

Rappahannock Record

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Historic Resources Department architectural historian Calder Loth (left) toured the ruins at Menokin with Gov. Tim Kaine. The manor house was built in 1769 as a wedding gift for Francis 'Lightfoot' Lee and Rebecca Tayloe by her father, John Tayloe II.

Gov. Kaine endorses Menokin easement

by Audrey Thomasson

MENOKIN—Governor Tim Kaine last week praised the completion of a land easement of 500 acres at the home of Francis 'Lightfoot' Lee and his wife, Rebecca Tayloe. Lee is a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The easement protects the Menokin Historic Landmark in Richmond County from development and is part of the governor's target of preserving 400,000 acres of open land by the end of his administration in 2010.

"Menokin is the last home

of a Virginia signer to be protected," Gov. Kaine told a crowd of citizens and state officials gathered on the grounds of the former plantation near Warsaw. "Even in its ruined state, it gives you the ability to see what was really going on inside that structure."

The Menokin Foundation owns the 500-acre property. Some 328 acres are within the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge and are used to educate students and visitors on the conservation of natural resources. The easement encompasses the

remaining 172 acres and will permanently preserve the historic gardens and archaeological and cultural resources.

The Department of Historic Resources holds an easement on the ruins of Lee's 1769 manor house which went into decay after being abandoned in 1940. The Menokin Foundation took possession in 1995 and is preserving the skeletal remains under a steel canopy and using them to study colonial construction methods and ways to preserve historic buildings.

In his remarks, the governor stressed the importance

of preserving not only historic sites, but also the state's pristine landscapes.

"With its rich history and beautiful setting, Menokin clearly meets both of these goals. It is truly a gem worthy of protection," said Gov. Kaine. "I want my children and grandchildren to enjoy these landmarks. Unless we take specific steps to preserve them, they will be lost forever."

Some 165 acres are lost to development in Virginia each day, he said.

"We must reverse the trend," said Gov. Kaine. "Not much of what we do in public life can be preserved, but there are some things that once they are undone you can never get (continued on page A15)

Clinic meets \$500,000 Endowment Challenge

KILMARNOCK—It went down to the last day, but all the money is in hand and the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic has reached its \$500,000 Endowment Challenge goal.

A generous donor and the equally generous community are to thank for the success, especially given the severe economic downturn of the past two months, said executive director Jean Nelson.

"Early in 2008, an anonymous donor pledged to match what the clinic could raise, up to \$500,000, to fund an endowment for the future, meaning that every donation made during the Endowment Challenge drive doubled in value," said Dexter C. Rumsey III Esq., president of the clinic's foundation board. "The result is \$1 million to shore up the clinic's financial base. Additionally, the interest generated from the fund, which may be used for the clinic's annual budgets, will be significantly higher."

"We can't express enough our appreciation and admiration for all the donors," said William B. (Broke) Graham Jr., president of the board of directors and chair of the Endowment Challenge committee charged with raising the funds. "It was touch and go the whole way through, but the community, including businesses, churches, civic groups, foundations and individuals, kept coming through."

"The Endowment Challenge committee worked diligently, week to week, in visiting prospective donors and explaining the importance of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We would have gone nowhere without their active involvement, and their own contributions to the challenge. I thank them as well as all of the clinic's wonderful supporters."

Other members of the committee, in addition to Rumsey and Graham, are Bonnie Bryant, Dr. John Deschamps, Don Lynch, Phyllis Smith, Kay Weiler, clinic medical director Dr. Richard Baylor and Nelson.

The clinic, meanwhile, is still raising funds for its 2008 annual operations. The budget this year is \$1,067,975, and about \$350,000 is left to raise.

"We've been calling on the community a lot," Nelson said. "Still, please keep the clinic in mind for your year-end contributions. Keeping people healthy will be even more of a challenge in this climate of economic and health-care uncertainties, and we are beginning several initiatives to broaden our reach and make our own operations more efficient."

To make a donation, call 435-0575, write to P.O. Box 1694, Kilmarnock, Va., 22482, or visit nmhfc.com.

"We can't express enough our appreciation and admiration for all the donors. It was touch and go the whole way through, but the community, including businesses, churches, civic groups, foundations and individuals, kept coming through."

—William B. Graham Jr., President of the board of directors



The Northern Neck Free Health Clinic recently reached its Endowment Challenge goal.

Inside



Tournament time: A12

■ **Auction:** Tune in to the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce's annual live holiday gift auction broadcast.....A4

■ **Thanks:** Record readers continue the tradition of posting thank you letters.....A5-6

■ **Zoning:** Northumberland County launches zoning ordinance review.....B1

Business.....B7-9
Calendar.....A2
Churches.....B2-6
Classified.....C3-9
Directory.....C13
Notices.....C11-12
Obituaries.....B3
Opinion.....A4-6
Police.....B1
Schools.....B10-12
Sports.....A12-14
Upcoming..A2-3,6-11



Jane Tims' column ends

You will notice on page B1 this week that Jane Tims, author of the popular "A Closer Look" column since 2001, has submitted her final entry.

We will miss her weekly contributions. They have provided valuable insight to organizations and people in our community that might have otherwise been overlooked. She has shared her talents and her passions through her writing, causing us to shed a tear one week, to almost roll in the floor with laughter the next, and to follow her lead in supporting many vital needs among our neighbors.

We maintain hope that some day she will consider her decision as merely "taking a break" from that weekly routine. If she gets the urge to write again, we're sure the Rappahannock Record's readers will welcome her return.

\$20 million pledged for blue crab disaster in the Chesapeake Bay

SILVER SPRING, MD—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced last week that Maryland and Virginia will each be eligible for up to \$10 million to assist watermen who have been economically hurt by the commercial fishery failure in the soft

shell and peeler blue crab fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Blue crabs are harvested in three stages of their life cycle: as hard shell crabs; peeler crabs, just prior to molting; and soft shell crabs, immediately after molting.

"Watermen and their families

have been hard hit by a 41 percent decline in the soft shell and peeler crab fishery since the late 1990s," said NOAA Fisheries Service assistant administrator Jim Balsiger. "We're pleased the governors said they would like to use federal aid to restore (continued on page A15)

Visitor shares Native American culture

by Alex Haseltine

Students in Susanne Moughon's pre-school class at the Northern Neck Montessori School in Kilmarnock enjoyed a special visitor last Friday.

In keeping with the spirit of the holiday, the students learned about elements of an indigenous culture that was instrumental to the survival of early Virginia settlers and who together shared the first Thanksgiving.

Paige "Red Feather" Archer, a retired teacher and Native American, joined the class to lead traditional games and dances, show ceremonial artifacts and discuss elements of tribal lifestyle.

The children were visibly impressed by her outfit, or "regalia," made of deer skin, and her various adornments of bone, shells and metal. Red Feather explained that this outfit was not a part of daily life, but rather reserved for festive occasions.

"I wear this on special days, and today is special because all of you are special," said Red Feather.

A member of the Meherrin tribe, part of the Iroquois linguistic group, Red Feather discussed "long houses," the traditional dwellings for her people. She also showed the children a stick with a leather net at one end, used in a common game which has evolved into the modern sport of lacrosse.

After circle time, Red Feather led a tribal dance, providing ornamental sticks with bells on them and leading the group around the room while playing traditional songs on a boom box.

The children also participated in a game called "deer and hunter" in which one child sat blindfolded with a pelt in his or her lap, while another attempted to sneak up and remove the pelt undetected.

Red Feather explained that while the game was fun, it also served to teach young members some skills used in hunting.

The class also began the process of making corn-husk dolls, a project the students will continue in coming days.



Sarah Wells Pollard (left) and Paige "Red Feather" Archer make a corn husk doll.

Letters to Santa are due by Dec. 15

The Rappahannock Record will continue a long-standing holiday tradition by publishing letters to Santa in the December 24 issue.

Letters must be in the Record office by Monday, December 15, in order to appear in the special section. If letters are written as a class project, teachers are urged to submit them by Wednesday, December 10.

Letters should be written with a dark pencil or ink and include the child's name, age and hometown. Parents, teachers and others are asked to make certain the letters are legible. Teachers are reminded to include their first and last names with the class submission.

The Rappahannock Record mailing address is P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Letters also may be faxed to 435-2632, emailed to mail@rrecord.com, or dropped through the front door slot at 27 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

The December 24 issue also will include holiday greetings from area merchants and others. The deadline for these advertising messages also is December 15.

November 26 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.
AI-Anon meets at noon at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 453-2633.
Acoustic Night at Damon & Company in Gloucester. 693-7218.
3am Panic will be featured at Coles Point Tavern
The Lancaster County Lions Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock.
A Pie/Bake Sale will be held at the Chesapeake Bank Kilmarnock office to raise funds for the March of Dimes.



Lottery sales continue

Greg Powell presents a check to library director Lindsay Gardner from Chesapeake Investment Group, which is helping sponsor the Lancaster Community Library annual lottery. Lottery tickets sell for \$100 each. The top prize is \$10,000. Tickets are available at the library and by phone at 435-1729.

November 27 Thursday Thanksgiving

AI-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
Acoustic Night at Cruisers Sports Bar in Gloucester. 693-6246.
A Grief Support Group meets at 2 p.m. at Henderson United Methodist Church near Callao.
The 2008 Irvington Turkey Trot will be held at the Irvington Commons. For registration, fees and starting times, call 438-6230.
A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner including turkey and all the trimmings will be served free from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buenos Nachos Mexican Grill in Kilmarnock.

November 28 Friday

Bingo is played at the new firehouse in Lively at 7 p.m.
Excess Baggage will be featured at Cruiser's Sports Bar in Gloucester at 9:30 p.m. 693-6246.
Stone Grove will play at Hop's n Barley in Mathews at 8 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-98886.
Narcotics Anonymous will meet at 8 p.m. at the Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
Mr. Entertainment-Glen Abbott is featured from 5 to 9 p.m. at Kentucky Fried Chicken on Route 17 in Gloucester near the old Wal-Mart shopping center.

November 29 Saturday

The Heathville Forge Blacksmith Guild meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern. 580-3377.
Mixed Grill, a local bluegrass band, will perform at 8 p.m. at the Southwind Cafe in Mathews. Free admission; families welcome. 725-2766.
A CPR/Adult/Child/Infant, First Aid And AED class will be offered November 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Red Cross Office in the Northern Neck Family YMCA building off Billy Graham Court. \$60 per person must be paid in advance. Call 435-7669.

November 30 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at the Pilot House in Topping immediately following church services.
Mr. Entertainment-Glen Abbott, will be featured at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Kilmarnock from 5 to 8 p.m.
December 1 Monday
The Historyland Community Workshop volunteer craft group meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. New members welcome.
A Parkinson's Care Partners Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. 435-9553.

December 2 Tuesday

The RFM Boat Shop opens at 9 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6629.
The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125.
AI-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Lancaster. 462-0742.
The Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce meets at 8 a.m. at the town office in Kilmarnock. 435-1302.
The Tavern Quilt Guild meets at 10 a.m. in the transportation building at Rice's Hotel/ Hughlett's Tavern in Heathsville. The program will include a potluck holiday party, holiday show and unfinished fabric objects for 2009. Visitors welcome.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will hold a Christmas luncheon at noon at Hughlett's Tavern Restaurant in Heathsville. Bring a silent auction item. For reservations, call 529-6415.

December 2 Tuesday

The Heathville Forge Blacksmith Guild meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern. 580-3377.
U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman's Staff will conduct satellite office hours from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lancaster Community Library at 235 School Street in Kilmarnock; and from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Northumberland Public Library at 7204 Northumberland Highway in Heathsville.
The Photo SIG of the Northern Neck Computer Users Group will meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The competition topic is "texture."

December 3 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 453-2633.
AI-Anon meets at noon at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
Acoustic Night at Damon & Company in Gloucester. 693-7218.
The Woman's Club Of White Stone meets at the clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. Christmas program and pot luck luncheon.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. 435-3441.
Wreath-making Workshop at Stratford Hall. Workshop fee for plain wreath \$25, with box lunch \$35. Workshop fee for decorated wreath, \$35, with box lunch, \$45. Reservations required. Call Neva Folk at 493-8038, ext. 8504.

December 3 Wednesday

The Volunteer Auxiliary at Rappahannock General Hospital will hold its annual tree lighting ceremony at the hospital at 5 p.m.

December 4 Thursday

Bingo is played at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock.
AI-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The RFM Boat Shop opens at 9 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6629.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
The Airport Club of Hummel Field meets at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting at The Pilot House at Topping. 758-5500.
The Rappatamac Writers Critique Group meets at 10 a.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.
The White Stone Town Council meets at 7 p.m. at the town office.
American Legion Post 117 meets at 7 p.m. at the Post Home on School Street in Reedville.
The Heathville Forge Blacksmith Guild meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern. 580-3377.
Acoustic Night at Cruisers Sports Bar in Gloucester. 693-6246.
A Grief Support Group meets at 2 p.m. at Henderson United Methodist Church near Callao.
The Holy & The Ivy, a traditional carol sing featuring local singing groups as well as those gathered for the occasion, will be featured at 3 p.m. in Christ Church at 420 Christ Church Road in Weems. Light refreshments follow.
Family Movie Night will be held at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville at 6 p.m.

December 3 Wednesday

The Volunteer Auxiliary at Rappahannock General Hospital will sponsor a fundraiser featuring handbags, luggage, briefcases, wallets and small leather goods. The sale will be held 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the main hospital building in Kilmarnock. (Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor.)

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LEE'S RESTAURANT: Hometown cooking and atmosphere in a popular downtown Kilmarnock tradition. Full menu, fresh local seafood in season, homemade pies made daily, Beer & Wine on premises. (B,L,D) Main St. Kilmarnock, 435-1255

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HORN HARBOR HOUSE SEA-FOOD RESTAURANT: 836 Horn Harbor Rd., Burgess, VA 22432, 804-453-3351; *Come by Land or by Sea:* Hours: Dinner: Wed., Thurs., Sun., 5-9 pm; Fri., Sat. 5-10 pm; Nightly Specials, Fresh Seafood and Hand cut steaks, full menu available in lounge and deck Wed. - Sun. (Weather Permitting)

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WILLABYS: Comfortable casual atmosphere. Featuring daily chef's specials, gourmet burgers & delectable desserts. Eat in or carry out available. Monday-Saturday 11-3. Items available for take home until 4:00. White Stone. (L) 435-0044.

