Afterwards we stopped at one of the homemade ice cream stands and indulged the B.E.s in what for them was one of the highlights of the visit, the other having been the previous ice cream shop visited on the break from the tour at Aquinnah.

Last summer we went to Block Island which is similar to Martha's Vineyard, but smaller. On the way there we traveled via the end of Long Island in order to see Montauk, Sag Harbor and Shelter Island. All these places have much in common, particularly if one is seeking to document every type of sailboat known to exist. The islands force one to leave all tensions and concerns behind on the mainland and enjoy a more leisurely style of life. Does that observation qualify me as one of "the beautiful people?"

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Rappahannock General Hospital in Kilmarnock no longer has an obstetrics unit and I have heard the concerns about traveling two hours to give birth.

This is a problem for residents of both the Northern Neck and Southside Virginia. Money has been appropriated in the state budget to establish pilot birthing centers in Kilmarnock and Emporia.

The budget has allocated $150,000 to begin planning for the centers. The goal is to have one operational in 2008. The intent is to have the centers manned by midwives and supervised by doctors. Many details remain to be worked out.

The Department of Health is overseeing the projects and developing the documents necessary to accomplish the goals stated in the state budget.

The first step is to hire a project coordinator, which might be done by the end of September. The coordinator will be responsible for getting a birthing center up and operating. In order to do this they will work with community members and local officials. The coordinator will also work to establish community support, find grants, do fundraising for capital expenditures, and look at marketing strategies to target women in the communities. When these goals are accomplished we should be ready to construct and operate a birthing center.

Last week in the district, U.S. Senator George Allen visited Montross August 7. I give him a quick tour, calling at local businesses. Then we went to the Northern Neck National Association of Retired Federal Employees meeting in Warsaw. Sen. Allen explained many pieces of legislation in Congress that are of interest to retired federal employees. I spoke with folks about how the work of the General Assembly would affect them.

On August 8, I got a tour of a bee research facility outside of Bowling Green. Then I went to the district office to meet individuals from the Health Department about a program called Loving Steps whose goal is to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight.

On August 10, I enjoyed good food and good company at the Caroline County Ruritan Annual Fish Fry. On August 12, I gave the graduation address for the Westmoreland State Park's Conservation Corps.

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

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the August 17, 1906, issue of the Virginia Citizen).

Kilmarnock

J. B. Stakes has bought Jno. McCrobie's stock of groceries and will run a mercantile business at that stand. Mr. McCrobie will continue his jewerly and watch repairing business there.

Mrs. George Kamps and Mrs. C. J. Kramer, of this place, mother and sister respectively of Mrs. Collin Chilton, of Ottoman, spent a few days with the latter recently. Mrs. Chilton's little child is very sick.

Litwalton

Mrs. Mary E. Sipes will soon begin a new barn at her father's home at this place.

J. R. Revere, of Lively, is hauling for his brother-in-law, Joe Bryant.

Liquor cases

Adicana Thomas, the queen bee of Slab Town, was tried before L. R. Flemings on Saturday last for selling whiskey and fined $200 and costs of court. This is the second time she has been up for violation of the local option laws. Her place of business is known as Spirits Gate.

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

Letters to the Editor

Justifying self-defense

To The Editor:

Two letters last week included the usual complaints about Bush and the war in Iraq. It is amazing that people still continue to claim that Bush misled us about weapons of mass destruction and therefore we shouldn't have invaded Iraq.

Does anyone recall that Congress authorized Bush to deal with Iraq before WMD were even mentioned? The subsequent backsliding by politicians who gave Bush that authorization is because they're now concerned about their jobs.

The first war was not terminated, but suspended, based on Iraq signing an agreement which required it to adhere to certain conditions to obtain a cease-fire. There were also sanctions placed upon Iraq. By the time Bush II came to office, Iraq had violated that agreement over 20 times.

During that period Sadaam also encouraged terrorism in Israel by promising cash rewards to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers, took numerous shots at our planes and evidently made an assassination attempt on a former U.S. president.

The oil-for-food policy had no effect on Sadaam or his army's capability, but was enriching the United Nations, which, as a result, had even less incentive than usual to do anything. Russia, France, China and Germany were doing business as usual with Sadaam, and had no incentive to make waves.

The sanctions failed and Sadaam continued to violate the agreement. The U.S. and other countries had expended considerable resources pushing Iraq out of Kuwait. Would it have been prudent to forget the cost of that earlier effort?

The U.S. also continued to maintain a large force in the area for a decade after the war, under Democratic and Republican administrations, to ensure that Iraq did not again invade its neighbors. Was it reasonable to indefinitely maintain our forces in the area and do nothing while Sadaam rebuilt his forces? What message would that send to other dictators?

There was strong justification for the second invasion and the rebuttals were feeble. It was clear that we could not afford to wait until Sadaam's WMD threat was imminent. The president initially put it that way, not that the WMD threat "was imminent,' but that we had to move "before it was imminent." The debate dragged on because Bush was anxious to gain UN approval, giving Sadaam more time to prepare.

During subsequent UN discussions the WMD issue grew to include chemical weapons that Sadaam used on his own citizens and on Iran ten years earlier. The CIA and the chief UN inspector, and every country including those opposed to invading, believed that Iraq still had the old weapons.

It should be clear that Islamic terrorists are serious and our survival depends on our focus and resolve. We dare not leave Iraq without making a massive effort to first help it set up a government that is democratic and strong enough to preclude terrorists from using it as shelter. After 9/11 we cannot permit any country to again house terrorist infrastructures.

The current crisis in Lebanon is Afghanistan over again. The Lebanon bureaucracy has replaced the Taliban and Hezbollah replaces Osama's organization. Hezbollah terrorists have fired thousand of rockets into Israel and most of the world media responds by criticizing Israel for overreacting in defense of its survival by bombing and marching into Lebanon. While Lebanon has not declared war on Israel, its lack of control over Hezbollah amounts to the same thing. The innocent citizens in Lebanon are no different than those in Germany or Japan during World War II. Unless the bystanders can figure out how to get rid of Hezbollah, many of them will become statistics.

Last week a plot to blow up transatlantic passenger planes was uncovered. Ted Kennedy says that this is all Bush's fault. His selective memory overlooks the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993 and that the 9/11 plot was hatched long before Bush was elected. It's not Bush's policies driving the terrorists, but our open society and that everyone outside the terrorists twisted cult is considered an infidel.

There are other worthwhile causes we are ignoring because of Iraq, but there will always be more such causes than we can support. Defending our country and way of life must come first.

Finally, Bush did not end embryonic stem cell research, but rejected federal funding of it. Some states are already funding such research. I don't care for Bush's decision. On the other hand, if this area of research offers such great returns, there will be no shortage of private funding.

Denis Ables
Mollusk

Attend town council meetings

To The Editor:

Our last hope is for everyone to attend the Kilmarnock Town Council meeting Monday, August 21, at the Town Office at 7 p.m.

I urge those affected by the proposed boundary line adjustments to let the council know how they feel. If enough people are opposed to something, the council will know that enough is enough.

To get the town they want or keep the town they have, residents must get involved and get to council, zoning and planning meetings.

Currently the council has some elected and some appointed members. Residents must let the elected members know that the community is watching and active in the decision-making process. Otherwise, they will keep doing what they want, not what residents want. Please help and become involved.

Peggy S. Whaley
Kilmarnock

Kendall Hall: thoughts and memories

To The Editor:

As with most people who either subscribe to or purchase from the newsstand the weekly edition of the Rappahannock Record, I always look forward to reading "Letters to the Editor."

Having been away from my birth town of Irvington for many years, I do not know too many of the people who pen these letters, but I read them with great interest. Some are amusing, some are controversial and thought provoking and others are right down ridiculous. It is a good mix.

Last week, after reading the views about the war in Iraq and various other topics, my eye came over to an article entitled "A Last Look Goodbye" by Aileen McGinnes Webb, granddaughter of Tom and Aileen McGinnes. Growing up in Irvington, I had the distinct pleasure of knowing them. They owned the beautiful and most unique estate in Lancaster County, Kendall Hall.

When I would return to vacation in the area, I would always drive past this magnificent estate and remember how it had touched my youthful life. The McGinnes' had passed away and it was obvious that this once grand property had begun to slip into a state of disrepair.

It made me sad to see this regal lady begin to fade. I hoped that some of the young descendants would somehow give the old girl a financial transfusion and restore her to her radiant splendor. Foolishly the thought crossed my mind that if I won the lottery I could bring her back to her former glory.

Then I heard that a real estate developer had purchased the property. As I've seen happen so many times over the years, it would be only a matter of time before the wrecking ball would arrive and eradicate every last thing that historic Kendall Hall had meant not only to its previous owners, but also to the town of Irvington.

No planned future mini-mansion will ever compare to the historic splendor of Kendall Hall. If only the Historic Preservation Society could step in to stop this travesty of destruction. Why would the owners and the banks not work with Mrs. Webb to preserve such a unique treasure?

Why am I saddened to see this architectural treasure raised and divided into lots and turned into just another subdivision? What would have happened to Christ Church, or the majestic Miss Ann yacht had some one not stepped up to the plate and refused to allow these pieces of history, unique to our area, be destroyed.

The Spanish-Mission style of Kendall Hall was way ahead of its time, especially for Lancaster County. Once this magnificent property is demolished, future generations will never know it ever existed and that is a shame.

On a more personal note, I can remember as a youth standing by the high wrought iron gates wondering how anyone could possibly have enough money to construct such enormous houses, complete with bell tower and even an olympic-size swimming pool. At that time, Kendall Hall was the only private residence in Irvington to have a pool. I could not even imagine what it would be like to swim in a pool and not the stinging nettle infested Carter's Creek.

And then one day, those magical gates opened and several of my friends and I rode majestically through those gates in the back of my Uncle Luther Headley's 1951 Chevy green truck. We were on our way for our first swim in the Kendall Hall pool–complete with diving board.

My Uncle Luther was a good friend of the McGinnes' and they had very generously given him carte blanche to bring children to the pool on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the hot, steamy months of the summer.

Word spread quickly among the children of Weems and Irvington that a little green pickup would be meandering through the streets and any child in a bathing suit and holding a towel was welcome to hop aboard to spend the afternoon in the pool at Kendall Hall. It was also fun to climb to the top of the Bell Tower to look at the framed butterfly collection—butterflies from all over the world. Fun and education at the same time. Then if we needed a snack, we simply walked over to the nearby muscadine grape vines and ate until we had stomach pains.

Another treasured memory of Kendall Hall was a pair of handcrafted and painted totem poles that the original owner, Charles and Margaret Page Levy, had purchased on a trip to Alaska. They had the totem poles shipped to Kendall Hall and erected them in a ravine on the property overlooking Carter's Creek. Many times I would insist that Uncle Luther pull to the side of the road before crossing the bridge between Irvington and White Stone and walk down the ravine with me so I could gaze at these strange wood carvings and let my imagination run wild as to how and why totem poles came to be.

As Aileen McGinnes Webb so profoundly stated, "All that is left is our memories." I deeply regret that her valiant efforts could not save Kendall Hall, but I want to express to her and her family my heartfelt appreciation for allowing me to share a small memory of Kendall Hall from my youth.

John C. Bellows Jr.
Irvington

Rappahannock Record USPS (455-600)

27 N. Main St., P.O. Box 400,
Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400

804-435-1701 • FAX: 804-435-2632
Web site: www.rrecord.com

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Robert D. Mason Jr., Editor

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.

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Letters to the Editor

Political thoughts from the center

To The Editor:

With the "Terrorism War" in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Lebanon continuing to rage and expand, our elected officials seem to be concerned only about power, their own agenda, their own pockets, and their own longevity.

Why?

Money and power. The power brokers of the past and those who currently control the executive and legislative branches of our government lost sight, long ago, as to who they legislate for and represent.

