

Rappahannock Record

The lower Northern Neck's most complete news source since 1916

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Halloween haunts Steptoe's District

Ghouls, goblins, princesses, superheroes and pirates descended on Kilmarnock on Halloween for the town's annual Kandy for Kids event. Over 1,000 costumed characters collected candy from businesses along Main Street with youngsters and adults dressed in costumes. The White Stone Church of the Nazarene set up an activity area with bounce houses and games and the Triangle Trolley served as a Boo Bus, transporting trick-or-treaters to the shopping centers at the north end of town. More photos appear on page D8. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Incumbents Warner, Wittman are re-elected

Referendum passes

by *Renss Greene*

KILMARNOCK—Incumbents U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman and U. S. Sen. Mark Warner held on to their offices on November 4 according to unofficial results provided by the Virginia State Board of Elections.

At press time, with all but nine precincts, Warner had 1,067,342 votes, or 49.11%. Warner edged out Republican challenger Ed Gillespie, who won 1,050,534 votes, or 48.34%. Precincts not yet reported include one each in Albemarle, Dinwiddie, Halifax, Isle of Wight, Rappahannock, and Rockingham Counties, along with one precinct in Radford and absentee ballots in Winchester and Roanoke.

Virginia's new voter ID law also creates the possibility of votes coming in until Friday. Voters who arrived at the polls without a photo ID were allowed to cast a provisional vote, and have until Friday to produce a photo ID for their votes to be counted.

With less than 1% of difference and votes still coming in, Gillespie can ask for a recount.

Nationwide, Republicans took control of the U.S. Senate, seizing seven additional seats to advance to a 53-seat simple majority. Democrats now hold 44 seats, with two independents and Louisiana's election going to a runoff vote. Republicans also

strengthened their control on the U.S. House of Representatives, gaining 13 seats and leading in five more unfinished races, potentially giving them as many as 248 of 435 seats.

Referendum

A proposed amendment to the Constitution of Virginia to exempt military widows from property taxes won by a landslide both locally and statewide. A referendum asked voters whether surviving spouses of military members killed in action should be exempt from property taxes so long as they do not move and do not remarry.

With all but nine precincts reporting, the amendment won 1,804,073 yes votes, 87% of the vote, and 265,328 people cast no votes, only 13%. Locally, Lancaster County voted for the amendment 4,010 to 414, while Northumberland voted for the amendment 4,542 to 415.

First District race

In the First District House race, Wittman had 131,595 votes, or 62.9% districtwide to retain his seat. Democratic challenger Norm Mosher had 72,052 votes, or 34.4%, and independent Gail Parker had 5,087 votes, or 2.4%. There were 602 write-in votes.

Lancaster and Northumberland counties both voted Republican overall. In Lancaster, Wittman had 2,846 votes, or 62.2%. In Northumberland, Wittman had 3,344 votes, or 65.5%.

ELECTION, continued on page A2

Beating the rising cost of higher education

by *Audrey Thomasson*

Top performing high school students from middle- to lower-income homes typically fall through the cracks when it comes to college access. While they may have overcome long odds to achieve good grades, for many, college remains elusive.

Paying for college is a huge worry for many families and one of the biggest barriers for first-generation and low-income students who don't know where to begin.

According to the College Board, one year of tuition and fees at public four-year colleges last year averaged \$9,000 for in-state residents. On-campus living, books and meals pushed the costs to nearly \$23,000. Private four-year colleges had an average tuition cost of \$30,000, rising to nearly \$45,000 all inclusive. By graduation, students could be looking at education debts of \$80,000 and more.

For Lancaster High School seniors looking to go to college without going broke—they need only talk to their counselors. They'll discover that living in the Northern Neck can pay off big when it comes to help for higher education.

Rappahannock Scholars

While most University of Mary Washington (UMW) students will rack up about \$66,000 in student debt by the end of their junior year, Arriana Taylor-Roy says her education costs to date are \$1,600.

A biology major, Taylor-Roy says she beat the high cost of college by joining the university's Rappahannock Scholars program as a ninth-grader at Rappahannock High School in Warsaw.

She was at LHS last week to help mentor students in the program.

Only students in the Northern Neck are eligible, particularly under-represented students, eco-



Lancaster High students in the University of Mary Washington's Rappahannock Scholars program include (from left) Keondra Jenkins, Prabesh Bhandari, Jamie Le, Taneshia Cox, Robert West, Dylan Rose, Ivory Ball, Destiny Carter and Sofie Headley. Delaney Headley and Monica Waddy also are in the program.

Learning today, leading tomorrow: Part 3

nomically disadvantaged and children of parents who did not attend college.

For the past 10 years, LHS counselors have selected up to four potential candidates from the ninth-grade class who exhibit promising academic and leadership skills. The students are mentored on preparing for college life by UMW representative Stephanie New. Whatever their final choice

for college, by the end of high school each student is well-prepared for the transition.

"The program is very important," said LHS junior Keondra Jenkins. "Great people can go to school without worrying about financing."

Monthly mentoring helps her focus on the required courses and top grades she'll need to qualify for college.

Also, it has helped her understand and prepare for her college experience and keep on schedule for the application process. "It is really helpful to learn about college from another student. Arriana told us there will be a lot of reading and self management," Jenkins said.

Two of Jenkins' older siblings attend college, and with her father recently retired, she is acutely

aware of the financial burden her education would be if her parents had to shoulder the costs.

Scholarships

Residents of Weems know they can count on the Verlander Foundation to help with their children's college tuition, but most folks don't know the trust also provides scholarship money to seven Virginia colleges for the exclusive use of Lancaster students.

George and Cornelia Verlander were smart investors who decided to use their earnings to help educate kids. The trust kicked in for Weems children soon after the Verlanders' passing. Since 2005, money has been put aside for children in fifth and ninth grades. Depending on the market, the children receive \$5,000 to \$6,000 toward their annual tuition.

According to Jack Neal, senior vice president and branch manager at Wells Fargo and executor of the trust, the Verlanders' investment has continued to grow over the years allowing him to include funding for a number of college-bound students across Lancaster County. The endowment also pays the salary of the school's career counselor, Karen Hutchens.

"George visualized he could help five or six kids. He would roll over in his grave if he knew how many have been helped," said Neal.

Verlander wanted the endowment to focus on the middle class. "He felt financially disadvantaged kids would be taken care of through all the other available programs while middle class kids are left out," said Neal.

Scholarships are handled by the colleges. Students fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when they apply to colleges.