Call 435-1701 to join the Record's Dining Guide

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No one under 17 admitted to R Rated films without parent or adult accompaniment - ID's required	SUN. NOV. 30 TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 BOLT (PG) 1:05, 3:05, 5:10, 7:30 TWILIGHT (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40 QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35 MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 1:00, 3:05, 5:15, 7:20	MON.-THURS. DEC. 1-4 TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 7:00 BOLT (PG) 7:00 TWILIGHT (PG13) 7:00 QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 7:00 MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 7:00

PILOT HOUSE
Thanksgiving at the Pilot House
 November 27, open 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Buffet
 Turkey w/dressing, fried oysters, ham w/pineapple sauce, many vegetables, homemade salads, plus a salad bar and many desserts including sugar-free
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Christmas gift auction is Friday

On Friday, November 28, the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce will hold its seventh annual Christmas Gift Radio Auction on 101.7 Bay FM beginning at 7 p.m.

"Bigger and better than ever, this year's auction will feature all brand new items donated by local merchants," said Carroll Lee Ashburn. A sampling of articles include a French-style upholstered chair; a Maggie B lady's wallet; a framed print by local artist Mike Antonio; a natural, organic skin-care basket; a super electric combination blower, vacuum, mulcher; a desktop 200-channel scanner; a 33-inch copper table lamp with a stone base; a portrait package; a quart of Rappahannock River oysters; an old country ham; a set of 16 CDs covering the entire New Testament of the Bible by James Earl Jones; a pair of ceramic "Winter Greetings" collectible salt and pepper shakers by Lenox; a GE 1100-watt microwave; a collectible doll by Adora; a set of 14k gold and diamond pierced earrings; and a pound of locally made fudge.

"This is the easiest way to do all of your Christmas shopping from your favorite easy chair, listening to the radio right in your own home," said Ashburn.

Bidders may call 435-1313 or 435-1414 as the item is mentioned. Each bidder will be given a number upon their first call to expedite the bidding process. Winning bidders will have 10 days to pick up their voucher from Burke's Jewelers at 86 South Main.

Proceeds from the auction go towards funding the 30th annual lighted Christmas Parade sponsored by the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce and Northern Neck Kiwanis.

Irvington boat parade to light up creek Dec. 6

The annual Irvington Lights on the Creek Boat Parade will leave the dock at 6 p.m. December 6 on Carter's Creek.

Lighted and decorated power boats and sail boats will complete a circuit of the creek near The Tides Inn.

The public is invited to bring chairs and blankets to watch the parade from The Tides Inn grounds. Everyone viewing the parade at The Tides, or from nearby parties in homes along the creek, can vote for their favorite entry in the "People's Choice" competition.

Forms will be available at The Tides Inn on the night. The People's Choice winner will receive a \$500 donation to a local charity in their name.

The deadline for entries in the boat parade is December 5. There are two categories: "Lite Lights" for boats with less than 1,000 lights and "Lots of Lights," which can have unlimited lights. Entrants who need space to decorate their boats have the option of free docking at The Tides Inn, beginning November 29.

Following the parade, participating skippers, crews and sponsors can celebrate the winners at the Captain's Party at The Tides Inn (\$10 per person with cash bar).

Conventional judging, by a panel viewing from the home of Bill Westbrook on Carter's Creek, will continue as in the past with numerous awards.

Lights on the Creek 2008 sponsors include The Town of Irvington, The Tides Inn,

'Toys for Tots' sites announced

The Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck Detachments of the Marine Corps League are accepting new and unwrapped toys.

These toys can be distributed through local organizations in conjunction with the Marine Corps Reserve Station in Newport News.

Boxes for donations are located at: Chesapeake Bank in Lively, Chesapeake Bank in Kilmarnock, Chesapeake Bank in Irvington, Carousal Physical Therapy in Kilmarnock, Northern Neck Chiropractic in Kilmarnock and Metrocyst in Kilmarnock; or call Troy Wyne at 804-815-5836.



From left are MJ Anderson, Hatley Bright and Mark Favazza.

'Dine in' to be auctioned at Festival of the Trees event

"Dine in with Mark and MJ" will be auctioned at the Festival of the Trees at the Northern Neck Family (NNF) YMCA's Lighting of the Trees Party on December 5 in Kilmarnock.

NNFYMCA branch executive Mark Favazza and Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA associate executive MJ Anderson will prepare a gourmet meal for up to 10 people in the winning bidder's home. They have recruited chef Hatley Bright, who has offered three menus from which the winner may choose and will also help cook.

The Lighting of the Trees party begins the Festival of the Trees, a weekend-long community event December 5 to 7. The festival is one of the largest fund-raisers to benefit the Guardian Program.

"We think the auction will be a huge hit and a fun way to raise additional funds for the Guardian Program," said procurement chairman Beth McManus. "Both MJ and Mark are avid cooks and, with Hatley at their side, how could they go wrong?"

"I'd love to be a fly on the wall at this dinner," said festival chairman Caroline Shifflett, noting the vivacious personalities of the three chefs. "It will be quite an evening."

"Why dine out, when you can dine in with Mark and MJ?" asked co-director of development Susan Johnson. "This dinner is going to rival that of any five-star restaurant and the guests will have the time of their lives."

More than 60 trees and other holiday decorations, donated by area businesses, organizations and individuals, will be displayed for silent auction at the festival.

The Lighting of the Trees party also will feature showcase dishes from local restaurants and is where the decorations are formally illuminated. The fee is \$40 per person. For an invitation, call 435-0223.

Other events during the weekend include children's activities, raffles, pictures with Santa and music by local bands, choral groups and other musicians.

To donate a decoration, food or raffle item, or become a sponsor, call Caroline Shifflett at 761-1838 or Donna McGrath at 761-1832.

Church bazaar offers one-of-a-kind gifts

Irvington United Methodist Church will host a holiday bazaar December 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church.

"During this tough economic time in our country, we want to help others afford a special gift for that special someone," said Audrey Lowery. "Whether it is a family member, a friend, or a colleague, we have the perfect gift items."

Select a gift basket packed with interesting items. Buy a special wreath. Choose a theme-decorated Christmas tree. Select a book with an animal for that special child. The holiday night lights are all different this year as are the curly willow lighted trees. The hostess gifts sell out fast, so come early to select one.

"We have added a Yankee Candle section this year as well as Godiva Chocolate gift baskets," said Lowery.

After shopping, stay awhile and dine on homemade vegetable or chicken noodle soup with a sandwich or biscuit. Finally, stop by the bakery booth for a homemade treat.

"Because our prices are the best in town and our gift items are one of a kind, people shop early," said Lowery.

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Animals For Adoption

The Animal Welfare League has many animals for adoption to good loving homes. The dogs, cats, puppies and kittens change rapidly, in lieu of listing them, interested persons may call the league at 435-0822 or Joyce at 462-0091 to be advised as to what is available at that time. Visits to local animal shelters also are encouraged.

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Excerpts by Henry Lane Hull

On November 7, one of the Northern Neck's icons vanished from our midst. I speak of Parker's Crab Shore overlooking Monroe Bay at Colonial Beach. Bulldozers came that morning and by evening, Parker's was no more, a victim of the changing social and economic climate of our times.

In a peninsula richly endowed with colonial and antebellum structures, Parker's was a relative newcomer to our architectural tradition. It began in the Great Depression, when Cap'n and Mrs. Henry Clay Parker decided to cook the crabs he caught each day in Monroe Bay and the Potomac. They put up a modest building with a cooking shed next to it, and Mrs. Parker began making her soon-to-be-famous crabcakes and deviled crabs. Already she had a reputation for baking great bread and rolls which her son, Owen, carried around town to eager customers.

The essence of Parker's was simplicity; wonderful food, each item individually prepared, served with pleasure and offered at reasonable prices. Sadly, Mrs. Parker died at an early age, but her husband continued with the help of his daughter, Dorothy, better known as Dot, and her soon-to-be husband, Morris Rollins, universally known as Bighead.

By the 1950s, Cap'n Parker turned the business over to Dot and Bighead, and built a small house for himself up the block in front of the marina he had established. There he took care of tenants' boats and rented out rowboats which he had made himself. He was an industrious person, and worked hard, but always had time to chat. He died in 1966 at the age of 83.

As a young man he had lost all of the fingers on his right hand in a sawmill accident, but he could do more with the remaining part of that hand than many men could do with all of their fingers. Ironically, one of his sons later lost an arm in a similar accident.

Under Bighead and Dot's aegis, Parker's expanded into a larger restaurant. People still sat on wooden benches and cracked their crabs on tables freshly covered each spring with new oilcloth. The ambience was not unique, as the Beach also sported Miller's Crab Shore on the Bay, and the two Wilkerson's Crab Shores up on the River at Potomac Beach, but Parker's was special to all of its loyal clientele. In the 1950s,

Bighead had to raise the price of crabs to \$2 per dozen, but the crabcake sandwich remained a quarter. The full crab dinner also went up to \$2. Some spoke of paying city prices, but the regulars continued to flock there, especially on weekends.

Dot and Bighead's two daughters, Betty and Shirley, waited tables and helped their parents with the food preparation. Bighead's brothers, Cal and Albert, were crabbers and supplied much of their daily catch for the restaurant. At one point Dot lost an eye in an accident, but she continued to cook as well as ever. In time, she and Bighead turned Parker's over to Betty and her husband, John Fenwick, and Shirley and her husband, Bobby Jenkins. Then their children came along in turn to help out in the family tradition. No matter how the beach changed, Parker's remained the same, until the 1990s, that is.

By that time the younger generation had gone into other lines of work, and Betty and John retired, leaving Shirley and Bobby to carry on the tradition. Ultimately, ready to retire after their lifetime of work at the old stand, they sold the business to Rodney Rollins, who tried to maintain the lore of Parker's, but his improvements sadly could not keep the restaurant going. After Rodney, a new operation changed the name and tried to operate a steak house, but it too did not succeed. Despite the new name, to everyone except the most recent come-heres, the place remained "Parker's."

When it finally closed, the loyalists hoped for a resurgence, a renaissance of the good old days, but that wish would not be fulfilled. Now all that one beholds driving down Monroe Bay Avenue is a vacant lot, a smoothed-over area with no trace of the happy times that four generations of Parkers, Rollins, Fenwicks and Jenkins had enjoyed there themselves, and had shared with clients who steadfastly proclaimed their allegiance, crab feast after crab feast, year in, year out.

The Northern Neck is a poorer and emptier place without Parker's, but whatever goes up on the site never will replace the picture nor dim the memories of Cap'n Parker and his progeny giving their all to serve their public with quality and honesty.

Letters to the Editor

Hill clarifies his statements

From Lloyd N. Hill, Weems

Normally when I write a letter in the paper I don't bother to address what someone else's opinion is about what I may have written. However, a recent rendering of what I am supposed to have said at a school board meeting and a subsequent mentioning of my name four times in another article left me no choice but to respond. There were simply too many inaccuracies to let it go unchallenged.

Let's be clear. I said at the school board meeting that I didn't hear any mention of the historic election on November 5, the day after the election. I was not talking about what teachers may have done or not done prior to the election or a couple of days afterward. As I said at that meeting, I simply wanted the system to acknowledge the results on November 5 and not leave it up to individual teachers to announce or not the results based on their individual preference.

I believe the writer makes my case for me when he points out that the teachers didn't celebrate the election because they didn't want to take sides. By the morning of November 5 there weren't any sides to be taken. America had spoken. The results were known and Mr. Obama was the president-elect. So it didn't matter what side one was on. All I wanted was for the school system to acknowledge the results of the election. This was not done on November 5.

Anyone who cares to get to know me realizes that I am a supporter of the school system and that I have never said that teachers were not doing their job. What I have said is that our district needs more diversity in the classroom and in the administration and I have been consistent in that belief.

The writer must realize that he can't possibly know who visits the school at all times. Simply because he may not have seen me, he can't say I wasn't there. I have visited all of the schools and I will take him up on his offer to visit again. However, whether I visited or not will not change what didn't happen on November 5.

The writer said that he wouldn't say that racism has been completely erased between students but the time is close. I appreciate the writer's optimism about race relations, but my experience shows me that racism is like alcoholism or cancer. It never completely goes away. It simply goes into remission only to be revived by some event or stimuli. The selection of Barack Obama as the president-elect of our coun-

try provided such an event.

When I said that the world had celebrated the election, the reporter said that Hill claimed that the world celebrated as if to suggest that I was making a false claim. Was I the only one who saw the television and newspaper accounts of how the world was reacting? When the teacher made a statement about what he had done in the classroom on November 6, the reporter didn't say the teacher claimed what he had but instead reported it as a fact. I believe most fair-minded persons will see what I am talking about.

Punishment and reward are more effective when they are dealt with right after the event. The impact is less when we wait and that is why the teachable moment had to be on November 5 for maximum results.

Foster homes are needed

From Kimberly A. Moody, Social Work Supervisor, Northumberland County

The Northern Neck Foster Parent Project (NNFP) was formed in 2001 to address the serious need our community has for well-trained foster families. The NNFP serves the counties of Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland.

In October, the Northern Neck and Essex Departments of Social Services had 52 children in foster care and only 19 approved foster homes.

Do the math. Children who have already suffered the trauma of removal from their home due to abuse or neglect are being further traumatized by also having to leave their school, peers, extended family, church and community simply because there is no local home in which to place them.

Lowe's of Tappahannock agreed to help us get the word out that our area needs foster families. On October 25, Lowe's sponsored a Children's Health and Safety Day. Lowe's generously donated home safety items and an electric generator which was raffled off to a deserving local foster family. Social workers from our local social services were also present to provide information and answer questions about foster parenting. We'd like to thank Lowe's for their generous support of our efforts.

Please consider becoming a foster family today. Call our Foster Parent Coordinator Georgia Sprague, or me, at 580-3477, or 800-296-7627.

Congratulations, Democrats

From Michael Morchower, Irvington

The one constant found in the Republican message during the

campaign was that the Democratic candidates were "liberals," as if it were a four-letter word. I suppose it could also mean Democrats are inclined to endlessly spend money for senseless projects by taxing and taxing us to death.

On the other hand, the current national deficit, the highest in our history, might be an indicator as to who the big spenders really are.

Democrats need to start being proud again because Mr. Bush is solely responsible for the unpopular and costly war(s) in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Again, tell me why we invaded Iraq? Oh, I keep ignoring the fact that our invasion of Iraq has kept terrorists from repeating a 9/11 assault against the United States. I suppose this means the U.S. should remain in Iraq indefinitely. At what cost?

Democrats do have a rich and proud history, one that stands in stark contrast to the conduct of the Bush presidency the last eight years.

I am proud to be a Democrat because we never believed in starting unjust wars, never believed in torturing prisoners, never believed in denying those in need of assistance or undermining our freedoms and civil rights.

Can Republicans be proud of anything that the Bush administration has done in the past eight years? The economic calamity facing us is Bush's final chapter that will convince historians to rate him as one of the worst presidents in our illustrious history.