Why?

Because they were bought and paid for years ago by lobbyists, special interest groups, and most importantly corporate America.

Most of the politicians in Washington view their constituents as unintelligent, ill-informed, ignorant, or at best incapable of understanding domestic issues and world events. The power brokers on the liberal left are fighting to regain power and the power brokers on the conservative right are fighting to retain power. They are both of the same ilk. The real losers in this crazy political war are the citizens they were sworn to protect and represent.

Like Vietnam, the power brokers of today are spending our nation's blood and treasure at an alarming rate. And like Vietnam, the electorate is finally pushing back and saying enough is enough. Ned Lamont's win in Connecticut has energized the Republican right to significantly expand their political offensive. The new call-to-arms seems to center on the phrase "Islamic Fascism" and all the fear that phrase conjures up in the voters mind.

In reality, the "War on Terrorism" or the new phrase "Islamic Fascism" is nothing more than a smoke screen to cover up the ineptitude of the current power brokers, individuals who have made a fine art of emulating the "Peter Principle." Simply stated, the principle is that "In a hierarchically structured administration, people tend to be promoted up to their level of incompetence."

Taking the principle a bit farther, the fourth addendum states: "You cannot embarrass an impostor in a large organization, they don't know enough to be embarrassed." and lastly, the sixth addendum states: "Nepotism is a career path not a business strategy."

The basic "Peter Principle" and selected addendum's add a whole new meaning to the statement: "You're doing a heck of a job Brownie,"...for both the employer and his employees.

Hopefully, the electorate is beginning to wake up. We desperately need to hold our elected officials accountable. Longevity and incumbency should no longer be considered a badge of honor, as it breeds corruption and greed.

We should demand term limits to begin an infusion of new ideas and professionalism in our government.

Contrary to what the Republicans believe, control of both houses of congress and the executive branch is not necessarily a positive environment. We have no check and balance of power. We need to demand civility and honest debate by our politicians.

Most importantly, we need bipartisan cooperation for critical issues. Our survival as a nation is at stake.

Martin F. Stewart
Lottsburg

Stem cell research not illegal

To The Editor:

In last week's paper, I read the lament of a concerned citizen about Bush's veto of Stem Cell Research funding.

Many speculate that a myriad number of diseases could be mitigated or cured through the use of these fetal stem cells. He pointed out the millions of suffering Americans whose hopes have been dashed because the federal government will not be allowed to take my money, extorted through taxation, and use it to harvest pre-born baby flesh, which millions more of us find abhorrent.

It is critical to point out that Stem Cell Research is not illegal. What President Bush vetoed is taxpayer dollars paying for it. If there was compelling evidence that fetal stem cells possessed the wondrous powers articulated in the letter then why wouldn't mega-research labs be funding their own research with a market prospect of multi-billions in profits from the millions in need?

What has proven to be the most promising without the destruction of pre-born babies is Adult Stem Cell Therapy at no cost to innocent life or harm to the donor. But that isn't getting as much press because there's nothing controversial about it with which to abuse the president.

In lauding other nation's liberal policies for harvesting human flesh, I find it pathetic that this gentleman would consider my sound moral, ethical, rational, objection to it a "conniption fit." How happy for you that someone with your views didn't entice your mother to sell your little preborn-soul for a fist full of dollars.

Catherine Crabill
Irvington

Doesn't need double taxation

To The Editor:

I live on Waverly Avenue where Kilmarnock wants to extend its boundary line to include all of us on Waverly to the end plus Boat House Cove Road.

We then would have to pay both town taxes and county taxes. This would be double taxation. I have never heard of a town being able to do this before. Where is the law for this and did the people get to vote on it?

From other articles I've read in the Rappahannock Record, Kilmarnock has done this in other localities and even promised water and sewer but they still do not have it. We do not need double taxation.

Lucille E. Blades
Kilmarnock

What has Bush to show?

To The Editor:

Right on the heels of 9/11, Osma bin Laden issued a video. In it he warned Westerners to watch for "planes raining from the sky."

That sounds exactly like the plot now mercifully foiled by British and Pakistani intelligence, acting jointly. Indeed Michael Chertoff and Robert Mueller were quick to note that the nature of this plot is suggestive of Al Quaeda. It is much too soon to be sure of this, but definitely time to ask questions about our pursuit of bin Laden.

President George W. Bush first said that he wanted Al Quaeda's leader " dead or alive." He acted quickly to get special forces on the ground in Afghanistan, and bin Laden was located in Tora Bora by a U.S. drone.

Why did our Commander-in-Chief not seal the border with Pakistan, before allowing Afghanistan's Northern Alliance into Tora Bora? Why did he not allow our special forces to go in after the world's supreme terrorist?

Why did President Bush then permit Iraq to push bin Laden and Afghanistan off center stage? Why has he recently shifted his failing Afghan campaign commitment to NATO? Why did President Bush take his eye off the ball? Why has he latterly even played down the threat posed by bin Laden?

Above all, what has he got to show us for his changed focus?

Jerry Peill
Lancaster

More businesses need to get in step

To The Editor:

My husband and I have been long weekend/vacation residents of Lancaster for a little more than two years. Upon my retirement we hope to make this our permanent home. We have attempted to embrace the local theologies of the fishing/farming histories of the area.

We have read eagerly newsprint articles and personally watched as Kilmarnock "transformed" itself. We were eager to see the project complete, curious to see what the finished product would look like. Well, this past weekend, we took advantage of the "Steptoe's Walkabout."

The evening was warm with a slight breeze blowing, enough to allow us the pleasure of walking from one end of the city to the other, without too much discomfort. Well, the sidewalks and streets look good, not great–but much better than before. The street transformation seems to be a success.

However, someone forgot to tell the business owners that they should consider some type of transformation. As we walked down the newly paved sidewalks, one thing just kept hitting us smack in the face. Most of the stores on Main Street were closed. Our guess is that only about 20 percent of the stores participated. That would mean that 80 percent of the remaining vendors did not support this event and in our opinion the revitalization effort.

Those vendors that were open were very warm and gracious to all of the visitors. Those that remained closed sent a message that they just didn't care.

Many thanks to those vendors that welcomed potential customers in and made them feel at home. Many thanks for supporting the city's efforts to draw people back. Shame on those vendors who cut out your lights and hung your closed signs. You missed a valuable opportunity to entice us in to see what you have to offer, you missed the next possible sale and you missed the community spirited boat. We'll remember who you were and when we need something we will take our business to the guy up the street who put out just a little more effort to make Kilmarnock inviting, interesting and a little different.

The street corner music was great; there was something for everyone. The themed "Dawg Daze" was a wonderful idea. We enjoyed looking at how each dog was different, there just weren't enough of them.

On another front, if the discussion about Wal-Mart comes up again, I don't want to hear any of you closed businesses saying one negative word about a box store taking our business. You obviously don't care too much about where your customers spend their money.

Cathy Stevens
Weems

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VETERANS!
If you would like to meet and talk with Jim Webb, candidate for the U.S. Senate from Virginia, please call Bob, 529-5775, for more information.

An opportunity for economic growth:

Support grows for Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

The Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, if authorized by Congress, will provide an impetus to small business creation and the growth of themed tourism throughout the Chesapeake region.

According to the Friends of The Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, this is a primary reason many of the more than 60 travel, maritime and local government organizations have signed on as supporters of the legislation now before Congress.

The Capt. John Smith trail, which has gotten strong support from the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania congressional delegations, would retrace the historic voyages of exploration Capt. John Smith made between 1607 and 1609 and would include sites from Jamestown in the south to Garrett Island in the Susquehanna River at the head of the bay. Congress is expected to act soon on legislation which would authorize the trail as a part of the National Historic Trails system.

Theme trails are popular and economically successful. Maryland has created several theme trails and heritage areas. A study prepared by the Maryland Heritage Areas Program for the Maryland General Assembly in 2004 found that the return on investment in heritage areas, "as measured by the ratio of annual tax receipts from the first full year of certified heritage area operations to total grant awards, is $4.61. In other words, every grant dollar generates a total of $4.61 in annual, ongoing state and local tax revenues. As such, the return on investment is quite significant."

Virginia has had similar experience. For example, The Crooked Road, which takes travelers on a trip to explore the roots of country music, has increased business in rural counties of Southwestern Virginia, created jobs, and increased tax revenues.

Many small towns and regions along the proposed Capt. John Smith trail are looking for ways to build business. Many of these small towns lost jobs and revenue as the seafood industry declined, yet they retain strong local cultures, beautiful settings, and interesting sites. A new national trail through the region would provide a theme to attract more visitors. The trail offers opportunity for small businesses to begin and for areas to market themselves.

The benefits are clear. According to department of tourism statistics, tourists in Virginia spent, on average, $109 daily in 2004. In Maryland, tourists spent on average $124 per day. In both states, the visitors' most popular pastimes included outdoor activities and visits to places that told our nation's story.

The Historic/Cultural Traveler report, compiled in 2003 by the Travel Industry of America, found that households on historic trips spend an average of $722 per trip, not including transportation to the destination, compared with $457 for all U.S. travelers.

The report also found "a majority (58 percent) of U.S. adult travelers included an historic activity or event on a trip during the past year. This translates to an estimated 84.7 million U.S. adults. Their households generated 143.5 million person-trips including a visit to historical places or museums in 2002. Some 41 percent of past-year travelers say they visited a designated historic site, such as a building, landmark, home, or monument during their trip. Three in ten (28 percent) visited a designated historic community or town."

The proposed trail is also geared to another fast growing group of travelers. According to the Travel Industry of America Adventure Travel Report, "One-half of U.S. adults, or 98 million people, have taken an adventure trip in the past five years. This includes 31 million adults who engaged in hard adventure activities like whitewater rafting, scuba diving and mountain biking. Adventure travelers are more likely to be young, single and employed compared to all U.S. adults."

Boating, either by paddle craft, sail, or power, is the most authentic way to follow the Capt. John Smith trail and expected to appeal to this group of travelers.

For more information on the proposed trail, including maps, National Park Service studies, information on the legislation, and whether the trail will pass your community, call Michael Shultz of the Friends of The Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at 410-353-3352.

Governor launches statewide criminal tracking system

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine recently announced that a criminal tracking and victim notification system used in Virginia prisons will be expanded to include offenders held in local jails.

VINE® ("Victim Information and Notification Everyday") keeps crime victims informed about the custody and court status of offenders over the telephone, through the internet, or by e-mail. The initiative is a partnership among the Commonwealth, the Virginia Sheriff's Association (VSA), and the Virginia Community Policing Institute (VCPI).

Over the next two-and-a-half years, the expanded service will be implemented in all of the Commonwealth's city, county and regional prisons and jails. The VSA received a grant from the U. S. Bureau of Justice Assistance of $1.25 million to fund the expansion.

"The VINE service is one of the nation's largest and most successful e-government programs, providing crime victims and other citizens with free, updated offender information 24 hours every day," Gov. Kaine said. "This tracking system provides additional peace of mind to those who have been victimized by criminals, and law enforcement officials tell us it can be an invaluable tool in serving and protecting our people."

Users of VINE may call a toll-free number day or night to find out if an offender is in jail, and register by phone to be notified when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes. Appriss Inc., based in Louisville, Ky., created VINE and has been contracted by the VSA to implement the program in Virginia. Appriss currently offers VINE to Virginia's Department of Corrections.

Do you remember?

This old photo of downtown Kilmarnock shows the Rappahannock Record building in the 1920's and other businesses along the west side of North Main Street. (Courtesy of the Kilmarnock Museum)

ROVE BUSH Allen Rumsfeld Cheney Gonzalez Davis RICE
THE BUSH BUNCH
has some 'splainin' to do!
Take action to call for ACCOUNTABILITY:
Come to the next meeting of the Northumberland County Democratic Committee at the library in Heathsville, Thursday, August 24, 7 p.m.
For more information, call 453-3156.
Paid for by the Northumberland County Democratic Committee.