Up to 25 students each year are awarded a scholarship to Rappahan-

LEARNING, continued on page A2



Business.....C6-8
Calendar.....B2

Churches.....B6-8
Classified.....D1-3

Directory.....D7
Notices.....D6

Obituaries.....B7
Opinion.....A6-7

Police.....A3
Schools.....C5

Sports.....C1-4
Upcoming.....B1-3, D3-4



2015 Cover Photo By Richard Davis

Stop by at any of our offices on Thursday for refreshments and our 2015 Calendar. And let us say - thank you - in person for your patronage and support over the years. It has been our pleasure to serve you, and we look forward to continuing our relationship.

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Election results

continued from page A1

In Lancaster, Mosher had 1,657 votes, or 36.2%. In Northumberland, Mosher had 1,689 votes, or 33.1%.

In Lancaster, Parker had 63 votes, or 1.4%. In Northumberland, Parker had 68 votes, or 1.3%.

In Lancaster, there were 10 write-in votes in the House race. In Northumberland, there was one write-in vote.

Following the unofficial tally, Rep. Wittman released the following statement: "I am truly humbled that the people of America's First District have again elected me to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am eager to return to Washington next week and as part of the 114th Congress in January to serve my fellow Virginians and advocate for commonsense, responsible solutions to the challenges facing our nation.

"Our nation is at a critical juncture, and a number of important decisions await us in Washington. We must avert the impending cuts to our national defense, return to regular order with budgets and appropriations, and institute policies that facilitate job growth, innovation and economic stability. It is imperative that we act in the best interest of our nation.

"I'd like to thank my opponents for joining me in this substantive public policy debate, as well as for their record of service to our nation. America's best years are ahead of us. Let us all work together to ensure that our nation remains the greatest the world has ever known."

Senate race

In Lancaster, Gillespie had 2,572 votes, or 56.1%. Warner had 1,920 votes, or 41.9%. Sarvis had 91 votes, or 2%. Five write-in votes were cast.

In Northumberland, Gillespie had 2,937 votes, or 57.3%. Warner had 2,085 votes, or 40.7%. Sarvis had 99 votes, or 2.0%. One write-in vote was cast.

Precinct comparisons

Waterfront precincts in the lower Northern Neck voted Republican, while interior precincts voted Democrat. Both Warner and Mosher won Lancaster Precinct 201, which covers much northern end of the county bordering Northumberland and Richmond counties, and Precinct 401, which includes the corridor along Irvington Road between Kilmarnock and Irvington and Kilmarnock west of Main



Sharron Crandall of Kilmarnock casts her vote at the Kilmarnock Lancaster County Volunteer Rescue Squad building in Kilmarnock.

Street. Mosher edged Wittman by only three votes in Precinct 201, 338 to 335.

The Democrats also won both of Northumberland's interior precincts. Those include Precinct 301, which contains much of the interior of the county from Burgess to Heathsville; and Precinct 302, which includes the southern end of the county and bordering Lancaster. Northumberland Precinct 302, which saw the fewest votes of all of Lancaster and Northumberland's precincts, was also the lower Northern Neck's mostly starkly Democratic.

In Northumberland Precinct 302, Warner claimed 186 votes, or 77%, over Gillespie's 54 votes, or 22%. Mosher tallied 178 votes, 74%, over Wittman's 63 votes, or 26%.

Meanwhile, all four waterfront precincts in Lancaster, the four waterfront precincts in Northumberland, and absentee ballots in both counties strongly favored the Republican candidates. Northumberland Precinct 501, which follows the coast from Ingram Bay on the Chesapeake Bay to Hack Creek on the Potomac River and includes Reedville, proved to be the most staunchly Republican, giving Gillespie and Wittman both their strongest leads by percentage.

In Northumberland Precinct 501, Gillespie won 501 votes, or 65%, over Warner's 31 votes, or 34%. Wittman had 847 votes, or 74%, and Mosher had 286 votes, or 25%.

By the numbers

Lancaster:
Precinct 101, Gillespie, 514 votes, Warner, 335, Sarvis, 15;

Wittman, 564, Mosher, 277, Parker, 18.

Precinct 201, Gillespie, 298 votes, Warner, 373, Sarvis, 16; Wittman, 335, Mosher, 338, Parker, 7.

Precinct 301, Gillespie, 453 votes, Warner, 227, Sarvis, 13; Wittman, 493, Mosher, 191, Parker, 9.

Precinct 302, Gillespie, 193 votes, Warner, 102, Sarvis, 11; Wittman, 222, Mosher, 79, Parker, 3.

Precinct 401, Gillespie, 252 votes, Warner, 397, Sarvis, 10; Wittman, 282, Mosher, 367, Parker, 9.

Precinct 501, Gillespie, 653 votes, Warner, 340, Sarvis, 20; Wittman, 713, Mosher, 292, Parker, 8.

Absentee, Gillespie, 86 votes, Warner, 59, Sarvis, 6; Wittman, 237, Mosher, 113, Parker, 9.

Northumberland:
Precinct 101, Gillespie, 414 votes, Warner, 309, Sarvis, 25; Wittman, 505, Mosher, 229, Parker, 11.

Precinct 201, Gillespie, 552 votes, Warner, 320, Sarvis, 23; Wittman, 613, Mosher, 259 votes, Parker, 17.

Precinct 301, Gillespie, 158 votes, Warner, 311, Sarvis, 13; Wittman, 195, Mosher, 273 votes, Parker, 10.

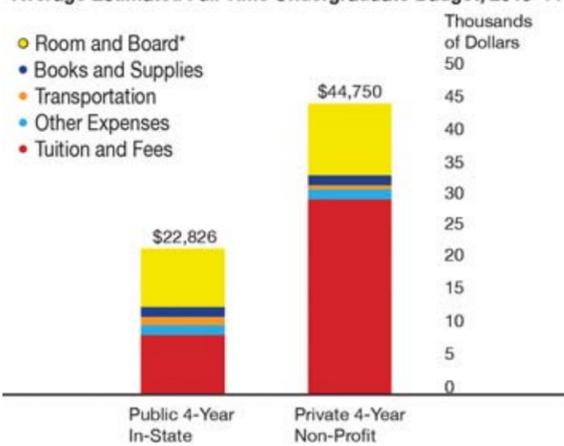
Precinct 302, Gillespie, 54 votes, Warner, 186, Sarvis, 1; Wittman, 63, Mosher, 178, Parker, 1.