I wish Sarah Palin all the best in her quest for the presidency in 2012. She emulates the Republican Party's philosophy of campaigning and governing, do whatever it takes to win, lie like a dog when you have to, ignore efforts to get at real issues and basic truths and woe the voters with one-liners, don't forget to use your looks, charm, and that "flawless" demeanor to get around your enemies and opponents.

Hail to Sarah! I look forward to reading her book and hopefully she will convince enough voters that she really can read, write and add two plus two.

Congratulations, Democrats!

Fiction or Fact from Bob's Almanac

The Legend of the Squirrel Whisperer

By Robert Mason Jr.

As the good people of Irvington sit down to their traditional family meals this holiday, they should lift up a prayer of thanksgiving to the Squirrel Whisperer.

Fiction or fact, spirit or man, real or imagined, the story has all the elements of a good folk tale.

As told to me, the Squirrel Whisperer transcends generations. Some say he's been around longer than Wilder's Grant, dating back to when the settlement was simply known as Carter's Creek Wharf. Others say the Squirrel Whisperer roamed the woods and swam the creeks with the Corrotoman, long before John Carter or Epaphroditus Lawson ever stepped foot here.

The name Irvington didn't stick until September 28, 1891, when the name of the post office was changed. It was named in honor of Capt. Levin Irving, a come-here in the 1800s.

It could be that the Squirrel Whisperer is in fact a spirit that inhabits a man.

The story is best told around a blazing bonfire, under the full moon in the fall of the year, for that is when the tree rats are most prolific.

Imagine if you will, the tree rats have declared war on Carter's Creek Wharf, or Irvington, or whatever, and the town's only defense is the Squirrel Whisperer, which is sort of a misnomer, because he doesn't really tame them. He slays them. Some would say he slaughters them, but that puts the animal rights advocates on edge.

And he could just as soon be a she, but we won't go there either.

Now, if this were my story, he'd be the Squirrel Silencer. But, I don't want to confuse things. For folk tales to survive, it's important for the storyteller to stick as close to the original story line as possible, embellishing only where necessary to maintain listener interest or to scare children sleepless.

And there may be more than one Squirrel Whisperer frolicking about at any one time, depending upon the current status of the squirrel population. You may have heard shots coming from more than one neighborhood.

To him, the population this fall has reached epidemic proportions.

The signs were there all summer long, the night screeching, the insatiable appetites. The squirrels ravaged entire gardens. They were even seen consuming tomatoes by the bushel basket at the height of the growing season and in broad daylight. Beefsteak, plum or cherry; heirloom or hybrid; red, yellow, orange, pink, black, brown, ivory, white and purple, no tomato was off limits to the furry little piranhas.

Property owners have a right to protect their crops. When it comes to controlling an epidemic, that right extends to a responsibility. For whatever reason a man's not up to the responsibility, it's alright. The Squirrel Whisperer's got his back.

The pecans have all but disappeared thanks to the tree rats. No nut is safe in Irvington. Like leeches, the squirrels will cling on and suck the

very life out of a fruit-bearing tree.

They've been known to invade sheds, barns, garages, attics, living quarters, churches and businesses. Small pets have gone missing. At the least, the Irvington squirrel is a nuisance that needs to be eradicated, according to the Squirrel Whisperer. They are right up there with the groundhog problem along the creek bank. They will destroy the town if left alone. This I know because the Squirrel Whisperer said so.

Squirrels have been the cause of more than one fender bender, they've been blasted through more than one radiator, and they've been known to horde nuts in air filters, eventually choking engines at the most inopportune times. And their razor-sharp claws rip the soul out of custom, automotive paint jobs.

The Squirrel Whisperer is Irvington's knight in shining armor and he will free the town from this curse.

There have been times when the widows and orphans depended on the generosity of the Squirrel Whisperer to put food in the pot.

During times of strife, especially those long, cold winters of the French and Indian Revolution and 1812 skirmishes, or when the ice was an inch thick and they couldn't get to the oysters, the only meat on the table of many a family came from the Squirrel Whisperer. During the Civil War, he kept the home guard fed.

The weapon of choice this fall is a .410 gauge single-shot, break-action breech loading shotgun. He uses a bird-shot load. The killing field is a four-parcel, three-acre family tract.

In two months, the Squirrel Whisperer has taken 46 squirrels, including two with one shot. They just keep coming in waves, he says, leading him to believe someone in town is breeding them. They are getting smarter, but they can't help themselves when it comes to sunflower seeds.

And they've got no respect. Interpreted, the chatter is a diatribe of threats and vulgarities. Those are the ones that are sure to get it.

The good people of Irvington are overfed at present. Instead of ending up in someone's stew-pot or frying pan, the carcasses are going overboard to fatten the crabs.

There may be those who don't appreciate his enthusiasm, but he practices safe eradication. He doesn't shoot towards houses or other occupied structures, automobiles, boats, people or pets.

His worst fear is to wake up in a bed full of squirrels, minus an arm.

Remain quiet, listen closely and in the distance you may hear the blast of the Squirrel Whisperer.... And that's all I recall of the legend.

Have a happy Thanksgiving, and remember: If you've got any leftover turkey, I prefer the white meat with a little salt and pepper and a slab of butter between two slices of white bread. Bag it, put my name on the bag and drop it in the mail slot at 27 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

Hold the squirrel.

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Letters to the Editor

Oops

From **John Cardwell**,
Chairman, Grace Episcopal
Church Men's Breakfast

In last week's Rappahannock Record there was an article submitted about Del. Al Pollard's appearance at Grace Church's Men's Breakfast. The article stated that "later an attendee pointed out that Del. Pollard voted for increasing both the state sales and gasoline taxes in the special session dealing with transportation earlier this year."

Del. Pollard would like to set the public record straight. He states that he has never voted for an increase in the gasoline tax.

President-elect is a U.S. citizen

From **Joseph A. Schlatter**,
Heathsville

A letter in the November 13 edition repeats the baseless claims that President-elect Obama is not a U.S. citizen and, in support of this claim, the letter writer cites a suit filed by Pennsylvania attorney Philip J. Berg.

There is no question about the fact that President-elect Obama is a U.S. citizen. His mother was a U.S. citizen; this fact alone assures his citizenship regardless of where he was born. He was born in Hawaii—the fact of being born in a U.S. state makes him a citizen.

President-elect Obama is a U.S. Senator. Senators are required by the Constitution to be citizens. Furthermore, Senators hold Top Secret security clearances granted after an extensive background investigation by the FBI. If Mr. Obama were not a U.S. citizen, it is inconceivable that this "fact" would only now be discovered.

Berg, who filed suit challenging Obama's citizenship, is a former Deputy Attorney General in Pennsylvania—he was fired. Berg has been disciplined twice for violating federal court rules.

Berg's suit against Obama is not his first foray into the world of the imaginary. In 2004, Berg sued President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, and dozens of officials in the Bush administration, claiming that they blew up the World Trade Center on 9/11.

Berg's suit against Obama was dismissed by the Federal District Court in Pennsylvania. The judge in the case noted that Berg's claims "venture into the unreasonable"—judicial language telling Berg that his claims are nutty.

Now, let's address some of the specific claims in the letter.

Sen. Obama's birth certificate was released publicly months ago and its validity has been attested to by officials in Hawaii and by journalists who have examined the certificate.

The claim that Obama's grandmother said he was born in Kenya originates from Berg who claims to have an audio tape of a conversation with the grandmother. No one else has seen or heard this tape and Berg refused to release his "tape" to the court. More than likely, there is no such tape and no such claim by Obama's grandmother.

The claim that Obama traveled to Pakistan "in 1981,... when Pakistan was a 'no travel' zone for Americans" is not true. As an active duty Army officer, I traveled in and out of Pakistan between 1976 and 1989. On every trip I made to and from Pakistan, there were numerous American tourists, officials, and business people traveling at the same time; Pakistan was

not closed to Americans. Berg's suit offers no evidence that Obama traveled to Pakistan; the claim is simply an assertion without evidence.

The letter writer states "Because Obama and the DNC failed to respond to the lawsuit" they admitted that the claims in the suit are accurate. In fact, Obama's attorneys did respond to the suit. They filed a motion to dismiss, which, in accordance with the rules of Federal civil procedure, is a response. The court dismissed the suit.

Berg has now appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court where his appeal was denied November 3, 2008, by Justice Souter.

Of course, it is unlikely that publication of the facts will put an end to these baseless claims, especially in this age of the internet when anyone can splash any nutty idea around the world, and have that nutty idea repeated by the right-wing propaganda echo chamber of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Fox, and all the other usual suspects.

After all, as wiser people than I have observed: "A lie can travel half-way around the world while truth is putting on its shoes."

Ty seeks help for his 'Friends'

From **Ty Nickens**,
Kilmarnock

Could you open your heart and share your blessings this Christmas? My name is Tyrell Nickens, I am a 23-year-old founder/coordinator of "Ty's Friends Christmas Fund." I am writing you on behalf of helping to get Christmas gifts for my special friends.

My friends live in the 10 counties of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula of Virginia. "Ty's Friends Christmas Fund" was founded by me in 1995 as an organization to help give gifts to persons who have mental and physical disabilities. My special friends live with their families, friends, in adult homes, in group homes, and supervised housing. Most of them do not have anyone to give them Christmas gifts and that is the reason why I am helping them to have a cheerful holiday.

"Ty's Friends Christmas Fund" accepts monetary donations, new gifts, gift certificates and other acts of kindness. With the donations, we can give the less fortunate in our community holiday cheer through a holiday meal, warm clothes, toys, personal care items and Christmas joy.

A monetary gift of any amount is very much appreciated. Gifts can be unwrapped, wrapped or placed in gift bags with the description of the contents, labeled for male or female or children. All gifts need to be delivered by December 15.

If you, your civic organization, church, youth group, place of employment or family would like to sponsor an individual, family unit or have an "Angel Tree" as a project, feel free to contact me as soon as possible. The annual Christmas party will be December 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Beacon in Topping. You can contact me at 9445 Jessie duPont Memorial Highway, Kilmarnock, VA 22482, or call me at 435-8831 or (804) 832-8162. Checks can also be forwarded to Ty's Friends Christmas Fund Account, c/o Northern Neck State Bank, Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Please remember persons with disabilities and those less fortunate than you this Christmas season. Support Ty's Friends Christmas Fund. Thank you and God bless.

Thanks for support

From **Tony Innocenti**,
president,
Northumberland Lions Club

The Northumberland Lions Club wishes to thank the community for its wonderful support in our successful fall White Cane Fund Drive.

With this support the Lions can fulfill their motto "We Serve." Thanks to all!

Thanks for quick response

From **David W. Cheek**,
Irvington

I wanted to write a small note, but give a large thank you, to the many volunteer firemen that answered the recent call at McGinnes Chevrolet.

As members of this community, we all hear the "fire siren" sound from time to time, and we wonder what it might be. Where is the fire and what damage there may be? The recent call was the first time in over 30 years in this community that I knew from where the alarm came and to where the fire trucks were heading.

Help could not have come any faster to put out the fire at the McGinnes' building. I want to personally thank each and every one of the firemen for their extreme effort and effectiveness in what could have been a total loss of the building. Through your professionalism and quick response the building was saved and the loss was kept at a minimum.

I especially would like to thank the efforts of Kenny Lee who was the first on the scene, who took it upon himself to attack the fire at its source with nothing but a wall-mounted fire extinguisher. I also want to thank Randy Kellum for his quick actions in a fast-moving situation, and all others that participated in every facet of this call for help.

It is a rare thing to have an emergency situation, but it is a rarer thing still to have volunteers in our community serving with professionalism and passion which I witnessed that late windy afternoon. I shall never forget it.

Please accept my sincere thanks.

(Editor's note: David W. Cheek recently presented a similar "note" and contribution to the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department.)

I am thankful for...

From **Cynthia Sanford**,
Litwalton

This Thanksgiving I am thankful just to be here.

For the love and support of my family, I am thankful.

For the help and care from the Kilmarnock oncology doctors and nurses, I am thankful.

For my special "card lady," I am thankful.

For the care and treatments from Mid-River Cancer Center, I am thankful.

For my special ride to "treatment lady," I am thankful.

For the kind thoughts and prayers from my Richmond Times Dispatch customers, I am thankful.

For my very best friend and companion, I am thankful.

Thanks for help with regatta

From **Jane Scates**, executive director, Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck

Although the 13th Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta has come and gone, the Hospice

Support Services of the Northern Neck wishes to thank the management and employees of Yankee Point Marina and especially owners Ken and Karen Knoll, for their generosity in allowing us to use their beautiful facility.

Thanks go to all the businesses and individuals who donated time and material to making the regatta the huge success it was this year. Over 100 volunteers worked many years selling and advertising, setting up and cleaning up, cooking breakfast for over

300 regatta participants each morning, baking desserts and serving the dinner, driving water taxis, running the races, selling regatta paraphernalia, and in many other ways.

A very special thank you goes to Allan Young, who has been the chairman of the regatta for the last five years. In all that time he has worked tirelessly for long hours, with no reward other than the gratitude of his friends on the regatta committee—which has gone largely unspoken. The number of participants in the

regatta, and the income generated by it, increased significantly during his tenure. This growth has occurred at a time when the number of patients and hospice's needs for funds is also growing dramatically.

Space does not allow hospice to thank everyone individually, but we want them to know that their generosity is truly appreciated and will make life easier for over 250 Hospice Support Services patients, and the many patients of the two other hospices, in the coming year.

A time to say Thanks

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we invited readers to express gratitude to a person or organization that has been helpful to them this year. Here are their letters:



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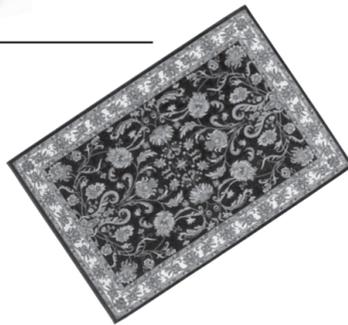
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Yesteryear in Lancaster

(Reprints from the November 27, 1908, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

Crisp News

During the fog Tuesday night the steamer Westmoreland, formerly of the Rappahannock River route, but now of the B.C. and A line, ran into a small sail boat in the bay and two men were drowned.

Boat Notes

Steamer Lancaster of the Rappahannock route, is being thoroughly overhauled at a Baltimore shipyard. A large barge was at the Fertilizer Works on Carter's Creek Wednesday and Thursday, filling her large tanks with water, which hold several thousand gallons.