Picture yourself making a difference.

"I took Jamesha and her older sister across the ferry. We hike, and they came to our house for an Easter egg hunt. We always try to read and do educational things, but it's not tutoring. It's developing a relationship with a child."

Marilyn McGlamary, Editorial Assistant
Warren Communications

Marilyn McGlamary mentors Jamesa Thompson, pictured above.

Northern Neck Together
Contact Cathy Hemans, Mentor Coordinator, at 435-8902
ch@NorthernNeckTogether.org
Who mentored you? Pass it on. Next mentor training: August 19

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Forrester Dameron

Dameron-Quilter nuptials are held

The marriage of Miss Roxanne Quilter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Michael Quilter of Edwardsville to Cleveland Forrester Dameron, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Ellsworth Dameron of Wicomico Church and Mrs. Deborah Alexander Robinson, of Lake Charles, La., took place June 17, 2006, at Deears Inn, the home of the bride's parents. The Rev. M.P. White officiated.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, is the granddaughter of Mrs. Pauline Sharpe Thomas of Richmond and the late Bennie Randolph Thomas, and the late Mrs. Anita Cecilia Quilter formerly of Richmond, the late Jack Quilter, and Mrs. Jeannette Deeds Quilter of Virginia Beach.

The groom is the grandson of Mrs. Mary Anne Dameron of Wicomico Church and the late Leslie Edwards Dameron. He is the great-grandson of the late Mrs. Mary Alexander, formerly of Denbigh, and David Alexander.

Miss Patricia Johns Bugg, childhood friend of the bride, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Tracey Nicole Harton, college friend of the bride, and Miss Caitlyn Tenser Quilter, cousin of the bride. Miss Alyson Margaret Sisson, niece of the groom, was the flower girl.

Mr. Dameron was his son's best man. Groomsmen were Bradley Alexander Dameron and Clayton Edwards Dameron, both brothers of the groom. The ring bearer was Trevor Delaney Sterrett, nephew of the groom.

The mistress of ceremonies was Mrs. Laura Jones Shackleford. Ushers were Casey Michael Quilter and Anthony Frank Sterrett II.

The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents on Cockrell's Creek with family and friends.

After the family ceremony on the shore of the Potomac, the groom flew the couple to their wedding reception in Reedville. Following the festivities the groom's father flew the couple to the Jefferson in Richmond.

Roxsey is a second-grade teacher with Lancaster County public schools. Forrest is a commercial pilot for Omega Protein in Reedville. The couple reside in Reedville.

Parenting course to be held Sept. 19

The Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board Prevention Services staff will offer a Family Education Program in Lancaster County beginning September 19. The Family Education Program is a 15-week course for parents and their children, ages 5 to 11.

The program is designed to increase family communication, cooperation, closeness and respect. Parents and children—meeting separately and together—learn to handle feelings, communicate needs, understand each other better, take charge of their own behaviors, feel good about themselves, enjoy each other and have fun. Practical, effective techniques are taught for handling challenging behavior and conflicts.

The group program takes place in a supportive and nurturing atmosphere and is free. The program will be held Tuesday evenings at Lancaster Primary School from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided each night during the 15-week course. For more information or to enroll, call Tammy Bagby or Sheilah Benjamin at (804) 758-9398 or toll free at 1-800-773-8550.

Bluegrass Jamboree

Featuring:

MICHELLE NIXON & DRIVE

Date: Saturday, August 19, 2006

Michelle Nixon & Drive are candidates for Emerging Artist of the Year and Michelle is a candidate for Female Vocalist of the Year on the 2006 International Bluegrass Music Association Award Nomination Ballot

Date: Saturday, August 19, 2006
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Hummel Aviation
Topping, VA
Tickets: $30.00 per person
(includes BBQ, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Soda)
Hosted by the Rappahannock Civic Club

Tickets can be purchased at the Pilot House Restaurant (804) 758-2262
or at Hummel Aviation (804) 758-9500

Local News

House guests of Joan Pittman of Lancaster recently were Anne Green of Pasadena, Texas and Virginia Mitchell of Austin, Texas. They were entertained at a family buffet dinner with about 23 people present.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fletcher were in Manassas last week for the funeral services of his brother, Don Fletcher. Sympathy is extended to the family there as well as here.

Bobby J. Phillips Sr. of Whitesburg, Ky. is visiting his son-in-law and daughter, Dennis and Kim Miller, in Merry Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordan Sheridan have returned to their home on Prentice Creek after spending a month at their Jerico, Vermont home.

Mrs. Peggy Voss returned home last week after undergoing heart surgery at Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ashby Hawley and daughters, MacKenzie, Katherine and Christine, of Richmond spent Saturday with his grandmother, Mrs. Ashby Blackwell in Remo.

Paul Taliaferro and young son, Will, of Richmond were with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Taliaferro, in White Stone last weekend.

Eugene and Melanie Burke of Tallahassee, Fla. have arrived to spend two weeks with her mother, Mrs. Val Robinson.

Among local students who have left for the fall semester at VPI are Catherine Chilton, Mary Louise Stuart Sanders, Lauren and Jessica Crockett, Ryan Swann and Veronica Brennon.

Ed and Lisa Somervell and children, Carley and baby Charlie, of Gloucester visited his mother, Mrs. Maxine Somervell, on Sunday.

Miss Amy Mastervich and Miss Madison Ide of Springfield are spending this week with Amy's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spafford.

Mr. and Mrs. John Courtney were in Fredericksburg for the weekend with their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Robertson and son, Connor. The Courtney's son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Courtney and sons, Matt and Hunter, of Rockwell, N.C., joined them.

Adoption

Terry and Therese Bowen of Lancaster announce the adoption of their son, Maximilian Francis Bowen, in Kemerovo, Siberia, Russia, on the Feast of the First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, June 30, 2006.

The boy celebrated his second birthday July 11, four days after arriving in the United States.

He joins his siblings, Daniel, Jeanna and Elizabeth and, also in Lancaster, his paternal grandmother, Jane Bowen.

His maternal grandfather is Jerry Bracken of Maryland.

On July 24, he was baptized by his uncle, Fr. Jerome Bracken, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Kilmarnock.

Engagements

Marcy Doswell and Michael Stevens

Doswell-Stevens

Marcy Doswell and Michael Stevens of Richmond announce their engagement.

Doswell is the daughter of Sandy Doswell of Deltaville and Nancy Doswell of Richmond and has family in Sharps.

The prospective groom is the son of Linda and K.C. Troise of Lancaster and Tom Stevens of Bertrand.

Doswell is employed by Toyota Financial Services. Stevens is employed by Blair Dumond Inc.

A May 2007 wedding is planned.

Depression recovery program to begin

More than 19 million people in the U.S. suffer from depression annually. During stressful times this disease can intensify.

Sherwood Pangborn, a certified coordinator, will host a depression recovery program by Neil Nedley MD at the Lancaster County Library in Kilmarnock.

The free introduction session will be held August 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. This will be followed by eight sessions for those who register beginning September 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. A fee for materials will be charged for the followup sessions.

This seminar is for people who are depressed and family members, friends, caretakers and health practitioners of those who are depressed.

Call Pangborn at 758-8110 or visit the library conference room at 3 p.m. on August 26.

Friends of the Rappahannock schedule annual Riverfest event

On September 16, Friends of the Rappahannock will hold its 16th annual "Rappahannock Riverfest" fund raiser. The event is the primary fund raiser for the organization's river advocacy, education and restoration programs.

Riverfest will feature all-you-can-eat crabs, baby-back ribs, open bar, live music from a variety of local artists, and silent and live auctions. Tickets are available in advance only.

Rappahannock Riverfest will be held at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds from 5 to 9 p.m. Early Bird tickets are $65 and go up to $75 after September 1. Sponsorships are available.

For tickets, call 540-373-3448, or email at info@riverfriends.org.

Event details are available online at www.riverfriends.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Fredericksburg Visitor's Center and the Made in Virginia Store on Caroline Street in Fredericksburg.

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Happy 1st Birthday Destiny

We will be glad when you are home where you belong. We all love you and miss you.

Love you, Daddy, Amiee, Traniell, Dustin, Grandma, Grandpop, Nannie Diane, Great Grandma Inette, Great Grandpop W.J. & Great Great Grandma Nettie

We found your missing cups just in time for your birthday!

Happy Birthday From Heads Up

FEATURE HOUSE OF THE WEEK!
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HAIR DESIGN STUDIO
Welcoming to their staff
Sara Brown

Sara Brown has joined the staff of HAIR DESIGN STUDIO bringing with her 8 years of experience. She will offer cut, color, texture, thermal straightening and hair extensions. Sara also offers spa services such as waxing, pedicures and make-up services. Please help us welcome her.
Call for an appointment
435-6880
Walk-ins are always welcomed
89 South Main Street, Kilmarnock
Located between Greenpoint Nursery and the ABC store across the street from Bank of Lancaster

Waterman's association plans annual crab feast

The Virginia Twin Rivers Waterman's Association will host its annual crab feast at Cole's Point Plantation in Cole's Point on Saturday, August 19, from 2 to 6 p.m.

The menu will feature all-you-can-eat steamed crabs and hot dogs for $18 advance purchase ($20 at the door). Children 12 and under $5.

Tickets are available in advance from members of Twin Rivers Watermen's Association and at Coles Point Plantation, Oyster Mart and Maria's Store.

Rain or shine, the Twin Rivers Waterman's Association will be cooking crabs for over 300 visitors. Not only do Virginia watermen provide blue crab for this event, but they harvest enough seafood to prepare over 123 million meals nationwide each year.

"This area is known for good quality blue crabs and is one of the major crab producing areas in the state" according to Shirley Estes, executive director for Virginia Marine Products Board, the marketing arm of the Virginia seafood industry.

Annually, Virginia watermen harvest approximately 29 million pounds of blue crab, making it one of the Commonwealth's top species based on landings. The total economic value of the crab industry to the state is 111 million dollars while providing jobs for over 2,533 people.

Quilting on display

The Rivah Quilt Guild's work is on display at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Featured works are entries in last year's quilters' challenge: "Make a wall hanging using black and white fabrics along with a color of your choice." Participants were Charlotte Stein, Barbara Bernhardt, Cindy Saleski, Marilyn Nolte and Jeanne Rose. Rivah Quilters meet the first Friday of each month at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. Membership is limited to 50 quilters who are versed in basic quilting techniques. Basic quilting techniques are offered by the Briar Patch Quilt Shop in White Stone. For information, leave a message on 804-529-7755.

Michelle Nixon

Bluegrass concert set in Topping

Nationally-acclaimed bluegrass artist Michelle Nixon and her band, Drive, will be in concert Saturday, August 19, at 8 p.m. at Hummel Aviation at Topping.

Nixon and Drive are candidates for "Emerging Artist of the Year," and Nixon is a candidate for "Female Vocalist of the Year" on the 2006 International Bluegrass Music Association Award Nomination Ballot.

Admission is $30. Proceeds will benefit the Rappahannock Civic Club. Tickets can be purchased at The Pilot House Restaurant (758-2262) or Hummel Aviation (758-9500).

The event will be catered by the The Pilot House.

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Cost $25.00
Children (3-12) $12.50
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Reservations Required
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Detour will bring classic rock "oldies" to the Richmond County Fair stage.

Friday features fun at the fair

Entertainment on Friday, August 25, at the Richmond County Fair will begin at 6 p.m. with Al Jones and Frank Necessary Bluegrass Band of Madison.

Detour of Pasadena, Md., will follow with classic rock "oldies."