Precinct 401, Gillespie, 784 votes, Warner, 433, Sarvis, 21; Wittman, 877 votes, Mosher, 343, Parker, 15.

Precinct 501, Gillespie, 748 votes, Warner, 385, Sarvis, 11; Wittman, 847 votes, Mosher, 286, Parker, 7.

Absentee, Gillespie, 227 votes, Warner, 142 votes, Sarvis, 5; Wittman, 244 votes, Mosher, 121, Parker, 7.

Average Estimated Full Time Undergraduate Budget, 2013-14



Source: The College Board

*For on-campus housing

Learning and leading

continued from page A1

nock Community College. Another four to five scholarships are awarded annually by Virginia Tech, Radford University, Christopher Newport University, James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Old Dominion University.

After putting a combined total of over \$5 million into their institutions, Neal is on a first-name basis with the college presidents. "We have 108 kids in college right now," Neal said.

Financial aid

Germany recently shook up the education world with the announcement that college tuition is now free to all its citizens as well as international students—so long as they speak German.

That may be great news for German language majors, but for everyone else LHS has a simpler alternative to finding financial help no matter what the family income.

Navigating the complex maze of scholarships, loans, grants and work-study programs can be a long and discouraging process even for college-educated parents. But with the help of an advisor from Great Aspirations Scholarship Program (GRASP), a Virginia education organization, families will find clarity and reassurance to secure the best financial assistance available to them. Also, students can help pay expenses through the schools' job assist programs.

"We're very excited and honored to be part of Lancaster High School," said GRASP advisor Cindy Hodges. She is available at LHS from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays by appointment through school counselors. There is no charge for her ser-



Financial opportunities could sway LHS junior Keondra Jenkins in her final selection between attending UMW, UVA or the College of William and Mary.

vices thanks to the generosity of area donations.

Hodges meets with every senior from the beginning of the school year through January when they fill out FAFSA—a must if they want to be eligible for financial aid. In February and March, she will start meeting with sophomores and juniors.

Once seniors get their award letters from the colleges telling them they have been accepted, they also know how much money they are eligible to receive in assistance, she explained.

According to school superintendent Steven Parker, "90% of students (in the GRASP program) go on to secondary education. Every \$1 received in donations results in \$133 in financing."

Parker said LHS joined with GRASP to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity for continuing their education, regardless of financial or social circumstances.

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Rappahannock Scholar and University of Mary Washington junior Arriana Taylor-Roy talks to LHS freshmen about the program's benefits.

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Search continues for Claudine Gifford

For Breaking News in the Northern Neck • RRecord.com

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Law enforcement officers on October 29 conducted a six-hour search of the Rappahannock River for Claudine Gifford, missing since July. The search by Lancaster Sheriff's Department chief investigator Lt. Tim Self and Virginia Marine Police utilized a side/bottom sonar scanning system to

scan some 20 square miles of river bottom with no results, according to a posting at lancastersheriff.net. Aerial searches of the shoreline and river also were conducted from Windmill Point north along the Rappahannock River, south into the bay, and on the eastern side of Windmill Point toward Dwyer Creek. Investigators are seeking information

about Gifford's luggage which also has been missing since around the time of her disappearance on July 6. The luggage is described as two large fabric pieces, bluish-green in color. They also are asking anyone who may have received text or voice messages from Gifford's phone around the time of her disappearance or in the days that followed to contact Lt. Self at 462-5111.

SHERIFFS' REPORTS

Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett this week reported charges against six individuals.

Felonies

Adam G. Rowe, 30, of South Main Street was charged October 29 with aggravated sexual battery (felony).

Dayton M. Waddy, 34, of White Plains Road was charged October 30 with reckless driving and felony eluding police.

Kelvin M. Corsey, 43, of Bogey Neck Road was charged October 30 with felony violation of probation.

Purcell O. Owens, 46, of Dillin Drive was charged November 1 on a parole/probation warrant charging him with felony violation of probation.

Johnathan F. Mitchell, 24, of Granville Bay Road was charged November 1 on indictments charging him with two counts of forcible sodomy.

Misdemeanors

A Cape Charles man, 45, was charged October 29 by Northampton authorities with assault and battery and destruction of property in an incident at Windmill Point.

Activity report

Oct. 28: Staff received a report of vandalism to a vehicle parked at the Hickory Hollow Nature Trail on Regina Road (window, purse and wallet; \$180 loss), and a destruction of property report from a Poplar Neck Road resident (commercial mower, \$200 damages); and responded to a loitering complaint at a Mollusk convenience store, and with Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to a destruction of property and theft from a vehicle complaint on East Church Street (KPD case).

Oct. 29: Staff responded with Virginia State Police (VSP) to a single-vehicle traffic crash on Courthouse Road, to a noise violation complaint on Sandlin Drive, to an assault call on Kathy Drive, and to a drug violation complaint on Windjammer Lane (subjects located and were cooperative; no drug violations found); notified Stafford authorities of a complaint involving a social media post of child abuse/neglect; and received a destruction of property report from a Mt. Jean East resident (bullet hole reported in car tire), and received a sexual assault report (no further information released in order to protect the victim and due to the nature of the investigation). The Lancaster Middle School resource officer responded to a disorderly student complaint and transported the student to his/her parent/guardian's location on Old Fairground Way.

Oct. 30: Staff responded with VSP to a two-vehicle traffic crash on Mary Ball Road between Merry Point and Regina roads, to Lancaster Post Office to check on the well-being of a citizen who seemed disoriented, with VSP to a single-vehicle traffic crash into a utility pole on Greentown Road (power company was notified of the power outage due to the crash), and to a suspicious vehicle/occupants complaint on Wilson Lane (occupants identified and the vehicle was picked up by a licensed driver); received a domestic dispute complaint from an Emerald Lane resident; and contacted a family member for a Heatherfield Court resident who needed non-emergency assistance within the home.

Oct. 31: Staff received an attempted fraud report from a Chesapeake Trail resident who did release personal identifying information; responded to a noise violation complaint on Evergreen Drive, to a motorist's report of two vehicles stopped in the highway near Mary Ball Road and Whites Lane and several persons fighting (deputies were on scene in approximately 2 minutes and all subjects and vehicles were gone on arrival; nearby areas were checked in case the complainant misidenti-



Vincent O'Neal Noel



Cinteze Carneal Gibson

CRIME SOLVERS

Lancaster County Crime Solvers seeks information on the whereabouts of three individuals.