M. Mitchell and Son, shipbuilders, Solomons, Md., have contracted with the Hinton-Toulson Guano Company, of Reedville, to build the hull for a fishing steamer to be 125 feet long, 22 feet beam and 11 feet deep. It is to be ready by next spring. A contract for the machinery will be placed later.

White Stone

The Hunt Club of this place engaged in a fox hunt yesterday (Thanksgiving Day). Lorenzo Bellows and sister, Miss Gertrude, of Ocran, left Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving at Blackstone.

Application for the Island road made to the County Circuit Court, and was to have been taken up Tuesday, has been continued until next term.

Alfonso

Those on the sick list are improving.

Miss Estelle Barrack, of Downings, is spending this week with her cousins here.

Miss Martha Webb, of Litwalton, visited friends here Sunday.

C. Barrack, of Baltimore, is spending a while at his parents paternal home here.

W.E. Haynie and mother, Mrs. Mitchell, were guests of Lucius Haynie, of Browns Store, recently.

Happy Thanksgiving!

(Transcribed by Stephen A. Redd, volunteer of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library)

A time to say Thanks

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we invited readers to express gratitude to a person or organization that has been helpful to them this year. Here are their letters:

Thanks for family friends and doctors

From **Michael Buckley-Sharp, Weems**

I am British, and four years ago retired to the Northern Neck with my wife, formerly of Virginia Beach, who spent 35 years in the UK. In March I was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

I thank all those contributing to my eventual recovery; firstly my wife, Ersel, who willingly undertakes the more gruesome post-operative procedures; my surgeon in Virginia Beach, who refused to write me off for treatment at 78; Ersel's family in Virginia Beach; the staff at Rappahannock, Riverside and Sentara hospitals; and finally, our wonderful friends in the NN, who have showered us with help, visits and cards.

Thank you, Marvin

From **Byrt S. Joseph, Ditchley**

I'd like to send a special thank you to Marvin Clingan, owner of Marvin's Repair Shop at 511 North Main Street, Kilmarnock.

Thank you, Marvin, for the years of service and friendship which you have extended to me and to the community as a whole. Your talent and consideration greeted me every time I entered your shop.

At this time of Thanksgiving, I applaud you!

Thanks for restoring faith in folks

From **Tove N. Power, Irvington**

On October 11, I received a telephone call from Joanne Cuffee at the Get 'N Zip in Lively. Ms. Cuffee had just found our credit card, which had accidentally been left on her counter that morning.

At this time of political nastiness, financial greed, turmoil and general anxiety, we were almost glad to have misplaced our credit card because Ms. Cuffee's honesty and diligence reminded us that people are basically good, kind and helpful.

We thank you, Ms. Cuffee, for that reminder.

Thanks for parents and grandparents

From **Crystal Lynn Whay and Dustin Whay Crenshaw, Kilmarnock**

My son, Dustin, and I would like to give thanks for my mom and dad, Carolyn and Howard Whay, for all they have done for us through the years.

They have been great parents and grandparents. They have truly shown what it means to "be there" and we love them.

Thanks for tournament participation

From **Joyce Rogers, CNR Memorial Rockfish Tournament Committee**

The Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Scholarship Committee thanks all volunteers, dockworkers, contributors, and of course the fishermen that helped make the fifth Annual CNR Memorial Rockfish Tournament a great success.

A special thanks to our sponsors, Material Girl Quilt Shop, SunTrust Investment Services, The Chesapeake Angler Magazine, Waterman's Surfside Grill, Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shoot Out, Fairfield's Volunteer Fire Department, Smith Point Marina, Midnight Sun Charters, Pohanka Honda, Middle Bay Realty, Reamy Seafood, Rittenhouse Salon, Jennings Boatyard, Purcell Seafood, Clegg's Diesel and Marine, Bank of Essex, Neck Construction Inc., EVB Bank, Al Pugh Distributing Co., Northern Neck State Bank, Hammock's Print Shop, Kelly Construction, Crowther Heating and A/C, W.E. Gano Inc., Tomlin and Keyser Land Surveyors, River Storage, Carlton Weights and Scales, Sports Centre and Bank of Lancaster.

Thanks to all our participants and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Thanks to community theater volunteers

From **Kerley LeBoeuf, president, Lancaster Players, White Stone**

The Lancaster Players thanks the 200 volunteers who brought community theater to The Playhouse in White Stone this year.

Residents of all ages participated in the six productions throughout 2008 in many roles: actor, director, wait staff, set construction, food prep, costumes, usher, props, maintenance, custodial, producer and bar-tending.

These volunteers enabled entertainment for those who enjoy theater, and enrichment for the children and adults who performed on our stage.

Thanks for helping to make Election Day go smoothly

From **Peggy Harding, Lancaster County General Registrar**

Now that the election is over and our office has returned to normal, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped make this November's election to be one of the best that we have had.

Our day ran very smooth and uneventful. Everyone who wanted to vote got the opportunity. We attribute the results to some of the best election officials in the state; and to the courteous and polite way in which the voters handled themselves.

I cannot begin to adequately thank the Officers of Election who put in many long hours for very little monetary rewards for their efforts in serving the citizens of Lancaster County over a very long day. They must love doing this, because many of them do it year after year. I would also like to thank the Bank of Lancaster and the CPA firm, Dehnert, Clark and Company PC, for allowing some of their employees to have the day off to work the polls. Their action shows their good citizenship. We appreciate them.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Upper Lancaster Ruritans, Trinity Episcopal Church, White Stone Volunteer Fire Department, Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock-Lancaster Rescue Squad and Irvington Baptist Church for the use of their facilities as precinct polling locations.

I would also like to thank my assistant, Jane Bishop, for her hard work and the many hours of overtime that she put in to help make sure that everything was ready for Election Day. And, of course, I would like to thank the Lancaster County Board of Elections: chairman Barbara Breeden, vice chairman Gilbert Dorman and secretary Bill Blocher. As a team, we managed to make the system work.

Thanks again to our workers and to the voters who took the time to do their patriotic duty.

Thanks for a job well done

From **Charles Hinson, Lancaster**

The Veterans Day Dinner to benefit The Families of the Wounded Veterans Fund held at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church on November 11, 2008, was a huge success.

We were able to raise over \$5,000 for this worthy organization. As with any project of this size, it can not be done without the help of a lot of people.

We want to thank the Chesapeake Bank for their donation and the Rappahannock Record for their help with our advertising, the Kilmarnock Museum for letting us use their World War II exhibit, the Jr. ROTC members of Lancaster High School, the merchants who let us put posters in their windows, to the radio stations announcing our dinner, to Kilmarnock Baptist Church for letting us use their kitchen for a part of the preparation.

This dinner still would not have been successful without the people of this community coming to the dinner and donating their monies. Every cent that you donated went to the Families of the Wounded Veterans Fund. What a great way for this community to thank our service members and to let them know we are always thinking of them and their families.

Thanks to someone who thinks of others

From **Julia Spencer Miller, Kilmarnock**

I am truly glad to be given this opportunity to give thanks to someone who is truly special.

This person is special because he loves everyone, accepts others, especially those with disabilities. He helps the hopeless, encourages the weakest, and advocates for all people to be treated "equal."

This person is always trying to help the disabled and unfortunate with their needs. He helped my 31-year-old brother to enjoy the Christmas holiday by inviting him to an annual Christmas party at the Beacon in Topping. His party is the joy of my brother's life for he gets to be with others that accept him and he feels very special there.

This wonderful young man is supported by wonderful parents, Irving "Coach Nick" and Phyllis Robinson Nickens. I give lots of thanks for a young man named Tyrell Nickens, who had a vision at a young age, I think 10 years old, to start "Ty's Friends Group."

He works busy from writing letters to supporters, talking to businesses for food donations, to gift wrapping, preparing food and serving food at a party. He also socializes with all the people at the party, for I attended one three years ago and saw for myself. Thanks to Tyrell Nickens and "Ty's Friends."

Thanks for sharing 'home'

From **Lee Hood Capps, Kilmarnock**

On the eve of Veterans Day, Monday, November 10, I departed our tranquil Northern Neck for a business trip in the Urwarrie National Forest region of North Carolina.

A chill of civic and cultural pride energized me as I left this special area, knowing that this trip may lead to a professional move for me.

The new plantings and miniature American flags throughout Kilmarnock's Steptoe's District, the Commonwealth of Virginia and American flags alternating on the utility poles of Irvington and the American flags and banners throughout White Stone enforced to me my thankfulness of being able to call the Northern Neck home.

Thank you to the 'been heres' for sharing the gem of your heritage with those of us blessed to be 'come heres,' for a day, a month or a year or two.

Thanking my savior

From **Mary G. Jones, Merry Point**

I thank my Lord and savior Jesus Christ and I sincerely thank Rappahannock General Hospital for blessing me in 2008, as well as the senior citizens group at Hartswell Baptist Church.

God bless you.

Thanking voters

From **Michael Fazzi, Weems**

The Election of 2008 gave Americans a chance to make history. Some voted for the person, others voted for the party.

As an election official I was proud to participate in the process, both as a voter, and as a volunteer. Working inside the polls on Election Day was enlightening and encouraging. The process was smooth even though it rained on the throngs. Only a few problems arose when paper ballots were dampened by rain dripping off hats or slickers.

I offer my most sincere thanks to my fellow volunteers at Precinct 5 for making this Election Day one to remember. I thank all the voters who braved the weather and stood in line to cast their ballot. Whomever you voted for, we all made history.

Thanks for helping my sister

From **Ginny (Geier) Gowski, Salt Lake City, Utah**

I'm thankful for the community of family and friends who helped my sister, Mary Posey, get her new business, The Learning Center Preschool and Childcare, off the ground and open on schedule.

I appreciate the support of

her fantastic staff, who work long hours and take great care of their tiny customers, as well as the parents who have entrusted Mary and her team with children's care.

Finally, and most importantly, I'm thankful for Erik, Mary's husband, who has given up most of his free time over the last year to help make Mary's dream a reality. Thank you, everyone!

Thanks, dad

From **Ryan Hudson, Weems**

I want to thank someone who has worked extremely hard to provide a beautiful place for the kids in Lancaster County to play baseball.

My dad, Ronald Hudson, has been the president of the Youth Club (Dreamfields) for the last five years and never seems to get tired of cutting grass, raking fields, dumping trash cans or even cleaning the bathrooms.

A lot of people thank him for volunteering his time, but I thought this would be a great place for me to thank him myself for making the fields I play on the best in the Northern Neck.

Thank you, Kilmarnock

From **Rebecca T. Nunn, Kilmarnock**

A big thank you to the staff of the Town of Kilmarnock and Susan Cockrell in particular for putting the "Welcome VMA-225, Chu Lai '65" banner on the front of the trolley for the USMC Vietnam squadron reunion recently held at our home.

Thanks to the Holiday Inn

Express, The Dollhouse, Main Street Antiques, the Kilmarnock Furniture Store and Savannah Joe's for the welcome signs in front of their businesses. Brenda Shirah's sign at The Dollhouse was in loving memory of her brother who was killed in action in Vietnam. A special thanks to Rose's Steak and Ale who generously provided each of the Marines a complimentary drink of their choice.

The Marines who came from all over the country fell in love with Kilmarnock, the surrounding area, and particularly with its citizens who were so welcoming to them and provided them with so much information. All of them had wonderful things to say about the Kilmarnock Museum and how much they enjoyed their visit to it and how helpful the folks there were.

Thank you, hometown. You made me proud!

Thanks to those above

From **William Ressler, Heathsville**

First, thanks be to you Lord, for without your love nothing is possible. This has been both the best and worst year in my life.

Mary, the gift of your love could only come from God above. I will love you forever, until we meet again in heaven positively. No pain, just joy and pure love eternally.

Thank you Mary for you have brought me to my salvation—what a gift. Thanks dear Lord for my friends and family. I have never been so high but so low, lonely, but yet so comforted.

Thank you, Jesus!

Thanks for being there

From **Genester B. Robinson, White Stone**

In observance of this Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to take time out to give thanks to some very special people.

First, I give honor to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all that he keeps doing for me. I could never thank him enough.

Recently, I had an unexpected surgery and the outpouring of love that I received was incredible. I would like to thank my family, church family, friends, co-workers and the residents of Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Also, a special thanks goes to my doctor for taking such good care of me.

May God bless you all. I love you.

Siblings thankful

From **Nicholas, 6, Sarah, 9, and Bianca, 14, Wohleking, Kilmarnock**

We would first like to say that the Wohleking children are thankful to have Thanksgiving dinner on November 27 when so many children and their families are unable to do so.

Nicholas is thankful for his mom being so patient with him while home-schooling and his awesome skateboard, and being able to do it so well.

Sarah is thankful for her hardworking father and for him taking her and her brother bike riding and to the park.

Bianca is thankful for her Catholic faith, family and way of education. She is especially thankful for her mother being an excellent teacher, her best friend, and role model.



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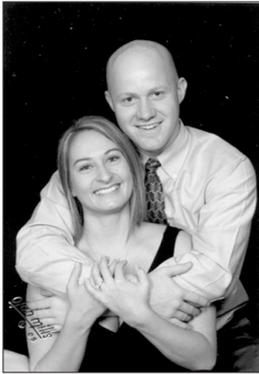
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Engagements

Library posts upcoming calendar



Cathryn Kirby and T. Dorsey Ficklin III

Ray and Ann Kirby of Virginia Beach announce the engagement of their daughter, Cathryn "Kadee" Kirby, to T. Dorsey Ficklin III, the son of Tom and Linda Ficklin of Ashland.

Miss Kirby is a graduate of First Colonial High School and James Madison University. She is a middle school teacher for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The prospective groom is a graduate of Atlee High School in Mechanicsville and Virginia Tech. He is employed by White Oak Equipment in Suffolk.

Mr. Ficklin is the grandson of Dorsey and Pat Ficklin of Lancaster and the late Hunter and Katie McCarty, formerly of Lancaster.

The wedding will be held in April in Virginia Beach.

The Northumberland County Public Library in Heathsville recently posted a calendar of upcoming special events.

The library will be closed Thursday through Saturday, November 27 through 29, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Movie Night will be held Thursday, December 4, at 6 p.m..

The movie will focus on the story of Marshall University, whose football team members were killed in a plane crash.

Movie night is sponsored by the library and Cooperative Extension. The activity is free.

The "Big Big Book Sale" returns Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the library's meeting room.

Bargain books, videos and posters will be sold.

An organ recital, reception and house tours at historic Burnt Chimneys will be conducted Saturday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 21, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 at the library.

The activity is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

For reservations, call 580-5051.



From left, library staff members Betty Dunaway and Nancy Webster sort through donated books which will be for sale at the Northumberland Public Library.

Book sale set Dec. 6

The Northumberland Public Library will hold its Big Big Book Sale December 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the meeting room.