Friday offers many other attractions as well. Children ages nine through 19 can pre-register with the Richmond County Extension office to participate in "Farmer for the Day" activities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Folks can try out their singing voices at the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile, play Laser Tag games, and compete in remote-controlled F.A.M.E. race car heats of the second annual Northern Neck 500.

For more information, visit www.richmondcountyfair.com, or call 333-3420.

Chef Coontz to give free demonstration

Chef David Coontz will give a free cooking demonstration of Mediterranean cuisine August 29 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11 a.m. Mediterranean food is also the August feature at RW-C.

Nutritionist Caren Frigge will present the benefits of a Mediterranean diet. Coontz's demonstration will include several techniques, ingredients and knife skills.

The demonstration will be videographed and projected onto a large screen so that spectators can see what is happening in the pan. Sampling will follow.

"The Mediterranean diet includes lots of fish with Omega-3 fatty oils, whole grains, beans, fresh vegetables, and oils like olive oil that are low in saturated fats and rich in healthy fats. It has a fair amount of wine in it, which has proven to be beneficial to lower risk of cancer and heart disease," Coontz said.

This will be his first demonstration open to the community. His first three for RW-C residents featured chicken Provencal, flax seed and antioxidants.

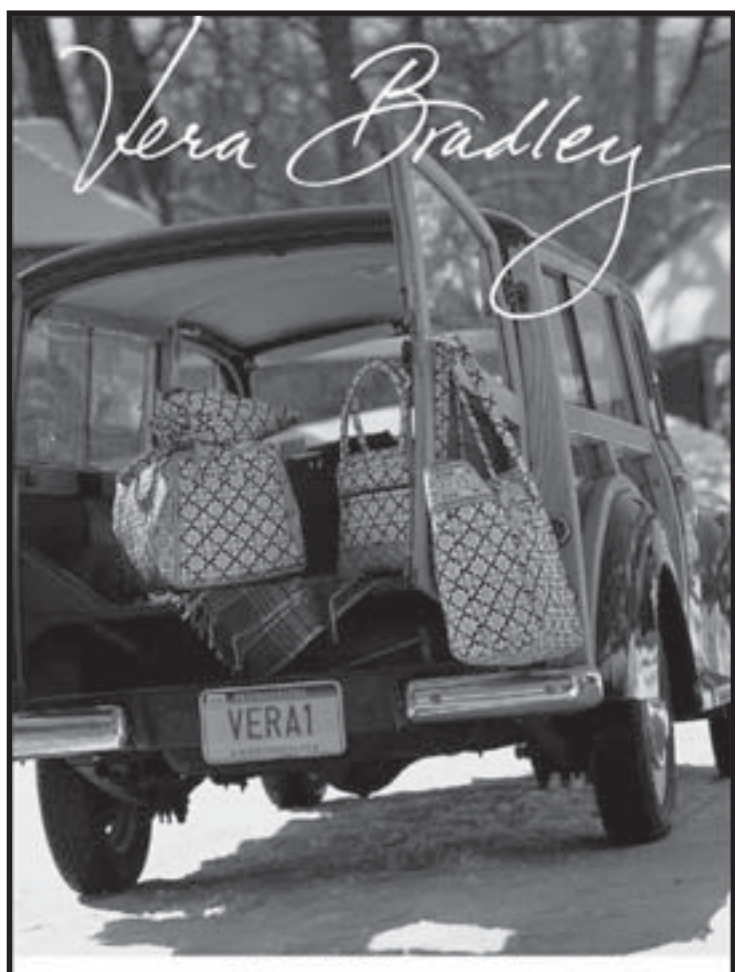
Former owner of the De'Medici restaurants in Kilmarnock and Gloucester, and a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Coontz has directed the dining services at RW-C since spring 2005.

He has worked at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, the Chattanooga Radisson Read House, the Sands Hotel and Casino in San Juan, the Huntsville, Ala. Hilton and Towers, and The Omni in Newport News.

Chef David Coontz

Frigge has practiced as a registered dietician in Virginia for 25 years and at RW-C for seven. She has a graduate degree in nutrition and foods from Virginia Tech. Her interests are nutrition in long-term care, renal nutrition, fitness and nutrition, and consumer nutrition.

The demonstration is made possible by a grant for nutrition education from the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust. The demonstration will be held in the auditorium. Call 438-4000 for reservations.



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(Includes hair cut and set)
Wicomico Church, VA 804-580-2777

Dr. Chafe to discuss ovarian cancer

Rappahannock General Hospital Cancer Center will sponsor an educational session on ovarian cancer September 19 at 7 p.m.

The session will be held at the Irvington Baptist Church and the guest speaker will be Dr. Weldon Chafe, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology from Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond.

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer among women. The American Cancer Society estimates that about 20,180 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed in the United States during 2006.

Ovarian cancer accounts for about 3 percent of all cancers in women. A woman's risk of getting ovarian cancer during her lifetime is 1 in 67. Her lifetime chance of dying from ovarian cancer is 1 in 95. The risk of developing and dying from ovarian cancer is higher for white women than black women.

For more information regarding the session, call the RGH Cancer Center at 435-8593.

Annual Dance Extravaganza is Sept. 16

The ninth annual Dance Extravaganza Show is scheduled at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock Saturday, September 16.

Sponsored by the Kilmarnock Museum, the program will include performances by the Peanut City Cloggers, Ms. Virginia Senior America, the Dancing Divas, and winners from Star Search Hanover, plus a few surprises.

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State Rose Show coming to Middlesex October 4-5

Mrs. Byran Childress, president of the Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, has named committee chairmen for the state-wide Garden Club of Virginia Rose Show to be held October 4 and 5 at Christchurch School in Middlesex County.

The show will feature horticulture and artistic entries from across the state. Admission and parking are free. The show's hours are 2 to 8 p.m. on October 4 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 5.

Co-chairmen of the event are Mrs. R. Tyler Bland III of West Point and Mrs. John E. Byers of Middlesex County.

Committee chairmen include Mrs. Richard Naylor, Mrs. Roger Hopper and Mrs. John B. Wake of Middlesex County; from Essex County, Mrs. Ernest Frank, Mrs. John Gregory, Mrs. Paul Copeland, Mrs. Joe Johnston, Mrs. Robert Coleman, Mrs. Joseph Spruill, Mrs. Edward von Walter, Mrs. Benjamin Ellis, Mrs. Robert Waring, Mrs. David Butler and Mrs. Carrington Taylor; Mrs. Frank Brooks and Mrs. William Thomas of King William County; and Elizabeth Christeller, Mrs. Timothy Hayes, and Mrs. Donald Rhinesmith of King and Queen County.

Mrs. Edward von Walter, Mrs. Willard Dent and Mrs. Robert Y. Coleman have been working with other members of the Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula to prepare for the October 4 and 5 Rose Show at Christchurch School in Middlesex County.

For information on accommodations or registration, call Mrs. Edward von Walter at 443-6751, or visit www.gevirginia.org. and click on "Flower Shows" and "Rose."

Call issued for chili cook-off participants and vendors

Chili by the Rivah III will be held September 23 at the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department pavilion off Route 3 in Lively.

The Bethel Emmanuel United Methodist Men are seeking chili cooking teams and arts and crafts vendors to participate.

The festival will host musical entertainment, chili cooks and vendors, fun for the children and a 5k event.

Music will be provided by Code Blue, an energetic band featuring traditional and contemporary Bluegrass and their own compositions; and the duo of Donnie and Lisa Redfoot, specializing in gospel, bluegrass and folk music.

Proceeds will go the Animal Welfare League, the Northern Neck's oldest volunteer animal rescue and protection organization.

Overnight camping in self-contained campers will be permitted on the festival grounds. No alcoholic beverages will be sold or distributed at the festival.

To request full information on this event write BEUMM "Chilie by the Rivah III," P.O. Box 118, Lively, VA 22507; call 462-5790 or go to BEUMM.org.

Mayor accepts 'Stomp' challenge at vineyard

Kilmarnock Mayor Dr. Curtis H. Smith has accepted the challenge of White Fences Vineyard to begin the third annual Irvington Stomp September 2 with a grape crushing competition among local mayors. Smith will take on all challengers and is particularly interested in meeting those of Irvington and White Stone.

The stomp celebrates the vineyard's grape harvest. Internationally-known vineyard consultant Lucie Morton and vineyard manager Mark Hollingsworth will answer grape growing and wine-making questions.

White Fences will release two new vintages in their Meteor wine line, Meteor Bright White and Meteor Merlot. These join White Fences' inaugural release in 2005 of Meteor Red, made from 100 percent White Fences chambourcin and merlot grapes, harvested in part by White Fences' Friends of the Vineyard.

The food includes savory barbecue chicken with William Barnhardt's specialty sauces and traditional fixings, corn on the cob, and all-you-can eat fresh steamed Chesapeake Bay blue crabs prepared and served by Fest Catering of White Stone. Cold beverages will be served.

Live Carolina beach music will be provided by The Holiday Band. There will be tethered hot air balloon rides, a two-acre Maize Maze in the shape of a wine bottle, an Old MacDonald's Farm marionette puppet show, hayrides, a professional farm animal petting zoo and pony ride exhibit.

The stomp is from 4 to 8 p.m. The cost is $40 per person. Children under 15 are free. The ticket includes all-you-can-eat and non-alcoholic beverages, stomping, and all entertainment and exhibits. Alcohol, including the release of White Fences' second vintage Meteor wine, and souvenir stomping t-shirts are not included in the price. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.

To purchase tickets, see www.irvingtonstomp.com or visit The Local or The Hope & Glory Inn in Irvington. Call Julie or Katherine at 438-6348 for details, or e-mail julie@irvingtonstomp.com.

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Local Red Cross chapter conducts annual meeting

The Red Cross board members, from left, are Dr. Matt Shifflett, marketing; Vanessa Rice; Wally Beachamp, outgoing vice-chair; James Alga, treasurer/finance chair; Shawn Donahue, chair; Barbara Touchette, financial development chair; Rosa Prescott, service delivery chair/incoming vice-chair; Dave Alberts, Lancaster disaster chair/audit chair; Sally Clark, Lancaster blood co-chair; Julie Dudley, office manager; Dr. Millie Roberson, Armed Forces emergency services; Cathy Hemans, secretary/human resources chair; Henry Williams, Mid-Atlantic service area director, and Paul Sciacchitano, governance chair.

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the River Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) was held July 20, at chapter headquarters at 39 Harris Road in Kilmarnock.

Chairman Shawn Donahue opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

Treasurer and finance committee chair James Alga presented a treasurer's report and gave a brief update on controls being used to protect Red Cross assets.

Donahue reported on chapter accomplishments over the last year and the goals for a "big year" coming ahead. Community service and the continuous need for new volunteers were also highlighted.

Secretary and human resources chair Cathy Hemans reported on current volunteer and employee updates.

Service delivery chair Rosa Prescott submitted a written report and highlighted some of her committee's accomplishments over the past year. Sandra Griffin was named as the new Lancaster County shelter manager. Two fires were reported and serviced by Red Cross in Westmoreland County. Dr. Millie Roberson reported 15 Armed Forces emergency services cases were handled.

Lancaster disaster chair David Alberts completed the community disaster plan and submitted it to ARC Mid-Atlantic service area. Alberts is also working with volunteers to be a part of the Richmond County disaster team. Financial development chair Barbara Touchette completed and submitted the community disaster fund-raising action plan which was approved by ARC service area.

Alga and Touchette met to discuss two major fundraisers: a golf tournament September 10, and a Barbershop Concert in April 2007. The financial development committee and the board approved both plans.

Alberts reviewed current safeguards for handling donations and chapter inventory.

Governance chair Paul Sciacchitano reported on his committee, listing the successes of recruiting new board members and assigning committees. Vanessa Rice was nominated and approved to join the board. Prescott was nominated and approved to replace outgoing Wally Beachamp for the position of vice-chairman. The remaining current executive officers were nominated and approved to continue their positions for the remainder of their terms.