Vincent O'Neal Noel, 32, is wanted by the Kilmarnock Police Department on charges of robbery, stealing property, use of a firearm and two counts of child neglect.

Noel has brown eyes and black hair and a tattoo on his right shoulder. He is 6 feet tall and weighs 150 pounds. His last known address is 845 Gunyon Rd., Burgess.

Cinteze Carneal Gibson, 28, is wanted by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office on charges of destruction of property and assault.

Gibson has brown eyes and black hair. He is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 155 pounds. His last known address is 3303 Merry Point Rd., Lancaster.

Marcus Owens, 30, is wanted on four counts of distributing a controlled substance.

Owens has brown eyes and hair. He is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 210 pounds. He also is known as Markus Antonio Owens. His last known address is 84 Gaines Rd., Nuttsville.

Report related information to Lancaster County Crime Solvers, 462-7463. Your call will not be recorded. You will not have to give your name or appear in court. If your information is useful to law enforcement, you could receive a reward of up to \$1,000.

fied the location), to a destruction of property report from the 1700 block of Morattico Road, and to a complaint from a Lumberlost Road resident of a man approximately 25 years old attempting to make contact with two 15-year-old girls; and returned a telephone call request for information about a civil domestic issue.

Nov. 1: Staff responded to a disturbance/trespass complaint on Mosquito Point Road, to Fitzhugh Street to make forced entry into a home to assist the resident who had fallen and needed assistance, to an annoying/obscene telephone call complaint on Beach Road, to Rappahannock Landing to assist a resident in removing a bird that had flown into the house, and to a possible burglary in the 100 block of Carlson Road (civil matter; no criminal incident involved); and received a civil complaint involving harassment.

Nov. 2: Staff responded with KPD to a domestic disturbance in the 13000 block of Mary Ball Road, with KPD to North Main Street for a domestic disturbance call, to a domestic trespass complaint on Pond Park (civil separation agreement in place), to a

domestic disturbance in the 2100 block of Morattico Road, to an E911 disconnect call in the 1900 block of James Wharf Road (telephone line problem), and to an illegal deer hunting complaint on Newtown Road; and notified Virginia Department of Transportation of a downed tree on Irvington Road near Chesapeake Drive.

Nov. 3: Staff responded to a noise violation complaint in the area of Corrotoman and Evergreen drives; and received a walk-in complaint for a protective order, and a report of the shooting of a dog on Cocks Farm Road.

Sheriff's staff also conducted nine traffic stops, issued a summons, assisted six motorists, investigated seven building alarms, logged two inmate transports and fielded a call for animal control service.

Fire calls

Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire/smoke alarm in the 6400 block of Morattico Road; two separate traffic crashes on Courthouse and Mary Ball roads; a hazmat call for a gas spill in the 6000 block of Mary Ball Road and with Kilmarnock VFD to a smoke report in the 1400 block of Shore Drive.

KVFD responded to a downed tree causing a power line fire at East Church and Clifton Avenue.

White Stone VFD responded

to a traffic crash on Greentown Road.

Northumberland Sheriff Chuck Wilkins this week reported charges against 11 individuals.

Felonies

Tristian Marie Phillips, 22, of Warsaw was charged October 26 on a capias to show cause from the Northumberland County Circuit Court. She was charged by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

Tiesha Denise Washington, 22, of Heathsville was charged October 29 with strangulation and assault and battery of a family member.

Charles Richard Newton Jr., 24, of Warsaw was charged October 29 with abduction by force, strangulation and assault and battery of a household member. Newton was charged by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

Gary Leverm Conaway, 46, of Wicomico Church was charged October 30 on a felony capias to show cause for failing to appear in the Gloucester Circuit Court.

Brian David Geronimo, 26, of Callao was charged October 31 with selling marijuana and distribution, third offense.

Misdemeanors

A Heathsville man, 42, was charged October 29 with assault and battery of a family member.

A Fredericksburg man, 26, was charged October 30 with failing to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court. He was charged by the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office.

A Heathsville man, 23, was charged October 30 with assault and battery and driving suspended. He was charged by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

A Burgess man, 27, was charged November 1 with failing to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court.

A Reedville man, 23, was charged November 1 with assault and battery of a family member.

A Reedville woman, 24, was charged November 1 with assault and battery of a family member.

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<p>FEB. 21, 2015</p>	<p>JERSEY BOYS - Grammy & Olivier Award Winning Best Musical about Rock & Roll Hall of Famers "The Four Seasons".</p>
<p>APRIL 20-27 2015</p>	<p>LONDON & PARIS - 8 Days - Visits to Buckingham Palace, Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, Eurostar</p>
<p>MAY 5-17 2015</p>	<p>IMPERIAL JEWELS OF CHINA - 13 Day Cruise/Tour includes a 6 day cruise along the Yangtze River plus visits to the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Terra Cotta Warriors.</p>
<p>SEPT. 26- OCT. 8, 2015</p>	<p>ITALIAN VISTAS - 13 days from Rome to Venice, including Pompeii, Sorrento, Florence & Island of Capri.</p>
<p>NOV. 30 - DEC. 11, 2015</p>	<p>SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN & PANAMA CANAL On Holland America's Zuiderdam. Celebrate Panama Canal's 100 anniversary. Enjoy stops at Costa Rica, Aruba, Curacao & Columbia.</p>

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Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts receives 2014 Dominion ArtsStars Award

KILMARNOCK—Virginians for the Arts (VFTA) in association with Dominion Resources on October 30 announced the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts (RFA) has received a 2014 Dominion ArtStars Award.

The announcement came during a brief awards ceremony among VFTA, Dominion and RFA representatives at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock. Home to the RFA On Stage series, the LMS Theater proved an appropriate venue for the announcement as the Hampton Roads Regional Shining Star Award was presented to the RFA for its Arts for Youth Program.

Now in its 22nd year, VFTA “advances the arts in Virginia by increasing public awareness of the important contributions the arts make to the life, culture and economy of the state,” noted VFTA board member Barbara Parker.

“We work to increase the public value of and appreciation for the arts and advocate for public funding for the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA), which makes operating grants to not-for-profit arts organizations in the state, among them, the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts,” said Parker.

Four years ago, the VFTA partnered with Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources, to establish the Dominion ArtStars awards program, she explained.

“This year we sharpened the focus of the awards to celebrate arts and education in the community, recognizing arts organizations that best demonstrate and advance the synergy of arts and education,” said Parker. “This year’s awards emphasize the contributions of arts organizations through their partnership and collaboration with schools across the Commonwealth.”