A semi-annual event, the sale features hundreds of nearly new and gently used books for adults and children at bargain prices. Most cost \$3 or less. There is a selection of fiction,

non-fiction, paperbacks, videos and posters.

The sale is the same day as the Heathsville Golden Christmas celebration at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern, and the annual oyster roast at Roanoke Farm, sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All book sale proceeds support library programs.

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Births

Nathalie Biddlecomb announces the arrival of her baby sister, Ally Paige Biddlecomb, born October 17, 2008, at Memorial Regional Medical Center at 2:58 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Their parents are Charlie and Paige Biddlecomb of Fairport. Their grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Biddlecomb of Fairport and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Terry of Richmond.



Ally Paige Biddlecomb

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Area Events

RGH tree

The Volunteer Auxiliary at Rappahannock General Hospital will hold its annual tree-lighting ceremony at the hospital on December 3 at 5 p.m.

There will be music from local schools and refreshments in the lobby following the lighting. The Gift Shop will be open and there will be gifts available for sale in the lobby.

Annual bazaar

Irvington United Methodist Church will hold its Holiday Bazaar from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. December 6. The bazaar offers theme baskets, holiday items, entertainment gifts, special tables and wreaths. Vegetable soup will be featured.

'Seussical'

The Lancaster Middle School Drama Club will present "Seussical" December 5 at 9 a.m., December 6 at 7 p.m. and December 7 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children and may be purchased in advance, or at the door. Proceeds help the Drama Club produce future performances. Call Robin Blake at 435-1681.

Parade registration

Kilmarnock's annual illuminated Christmas Parade will take place December 12 at 7 p.m. All entries must be pre-registered.

For floats, contact Jean Light at jlight@chesvest.com, or 435-4243; equestrian units, Jamie Barrack at 462-5638; antiques/classic cars, Jackie Ashburn at 435-6171; and for all other entries, Carroll Ashburn at 435-2473.

Showtime

Toast of the Town, a variety show featuring two acts from On Golden Pond and several musical performances, will be presented at 7 p.m. December 6 and 3 p.m. December 7 at Festival Halle in Reedville. Doors open 45 minutes early for refreshments.

Admission is \$20 per person. For reservations, call 453-3388.

Library lottery

Tickets are on sale for the Lancaster Community Library's annual lottery. Some 600 tickets may be sold through January 9 at \$100 each. The drawing will be held at the library January 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Grand prize is \$10,000; two first prizes of \$2,500 each, three second prizes of \$500 each and five third prizes of \$250 each. Purchase tickets at the library Mondays through Saturday, or visit www.lancasterlibrary.org.

Quilt raffle

Quilter Virginia Casey of Village recently donated a handmade quilt to be raffled December 14 in support of the Angel Food Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Callao.

Tickets are available from ministry leader Norm Borders at 472-5168 and from Angel Food Committee members. Tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5.



Chorale Christmas concerts coming

The Chesapeake Chorale will present "Angels We Have Heard On High - A Holiday Celebration" at 8 p.m. December 13 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock and 3 p.m. December 14 at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington and Bank of Lancaster main branch and Twice Told Tales in Kilmarnock.

Tree lighting

Wicomico United Methodist Church invites the community to their sixth annual Christmas Program and Lighting of the Tree December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Wicomico Church on Route 200. A Christmas program will be conducted, including the reading of the names of those memorialized and honored.

Following the program, there will be refreshments and Santa will visit. Lights on the tree may be dedicated in memory and/or in honor of loved ones. Lights are \$5 each. Call 580-2021 or 580-7744 by December 5.

Lively Bells

The Northumberland County Historical Society will host Christmas music by the Lively Bells under the direction of Jena Smart at 2:30 p.m. December 7.

This Lancaster County handbell choir has been performing in the area since 1984. The concert will be held at the Ball Memorial Library and Museum in Heathsville. Visitors are welcome; no admission fee.

Handbag blowout

The Rappahannock General Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary will sponsor a fund-raiser featuring handbags, luggage, briefcases, wallets and small leather goods. The sale will be held Thursday, December 4, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the main hospital building in Kilmarnock.

Available for purchase will be name-brand handbags including Aigner, Stone Mountain, Nine West and Tommy Hilfiger. Prices vary ranging from 30 percent to 60 percent off retail prices. Cash, Master Card and Visa are accepted.

Give life

The RN Club at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw will host a blood drive December 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the bus. To schedule an appointment, contact Sara Headley at 333-6874, or sheadley@rappahannock.edu.

The drive is part of a Paula Deen promotion. Give blood November 1 to December 20 and receive a limited edition apron, special recipes and a personal note from Paula Deen. Also, every donor will be registered to win a \$100 pantry stocking shopping spree.

Beatles show

The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department in association with Fatt Catt Productions will present Come Together, a Tribute to the Beatles, at 8 p.m. January 17 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. Tickets are \$20. All seats are reserved.

Tickets are available in Kilmarnock at Bank of Lancaster main branch at 100 South Main Street, Crowther Ford and Mercury at 405 North Main Street, Noblett Appliance at 17 South Main Street and Hair Design Studio at 89 South Main Street. Call 435-6880, or email jan@fcpound.net.

Train club

The Rappahannock River Railroaders recently elected officers for 2009. They are president Dave Stutzman, vice president Fred Jones, secretary Sam Wilson and treasurer Lee Paul. Tom Armentrout, Robby Miles, Carl Rew, Bill Goettle and John Koedel were elected directors.

The train club will hold an open house December 6 at the club headquarters on Ball Park Road in Deltaville from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trains will run and refreshments will be served.

Seeking assistance

The Lancaster County Salvation Army seeks donations to assist needy families with food, clothing and toys. "Please give locally, so we can help locally," said chairperson Dianna Carter.

Send donations to Lancaster County Salvation Army, 1229 Weems Road, Weems, VA 22576.

CPR class

A CPR/adult/child/infant, First Aid and AED class will be offered November 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Red Cross Office in the Northern Neck Family YMCA building off Billy Graham Court.

The fee is \$60 per person and must be paid in advance. Call 435-7669.

Christmas bazaar

The George Washington Birthplace annual Christmas Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 5 and 6 at George Washington Birthplace on 1730 Popes Creek Road.

There will be gift items for all ages, holiday decorations, books, baked goods, music and refreshments.

Drop and shop

On Saturday, December 13, Belle Isle State Park will hold a "Drop and Shop" program from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parents can drop off their children free-time for holiday shopping. Children can be dropped off for an hour, part of the day or the whole day.

Volunteers and staff from Lancaster/Northumberland 4-H and the state park have planned a fun-filled day of crafts, games, stories and other activities. There might even be a visitor from the North Pole. Snacks are provided. Children should bring their own lunches. Children must be age 5 or older. The fee is \$2 per child per hour. For reservations, call 462-5030.

Wreath-making

Floral arranger Don Haynie will lead wreath-making workshops at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, at Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford.

All materials will be provided, but participants should bring their own hand pruners. The fee ranges from \$25 to \$45 depending on the package. Reservations are required. Call 493-8038, ext. 8504, e-mail nfolk@stratfordhall.org, or visit stratfordhall.org

Christmas concert

The Lancaster Middle School Chorus under the direction Saragrace Hendren will present a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. December 11 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater at 191 School Street in Kilmarnock. The concert will be presented as a gift to the community.

Influential women

"A Creative Dynasty: Four Generations of Virginia Women" continues through January 17 at the Virginia Historical Society at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond. For directions, hours and admission information, call 358-4901, or visit vahistorical.org.

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Two more homes on tour explored

The Steamboat Era Museum will sponsor a Holiday House Tour in Irvington.

The walking tour includes six homes and will be held December 13 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Two of the homes on the tour are Lee's Hill, owned by Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Stephens and The Dell, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Orr.

The original Lee's Hill was built in 1889 by local businessman William McDonald Lee, owner of the Virginia Citizen newspaper. As Commissioner of Game and Inland Fisheries, he was issued the yacht Commodore Maury, equipped with mounted guns which he used as a patrol boat during the Oyster Wars between Maryland and Virginia.

In 1934, Lee's Hill burned to the ground. Within 40 days a small house was built for the family which in 1952 was moved and became known as The Dell.

In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Stephens, founders of the Tides Inn, built the existing house on the original site. The doors, trim, halls, panels and den were built with cypress shipped from New Orleans. The living room mantel is a carving of the original Lee's Hill. Struck by lightning in 1969, the night of the U.S. landing on the moon, another fire took its toll. The roof attic and second floor were destroyed. Rebuilding took almost a year.

In 1987, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Stephens Jr., founders of the Tides Lodge, moved in and now live there.

In 1952, the small family



Lee's Hill



The Dell

home, which replaced the burned Lee's Hill, was moved down by the water in the barnyard and became known as the Dell. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Stephens, older brother of Ennolls Stephen, used The Dell as a summer cottage.

In the 1960s, an entire wing was added. The Dell was purchased in 1998 by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Orr.

The Orrs have worked extensively on the home and have added an outdoor jacuzzi overlooking the creek.

Concerts, focus tours signal start of holiday season

"A Child's-Eye View: Antique Toys of Colonial Williamsburg," an exhibition at the Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, features toys from the decorative arts and folk art collections.

The exhibition explores how children re-create the adult world from their own perspective through play and toys. Dollhouses, toy trains and other playthings bring back fond memories of childhood.

The holiday music series will return to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in 2008. Many regular and new performers will share the joy of the season from times past and places far away. Concerts will begin the day after Thanksgiving and run through the end of the year.

Special tours focusing on 18th- and 19th-century holiday traditions will be offered at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. Art programs will allow young guests and their families to explore the exhibitions and make a toy, ornament or decoration to take home.

The Museums of Colonial Williamsburg include the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum and the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. Admission is included in any Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket or by separate museums ticket. For information, call 757-220-7724.

For a free copy of Colonial Williamsburg's 2008 Holiday Planner highlighting programs, concerts and special dining events, call 1-800-447-8679, or visit history.org.

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Lively Bells to perform

The Lively Bells will present a program of seasonal music at the Northumberland County Historical Society quarterly meeting December 7 at 2:30 p.m. The performance will be at the Ball Memorial Museum and Library in Heathsville.

"Our Christmas program is an annual community event," said president Wiatt Garland. "We welcome friends and neighbors as well as our members."

There is never any charge for Historical Society events.

The Lively Bells was one of the first bell choirs in the area, formed under the auspices of the Bethel United Methodist Church in Lively in 1984. Although the choir has gone through changes in personnel and directors, it has continued through the years as a lively part of the community, performing throughout the North-ern Neck.

The director of the choir is Jena Smart, and the bell ringers will be joined by Bill Duvall on guitar. Ringing the bells will be Ray Bridgers, Pat Edwards, Margaret Forrester, Lynn

Larson, Lucille Lee, Karen Lewis, Vonnie Long, Bethany Revere, Rose Saunders, Sherry Vanlandingham and Crystal Wilmore. Long also acts as coordinator, while Bridgers provides in-house maintenance and adjustment of the bells.

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This Side of 60

by Marie Snider

The Origins of Thanksgiving

Until last Thursday, I knew for sure who the "father of our country" was. An honorable and principled man, who as a child chopped down a cherry tree with his new hatchet and when his father asked who had done it, said, "I can not tell a lie."

George Washington — the first president of the United States.

But now, I'm not so sure.

While researching the origins of Thanksgiving Day, I stumbled across some websites, including an encyclopedia, that cast doubt on my belief.

Those sources said that the first president of the United States was not George Washington, but John Hanson who took office in 1781, eight years before Washington.

And those sources also said there were six subsequent presidents before Washington was sworn in as president in 1789.

It seems to depend when you think the United States became a country.

The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781, with the adoption of The Articles of Confederation. The document was proposed on June 11, 1776, but was not adopted until March 1, 1781.

It seems Maryland refused to sign the document until Virginia and New York relinquished some of their land, because Maryland was afraid that those states would have too much power in the new government with so much land.

Once the signing took place, a president was needed to run the country. George Washington was part of the Congress at that time, but John Hanson was chosen unanimously. Hanson was so respected by Congress that all other potential candidates refused to run against him.

Thus, Hanson became our

first "forgotten" president. General Washington served under President Hanson, and eight years later Washington became the first president to serve under our current constitution. Hanson's official title was "President of the United States in Congress Assembled."

Hanson served only one year, because at that time the Articles of Confederation only allowed a president to serve a one-year term during any three-year period.

For a one-year president, Hanson accomplished a lot.

President Hanson was well-prepared for the highest office. As a very self-motivated child, he began reading the classics and political philosophy of the great leaders of the Reformation. He also came from a long line of American patriots.

His farm, Mulberry Grove, was just across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, Washington's residence.

Hanson, who took office just as the Revolutionary War ended, boldly ordered all foreign troops to leave and also demanded that all foreign flags be removed.

Among his other accomplishments, he established the Great Seal of the United States, which all presidents have since been required to use on official documents.

He created the position Secretary of War and established the first Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Post Office departments. He also chartered a National Bank, designed a system of universal coinage and planned for a national census.

But, one of the most important things Hanson did (at least it would seem so at this time of year) was to declare the fourth Thursday of every November to be Thanksgiving Day. And we still celebrate his day!

So this Thanksgiving Day, as you give thanks for your food and good fortune, remember our "first" President Hanson who instituted this special holiday.

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Parade to feature floats, bands and mini horses

Kilmarnock's 30th annual lighted Christmas Parade will be held at 7 p.m. December 12 along Main Street in Kilmarnock.

The parade will feature floats; marching bands including the Grand Champion Henrico High School Mighty Marching Warriors and the Lancaster Red Devil Marching Band; equestrian groups including mini-horses; antique and classic automobiles; military vehicles; and specialty groups include The Marching Elites Drill Team from Hampton.

To enter floats, contact Jean Light at jlight@chestest.com, or call 435-4243; equestrian units, call Jamie Barrack at 462-5638; antique/classic automobiles, call Jackie Ashburn at 435-6171; queens or other royalty, call

Suzanne Keyser at 435-4262; and all other units, call Carroll Ashburn at 435-2473.

Seven float awards will be presented: The Mayors Award for best non-commercial entry; Judges Award for best use of lighting; Chamber of Commerce Award for best commercial entry; the Youth Award for best youth entry; the Tanya Dickinson Memorial Award, the volunteer award; the Charlie Carneal Memorial Award, a judges discretion award; and the Grand Marshal's award for best presentation of the Parade Theme which this year is "A Coastal Christmas." Six awards will also be given for equestrian groups and individuals.