Mid-Atlantic service area director Henry Williams congratulated the chapter board for meeting National Performance Standards. He reminded the board of the need to always be cognizant of and continue moving forward with efficient disaster response, and based on past and potential future disaster events, to continuously reevaluate disaster needs and material supplies on hand. He also expressed appreciation of the internal controls which the financial and audit committees have in place.

In his concluding remarks, Donahue recognized Beachamp's fulfillment of his six year term and a certificate was presented to him for his service as vice-chairman. Also receiving certificates for recognition of service were Carole Purdy and Reed Johnson. Office assistant volunteer Dale Rice was thanked for her previous months of service.

All members were reminded that a mandatory board members orientation was required September 12 (2005) in the chapter headquarters training room.

Mid-Atlantic service area representatives from Richmond, Williams and business operations officer Jim Long presented the orientation and board members completed the mandatory four hour program. Included in the format was Red Cross organization, chapter management, effective committee performance, and staff and volunteer support systems.

A question and answer session wrapped up the orientation. Lunch was sponsored by audit committee board members Alberts, Sally Clark, Touchette, Alga and office manager Julie Dudley.

YMCA to host planning night for the Festival of Trees event

The Northern Neck Family YMCA's ninth annual Festival of Trees will kick off with a reception August 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the facility on Harris Drive. Recognition, recruitment and refreshments is the theme of this event.

The committee will be recognizing and thanking past participants, and hopes to encourage new businesses, groups and individuals to come and hear what is planned for this year's festival. Light refreshments and beverages will be served.

"We are looking to recruit volunteers for our committees, as well as more entries for our weekend winter wonderland," said Donna McGrath.

The Festival of Trees event benefits the Guardian Program of the Northern Neck Family YMCA and all the money raised stays in this area. The local YMCA is committed to providing high quality, affordable programs in a caring environment regardless of an individual's ability to pay program fees. When someone needs financial assistance to pay for these programs, the Guardian Program provides the resources. In 2005, the Guardian Program provided $60,000 in scholarships from which hundreds benefitted.

This year's event will take place from December 1 through 3. The semi-formal Lighting of the Trees party Friday night starts off the silent auction for entries, and showcases delicious food donated by area restaurants. Saturday will be jam-packed during the day with various children's activities, local musical talent, and decorating ideas. Dancing to the sounds of Sweet Justice at the more casual Saturday evening party was a tremendous hit last year and promises to be even bigger and better this time around. Pictures with Santa will be offered on Sunday as final bidding takes place.

To join a good cause, come out August 28. For more information, call Donna McGrath at 438-5803.

Planning for Fairfields Fall Festival is now under way

The 11th annual Fairfields Fall Festival Arts and Crafts Show will be held October 7 at Fairfields United Methodist Church on Route 360 in Burgess. At a recent planning committee meeting, Margaret Simonetti, in charge of recruiting crafts people, reported, "that responses to our advertising have been good."

Wayne Lowe, in charge of food, confirmed North Carolina-style barbecue will be for sale by the sandwich, platter or in take-home containers. There also will be soft drinks, hot dogs, homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, pies, breads, jellies, jams, pickles, homemade soups and chili.

Janie Atkinson, in charge of children's entertainment said, "If we have good entertainment for the children, it gives the parents more time to visit the crafts booths. In addition to our Pumpkin Painting and Dinosaur Dig, we will have performing clowns and a magician."

Alf Braxton, overall chairman reported, "There will be musical entertainment throughout the day along with our vintage car and tractor display."

Exhibit spaces are still available for a $25 fee. Interested crafts people, artists and collectors can call Margaret at 580-8613 for applications.

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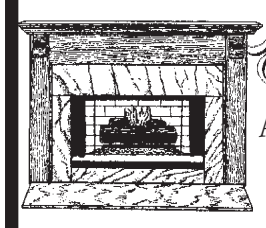

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New theater setting introduces museum exhibit

by Kelsey Robusto

The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington recently unveiled its new in-house theater, which plays an introductory film explaining the current exhibit.

The 12-minute video recountsthe importance of the Chesapeake Bay during the Civil War and is narrated by Roger Mudd, former CBS and NBC news anchor.

The museum received funds from The Suhor/Graham Foundation to build the theater.Visitors are invited to view the film when they enter, said Anne McClintock, museum vice-president and volunteer. "It gives them a general idea of what they will be seeing."The film reviews the Chesapeake Bay's significance and importance to the Civil War. All of the major Civil War battles happened in the surrounding bay area, including many port cities.

Eric Mills (left), author of *The Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War,* **is featured in the Steamboat Museum's new introductory film.**

The theater and film mark major steps the Steamboat Era Museum has taken to become technologically advanced. The current exhibit also has two oral history kiosks with touch screens.

"We've come a long way in a short period of time," McClintock observed about the Irvington museum's development, "and now we've moved a little bit into the technological age."

The museum also features dioramas built by Robert Butler, George Perry and William Wright. They depict the Irvington steamboat wharf, Civil War action along the river at Camden and Pop Castle, and a Confederate night raid. Each miniature is finely detailed.

The museum also features a "closet museum" filled with artifacts from Camden and a visual history of the Harriet DeFord, a Union steamer that was one of the final casualties of the war. Students at Lancaster High School illustrated the Harriet DeFord's history, and a piece of the vessel recovered from Dymer Creek is on display.

Current museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

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From left are Celeste Gates, Connie Horne, Delia Ibañez, Matthew Mooers and Carter Fay.

Studio concludes exhibit

The final weekend of a three-week art exhibit at Sunrise Studio Gallery at 197 Whittaker Lane near Hughlett Point again featured local musicians and writers. Host Alvaro Ibañez announced the next event, to be held on the weekend of October 20.

"Thank you very much to all the participants, the media and the audience," said Ibañez. "We closed the Maria Delia Muñoz Memorial show with good sales and generous donations for the library."

Northumberland Library received more than $200 in donations from the event.

"Visitors came from Florida, Northern Virginia, Gloucester and Tappahannock," said his wife, Denise DeVries.

Celeste Gates and her guitar students Connie Horne, Carter Fay, Delia Ibañez and Matthew Mooers performed August 11. Judy Mooers (flute) and Celeste Gates (guitar) concluded with Celtic music.

On August 12, writers John Pleasants and Susan Brooks Thomas read their own poetry. Jayne McQuade read from an award-winning novel, *This Heavy Silence* by her niece, Nicole Mazzarella. Marianne Henderson and Judy Mooers played flute, accompanied by Gates on guitar and flute.

Admission to the art show and open house on October 20 and 21 will be free and open to the public, and will again feature local musicians. On October 22, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., an intimate chamber music-type concert will be held with limited seating and paid admission.

In addition to the October open house, the gallery will host a number of other events in 2007.

"We extend the invitation to all the artists, photographers, writers, poets, musicians and creative people, regardless of their experience, to participate," said Ibañez.

Additional information is available by contacting Ibañez or DeVries at 435-2880 or aibanez@rivnet.net.

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New cafe proves to be an aromatic adventure

by Kelsey Robusto

The Northern Neck's first oxygen bar, Net Cruisers Cafe, recently opened at 8872 Mary Ball Road in Lancaster.

The shop features a plethora of options for grumbling stomachs. It adds a little spice to the coffee house norm with games and an aromatherapy bar.

"Our main focus is coffee," said owner Holly Ransone-Pleasants.

Her loyal customers agree.

"This is excellent," Dee Whichard said. "I'm so glad it's close."

"It's upscale. You might even want to get lunch," added Marsha Wallace.

That's a big compliment coming from self-proclaimed coffee enthusiasts.

"We know where every Starbucks in Virginia is!" Wallace said.

To add a special touch, all of Net Cruisers Cafe's espressos, drip coffees and cappuccinos have musical names.

"Our theme is music. Our roaster loves music, so all of our blends are harmony-themed," noted Ransone-Pleasants.

The cafe also offers breakfast and lunch sandwiches, cold beverages and smoothies.

Trevor Winstanley and owner Holly Ransone-Pleasants showcase Net Cruisers' variety of edible options.

Ransone-Pleasants makes fresh baked goods every day.

The cafe is filled with entertainment, from computers and X-box games to the hummingbird feeders gracing every window. Net Cruisers, as the name implies, provides desktop computers and a quality printer, as well as wireless internet for laptop users. Several of the cafe's computers have study-aid software for students. The computers include PSAT/SAT study software and general course aids from math to English.

"It would be good for after school for some of the kids who need help with their courses," Ransone-Pleasant said. "If anyone needed to brush up on anything...we have it."

Net Cruisers Cafe's local claim to fame, though, is its oxygen bar. Airheads, a company in Florida that caters to oxygen bars in Las Vegas, provides the equipment. Net Cruisers has a variety of scents including cinnamon, cherry, eucalyptus and lavender. Each is claimed to have a special property.

"Some are therapeutic," Ransone-Pleasants said. "Some are for stress relief."

The aromatherapy makes no medical claims, but Ransone-Pleasants' customers believe the therapy relaxes and rejuvenates, especially those who work in fume-filled environments.

Ransone-Pleasants is excited about the new business and hopes to offer special promotions to the community. Teachers will receive 10 percent off of purchases. Returning customers will receive a cup of free coffee after 10 previous purchases.

"I used to live next to a Starbucks," Ransone-Pleasants said. "When I moved here there were no coffee houses nearby. So I said, if I want a coffee house, I'll have to do it myself."

Net Cruisers Cafe is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.to noon.

Walkabout donation

Chesapeake Investment Group managing director Greg Powell presents a donation to Rappahannock Art League (RAL) president Johnny Hayes for the Steptoe's Walkabout series of downtown events the first Friday of the month. The next Steptoe's Walkabout is September 1. A RAL committee is responsible for creating the event. It has grown with the support of the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce and other downtown businesses.

Finfish committee to meet

The Potomac River Finfish Advisory Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, at the PRFC office at 222 Taylor Street in Colonial Beach.

Items on the agenda will include discussions of who can use striped bass identification tags, clarifying the definition of a person and a review of the 2006 gill net harvest to determine if there will be a fall season.

Other items on the agenda include discussions of industry requests, such as allowing gill nets to be set parallel to the shore all year long, considering the use of a roller rig to set gill nets, and using two striped bass tags for fish over 36"; and a staff recommendation to limit Fyke Nets to 6' mlw or less.

Any proposals developed by the committee will be forwarded to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for consideration prior to implementation.

New independent business alliance seeks members

Six locally-owned independent businesses in the White Stone area recently launched the Northern Neck Independent Business Alliance (NNIBA) to help preserve and maintain the quality of life in the small communities and towns which comprise the region.

"It is established to help our community respond effectively against chain competitors, to maintain a diversity of choice, and to stop the trend of losing community-based businesses," said founder and president Penny Latham.

"Most of our locally-owned businesses are built on relationships, whether it is with our employees, customers or neighboring businesses. We all know each other–and each other's families. We know what our local merchants carry and many times will send customers to one another," said Latham. "NNIBA was created to raise public awareness of the superior overall values offered by our local businesses, the impact on our community of our daily spending decisions, and to nurture and enhance the Northern Neck's proud and passionate community of local businesses."

The NNIBA will employ a model already proven effective in more than 20 towns and cities across the country that are affiliated with the American Independent Business Alliance—part of a rapidly growing network to support independent businesses at the community level, she said.

"The Northern Neck's vibrant independent businesses meet unique needs, create and define our community's culture, and provide stability, accountability, and direct local investment. NNIBA will highlight studies that confirm supporting local independent businesses is the best choice for ensuring the economic future of our communities," said Latham, who owns Paperback Writer and Penny Lane Antiques and Interiors in White Stone.