Numerous studies show the benefits of arts education, she added.



From left are James K. Beazley III, Lorretta L. Warren and Barbara Parker.

“Some students will develop a passion for music, painting, or acting,” said Parker. “Students with a passion for one subject tend to do better academically across the board—an excitement about learning spills over into other areas of the curriculum. Even students who do not develop a life-long interest in the arts benefit from the skills taught through study of the arts—self-discipline, teamwork, creative thinking and problem-solving.”

She presented RFA president Lorretta L. Warren the Shining Star Award.

“The synergy between arts and education is so valuable and contributes significantly to developing tomorrow’s community leaders,” said Dominion external affairs manager James K. Beazley III.

The award comes with a cash prize of \$5,000, said Beazley.

On behalf of the RFA, Warren thanked VFTA and Dominion for The Regional Shining Star Award.

The award recognizes the emphasis the RFA places on arts in education and will enable the RFA to continue to expand its Arts for Youth program, said Warren.

She recognized the efforts of former board member Jamie Stalnaker, current board members vice president for development Micki Pugh, treasurer John Cann and vice president for Arts for Youth Robin Blake, and administrator Kathleen Pollard for their efforts in applying for the award.

Blake also thanked the VFTA and Dominion. She outlined the Arts for Youth program, which brings an average of six performances a year to the schools. Education partnerships have been formed with Chesapeake Academy, Lancaster Primary, Middle and High schools, the Northern Neck Montessori School and home-schoolers.

Upcoming Arts for Youth programs include Atumpan-The Talking Drum, Kuffis, Crowns and Kangols, November 7; Synthetic Theater Miraculous Magical Balloon, November 21; Synthetic Theater, The Music Box, December 4; Barter Players, The Velvetten Rabbit, January 28; Barter Players, Anne of Green Gables, January 30; and Barter Players, Julius Caesar, January 30.

The programs, selected from the VCA performing Arts Tour Directory, engage different age youth and support Virginia Standards of Learning from language arts to history civics and sciences. RFA also extends its adult concerts each year to include workshops for students, and provides grants to fun art programs for youth.

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From left, Ramona Roznowski, owner & personal trainer and Jennifer Dawson, model

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Supervisors join utility rate increase opposition

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—A re a residents have watched their water bills climb year after year under Aqua Virginia, a private utility company serving much of the county. Last week, supervisors took a step to avert another attempt by the company to increase rates.

On a 5-0 vote, supervisors agreed to join with Caroline County in adopting resolutions asking the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to vote against the company's proposed rate increases.

In an application to the SCC, Aqua not only asked for an increase in the water and sewer rates, but for the first time they also asked for a surcharge on all customers in order to replace aging infrastructure.

According to the application, the increases will "ensure that rates will recover the investment that is necessary to systematically replace aging infrastructure prior to its failure and to address water quality standards."

However, Aqua's 75,000 Aqua customers in 34 Virginia counties see it as the fourth increase in six years.

According to county administrator Frank Pleva, if approved, the water rate would increase another 12% in Lancaster.

The resolutions request that

The Agenda

WHITE STONE—A Facilitated Planning Strategy (FPS) session will be held at 5 p.m. today, November 6, at the White Stone Town Hall, 433 Rappahannock Drive, White Stone.

Jason Sams, a community development specialist with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), will address White Stone's management team regarding a proposed town revitalization project, said town manager Patrick Frere.

The DHCD in October granted the town up to \$30,000 for planning and development.

Members of the management team include Frere, Jerry Davis and John Bateman of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, town council members Irving Brittingham and David Jones, mayor Randy Reeves, former mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard, Lancaster building official Steve Daum, town planning commission chairman John Taliaferro and White Stone residents Martha Dobyns and Hope Waters.

There will be a regular monthly meeting of the town council at 7 p.m.

Frere will present an update on the progress of picking an engineering firm to conduct a preliminary engineering review for the revitalization project. A committee interviewed two firms.

There are no public hearings on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at the Northumberland County Courts Building, 39 Judicial Place, Heathsville.

The board will hear reports from the Virginia Department of Transportation residency administrator, the school superintendent and county administrator.

The board also is expected to adopt a resolution establishing a unified department of emergency services.

LOTTSBURG—The Northumberland school board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, November 10, at the school administration building, 2172 Northumberland Highway, Lottsburg.

Elementary school principal Theresa Larsen will present her vision for NES.

Informational items will include progress updates on the tablet computer initiative, a block scheduling update, a letter to the sheriff's office requesting a presence at the intersection of Northumberland Highway and Academic Lane, and the volunteer approval process.

The Northumberland Public

the SCC allow local government officials to participate in their pending proceedings with Aqua and that the SCC hold a hearing for opposition comments to the increase.

In a discussion over the proposed increases, District 1 supervisor Butch Jenkins called Aqua officials "arrogant" in their dealings with customers. He noted that when problems occur, Aqua is unresponsive and refuses to notify customers about the status of repairs.

"Residential groups are so small, they feel powerless," said Jenkins. "We need to bring (Aqua officials) to heel... Property owners have no rights except from the county calling them on the kind of service they are providing...We need to fire across the bow."

In other business, supervisors unanimously adopted a revision to the code of ordinances to allow Quarters Cove Subdivision to become a golf cart community. Located off Coxs Farm Road in District 4, the community will be responsible for putting up signs notifying motor vehicle operators that golf carts and utility vehicles are using the road.

Supervisors also approved a request from Kilmarnock Irvington White Stone Rotary for a pump and haul permit at Camp Kekoka in order for them to hold the annual Bay Seafood Festival at the Kilmarnock site.

nock site.

A request for proposal (RFP) was approved to solicit architectural services for 30 acres formerly known as the

Norris property at Pinckardsville and Mary Ball roads. The proposal will call for renderings on an emergency services building.



Longtime Middlesex County businessman and philanthropist Norton Hurd flashes a big smile after getting a kiss from American Red Cross River Counties Chapter executive director Julie Dudley. Hurd was one of three folks honored at the chapter's annual Community Leadership Dinner.

Community leaders recognized

Jimmie Carter of Lancaster County addresses the crowd after being recognized as a community leader by the River Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross. One citizen from each of the three counties served by the Red Cross chapter is recognized for his or her tireless efforts to help others.



Richmond County Sheriff Douglas Bryant (left) receives a community leader plaque from Julie Dudley. The annual dinner was held recently at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Photos by Lisa Hinton-Valdrihi



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Focal Point



The neighborhood bird

Photo by Connie Ruble

Submit your interesting photos capturing the life and times in the Northern Neck to editor@rrecord.com, subject line Focal Point.