Santa will meet with all boys and girls at the firehouse immediately following the

parade. In addition to a gift for every child, one person will win a \$100 shopping spree, compliments of The Kilmarnock Toy Store. Registration will take place while parents are waiting in line. The winner's name will be announced on 101.7 Bay F.M. and WIGO Country 104.9 Monday morning December 15.

Plans are under way for reserved front row seating along a portion of the parade route with seats selling for \$5 each.

The parade will be taped for airing at a later date on cable channel 24 on Woman's World. The parade also will be covered by the Rappahannock Record and RRecord.com.

The parade is sponsored by the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Neck Kiwanis Club.

Grand Illumination highlights Colonial Williamsburg holidays

The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums continues the celebration of its 50th anniversary with special performances during a Grand Illumination, Sunday, December 7.

Founded in 1958, the Fifes and Drums performs in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area nearly 500 times during the year in daily programs from mid-February through December and during special programs observing major holidays.

Grand Illumination, the signature event of Colonial Williamsburg's holiday season, features fireworks, music and candlelit buildings.

The celebration begins in the late afternoon with a variety of entertainment, starting at 4:45 p.m. on multiple outdoor stages throughout the Historic Area. The Colonial

Williamsburg Fifes and Drums provides 18th-century music appropriate to the season. Other costumed performers present holiday entertainment found in Williamsburg two centuries ago.

At 5:45 p.m. the Fifes and Drums signals the beginning of Grand Illumination, from all four stages. At 6:15 p.m., candles are lit in public buildings, shops and homes,

and fireworks are launched at three Historic Area locations: the Governor's Palace, Magazine and Capitol. After the fireworks, entertainment resumes on the outdoor stages and continues until 7:30 p.m.

Illuminations—firing guns into the air and lighting fireworks—were commonly used during the 18th century to celebrate major events such as great military victories, the birthday of the monarch or the arrival of a new colonial governor. Written accounts of illuminations in Williamsburg, the 18th-century capital of Virginia before the American Revolution, include descriptions of "candles in the cupolas of public buildings and windows of gentlemen's houses."

Guests can enjoy illuminations of individual buildings within the Historic Area featuring musket fire and fifes and drums throughout December. Flickering cressets mark each destination during narrated tours. Colonial Williamsburg's own Fifes and Drums participate in these events.

On December 24, guests can experience an 18th-century tradition, the firing of the Christmas guns. Fifes and Drums follow the program at several locations on Duke of Gloucester Street, as well as on Palace Green.

For a free copy of Colonial Williamsburg's 2008 Holiday Planner highlighting programs, concerts and special dining events, call 1-800-447-8679, or visit history.org.

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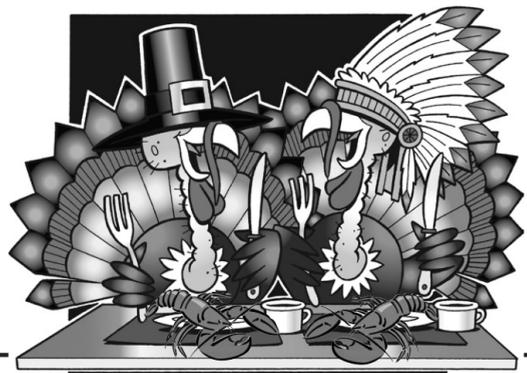
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'Nature's Beautiful Web' to light up botanical gardens

GardenFest of Lights at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a holiday tradition featuring more than half-a-million lights, botanical decorations, displays (including model trains) and more. GardenFest continues nightly from 5 to 10 p.m. through January 12, 2009, except December 24, 25, and January 1. The theme is "Nature's Beautiful Web."

Opeining night will feature Dominion's GardenFest Illumination November 28 from 5 to 10 p.m. At 5 p.m., mingle with Santa, the Butterfly Fairy and Garden Keeper. At 5:30 p.m., is the countdown to the illumination. At 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., fire-spinning shows will be presented by the River City Burners.

The lights

Using more than half-a-mil-

lion lights, GardenFest is a fantasy land complete with forms of flowers, birds and butterflies. This year, a gigantic, shimmering spider web of lights stretches across the Sunken Garden in front of the conservatory. In the Children's Garden, visitors can use a wheelchair-accessible ramp to climb into the tree house 13 feet above the ground for a magnificent view of the lights and garden.

The displays

In the glittering domed conservatory, the Central Palm Court houses a spectacular winter wonderland scene, the East Wing features exquisite orchids, and the West Wing enchants with vignettes inspired by the children's book *Cobweb Christmas*. The North Wing includes a grand holiday tree and a model train in a

snow-covered landscape.

Special days

Merry Mondays will feature family fun from 5 to 8 p.m. every Monday night with storytelling by the Garden Keeper and Santa "sightings" in the conservatory.

Thursdays feature acoustic music from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. with flute, brass and sax ensembles.

Dining

Holiday dinners are also available during GardenFest evenings in the Garden Cafe and in the Robins Tea House. The Garden Cafe offers a casual, self-service atmosphere while the Tea House offers an elegant setting overlooking the lights. Both include children's menus. Reservations are required for the Tea House at 262-9887, ext. 329, but not for

the cafe.

Admission for GardenFest is \$10 for adults; \$9 for seniors; \$6 for children ages 3 to 12; and free for children under age 3. Admission for garden members is \$5; for children on a membership, it is \$4 (ages 3 to 18).

The garden is at 1800 Lakeside Avenue in Richmond. To learn more, call 262-9887, or visit lewisginter.org.

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State tourism slogan celebrates 40 years

Gov. Tim Kaine recently kicked off the 40th anniversary of Virginia is for Lovers at the Virginia State Capitol. Virginia is for Lovers, launched in 1969, is the official state tourism slogan. In 2009, it will mark its 40-year reign as one of the most recognizable and enduring tourism marketing initiatives in the country.

Joined by former Gov. A. Linwood Holton and officials from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), Gov. Kaine invited Virginians and travelers to join him in celebrating Virginia's appeal for people passionate about travel.

"Virginia is for Lovers is an American classic that connects with travelers of every generation," Gov. Kaine said. "Though a lot has changed during the past 40 years, Virginia is still a leader in tourism with the 'Virginia Green' section of VTC's award-winning website, which highlights our wonderful opportunities for travel with low environmental impact. The year 2009 is going to be a great time to experience Virginia's newest destinations and exciting additions to historic favorites."

Virginia tourism officials plan to use the 40th anniversary of Virginia is for Lovers as a reminder about the true meaning behind the slogan.

What started out as "Virginia is for history lovers," "Virginia is for beach lovers" and "Virginia is for mountain lovers," was soon shortened to "Virginia is for Lovers," implying that whatever visitors loved they could find in Virginia.

"Virginia is for Lovers is one of the most famous slogans in the country but it's often misunderstood," said Alisa Bailey, president and chief executive officer of the Virginia Tourism Corporation. "At its core, Virginia is for Lovers represents a love of life and a passion for travel. We invite travelers to come celebrate our 40th anniversary and live out their passions for music, history, wine, culture and adventure in Virginia."

The first ad featuring the slogan appeared in 1969. Throughout the 1970s, the slogan became extremely popular with support from state leaders such as Gov. Holton.

Forty years later, Virginia is for Lovers is going strong in the new "Portraits of Passion" marketing series. These portraits are real Virginians whose passion for history, music, wine, outdoor adventure and life make Virginia a rewarding travel destination.

The Portraits of Passion are outdoor guides, wine makers,

musicians and other members of the travel industry with whom visitors can connect on vacation in Virginia. The "portraits" tell their own story in their own words in print advertisements, in the Virginia travel guide and, for the first time ever, in multi-

media videos on Virginia.org/portraits.

Tourism is an \$18.7 billion industry in Virginia, generating 210,000 jobs and providing \$1.2 billion in state and local taxes for Virginia's communities.



Artist: Rita Cutler

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34-13 win stretches Essex High football season to state semis W&L loses

Coach Todd Jones captured his third Region A, Division 2 title with Essex last Saturday and will take his Trojans to the Group A state semifinals this week.

Essex amassed a 34-7 halftime lead and cruised to a 34-13 win over Northern Neck District rival Washington and Lee in last weekend's regional championship. The unbeaten Trojans (12-0) will head to Region B's Gretna this Saturday, November 29, to face the 11-1 Hawks.

Quarterback Lyndon Garner and receiver Devante Baker set the tone early in last weekend's win over the Eagles. The two connected on a 70-yard scoring pass on the second play of the game and Garner completed his first six passes. He finished with 194 yards and three touchdowns.

James Hence led the host Trojans' ground game with 161 yards rushing including a 76-yard TD carry.

A 5-yard scoring run by Danzell Gaines gave Essex a 14-0 lead just six minutes into the region final. Gaines scored twice in the game, the second time on a 47-yard pass from Garner.

The Eagles, who capped a 9-3 campaign, scored once in the first half on a 15-yard pass from Scott Taylor to DJ Brooks, which cut the Trojans' lead to 14-7. But Essex took off for three more TDs, including a third Garner scoring pass near the end of the half on a 25-yard shot to Mequel Phillips.

The only scoring in the second half came in the fourth quarter when Taylor found Travis Seager on a 9-yard pass. Taylor led the Eagle rushers with 11 carries for 64 yards. He completed seven of 22 passes for 77 yards and two scores.

W&L.....7 0 0 6 - 13
Essex.....21 13 0 0 - 34
E - Baker 70 pass from Garner (Thomas kick)
E - Gaines 5 run (Thomas kick)
WL - Brooks 15 pass from Taylor (Alvarez kick)
E - Gaines 47 pass from Garner (Thomas kick)
E - Hence 76 run (kick failed)
E - Phillips 25 pass from Garner (Thomas kick)
WL - Seager 9 pass from Taylor (kick failed)



John Lewis (right) landed this 50.4-pound rockfish in the fifth annual Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Rockfish Tournament. He was fishing with this crew aboard Kit II with Capt. Danny Crabbe (holding plaque).

50-pound rockfish tips tourney scales

Some 74 boats entered the fifth annual Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Rockfish Tournament November 15 and 16.

Although bad weather kept the fishermen in port Saturday, they were able to fish Sunday. The awards dinner went on as usual Saturday night with a large crowd in attendance.

Weigh-master Harry Towne accepted 43 large rockfish at Smith Point Marina. The heaviest fish of the tournament weighed 50.40 pounds and was the largest landed to date in any of the tournaments.

The first-place winner was John Lewis of Richmond, fishing with Capt. Danny Crabbe aboard the Kit II. The combined weight of his fish, including the 50.40-pounder, was 76.65 pounds. He was awarded \$5,000 and a plaque.

The second-place winner was Tom Tinder of Bowling Green, fishing with Capt. Craig Johnson aboard the Digger II. The combined weight of his

fish was 63.9 pounds. He was awarded \$2,500 and a plaque.

The third-place winner was Wayne Engleheart of Del-taville, fishing with Capt. Chris Lopynski aboard the Game On. The combined weight of his fish was 62.1 pounds. He was awarded \$1,500 and a plaque.

The youth winner was Doug Boorman fishing with Capt. Danny Crabbe aboard the Kit II. His fish weighed 21.7 pounds. He was awarded a fishing rod and reel donated by Jett's Hardware and Marine, and a certificate.

All plaques were donated by the Sports Centre in Kilmarnock.

Anthony Giordano of Stafford claimed the early entry prize of \$125.

Among raffle prizes, the first-place trip for six aboard Midnight Sun Charter, donated by Capt. Ryan Rogers, went to Sherri Doyle.

The second-place restaurant

bonanza, donated by Tommy's Degatani's, and Horn Harbor House Restaurants, went to Herbert Hamcock.

The third-place Tangier Island Cruise aboard the Chesapeake Breeze and Ingle-side Winery Cruise aboard the Capt. Thomas went to Sherri Doyle.

The fourth-place Oakley Sunglasses for His and Her, donated by Bob Upham, went to Michelle Robins.

Tournament proceeds benefit two Northumberland High school seniors attending a four-year college or university with a \$5,000 scholarship each.

Tournament organizers thanked all workers and sponsors who helped make the tournament possible.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may send a check to The Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 222, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Red Devils winter sports schedules

Lancaster High School's winter sports season opens next week. Look for pre-season previews on the basketball teams in the December 4 Rappahannock Record.

IV & VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

(JV 6 p.m., varsity 7:30 p.m.)
Dec. 2 at Mathews
Dec. 5 at West Point
Dec. 9 Colonial Beach
Dec. 11 at Middlesex
Dec. 15 at Mathews
Dec. 16 West Point
Dec. 26 & 27 at Middlesex
Christmas Tournament (varsity only)
Jan. 9 W&L
Jan. 16 at Essex
Jan. 20 Middlesex
Jan. 23 Rappahannock
Jan. 27 at Northumberland
Jan. 28 at Colonial Beach
Feb. 3 Essex
Feb. 6 at W&L
Feb. 10 at Rappahannock
Feb. 13 Northumberland
Feb. 18 & 20 Northern Neck District
Tournament at Northumberland (6 p.m.)

IV & VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

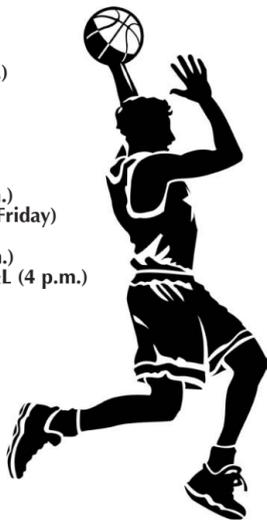
(JV 6 p.m., varsity 7:30 p.m.)
Dec. 2 at Mathews
Dec. 4 West Point
Dec. 5 & 6 at James Monroe
Tournament
Dec. 10 Middlesex
Dec. 15 Mathews
Dec. 16 at West Point
Dec. 26 & 27 at Middlesex
Christmas Tournament (varsity only)
Jan. 8 at W&L
Jan. 15 Essex
Jan. 20 at Middlesex
Jan. 23 at Rappahannock
Jan. 27 Northumberland
Feb. 3 at Essex
Feb. 5 W&L
Feb. 10 Rappahannock
Feb. 13 Northumberland
Feb. 17 & 20 Northern Neck District
Tournament at Northumberland (6 p.m.)