"Our first priority will be to conduct a 'Buy Local, Shop Local' campaign which will include educational materials, bumper stickers, store decals and a media campaign," Latham added.

The White Stone Town Council agreed August 4 to support Latham's efforts and to write a letter confirming their support of NNIBA. Mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard also expressed his support.

Local independent businesses typically generate more than three times the local economic activity of national chains, thanks to independents spending more money in the local area—including using more local goods and services such as banking, printing, advertising, legal services and furnishings. Through this "multiplier effect," the added taxes collected from local expenditures provide critical support for schools, parks and law enforcement.

"National chains can have a place in our region, but we can't afford to lose the real engine of job growth and economic prosperity—the people who own and help run community based businesses," said steering committee member Jean Robertson, owner of Ceramics Etc. of White Stone.

"If each Northern Neck family redirected just 10 percent of their holiday spending from national chains to local independents, our local economy would be enriched by millions of dollars," said Latham. "Along the way, many people will find that independent businesses are where they'll find the best value."

NNIBA's work will include a member directory, joint promotions and co-op advertising. NNIBA invites citizens, community organizations, merchants and individuals who want to support this effort to join. Call Latham at 436-9339.

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From left are Greg White of the NNEC and Myron Rummel, president and CEO of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives safety committee.

Cooperative earns safety accreditation

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative (NNEC) has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Safety by the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP).

President and chief executive officer Greg W. White accepted the award at the annual meeting of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) in Roanoke, July 24.

The accreditation is presented to selected electric cooperatives throughout the United States that undergo a comprehensive six-step program that includes a rigorous peer-review audit program and on-site inspections of the cooperative's entire system. The review covers the cooperative's safety policies, procedures, facilities and equipment.

Each participating electric cooperative must undergo this same procedure every three years to re-earn its safety certification.

"Earning the RESAP Certificate of Excellence for Safety truly recognizes the emphasis that Northern Neck Electric Cooperative places on the well-being of its customer-members and its employees," said VMDAEC executive vice-president Richard Johnstone. "We are especially proud that all 16 VMDAEC member electric cooperatives serving Virginia, Maryland and Delaware and even our Association have earned and continue to maintain this safety recognition."

RESAP is a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives throughout the United States.

Investment group donates to orchestra

As a business partner of the Northern Neck Orchestra, Chesapeake Investment Group has donated $500 to help meet the costs of performances. From left are managing director Greg Powell of the investment group and Rev. Tom Coye, president of the Northern Neck Orchestra. "The Northern Neck Orchestra is a key element of the community's arts program and Chesapeake is pleased to be a business partner," Powell said.

Farm Bureau supports alternative fuel tank incentives for dealers

Can't find a bio-diesel or ethanol tank at your local gas station? The American Farm Bureau Federation is working on a solution that could help change that.

AFBF is supporting legislation that will provide incentives for gas station owners to install storage tanks for alternative fuels so those fuels will be more available to the public. The legislation would give incentives for station owners to install tanks for fuels such as ethanol, bio-diesel, compressed natural gas or hydrogen.

"This legislation would help the owners of facilities to integrate biofuels into their systems with less negative impact, which would allow more consumers to utilize these renewable fuels," said Andrew Smith, senior assistant director of governmental relations for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

In a letter to each member of Congress, AFBF President Bob Stallman noted that alternative fuels in general are clean-burning and reduce unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter, to help clear the nation's air.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality estimates that there are about 15 suppliers and nine public pumps in Virginia selling bio-diesel blends of B-2 (2 percent bio-diesel) or B-20 (20 percent).

Between mid-March and mid-May, many reformulated gasoline marketers in Virginia supplied gasoline containing 10 percent ethanol to replace the use of methyl tertiary-butyl ether, also known as MTBE. Three locations in Northern Virginia and one in Hampton offer an E-85 blend (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline), which can be used by flexible fuel vehicles only.

The National Corn Growers Association notes that drivers who fill up with the E-10 blend can save as much as 15 cents per gallon per week. Drivers of flexible fuel vehicles, which use the E-85 blend, are saving even more.

Reynolds announces retirement

Lewis Reynolds recently announced his retirement effective October 1, 2006, from the Bank of Northumberland and EVB.

However, he will help the Northumberland and Lancaster branches through an orderly transition over the next several months to ensure that there is no interruption in the service, which customers of these branches have become accustomed. He will offer his expertise and serve in a consultative capacity. In addition, Lewis will serve on EVB's local board. He will continue to contribute to EVB, as he has for 34 years, carrying on the tradition and preserving the legacy that he and his branches have helped build.

Lewis has been a devoted employee to former Bank of Northumberland and currently EVB since 1972. He began his career serving as bookkeeper and was promoted to vice president in 1976. In 1991, Lewis was named president. He has been a leader in the Northern Neck and his community.

"On behalf of the EVB family, we will sorely miss Lewis and his leadership, but we wish him all the best in his retirement," said president and chief executive officer Joe Shearin. "His exemplary service and tireless devotion to the bank are greatly appreciated."

"I will miss my bank family, but I know that I am leaving my customers in good hands with personal bankers whose mission it is to deliver the highest quality of financial services with a personal touch," said Reynolds.

Potomac crab committee sets meeting

The Potomac River Crab Advisory Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, at the PRFC office at 222 Taylor Street in Colonial Beach.

Items on the agenda will include a review of the crab harvest to date; clarifying the definition of a person and language to restrict only one crab pot license to any individual.

Other items on the agenda will include discussing recommendations for turning in two 300-pot licenses for one 500-pot license and review Order 2006-08 allowing two crab pot licenses on the same boat.

Any proposals developed by the committee will be forwarded to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for consideration prior to implementation.

Art competition roster posted for Mathews Days

Terry Robinson, coordinator for Mathews Art Group's 2006 Market Days competition September 8 and 9, recently announced that 30 artists will compete at the annual event.

It will be judged by retired Mechanicsville art teacher Ken Hayden. He has experience in working with pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade, special education and migrant programs. His commissioned art works for private individuals includes home murals, boats, balloons, and a variety of vehicles and he has received numerous best in show and first place awards.

Competing artists are Elaine Abbott, acrylic; Larry Ashe, acrylic; G. Watts Brown, watercolor; Renate Bumgarner, oil, watercolor and pastel; Marilyn Jo Cotter, watercolor; Harriet L. Cowen, pen and ink with watercolor; Gail Cunningham, oil and acrylic; Tina McCloud, art and jewelry; and Richard DePaul, watercolor.

Also Gary R. Edmondson, acrylic; Archie Fripp, photography; Kazuko Fuller, wire/metal/beads to create mix media; Bev Hardin, jewelry; Hugh Townsend Harris, acrylic and watercolor; Mary Jager, oil and watercolor;and James Kurovics, wood carver.

Also Joan Mannell, watercolor; Emma Lou Martin, watercolor and collages; Don Mikulecky, watercolor; Kathleen Noffsinger, watercolor; Rachel Nuttall, oil and acrylic; Jane Partin, watercolor and oil; Gib Pulley, watercolor; Ben Richardson, wood carving and copper works; H. Trainer Roden, photography; and Pamela Waldron, watercolor.

Additional registration information is available from Robinson at robter@3bubbas.com.

Blunt is promoted

Bank of Lancaster president and chief executive officer Austin L. Roberts III last week announced that Sharon L. Blunt has been promoted to vice president by the board of directors.

As vice president and credit and compliance risk management officer, Blunt helps assess and mitigate credit and compliance risks of Bank of Lancaster and Bay Banks. She is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Bank Secrecy Act and Bay Banks anti-money-laundering efforts and the bank's credit risk program.

Blunt began her career with Bank of Lancaster in 1992 and worked for seven years as a processor in the loan department. In 1999, she was promoted to compliance officer. In 2004, she was promoted to assistant vice president of credit and compliance risk management.

Blunt is a graduate of the Virginia Bankers Association Compliance School and the American Bankers Association Compliance School. She is a member of the VACB Compliance Forum, several of the bank's service improvement teams, and a committee providing support for information systems.

She volunteers for the Kilmarnock Firemen's Carnival, White Stone's Rivahfest and the White Stone Country Fair.

Sharon Blunt

Blunt and her family live in Weems. Her son, Stephen, is a tenth grader at Lancaster High School.

"We are very fortunate to have Sharon Blunt as a member of our Bay Banks family. She provides outstanding leadership and professional service. It is through the commitment and dedication of individuals like Sharon Blunt that Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust have become the area's premier financial services providers," Roberts said.

Kauders' paintings featured

Faith Kauders' paintings are featured in a window of the Studio Gallery on Main Street in Kilmarnock.

Kauders moved to northern Virginia in 1973 with her husband and two children. She earned an associate's in fine arts from Northern Virginia Community College. Between working for the local court system and raising her children, she had little time for some years to practice her art.

Kauders has studied with northern Virginia artists and, since moving to the Northern Neck in 1999, with local artists. She has usually been realistic in her drawing and painting. Her subject matter often comes from nature: flowers, animals and landscapes. Whatever the subject, she says she paints, "what is close to my heart."

Kauders chose watercolor as her favorite medium because she was fascinated with "watching colors flow together and create something unexpected and beautiful." Recently she has been dabbling with acrylics, sometimes incorporating them into watercolors.

A major change for Kauders has been a venture into abstract art. She admits that this is challenging and has been advised by a patron "to stick with what you do best."

Faith Kauders holds a recent work.

Kauders says,"I must continue to explore to see growth in my work. It would be lovely if my realistic and abstract work came together into a single style. Only time will tell. In the meantime, I am having a great deal of fun."

Kauders' work is regularly on display at the Studio Gallery.

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Dr. Jennings joins hospitalists

Stewart Jennings M.D., recently joined the hospitalist team at Riverside Tappahannock Hospital.

Dr. Randy Ferrance, Dr. Irim Massay and Dr. Allen Joslyn welcomed Dr. Jennings. He is board-certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. He earned his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk and completed a combined internal-medicine/pediatrics residency at the Medical College of Virginia.

A hospitalist is a physician who works primarily in the hospital setting providing care and services to hospitalized patients for the duration of their stay.

"Because they are physically located in the hospital, they are able to more closely monitor a patient's condition and make changes quickly and are easily accessible to the patient and family for questions or concerns," said hospital administrator Liz Martin.

Stewart Jennings, M.D.

When discharged, the patient's primary care physician is sent a summary of the hospital stay including test results, prescriptions or any specialist referrals, she explained.

"The people in our community are getting to know the hospitalists and are developing positive relationships with them. Outcomes continue to be good and we are very pleased with the way this program is going here at Riverside," said Martin.

Dr. Jennings and Dr. Ferrance work closely with area pediatricians and family practitioners caring for the inpatient needs of children.

"Until Dr. Ferrance joined our staff, we had no capabilities to manage inpatient needs for children," said Martin. "Now with both Dr. Ferrance and Dr. Jennings, we can provide high quality care for children who need hospitalization for asthma and other chronic conditions, without the need to travel to Richmond for these services."

Dr. Jennings and his family moved to the Tappahannock area this summer from Caryville, Tenn.

Dr. Stallings joins local hospital, medical groups

James M. Holmes Jr., president of Rappahannock Health System is proud to announce the addition of William Stallings, M.D., to the RGH Hospitalist Group and Chesapeake Medical Group Family Practice in Kilmarnock.

Dr. Stallings will join Dr. Gregg Shivers, Dr. June Daffeh, Dr. James Bryant and Tamara Hall, Nurse Practitioner, in providing inpatient care at Rappahannock General Hospital on a part-time basis effective August.

Dr. Stallings will also work part-time at Chesapeake Medical Group Family Practice in Kilmarnock. Dr. Stallings will join Dr. Brigitte Wolf-Small effective August 14.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Stallings on our medical staff," said Holmes. "Dr. Stallings received his undergraduate degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth School of Medicine. Dr. Stallings completed his post-doctoral training and residency at St. Anthony Family Practice Residency in Oklahoma City, Okla. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice.