YESTERYEAR

(Reprints from the November 4, 1904, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

More Teddy Views

Attention has been re-attracted to Hon. Theodore Roosevelt's biography of Hon. Thomas Hart Benton, published in 1886 as one of the American Statesman services.

Mr. Roosevelt, in his book, has frequent references to the South and southern leaders. He placed a very high estimate upon military genius of Robert E. Lee. But he seems to have been animated by the most intense hatred of Jefferson Davis and the men who acted with him in establishing the Confederate Government. Indeed, Mr. Roosevelt's dislike of the South crops out in many places, and in every opportunity. His conception of antebellum southern character is most remarkable.

Westland

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Phillips, of Delmar, Del., were visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Calloway last week.

W. H. Mitchell was in Baltimore last week on business.

G. W. Abrams and son are up the river this week getting trap stakes for spring fishing.

W. H. Calloway was in Urbanna this week on business.

Mrs. W. H. Mitchell is visiting in Baltimore this week.

Fishermen are busy taking up their nets.

Upper Lancaster

The protracted meeting which was held at Providence Baptist church last week was a great success. There were eighteen converts and eight of them united with the church.

The meeting was conducted by

Rev. F. W. Claybrook, of Kilmarnock.

A. Barrack has placed in his home a fine piano for his daughter, Miss Christie.

Mrs. Mary J. Rice, of Alfonso, is visiting friends in Baltimore this week.

C. H. Revere, of Lively, accompanied by his daughters, Misses Cora and Jannie, and Miss Bessie Broun, visited his uncle, T. J. Marsh, of Fairfields, on Saturday and Sunday of last week.

We are glad to say that Mrs. C. B. Clark, who has been sick for some time, is slowly improving.

Quite a number of people around here attended the Ministers and Laymen's meeting,

which was held at Farnham Baptist church on the 29th and 30th of October.

Eddie Bush, of Alfonso, left for Baltimore on Friday last, where he went to attend school.

Pearls From The Shells

Three weeks ago the Virginia Citizen, owned and edited by our friend W. McDonald Lee and published at Irvington, Va., completed its thirteenth year, the announcement of which fact escaped our notice or we would have surely congratulated its talented editor upon the evident prosperity of the Citizen and especially its readers upon their good fortune in having such an excellent paper. We heartily wish it continued success.

Irvington

San Griffith is making sawdust fly with Capt. Messick's portable gasoline wood saw.

An oyster roast was indulged in last Friday evening at Rowe's store, in West Irvington.

Eugene Phillips, of Essex, is here at the tender mercies of Dr. Oliver, dentist.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Mason and children spent Sunday with Mrs. Mason's parents in Poplar Neck.

Tom Hall has finished plastering the new addition to J. T. Rilee's dwelling and is now working at C. B. Riggins.

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



Do you remember?

This 1920s photo taken in the Wicomico Church area shows A.G.W. Christopher Sr. on a date with an unnamed lady, according to Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. "Do you remember?" is a community service of the museum.

YOUR LETTERS

Making a difference

My Officer Candidate School class of 1966 and Technical, Advising and Counseling class of 1967 had been trying to locate me for a reunion.

As rumors go, the word had gotten around that Lt. Hill had been "wasted." Words that brought me back to life were "Lloyd, is that you?"

So began an attempt to peel back 37 years as we made plans by phone to visit the Wall on Friday, November 11, 2005, and to make plans for the 40th year reunion in 2007.

Nine 59- to 60-year-old men who I had not seen or talked to in 37 years met in Arlington. How would we recognize each other?

I would be easy to spot because I would be the one with the deep tan. I am a little rounder, bald and a little wobbly as a result of new hips.

As their TAC officer, I had referred to them as "bean heads" and "Smeacs." They return as PhDs, lawyers, bankers, engineers and financial planners.

It is amazing how 37 years clouds your memory. I am now given credit for their successes. They believe the push-ups and long runs I inflicted on them made all the difference in their survival and dedication to not giving up. I thanked them graciously for I realized the 10-mile runs that they bragged about were only five miles and the 100 push-ups were only 50 at a time.

It is a great feeling to know that you made a difference in someone's life, even if inflated. I am eternally grateful that I was reunited with my old classmates from OCS.

All Veteran Days are special, but 2005 will always be super special to me. For this is the day that it was reconfirmed that I made a difference.

Lloyd N. Hill,
Weems

Home town Halloween

I had the pleasure of accompanying my daughter and granddaughter to the Halloween festivities in town last Friday afternoon. It was a scene right out of one of Norman Rockwell's paintings. It's just another example that "Home Town America" is alive and well in Kilmarnock.

On behalf of all the witches, hobgoblins and other uniquely costumed children, I would like to express that all the businesses, groups and individuals responsible put on one heck of a Halloween experience for our children and community.

By the way, I saw a number of adults in costume. Just goes to show you're never too old for some good old-fashion fun.

Art Lang,
Ditchley

Kandy for Kids acknowledgments

On behalf of the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber I wish to acknowledge the generosity of this community. This community amazes me.

About 1,000 children arrived in Kilmarnock for Kandy for Kids, a trick-or-treat event on Friday evening. Susan Cockrell and the Town of Kilmarnock Public Works decorated Kilmarnock. The Kilmarnock Police Department and VDOT-Brookvale insured the children stayed safe.

Highlander Studios and Yours Truly along with the Rappahannock Record captured this event in photos.

The Northern Neck YMCA decorated and painted pumpkins and the White Stone Church of the Nazarene set up games and activities for the children.

Our local radio stations, Bay 101.7 and WIGO Country, set up their Spooky music and live broadcast with Tawne and Ron, and Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury provided hot cider and treats.

St. Andrews Presbyterian church provided treats in trunks. Sandy and Jan from Hair Design Studios provided entertainment with the headless horseman.

Nobletts, Higher Health and The Audiology Offices kindly allowed us to decorate and hand out treats in front of their businesses.

Participating merchants of Kilmarnock open their doors each Halloween to hand out treats to our children. We are fortunate to live in a place where the safety and joy of our children is so valued.

Anne Paparella, Kilmarnock, executive director, Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce

Purchasing power

"On November 3, 2009, Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway announced it would acquire 77.4% of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF)—a deal valued at \$44 billion," according to Wikipedia.