WRESTLING

Dec. 12 & 13 at Little Giant Classic, Waynesboro (12:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. Saturday)
Dec. 17 at Washington & Lee Tri (4:30 p.m.)
Dec. 20 Lancaster Duals (8 a.m.)
Jan. 2 & 3 at Bison Duals, Buffalo Gap (12:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. Saturday)
Jan. 7 at Mathews Tri (4 p.m.)
Jan. 10 at King George Duals (5:30 p.m.)
Jan. 17 at Powhatan Invitational (8:30 a.m.)
Jan. 23 & 24 at Ram Rumble, Lafayette (2 p.m. Friday)
Jan. 28 at Northumberland Tri (4:30 p.m.)
Jan. 31 at New Kent Invitational (7:30 a.m.)
Feb. 6 Northern Neck District Quad, W&L (4 p.m.)
Feb. 13 & 14 Region A Tournament, Mathews (8 a.m. Saturday)
Feb. 19-22 Group A Tournament, Salem

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Dec. 3 at Essex
Dec. 8 Rappahannock, Essex, W&L
Dec. 15 at W&L
Jan. 12 Northern Neck District tournament, Rappahannock (5:30 p.m.)
Jan. 31 Region A tournament, Colonial Beach (10 a.m.)



Rockfish derby slated Nov. 28 & 29

The annual rockfish derby sponsored by The Bethel-Emmanuel Methodist Men will be held November 28 and 29 at Yankee Point Marina on Myer Creek.

The registration fee is \$25 per person. Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 for first, second and third places will be awarded along with bonus prizes of \$100 and \$50 for

the largest rockfish caught between the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial and Downing bridges.

A savings bond will be awarded to the youth landing the largest rockfish.

Top lady angler and other consolation prizes also will be given.

Proceeds from the derby benefit the United Methodist

Men's community and church projects.

To obtain registration forms, call 462-5790, 462-7229 or 761-8119. The registration deadline by mail is November 25.

Late registrations will be accepted until 9 a.m. on each day of fishing.

Registration forms also may be obtained at beumm.org.

Ninth annual Irvington Turkey Trot runs Thursday

Irvington will host the ninth annual Turkey Trot Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, at the commons off King Cater Drive.

A two-mile race will begin at 9 a.m., a five-mile at 10 a.m. and a tot trot at 11 a.m.

The fee is \$20 for the two-

mile or five-mile race. For those running in both events, the fee is \$5 for the second race. The tot trot is free.

Age divisions for both events are 1-7, 8-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and over.

Pre-registered participants

may pick up their numbers and t-shirts at the town office in Irvington on Steamboat Road November 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Race day registration will be at the commons beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 8:45 a.m.

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* RAPPAHANNOCK ALMANAC *

White Stone/Grey's Point Tides, Sun, & Moon - November/December, 2008

Day	Date	Sunrise	Moonrise	Sunset	Moonset	Low	High
Fri	11/28	7:00	8:03	4:48	5:17	5:32	11:42
Sat	11/29	7:00	8:55	4:48	6:09	6:10	12:20
Sun	11/30	7:01	9:39	4:47	7:06	6:49	12:57
Mon	12/1	7:02	10:18	4:47	8:06	1:09	1:35
Tue	12/2	7:03	10:51	4:47	9:06	1:49	2:13
Wed	12/3	7:04	11:20	4:47	10:07	2:31	2:55
Thu	12/4	7:05	11:46	4:47	11:08	3:18	3:40
Fri	12/5	7:06	12:10	4:47		4:09	4:31

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

PM times are in boldface type.
Unusually high & low tides are also in boldface.
© Panbo 2008 (tides@panbo.com)

Bridge Results

Seven-and-a-half tables of duplicate bridge were in play November 18 at the Women's Club of Lancaster.

Winners north/south were first, Dianne Monroe and Babs Murphy; second, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham; and third, Shirley Crockett and Elaine Weekley.

Winners east/west were first, Joseph and Beverly Oren; second, Liz Hargett and Tot Winstead; and third, Terry Carter and Al Jodrey.

The next bridge for this

group will be Tuesday, December 2, at 1 p.m.

The Women's Club of Lancaster held its regular bridge luncheon October 15.

After lunch, attendees played bridge and mahjong. Bridge winners were first, Virginia Adair with 4,300 points; and second, Betty Thornton with 3,610 points.

The next regular sandwich bridge will be December 17. Call Betty Thornton at 462-0742 for reservations or to be placed on a waiting list.

Sport Shorts

Open house

Westmoreland State Park will celebrate its first winter open house December 14 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The event will include music, fire in the fireplace, hot apple cider, fresh-baked cookies and holiday crafts and programs for children in the newly renovated Helen and Tayloe Murphy Hall. The gift shop will be open and feature nature-oriented items and holiday gifts at a one-day discount. Parking is free.

Walker wins poster contest

Matthew Walker recently won the national boating safety poster contest sponsored by the U.S. Power Squadron in the 9 to 11 age group. Walker and his family were invited to the U.S. Power Squadron's district fall conference in Solomons, Md., to receive the award as guests of Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron. From left are Kim Walker, Matthew Walker, Northern Neck Squadron Cmdr. Judy Cook, Justin Walker and Joe Walker.



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Pistol and rifle club holds awards banquet

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club held its annual banquet November 13 at the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Rob Wittman gave an update on the latest events occurring in Washington, D.C., to an audience of some 90 people.

Following the talk, an awards ceremony was held to recognize the outstanding shooters in three categories—pistol, rifle and shotgun. Individuals compete in a variety of matches throughout the year and receive points based on how well they finish in each of those matches.

In the pistol matches, Tom Nance finished first; Barry Smith, second; and Tom Smith, third.

In the rifle events, Nance was first; Rick Jones, second; and Tom Smith, third.

In the shotgun competition, Bob Barry placed first; Bob Hudson, second; and Barry Kennedy, third.

The club also recognized its overall champion as the individual who achieves the most points throughout the year in all categories. Nance was the recipient of that coveted honor. Tom Smith was second, and Barry Smith, third.

Nance also was presented the Taylor Award in honor of Betty and Larry Taylor in recognition



Betty and Larry Taylor announce the Taylor Award recipient, Tom Nance.

of their many contributions to the club throughout the years.

The club's first service award was given to Fred Ajoatian for his outstanding service and devotion to the club and its members. This award, named in his honor, will be awarded annually as the Ajoatian Service Award.

Anyone interested in any of the shooting sports or attending some of the classes (basic courses for pistol, rifle and shotgun; Women on Target; and youth shooting) held throughout the year, should call president Barry Kennedy at 435-2909 for details.



A new service award was established in honor of Fred Ajoatian.

Wildlife refuge due Audubon discussion

The further development of the Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge (RWR) will be discussed Monday, December 1, at 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock.

Presented by the Northern Neck Audubon Society, the program will feature Joseph McCauley and Ann Graziano. McCauley is the project leader of the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge and manages four refuges. Graziano is the president of the Rappahannock Wildlife Friends.

In the last two years, the RWR friends group has worked with refuge staff and volunteers to develop new visitor facilities at the refuge's Hutchinson Tract in Essex County, just west of Tappahannock. Much progress has been made and the facilities will be open to visitors in the spring or summer.

The initiative began with the application by the friends to enroll the refuge into the Chesapeake Gateways Program. Using matching funds from the Northern Neck Audubon Society and the Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, the friends received a Gateways grant to create an interpretive water trail.

Refuge funds are being used to establish parking areas, restrooms, a pavilion, 1.5 miles of wildlife observation trails, wayside interpretive panels, a canoe launch, and a fishing pier.

Volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours of labor on the project, including sprucing up old farm buildings on the property and creating a native wildflower garden.

While wildlife conservation is the refuge's primary purpose, National Wildlife Refuge System policies encourage development of compatible, wildlife-related recreational opportunities when they do not conflict. When completed, the facilities will promote environmental education, fishing, hunting, interpretation, wildlife photography and wildlife observation.

Refreshments will follow the program.

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Gloucester facility accepts animals from Northern Neck

The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society operates an "open shelter" in Gloucester and accepts animals from the Northern Neck and five counties of the Middle Peninsula—Middlesex, Gloucester, Mathews, King and Queen and Essex, according to Kathy Kauffman, according to Kathy Kauffman of Topping, a Humane Society board member.

Animals also come from other Virginia locations, she said.

In 2007, the Humane Society took in 3,315 animals. "Our animal transport programs and our work with rescue groups has resulted in high placement rates," said Kauffman.

The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society (GMHS) is building a new shelter and

has raised \$2,773,549 of the \$3,575,000 needed for a new mortgage-free building, said building committee chairman Ralph Jackson. Some 700 entities have contributed for new shelter construction, he said.

"We're looking for a few hundred more people and businesses to help us reach our goal," said Jackson.

As part of the campaign for the new building, the Humane Society has launched a "Brick by Brick" campaign to build a walk of honor up to and around the shelter. Bricks may be purchased as a way to let family and friends know how much they mean.

"Each purchased brick will be a lasting testament to an animal or human that you have loved, wish to remember or

honor," said Kauffman.

Bricks come in two sizes. A 4-inch-by-8-inch brick with a maximum of 14 characters on three lines costs \$125. The purchase of 10 or more bricks brings the cost down to \$100 per brick.

An 8-inch-by-8-inch brick with five lines is \$200. Company logos can be added to an 8-inch-by-8-inch brick for an additional \$100.

Kauffman said the bricks would make great Christmas presents.

To place an order, call 693-4047, contact the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society at P.O. Box 385, Gloucester, VA, 23061, or use the order form appearing in a related advertisement elsewhere in the Rappahannock Record.

Coop gives \$250,000 to 4-H

Through the efforts of its customers, retail employees, dealer network, suppliers, and its Agway subsidiary, Southern States today proudly announces it has raised \$250,000 for the National 4-H Council through its 2008 Clovers All Over Program.

The Clovers All Over program, which Southern States adopted in 2007, celebrates National 4-H week. Green paper clovers, the symbol of 4-H, adorned Southern States retail locations from October

5 through 19, and with a minimum \$1 donation, customers displayed their name on a clover in support of their local 4-H group.

After donating \$6,000 in 2007, Southern States set an initial goal of \$50,000 in 2008. Employee competitions and emphasis from corporate leaders led to a total that far exceeded expectations.

"Our customers, vendors and employees embraced the effort to support the 6.5 million 4-H youth members," said

Richard Schneider, marketing manager for Southern States. "We knew our customer were true believers in 4-H, but never in our wildest dreams did we realize how broad and strong the support really was for 4-H until we totaled the contributions."

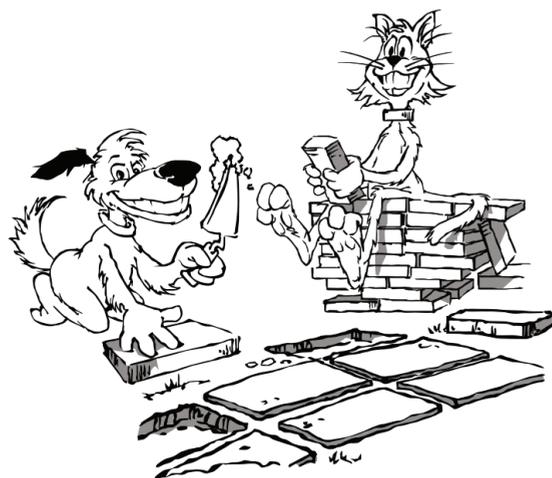
Employees from Southern States' top contributing retail locations recently presented a \$250,000 check to the National 4-H Council, which will distribute 50 percent of the funds to local 4-H organizations.



Pack 242 holds Buddy Cake Bake

Cub Scout Pack 242 members recently joined with their parents to create an original cake for the Buddy Cake Bake at Kilmarnock Baptist Church. From left are (front row) Scouts Hunter Hollingsworth, Tucker Vanderpool, Lane Hayden, Blake Smith, John Vale, Joseph Gardner, Evan Johnson, Chase Tambellini and Kendall Barnhardt; (next row) parents Dave Tambellini, Bill Smith, Tom Gardner, Kathie Heghen and Mark Hollingsworth. Awards were given and the cake was eaten. Cub Scouting is for boys in grades 1 through 5. Pack 242 meets at Kilmarnock Baptist Church every first, second and third Mondays. To join, call Cubmaster Steve Kancianic at 413-7011.

Help pave the way to happiness for our Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society animals. Give the holiday gift of an engraved brick to honor a beloved person or pet.



All proceeds support the building of our new animal shelter.

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Brick specifications, 8"x 8" - 14 characters per line, 5 line maximum

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Bluebird nesting box project set for December

Have you noticed the remarkable increase in bluebirds on "The Neck" in recent years?

At one stage a bluebird sighting was anything but common, according to Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) publicity chairman Maggie Gerdts. Now they are plentiful, flitting about in the meadows and fields around our rivers and creeks, she said.

It may all have something to do with the efforts of the NNAS, said Gerdts.

"Sharing and preserving the unique natural treasure that is the Northern Neck" is a key focus of the chapter, she said.

In this spirit, building bluebird nesting boxes has been a major endeavor for over 25 years, she explained. Members have built and sold more than 15,000 boxes since the project began. Last year, former chapter president Tom Teeple counted over 200 new bluebird fledglings on the bluebird trail he monitors at Hills Quarters, said Gerdts.

This project will continue in early December as volunteers build new boxes for the spring



Sometimes bluebird boxes play host to other birds, like these chickadees.

season.

"We welcome anyone to participate," said Gerdts. "No woodworking skills are necessary and you do not need to be a member of the society to

participate in this fun project. You can work any of the days scheduled, as many or few as you like."

Work days are December 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 at

Albert Pollard's workshop in White Stone.

Persons interested in participating should call Ron Feldman at 580-8987, or Fred Witschey at 453-9090.

Antique swan decoy from Virginia brings record price

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. conducted its annual fall decoy auction November 12 and 13 at the Talbot County Community Center.

The sale grossed \$1.9 million with 34 lots selling for over \$10,000 and two lots selling for over \$100,000. Prices were strong.

Top lot in the sale was a pintail hen found in Kankakee, Ill. It sold for \$142,500, which was around four times its pre-sale estimate. An Elber Crowell (East Harwich, Mass.) bluewing teal decoy sold over its high estimate at \$109,250, as did a John Dilley (Long Island, N.Y.) dowitcher at \$66,125.

A swan decoy from the first quarter 20th century, carved by Charles Birch of Willis Wharf, Va., sold mid-estimate at \$92,000, a world record price for the carver. It was consigned by the Maryland Historical Society and was part of a collection of decoys that was given to them in 1962 from the estate of J. Kemp Bartlett Jr., 1962.

Birch, born in 1867, began carving decoys in the 1900s. He worked as a waterman and also did interior carpentry work. He also built boats along



This antique swan decoy by Charles Birch sold for \$92,000 at auction, a record price for the carver.

with carving decoys which he sold in the 1920s for \$25 a piece. He carved blackduck, Canada goose, brandt, canvasback, redhead, bluebill, pintail, goldeneye, bufflehead and swan decoys. More information about Birch can be found in the book *Southern Decoys of Virginia and the Carolinas* by Henry Fleckenstein Jr.