William Stallings, M.D.

Dr. Stallings is a resident of Northumberland County. His hobbies include golfing and fishing. He enjoyed playing baseball as a boy growing up in Reedville.

Dr. William Stallings will specialize in family practice medicine. To schedule an appointment, call CMG Family Practice at 435-2651.

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Business Briefs

■ Bank dividend

Bay Banks of Virginia Inc., holding company for Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust Company, last week announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly dividend of $0.16 per share on August 2. The dividend will be paid on September 29 to shareholders of record September 15, 2006.

The dividend represents an increase of 3.2 percent compared to the $0.155 dividend paid September 30, 2005. The annualized dividend rate per share is $0.64 with a total annualized payout of approximately $1.5 million on 2.4 million shares outstanding.

■ Starting a business

The Rappahannock Region Small Business Development Center will offer a seminar, First Steps to Starting a Business, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. September 6 at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw. Pre-registration is required. A $20 fee is due by September 1. To register, call 333-0286 or 800-524-8915.

The seminar will address self-evaluation, the idea, entrepreneurship, defining the need, determining the feasibility, actions necessary to start a business and an introduction to the business planning process.

■ Free fans

The Fan Care Program, administered by Bay Aging and supported by Dominion Virginia Power, continues through September 30. To be eligible for a fan, an individual must live in Virginia, be age 60 or older, have a need for cooling assistance and meet income guidelines defined by the Area Agencies on Aging.

To sign up for the program, call Bay Aging's Care Coordination department at 1-800-693-6109. Businesses or individuals who wish to assist with the Fan Care Program can send donations to Bay Aging, P.O. Box 610, Urbanna VA 23175.

■ Dividend due

The Board of Directors of Union Bankshares Corporation recently declared a quarterly dividend of $.24 per share. The dividend is payable August 31 to shareholders of record as of August 19, 2006.

Union Bankshares is one of the largest community banking organizations based in Virginia, providing full service banking to the Central, Rappahannock, Williamsburg and Northern Neck regions through its bank subsidiaries, including Northern Neck State Bank. Additional information is available at www.ubsh.com. Company shares are traded on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "UBSH."

■ Ethanol plants

Agri-Ethanol Products has secured financing to develop up to 20 renewable energy facilities on the East Coast. The North Carolina-based company has begun construction on the first 100-million-gallon ethanol plant on the East Coast, near Aurora, N.C.

Corn will be the primary feedstock for the Aurora plant and two others slated for North Carolina, although other materials may be used.

■ Safety award

Hunter Marine, one of the world's largest sailboat manufacturers, was awarded a special commendation by the National Water Safety Congress for its initiatives of voluntarily placing carbon monoxide detectors in the cabins of all its keel boats.

"Putting carbon monoxide detectors in its boats has helped alert and educate the consumer to the danger and risks of carbon monoxide, and we are recognizing Hunter's efforts to promote safety," said Cecelia Duer, executive director for the National Water Safety Congress.

■ Show tours

Joan's Travel Tours of Callao offers evening excursions to dinner theater events. The next trip will be September 20 to see "Cats."

Recently a group went to see "The Music Man" at the Riverside Dinner Theatre in Fredericksburg. Participants included George Andree, Jean Andree, Sylvia Ball, Jackie Britton, Tom Brown, Jeanette Brown, June Christie, Brenda Dodson, Beverly Gordon, Elaine Griger, Jean Habib, Anita Harrower, Don Insko, Cheryl Insko, Judy Jett, Lance Johnsen, Mary Alyce Johnsen, Bud Nolan, Margaret Ann O'Bier, Letha Records, Anna Rew, Howard Robertson, Lois Robertson, Kay Shirley, Kitty Shirley, Elsie Tolnitch and Anne Ritchie Waring.

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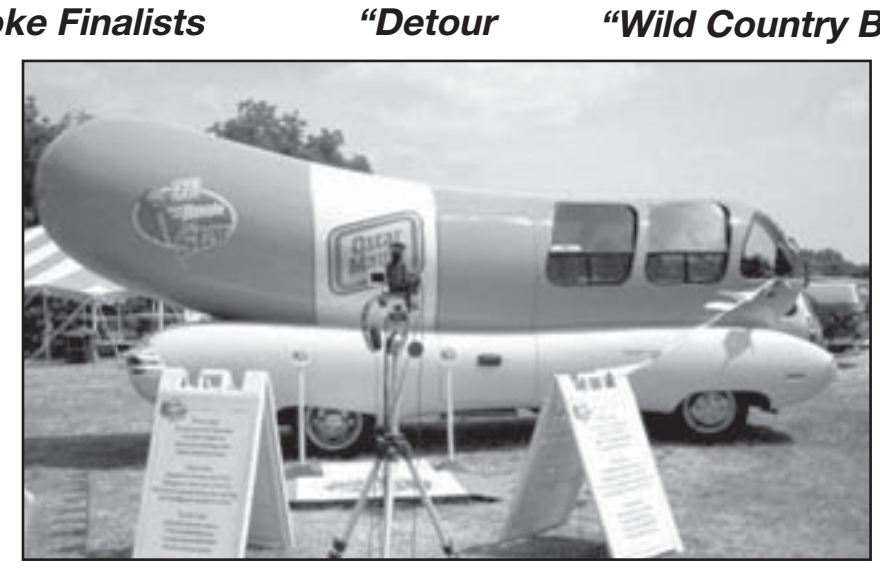

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Area campers enjoy a laid-back lifestyle

Story and photos by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Campers are not shy folks. By the nature of their hobby, they can't be.

They set up home in the middle of a crowded campground with a hundred or so close neighbors. Dressed for relaxation — hair tassled, wearing cut-off denims and tank tops — they hop on their golf carts to head to the store, the dock, the pool or to visit a friend. And they never keep track of the time.

"Forget your watch," said Gloria Waycaster. "It doesn't mean anything. We don't have anything to do at any certain time."

Waycaster and her husband, Michael, live on a farm in Buckingham County, where they rise with the sun.

"My husband has always been one to say it's 6:30, time to get up," she said. "I had a time trying to make him forget that. We don't have to get up for anything here."

The two travel 140 miles from their home to the campground at Coles Point Plantation nearly every weekend during the summer. Tucked away down a long, winding road in Westmoreland County, their 44-foot park model camper remains at the campground year-round.

The Waycasters, like so many seasonal campers at campgrounds all around the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, find their situation more appealing than renting a vacation home and much more affordable than buying one.

"We've often talked about how much we love the friendliness of the campgrounds," said Gloria, who manages to sneak in a few mid-week days alone at the camper a couple times a summer. "Everybody here has the same thing in common. They love camping. That's why we're all here."

Like so many, the Waycasters started out tent camping but after a couple of years of overnights with four kids and two adults, the tent seemed less cozy and more cramped. They upgraded to a 31-foot park model camper and made another upgrade last year.

Park models usually stay at the campgrounds. Most have decks, many have sunrooms or screened porch additions. Although they can be unhooked and moved, they normally aren't. The owners are what campground managers call seasonal campers. They leave their units at the campground as a home-away-from-home and stay for a weekend, a week, a month or even longer.

Take Pat and Grayson Balderson, for instance.

They sold their home in Mechanicsville three years ago and retired to Bethpage Camp-Resort in Urbanna, where they have a park model trailer. With about 900-square-feet, a large sunroom, outdoor kitchen and deck overlooking Robinson Creek, it has all the comforts of home. They have air conditioning and are hooked up to cable TV and high speed internet.

Pat and Grayson Balderson relax on their deck overlooking Robinson's Creek at Bethpage Camp-Resort in Urbanna.

"We're not roughing it," said Grayson.

Snowbirds, the Baldersons fly south for the winter where they have another seasonal site at a campground in Florida. They also own a fifth-wheel and every now and then will hook that up and take a mini-camping vacation.

They started camping at Bethpage 20 years ago and have held their family reunion there for 19 years.

"We drove in here one day when I think they were first opening the place. They didn't even have paved roads or a pool and only about four employees," said Pat. "But we loved it."

Today, Bethpage has about 480 seasonal sites.

The last year they owned their home they found they were spending only about one night a week there. The rest of the week, they spent at Bethpage.

"I'm a people person," said Pat, who recently started a Red Hat Pagers club. With about 30 members, the group of active senior ladies has a social outing every month.

"This way of life is not for everyone," admits Pat. "You've got to be a people person that likes the outdoors and recreation. You've got to be an extrovert, not an introvert."

"And you have to like getting up at nine o'clock!" added Grayson.

The real draw for folks like the Baldersons and Ron and Linda Foster, who also sold their home in Kansas City and split time between Urbanna and Florida, are the financial and maintenance aspects.

With little to no grass to mow and a 900-square-foot home to maintain, yard work and cleaning are a breeze.

Seasonal campers pay only personal property taxes, not real estate taxes, on their recreational vehicles.

"There's no sewage bill. Last month the electric was only $61. And I have a view like this," said Grayson, pointing to the creek. "You can't beat it."

Gloria agrees.

"To me this is definitely the way to go if you're looking for a vacation home. You don't have to worry about taxes, zoning issues or making plans ahead of time to rent something."

Most campgrounds offer differing rates for waterfront, water view and off-water sites.

Don and Betty Jellie of Chester have a waterfront site on the pond at Bethpage. They've been seasonal campers for 13 years.

Unlike the Baldersons, they still maintain a permanent home and come to Urbanna on weekends and holidays.

"We're not campers," said Betty. "I don't really consider this camping because the only thing we're missing is a car and a washer and dryer."

Although Betty doesn't get as involved as some in the weekly activities such as jewelry making, crafts and Bingo, she is still drawn to the lifestyle because of the close-knit community.

"When you're here, in a place like this, you have a lot of people close by and the comraderie is wonderful," she said. "The relationships that develop here probably wouldn't develop if you bought a river home."

Ron Foster's retreat is his home-on-wheels.

He and wife, Linda, traded in their residence in Missouri five years ago for a 41-foot coach they drive from Virginia to Florida every year. During the spring and summer months, the coach is parked at Bethpage where Ron also works. It's a one-bedroom RV that sleeps four.

"Just about everything I own is in there," said Ron, who because of his career with an airlines was used to moving frequently and paring down.

Don Jellie and sidekick Hannah Seay sit in his golf cart, which he decorated in red, white and blue for the campground's annual Fourth of July parade.

Connie and Johnny Corbin of Culpeper have been camping at Coles Point Plantation in Westmoreland County for seven years.

"Camping is an economical get-away," said Connie Corbin. "You really have a country home without having to buy one."

Connie and her husband, Johnny, are from Culpeper and have been camping at Coles Point Plantation for about seven years. They both still work. She's a nurse practitioner; he's a tree surgeon.

Escaping to the Northern Neck allows the couple to reconnect with nature.

"I never would have seen myself as a camper," she said. "But I think anyone could be interested in camping. You have to love the outdoors and the beauty of what's left in this world."

For the first-time camper or those wanting to give it a try, most veterans recommend buying used and buying small.

"I'd say start off with something small," said Pat. "Find a lot you like with an older trailer on it and give it a shot. Then if you don't like it, well, you haven't put a lot into it."

Betty Jellie fixes a snack for her neighbor's daughter, Hannah Seay, 5, in the kitchen of her trailer at Bethpage.

Dick Bowers spends an afternoon in his hammock.

Gloria Waycaster catches up on her reading on a lazy afternoon at the campground at Coles Point Plantation.

Campsites are often colorful expressions that reflect the decorating tastes of the campers. Most are decorated with a nautical theme and many have hanging lights and lighted palm trees.