Other sources state that BNSF owns all the rail lines in the U.S. that connect to Western Canada, and they, with miles and miles of tanker cars, haul 80%+ of the crude from Canada, our largest supplier, to refineries in the Midwest and Texas (or charge other Short Line railroads a fee to use their tracks). BNSF charges \$30 per barrel to haul the oil while the Keystone Pipeline, by the State Department's own estimates, would cost \$10 per barrel.

In the last two election cycles, Buffet gave exclusively to Democrat causes and candidates. He also bundled and hosted numerous fundraisers for Obama. If anyone, especially environmentalists and/or those who are more than nauseated by crony capital-

BUFFET, continued on page A7

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Often we think of the Northern Neck as having produced great leaders from our nation's early history without realizing that in the present age we also have seen individuals of extraordinary merit. One of the foremost of leaders of our recent past was Myers France, who served for 24 years on the Richmond County Board of Supervisors and on the board of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission.

Myers was a model of good citizenship across the entire spectrum of his life. He was a farmer who had a profound affinity for the land and what it could produce for the benefit of mankind. He combined his farming with public service, blending the two interests with abiding success. On the one hand he was able to answer any question posed about farming conditions, market prices or weather conditions; on the other, he could discourse on the budgetary impacts of actions by the local, state or federal government with equal assurance.

He was a true American conservative, both as a farmer and as a public servant. He hus-

He understood the land and its worth to future generations, and he wanted America to remain the agricultural kingpin of the global economy.

banded the resources of the land as well as those of the taxpayers. He could respond to the public's concerns, and found his calling in tending to their needs and requests. When he spoke, he was deliberate, and his words reflected the deep thinking he had put into their composition. In any given situation his peers looked to him for guidance and direction given his impeccable integrity and honesty.

In every community pursuit Myers was a major participant. He played the guitar at his church, and in his religious life he brought

his relationship with The Almighty into the Public Square. He showed respect for everyone, and was happiest when planting, tending and harvesting his crops and speaking and acting on behalf of his constituents, whose trust he respected. Myers was the proverbial "good steward," who labored in the vineyard to produce a worthy harvest.

To look around Richmond County with its fine schools, sound business economy and well-structured government, is to recognize that Myers was a major player in all of the progress and development therein. As a member of the Northern Neck Planning Commission, he saw far beyond the provincial outlines of his own district or county, and worked to give the Northern Neck the place it deserved at the table of the Commonwealth. He always looked at the "big picture" in every measure, to make certain he was doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

Last week Myers died at the age of 82, having retired from public life as his health waned in the last few years. At his funeral several of the magnificent floral displays were

composed of flowers and plants, vegetables and fruits that came from his farm. He would have appreciated the nuances they conveyed.

His son, Al, told me that his father had asked about getting his crops in the day before he died. I told him that if his father had been offered a billion dollars to change careers and abandon farming, he would not have taken a second to turn down the offer. Myers was closely bonded to the soil, which he saw as the gift of God for mankind to use to produce its livelihood. He understood the land and its worth to future generations, and he wanted America to remain the agricultural kingpin of the global economy.

Myers France offers a clear example of the continuing presence of the manifest quality of the original Northern Neck leadership carrying on into our own period, where as a citizen he saw his opportunity to serve the political interest of the public while simultaneously working his beloved land for the enrichment and betterment of all.

The Honorable Albert Myers France Jr., October 15, 1932- October 27, 2014. R.I.P.

Turnabout: Louisiana shucking houses buy Chesapeake oysters

by Rona Kobell
Bay Journal News Service

For more than two decades, trucks packed with oysters from Louisiana pulled into the seafood-processing houses of Maryland and Virginia each winter. The shuckers needed product to feed their hungry markets, and the Chesapeake Bay's famed oyster beds had nothing more to give.

Now, the trucks are going the other way.

Chesapeake Bay oysters have bounced back to such a degree that oyster-processing houses now send their bivalves south for shucking. The wild harvest and the farm-raised crop are on the upswing in Maryland and Virginia. Meanwhile, oyster production in Louisiana is down by as much as 70%, hit by a triple whammy of Hurricane Katrina, the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the government's attempts to dilute chemical pollution with freshwater from other places.

"It is a seismic story. It's huge," said Stan Allen, who directs the Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. "It is absolutely a reversal of a paradigm, a sad paradigm, for Virginia, where processors were forced to import Louisiana oysters just to keep their doors open."

Once, Louisiana supplied most of the oysters consumed in the U.S. Immigrants from Croatia and Italy turned the estuarine waters around St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes into a \$300 million industry. By the late 1990s,

Record to print 'thanks giving' letters Nov. 26

Thanksgiving is a time to count one's blessings, and a good time to give thanks for friends, neighbors or special groups who have made a difference in one's life.

In this spirit, the Rappahannock Record will print, at no charge, "thank-you" letters from Lancaster and Northumberland residents and visitors in its Thanksgiving issue November 26.

The letters should be brief (150 words or less) and to the point, and include the letter writer's name, community of residence and phone number. The phone number will not be published.

If the Record receives more letters than it can publish, a sampling of the letters will be printed and others will be available online at RRecord.com.

Email "thanks giving" letters to editor@rapprecord.com, fax them to 435-2632, or drop them off at the Record office at 27 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

The deadline for submitting letters is noon Friday, November 21.

Because Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, the Record will appear on Wednesday, November 26, and deadlines will be on Monday, November 24. The deadline for display ads is 10 a.m. and the deadline for classified ads and news is noon.

The Record office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Buffet

continued from page A6

ists, believes the Keystone Pipeline is not being blocked by the Democrats on Buffet's behalf—then remember, Buffet could stand to lose \$2 billion+ a year if the pipeline is constructed. He makes the same amount every year that the pipeline is delayed.

One must wonder why President Obama, with the help of his plutocrat friends, have been able to put this job-creating and efficient energy decision off for so long?

Matt W. Johnston,
Lancaster

60% of the nation's oysters came from the Gulf Coast. Louisiana provided the bulk of that, with the harvest reaching 14 million pounds, according to a Louisiana Sea Grant research paper. No other place in the country came close: Washington state's harvest was about 8 million pounds, Connecticut's was 4 million. The Chesapeake Bay wasn't even on the research paper's list.

But now, bayou seafood processors are buying Chesapeake oysters for the same reason their counterparts in Maryland and Virginia bought Louisiana product—to stay in business. They have markets, and if they don't have product for those markets, they will lose the customers to places like New England. Trucking oysters across the country is not economical, but not doing it would be akin to giving up.