A more detailed auction report is available at guyetteandschmidt.com. The auction was accompanied by a 55-table

decoy show with decoy dealers from all over the U.S. exhibiting as well as a decoy buy, sell and swap in the parking lot.

Frank Schmidt and Gary Guyette assembled over 850 decoys and related items from collections and directly out of houses all over the United States and Canada. Prices for shorebird decoys and decoys from New England and New Jersey continued their rise. The sale featured decoys from the collections of Richard Coale,

Ralph Campbell, Knute Bartrug, Miles Hancock Estate and the Maryland Historical Society. Many items sold for two or three times their estimates as new buyers competed with decoy auction regulars for the better decoys.

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. provides free decoy appraisals to anyone sending a decoy photo and stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Guyette and Schmidt Inc., P.O. Box 1170, St. Michaels, MD 21663, or call 410-745-0485, or e-mail decoys@guyetteandschmidt.com.

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. also operates an online shopping site, "Everyone's Decoy Warehouse," which features decoys in the \$200 to \$1,000 range and sporting collectables books.

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. has a retail gallery at 933 Talbot Street in St. Michaels, Md. The gallery features antique hunting decoys from all over the U.S. and Canada, decorative carvings, contemporary carvings, flat art, decoy books and accessories. All decoys will have a guaranteed description, including marker, age and condition.

Virginia-grown trees 'green' up Christmas

Purchasing a fresh Virginia-grown Christmas tree is an environmentally sound decorating idea and a show of support for Virginia farmers.

"People that buy fresh-cut or live trees allow us to keep our farm in agriculture instead of selling it for development," said Bill Apperson, who operates Millfarm Christmas Trees in James City County. "Right now you can hardly grow any crop that would pay the taxes in James City County. So growing Christmas trees allows the land to pay for itself and keeps it in farming. My family has had this farm since 1770, and I'd love to keep it going."

"Christmas trees are fairly renewable," said Peter Warren, an Albemarle County Cooperative Extension agent. "In Albemarle County and the city of Charlottesville, they actually chip them up into mulch and return it to people. So the trees are recycled that way. Or you could buy a live tree to be planted after the holiday season is over, perhaps the most green activity of all."

A Christmas tree grower can raise a fresh crop of trees in seven to 10 years. And many growers like Apperson raise Christmas trees because they have so little impact on the land.

"The fertility of our land increases each year," Apperson said. "We've been here 35 years, and we manage with a very little amount of inorganic fertilizers—we prefer to use manure. And we use no pesticides, just some insecticidal soap," he added. "Once it's used, the tree is recycled back

onto the ground."

The Christmas tree industry generates \$20 million to \$40 million a year for growers statewide, according to the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association. While Virginia trees can be found at retail lots as well, surveys have found that most trees sold already cut are shipped in from out of state. Some Virginia growers have become certified Virginia's Finest growers, meaning their products meet stringent industry standards for quality. Virginia growers are found at viriniagrown.com and virginiachristmastrees.org.

Appearance noted that some buyers are seeking smaller live trees for use on tabletops and planning to plant them later.

With a lot of retirees living nearby, "we think there's a big market for it."

But the big attraction for his tree farm is still the choose-and-cut operation. Many of his customers have already visited and picked out this year's tree.

"So it's really a traditional Christmas. The kids come back year after year and pick out a tree," Apperson said.

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New bay restoration actions outlined

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Chesapeake Executive Council announced a package of new actions November 21 to intensify the clean-up effort, request support from the president-elect, pursue biofuels development and increase partner accountability for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

The Chesapeake Executive Council, led by outgoing chairman Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and incoming chairman Gov. Tim Kaine, establishes the policy agenda for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Participating in the meeting were executives from the six bay states, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The annual meeting, held at Union Station in Washington, D.C., focused on key measures needed to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Last year, the executive council confirmed the partner-

ship would not meet the 2010 deadline for implementing restoration measures needed to restore water quality. This year's council has adopted a new strategy for establishing a deadline that involves moving the annual meeting to the spring, beginning in 2009, when the most current scientific information about pollution levels becomes available.

Also in spring, the council will establish milestones for restoration that will be set at two-year intervals. The milestones will focus on achieving short-term goals, thereby intensifying restoration efforts and tracking progress toward the deadline. Moving the annual meeting to the spring will coincide with the release of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Health and Restoration Assessment. This change will allow members to act on the most current information and to more effectively coordinate restoration initiatives with government budget cycles and legislative sessions.

"The Chesapeake Executive Council is committed to meeting our obligation to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our obligation is to provide a clean bay, rivers and streams for the 17 million people living in the watershed today and to protect this national treasure for future generations."

—Virginia Governor Tim Kaine

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners have worked with the EPA to help shape the landmark Chesapeake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a federally mandated pollution budget for the watershed. The TMDL process will be assisted by the use of two-year milestones.

The recent election of a new president and 111th Congress is an opportunity to seek a renewed federal commitment to protecting the nation's largest estuary. On behalf of the bay states, D.C. and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Gov. Kaine and Gov. O'Malley will seek the support of the president-elect and Congress for

changes to policy, legislation and funding to accelerate restoration efforts.

At the annual meeting, the executive council also launched a plan to position the Chesapeake region as a national leader in production of next-generation biofuels. This new sector of biofuels does not rely on food crops and can be grown sustainably to yield environmental and economic benefits for the area's farms, forests and industrial sector, while also advancing bay restoration goals.

"The work of this partnership and the actions taken today reflect our unwaver-

ing commitment to restoring the health and beauty of the Chesapeake Bay for the millions of area residents and visitors who enjoy the bay or make a living from it," said Gov. O'Malley. "Our citizens, in Maryland and across the watershed, are accelerating this progress by embracing a new spirit of stewardship to restore our beloved bay and create the more sustainable future we all prefer."

At the 2007 executive council meeting, members selected topics critical to restoration to be their "champion roles." The bay program partners have since made progress on issues including promotion of low-impact development, support of agricultural conservation practices and improvement of wastewater treatment. The partnership will continue taking such targeted action on vital issues in 2009.

To increase the accountability of the partners, the executive council has requested the evaluation of the program by a national independent science

organization. The evaluator role is designed to identify shortcomings and recommend solutions for improving the effectiveness of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

"The Chesapeake Executive Council is committed to meeting our obligation to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed," said Gov. Kaine. "Our obligation is to provide a clean bay, rivers and streams for the 17 million people living in the watershed today and to protect this national treasure for future generations."

Education was emphasized by the executive council this year, as members signaled their support for Chesapeake Bay FieldScope, a project led by National Geographic to educate students about human-environment interactions in the watershed and to engage them directly in environmental monitoring. The council has agreed to explore opportunities to work with National Geographic to introduce the program throughout the watershed.

▼ Chesapeake Bay blue crab funding (continued from page A1)

important blue crab habitat and to create more diverse economic opportunities for watermen, possibly in aquaculture.

"We applaud their idea to use some aid to employ crab fishermen to retrieve lost or abandoned crab pots that continue to capture fish and crabs, doing long-term damage to the fishery," he added.

The states will now submit detailed plans to NOAA's Fisheries Service outlining how the funds will be used.

In September, U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez determined that a decline in the harvest of soft shell and peeler crabs in Chesapeake Bay constituted a commercial fishery failure. The declaration was an important step in making watermen and their communities eligible for economic assistance.

Rep. Wittman responds

First District Rep. Rob Wittman was pleased with the announcement. "I want to thank Gov. Tim Kaine and Commerce Secretary Gutierrez for approving my request for assistance for Virginia's watermen, which paved the way for the release of

this funding. These funds will assist watermen and create programs to improve habitat and bring back the blue crab."

As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Rep. Wittman worked with Gov. Kaine and the Virginia congressional delegation to advocate for a disaster declaration and to provide funding to restore the blue crab fishery.

Gov. Kaine responds

"This is great news for the Commonwealth, our beloved blue crab fishery and the watermen community that rely upon it for their livelihood," said Gov. Kaine.

"I petitioned U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez back in May to issue a commercial fishery failure declaration for the bay's blue crab fishery. Since that time, our fishery experts have been working diligently with staff at the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide the necessary information to justify a declaration.

"In September, our hard work paid off when Secretary Gutierrez notified us that he had determined that a commercial fishery

failure had indeed occurred for the soft and peeler crab fisheries.

"While it is certainly not good news that our blue crab fishery is in a state of failure, we do know that the blue crab population can rebound if we reduce harvest pressure. That is why earlier this year, in partnership with Maryland, we adopted regulations to reduce the number of female crabs harvested annually by 34 percent. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and his staff for working closely with us on this matter.

"Virginia is preparing to put dozens of displaced watermen to work, and we are exploring the possibility of transitioning crabbers into other fisheries, training them in shellfish aquaculture techniques, and possibly initiating a buy-back program to reduce the number of watermen harvesting crabs. These funds will support those efforts.

"I am grateful for the support and diligence of our Virginia members in Congress who have worked hard to secure this much-needed support," the governor said.

Kilmarnock residents urged to participate in the Holiday Lighting Contest

Kilmarnock residents and businesses are reminded to light it up for the holidays. All competing homes and businesses must be registered.

The Holiday Lighting Contest will be judged December 14 by the Kilmarnock Garden Club.

"Winners will be based on the best use of lighting, creativity of the lights and originality of the display," said community development director Susan Cockrell.

Meanwhile, the Town of Kilmarnock has opened the judging to the public. Ballots for the People's Choice Award will be printed in the December 4 Rappahannock Record.

How to participate:

- Register the home or business by December 1 at the town office or kilmarnockva.com/contest.asp. Each location will be listed in the Rappahannock Record.
- Please have displays up by December

4 or sooner. Participating locations must be visible from public roads. Judging will be December 14.

How to vote for the People's Choice Award:

- Get a ballot from the December 4 issue of the Rappahannock Record, or online at RRecord.com, or kilmarnockva.com/contest.asp. Select favorites and submit the ballot to the town office by December 15 at 5 p.m.

First, second, third and honorable mention certificates will be awarded in residential and commercial categories. A "bragging rights" sign for the People's Choice Winners will go to the winning front yard or commercial location.

Winners will be announced by Mayor Curtis Smith at the December 15 town council meeting and will appear in the December 18 issue of the Rappahannock Record.

A Doctor Speaks

by George Moore, MD

Normal forgetting

It's normal to forget things, and it's normal to become somewhat more forgetful as you age.

For many people, memory loss becomes noticeable after about 50, but some changes are detectable with testing as early as the 20s and 30s. This should be no surprise for most of us. Regardless of age, healthy people can experience memory loss or memory distortion. The seven normal common memory problems discussed below may become more pronounced with age but they are not indicators of Alzheimer's or other memory-impairing illnesses.

Transience

This is the tendency to forget facts or events over time. Memory has a use-it or lose-it quality: memories that are called up and used frequently are least likely to be forgotten. This is a beneficial event because it clears the brain of unused memories, making way for newer, more useful ones. In this sense, transience is similar to cleaning junk out of your closets or clearing temporary files from your computer's memory.

Absentmindedness

This type of forgetting occurs when you don't pay enough close attention. You forget where you just put your keys because you didn't focus on where you put them in the first place. You were thinking of something else, so your brain didn't encode the information securely. Absentmindedness also involves forgetting to do something at a prescribed time, like taking your medicine or keeping an appointment.

Blocking

Someone asks you a question and the answer is right on the tip of your tongue but you just can't think of it. This experience is the most familiar example of blocking, the temporary inability to retrieve a memory. The memory is there, but something

is keeping you from finding it. In many cases, the memory block is a memory similar to the one you're looking for, and you retrieve it instead of the one that you want. A common example is if you call your older son by your younger son's name. Usually, people are able to retrieve about half of the blocked memories within just a minute.

Misattribution

Someone may ask you who "Bob Jones" is, and you remember quite clearly not only who he is, but also what he's done lately that has been in the news. Then you're asked where you learned these details. You think for a moment and reply that it was on the evening TV news.

This was incorrect since you got your information from a friend you had lunch with yesterday. Right memory—wrong source—that's one example of misattribution. Misattribution occurs when you remember something accurately in part, but misattribute some detail, like time, place or person involved.

Misattribution happens to everyone. Usually it's harmless, but it can have profound consequences, particularly in the criminal justice system. In some cases, misattribution on the part of eyewitnesses is responsible for the arrest and conviction of individuals for crimes they didn't commit.

Suggestibility

Suggestibility is the vulnerability of your memory to the power of your suggestion—information that you learn about an occurrence after the fact. Although little is known about how suggestibility works in the brain, the suggestion fools your mind into thinking it's a real memory.

An example is the recollections that adults have of incidents from their childhood that really never happened. Or you may have witnessed someone fleeing from a car as its antitheft

alarm was blaring. You didn't get a good look at the thief, but another person on the street insisted that it was a man wearing a brown jacket. Later, when the police show you photos of possible suspects, you're confused until you see a man dressed in brown. Then, you point to him.

Bias

Even the sharpest memory isn't a flawless snapshot of reality. In your memory, your perceptions are filtered by your personal biases—experiences, beliefs, prior knowledge, and even your mood at the moment. Your biases affect your perceptions and experiences when they are being encoded in your brain. And when you retrieve a memory, your mood and other biases can influence what information you actually recall.

Persistence

Some people are tormented by memories they wish they could forget. The persistence of memories of traumatic events, negative feelings, and ongoing fears is another form of memory problem. Some of these memories accurately reflect horrifying events, while others may be negative distortions of reality. Those with depression are most prone to these persistent, disturbing memories.

Although frustrating, memory difficulties caused by the aging process are relatively minor—they won't interfere with your ability to do your job or run your household. And there are many things you can do to protect and improve your memory. Some health conditions that become more common with age can impair memory, such as high

blood pressure. Memory impairment is also among the side effects of some medications, such as sleep aids or pain relievers. In such cases, controlling health problems and switching medications can often restore memory function.

Contrary to what we once believed, our brains keep growing new brain cells and making new connections between them throughout life. This capacity for rejuvenation raises the potential for medical treatments to stop and reverse memory loss, whether from disease or from aging. People who keep learning and stay mentally active increase their odds of retaining good brain function as they age.

The more you use your brain, the stronger it gets—and the longer it stays strong.

▼ Menokin (continued from page A1)

them back."

He reported that since taking office in 2006, state and private agencies have saved 275,000 acres of open space from development. He credited the General Assembly for passing legislation that gave a tax credit of 40 percent of the appraised value of a conservation easement. He also attributed the success at Menokin to a "good partnership" between the foundation and government agencies.

"You can feel proud of what you have done. You caught it just in time. I promise, we will be good stewards of this land," he said.

Menokin was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1968 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. It was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 1971.



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