Visiting the wall

Members of the Northern Neck Rotary Club recently visited the lobby of the Rappahannock General Hospital Cancer Center to see the tile (right) placed there by the club symbolic of its support of the center and the Indigent Patient Fund. The fund is the recipient of contributions raised through the club's annual CAPINNÉ Charity Dinner and Auction. From left are RGH vice president Randy Hester, RGH vice president and club member Gail Cameron, and club members Ken Knull, Sam Nuckols, Linda Morris, Don Kennedy and Roy Cameron. The tile wall honors patients and supporters of the RGH Cancer Center. To sponsor a tile, call 435-8661.

Readers pick favorites

Where is the best antique shop in Virginia? Where can you get the best crab cake? Who are Virginia's favorite musicians, NASCAR driver and author?

These are just five of the 10 categories that Cooperative Living magazine asked its over ¾ million readers across the Commonwealth to nominate and choose in its 2006 Best of Virginia Readers' Choice Poll.

"Our staff chose the 10 categories and our readers responded with their choices," said Bill Sherrod, Cooperative Living's managing editor. "Readers could vote by postcard or by e-mail.This is our third annual poll and it grows in popularity every year," Sherrod added. "Frankly, we are often surprised by the results."

The winners by category are featured in the August issue of Cooperative Living. Here are the results:

• Best Antique Store in Virginia—Culpeper Antiques and Collectables in Culpeper.

• Best Virginia Musician or Band—The Statler Brothers of Staunton.

• Best Virginia Crab Cake—T&T's Restaurant and Seafood Deli in Burgess.

• Favorite Virginia NASCAR Driver—Elliott Sadler of Emporia.

• Favorite Virginia Author—Ann Mullin of Greene County.

• Most Admired Virginian—Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle County.

• Best Virginia High School Spirit—Fort Defiance High School in Augusta County.

• Best Virginia Lake—Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford County.

• Best Virginia Pick-Your-Own Produce Farm—Puryear's Farms in South Boston.

• Best Virginia Biking/Hiking Trail—Virginia Creeper Trail in Abingdon.

"We are preparing special award plaques to present to the winners in each of the categories," Sherrod added. "However, we're not sure how to present a plaque to the late Mr. Jefferson. Perhaps we will just honor him by hanging it here in our office."

Cooperative Living, the membership publication of Virginia's electric cooperatives, is mailed to over 360,000 homes and businesses. It is published monthly, except for combined March-April and November-December issues, by the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) in Glen Allen.

Books donated by local residents reach Louisiana

About 2,500 books packed in 97 boxes shipped in a Pride of Virginia 18-wheeler recently arrived in St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana to start a new library.

The tide of books began with Lancaster County residents donating books throughout the year for the annual book sale at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. After a successful three-day sale in April, some 5,000 books were left.

They were given to the Friends of the Library (FOL) at Rappahannock Community College and hauled to Warsaw by volunteers of the RCC baseball team. More books were donated by Richmond County library patrons for the FOL six-day book sale in June which made $2,400.

After the sale, books were donated to the Haynesville Prison Library, the Northern Neck Jail and several other organizations.

There were still about 2,500 books left.

FOL volunteers heard that the hurricane-damaged St. Bernard Parish needed books to start a library. Someone had given the parish a bookmobile without books. Shipping the books was made possible by Stanley Obier of the Mundy Point Plant of C.W. Obier Seafood.

On July 21, a Pride of Virginia 18-wheeler arrived with 100 seafood boxes and a crew of workers. Heading the book packing and hauling team were Jose Alfredo, Braulio Castro and driver Frank Rowe.

A week later, word was received that the books had arrived and there would soon be a news release on the St. Bernard Parish website.

Catherine Courtney and Joan Winter served as co-chairs of the FOL book sale. They "enjoyed every part of this experience, the fun of working with all those books and, especially, with all the wonderful people who gave their time and energy," said Winter.

Applications are being accepted for Bay Grants

The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee is accepting grant applications to conduct Chesapeake Bay-related education and restoration activities.

The grants are funded with monies from the sale of the special Chesapeake Bay license plate "Friend of the Chesapeake." This year, $356,000 in grant monies will be awarded to eligible applicants.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is October 1. Grant funds will be awarded in May or June 2007. To be eligible for a grant, applicants should submit proposals emphasizing environmental education or restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. Projects focusing on environmental education should increase public awareness and knowledge about the bay, and projects of a restoration and conservation nature should be action oriented. Grants are awarded for one year, except in special circumstances.

Grant funds may not be used to supplant existing state or local general fund appropriations.

Applications will be accepted from private not-for-profit conservation organizations, schools and universities, and governmental agencies whose projects will affect water bodies that are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There is no limit on the amount that an applicant may request.

More information on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, including the application, grant guidelines, and a catalogue of past projects can be found at http://dis.state.va.us/cbrfac.htm. Information, applications, and guidelines are also available at the Division of Legislative Services, General Assembly Building, 910 Capitol Street, Richmond, VA 23219; 786-3591

▼ *Supervisors . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

on Carlson Road.

Lester explained that the 116-acre parcel being proposed for the new pit is adjacent to an existing gravel pit he owns where he is "running out of material."

He told the board he will not disturb more than one acre in any one year in the new pit.

One of the conditions for use adopted by the board in this case is that the applicant would "take all necessary steps to prevent soil movement from the site into any tributary or onto other property."

Two amendments to the Northumberland County Code also were approved during the meeting.

The first requires citizens to increase their liability insurance coverage from $50,000 to at least $100,000 if they own a dangerous dog.

Board chairman Ronald Jett explained that the General Assembly recently enacted legislation necessitating the change in the county code.

He explained that it is the court that decides whether a dog is "dangerous" and then makes a ruling assessing the liability minimum.

A proposed amendment requiring reimbursement of expenses incurred when law enforcement, firefighting, rescue and other emergency services personnel respond to DUI incidents and other similar traffic incidents elicited a letter from the Northumberland Rescue Squad opposing such an amendment.

The letter expressed the squad's opinion that it wanted to serve everyone and not put a hardship on folks they served. The squad said it would not request reimbursement.

However, the amendment passed by unanimous vote.

According to the wording of the amendment, personal liability for reasonable expenses of an emergency response "shall not exceed $1,000 in the aggregate for a particular accident or incident."

The amendment will apply if an individual is convicted of violating any of four provisions identified in the code as operating a motor vehicle, engine, train or watercraft while impaired; driving recklessly and causing an accident or incident; driving without a license or driving with a suspended or revoked license, and improperly leaving the scene of an accident.

The procedure for reimbursement would include a law enforcement or emergency responder agency working through the courts to order the reimbursement.

The reimbursement would be paid in the courts and then be forwarded to the appropriate responders.

▼ *Duplexes . . .*

(continued from page A1)

that we finish," he said.

The proffers include: extending the sewer line along Blackberry Road to Sloop Cove; paying $2,500 per building unit as the building permits are issued (for a total of $50,000); following the Feburary 10, 2005, site plan; and leaving in place everything that would have been disturbed if septic systems had been utilized.

"If this is permitted, I don't want this to entice more development," cautioned board chairman Ronald Jett.

The board spent several minutes trying to satisfy the chairman's desire to protect an existing homeowner's option to be able to hook up to the sewer line at some point in the future.

In the end, a motion was passed to grant each existing home along the route a guaranteed or reserved sewer hook-up, in effect reserving about 27 connections in the future.

After the addition of 50 more hook-ups, or 100 altogether, a bypass line will need to go straight to the sewer plant.

"I have no intent of prospecting another development by putting this line down," said Jett.

However, he reported that someone had told him of a family that could "only wash one load of clothes a day" because of their inadequate septic system.

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First place, most relaxed, Bentley and Heather.

Cat photo contest winners announced

KILMARNOCK—Patrons and visitors cast their ballots at the Animal Welfare League Thrift Store for their favorite feline photos entered in the Purrrfect Companion Cat Photo Contest. Some 100 photos were submitted and over 200 ballots were cast.

Winners in the Most Relaxed Cat are: first place, Bentley and Heather owned by Georgie Fary of White Stone; second place, Skittles owned by Courtney Reisner of Kilmarnock; third place, Bennett owned by Margaret Brown of Kilmarnock.

Winners in the Most Athletic Cat are: first place, Journey and Parris owned by Leslie Norris of Lively; second place, Schooner owned by Karen Kraus of Burgess; third place, Cali owned by Cheryl Nystrom.

Winners in the Most Humorous Cat are: first place, Bones and Little Bones owned by Betsy Rowe of Topping; second place, Schooner owned by Karen Kraus of Burgess; tied for third place, Charley owned by Kath Thompson of Weems and Baby Kitty Kitty owned by Rachel Valdrighi of Weems.

First-place winners received a photo frame and a gift certificate to one of the area's new coffee houses: Net Cruiser's Cafe in Lancaster, Talk of the Town Cafe in Kilmarnock and The Paperback Writer in White Stone. Second place winners received a gift certificate to Paws and Claws Pet Grooming in Kilmarnock. The certificates were donated by the businesses. All first, second and third-place winners also received ribbons.

First place, most humorous, Bones and Little Bones.

Ashton's in White Stone and the Doll House in Kilmarnock also supported the contest.

Contest proceeds go toward the AWL's spay/neuter program to help control the pet overpopulation problem. Currently the AWL provides no-cost spay/neuter assistance to families receiving some form of government support. The league also has a cost-share program for those that can afford to pay something for spaying or neutering. The AWL provides free spay/neuter certificates to the three Northern Neck animal shelters, Wendy's Feline Friends and A Place in the Sun cat rescue organizations.

Those who need assistance with spaying/neutering or know someone that does may call the AWL at 435-0822.

The winning photos will be on display in the AWL Thrift Shop at 44 Irvington Road in Kilmarnock. Submitted photos may be picked up there.

First place, most athletic, Parris and Journey.

▼ *Boundary line adjustment . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

"I do not favor the border line adjustment as it affects Waverly Avenue," said Lancaster board chairman F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr., voicing his personal opinion. He said the issue has never come before the board of supervisors for discussion so he can't speak for the others.

According to Jenkins, Kilmarnock officials have never consulted or negotiated with county supervisors over the proposed BLA plan, as claimed by town officials.

"I have never known this county to negotiate a contract without a public session and there has been no public session on it," Jenkins said.

While he claims the topic may have come up in social settings, the only private meeting he had was last fall when former Mayor Robertson approached him about the BLA.

"The meeting was about Wal-Mart and town boundary limits. The BLA was a general conversation that centered on Harris Road," Jenkins said.

One objection he has to the Waverly Avenue inclusion is that he has not heard a compelling case that the town could offer services to justify incorporating the neighborhood. In addition, Jenkins expressed his concerns for the farmers' tax burden under town rule and objected to additional development that water/sewer services would make possible to the land on the south side of Waverly Avenue.

"To the best of my knowledge, Kilmarnock does not have a land-use tax ordinance giving agriculture a tax break," he said, referring to a county tax reduction for farms over five acres. "There are persistent rumors—granted they are rumors—that Kilmarnock has an eye on the grainery and barge facility, turning it into a municipal dock. That is a critical facility to farmers. Any plan that makes that facility go away is a plan I can not support."

Other items on the agenda include a report by Sean Trapani on VDOT's traffic studies of the intersection of Harris Road, Irvington Road and James B. Jones Memorial Highway, and changes in Cablevision's franchise agreement with Kilmarnock.

Stroke screenings to be scheduled

On August 31, Life Line Screening will visit the White Stone Church of the Nazarene at 57 Whisk Drive. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721. Pre-registration is required.

Each screening requires 10 minutes or less to complete. A complete vascular screening package, including the stroke/carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm and ankle brachial index (hardening of the arteries) screenings is $109. Sign-up for a complete vascular package; include the osteoporosis screening and pay only $129.

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