On the bay

Casey Todd owns MeTomplin Bay Oyster Co., a 70-year-old seafood processor on the shores of Tangier Sound in Crisfield. Todd brought in Louisiana oysters for years. He had no choice; without the Gulf oysters, he would lose his customers for good.

Todd began to believe that he would never see the Chesapeake oyster come back. When he was a child, in the 1960s, oyster harvests were counted in the millions of bushels. But disease and overharvesting whacked the populations. By 2003, the public harvest dropped to only 26,000 bushels. But excellent spat sets, favorable weather patterns and more oyster plantings began turning things around; last year, the harvest was 440,000 bushels.

"I'm 60 now, and I didn't think I'd live long enough to see the oysters come back. I've been waiting 30 to 40 years for this," said Todd. "I was getting resigned to the fact that they would never come back in my lifetime, but it looks like they might."

Todd is investing in aquaculture with the hope of lengthening the oyster season. Public harvest in Maryland runs from October until the end of March, while farmed oysters can be tended and sold all year. Since aquaculture became legal in Maryland five years ago, several oyster farmers have turned cultivation into a year-round business, working the public grounds in season and tending to leased beds in the summer, when the price per bushel is nearly twice as much.

Todd said he is comfortable making a substantial investment because he believes the oyster population is recovering.

Don Webster, an aquaculture specialist for Maryland Sea Grant who has been developing farm-raised shellfish programs since the 1970s, said he hopes the return of oysters may soon mean the return of the shucking houses that were attached to processing plants, which shipped oysters all over the country for both the half-shell, white-table restaurant market and grocery stores. Many such operations closed during the dismal harvests of the 1990s and early 2000s.

"I've always hoped that we could get into and really rebuild the shucked oyster product," Webster said. "I think the markets for those products are beyond imagination."

Down south

In Louisiana, there is much less cause for optimism.

Maryland and Virginia each have a public fishery. Maryland's lasts October through March, and Virginia's lasts October until February, although oystermen can harvest from the James River until April.

The states each have aquaculture, where farmers cultivate oysters on leased bottoms—either on shells on the bottom, or in cages

or floats. Virginia's century-old aquaculture industry is robust; Maryland's is only a few years old, but it's been growing steadily since the law changed to allow oyster farming in every county in 2009.

Louisiana doesn't have cage culture. It has a public fishery where oystermen can work grounds that the state helps to maintain. Farmers can also lease grounds from the state, and increasingly, they are leasing oyster grounds from private owners. But a big part of the fishery is the available seed from the public reefs. The state allows oystermen to harvest seed from the public grounds to replenish their leased bottom. That is how many oyster farmers have grown their business.

But since the oil spill on BP's Deepwater Horizon platform in April 2010, the availability of seed on public reefs has been "non-existent," said John Tesvich, chairman of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and a fourth-generation oysterman.

Tesvich, who also runs the AmeriPure oyster-processing company in Franklin, La., said this year the crop has been a "failure," but it was even worse last year. This year, at least, there are some oysters, but the quality is not what he's come to expect. And the price has doubled, from \$25 for a bushel and a half pre-spill to \$50 for the same amount today.

The shortage hasn't given the markets much time to recover from the six months that the oyster fishery was shut down post-spill, or the nearly a year that the processing plants were idle after that.

So, to keep himself in business, Tesvich began importing Chesapeake Bay oysters two years ago. He continues the practice, using farm-raised oysters in the summer and wild-caught ones in the winter.

Tesvich is as shocked as his bay counterparts about the turnaround; if anyone would have told him a decade ago he would have to import oysters from the Chesapeake he wouldn't have believed them, he said. But those were the Chesapeake's 26,000-bushel-a-year days. Now, he needs those Chesapeake oysters to survive.

"Our company cannot guarantee that we will have oysters next month," he said. "I can't guarantee that we will have them next week."

Louisiana has had bad years before. It is losing wetlands at an alarming rate. With the state and the Army Corps of Engineers exercising tight control over the waterways to prevent flooding, oyster farmers have sometimes contended with slugs of freshwater or sediment harming their beds. The freshwater comes from rain and floods, or from water managers' decisions to divert freshwater into the Gulf and its tributaries to protect New Orleans from high water. Such decisions protect lives and homes, but they destroy oysters, which need a precise mix of fresh and saltwater to survive. Too much freshwater and they don't grow; too much saltwater and conch parasites, known as "oyster drills," descend on them.

Vibrio vulnificus also has been a problem; the bacteria flourishes in warm waters, and several illnesses and deaths in the 1990s brought the looming threat, not yet realized, of a summer oyster shutdown.

Diversions

The oysters had always come back from hard times, Tesvich said. Not so after the BP spill. The Louisiana government decided to pump fresh water into Louisiana's oyster-rich bays in what many now say was a misguided attempt to flush out the oil. They opened levees

to create "diversions," infusions of massive amounts of freshwater that they hoped would dilute the oil.

The state is embarking on a \$25 billion plan to create more diversions, this time for sediment. Engineers will dredge sediment and then pipeline it to restore the wetlands the state has lost. They will also continue with freshwater diversions in an attempt to restore the Mississippi River to the way it was 75 years ago, before man-made engineering developments forever disrupted fishing and habitat.

As just one example, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, which opened in the 1960s to connect the Gulf and the New Orleans port, destroyed more than 27,000 acres of wetlands, according to the Restore the Mississippi River Delta, a campaign of a half-dozen environmental organizations.

Scientists, residents and even fishermen support the dredging projects, much of which BP will finance through the various settlements. But Tesvich and his fellow oystermen have railed against the diversions, arguing that the benefit of increased sediment is not worth the cost to the oyster fishery.

The latest diversion debate is just the most recent in a long and turbulent history. About 100 oystermen who worked leased bottom in Breton Sound, southeast of New Orleans, sued the state over past diversions from the 1990s and won \$1.3 billion, only to have the Louisiana Supreme Court overturn the verdict in 2004. The Louisiana Supreme Court argued that the diversions were in line with the state's responsibility to protect, preserve and replenish its natural resources.

"If you want to start a war

out here, ask about diversions," said David Muth, state director for Louisiana's Coast Campaign at the National Wildlife Federation, which is part of the Restore project.

While hosting a group of journalists on his boat, the Croatian Pride, Tesvich got the news that a federal judge hearing a lawsuit seeking damages for the oil spill had declared BP "grossly negligent." The finding could mean BP would have to pay as much as \$18 billion in Civil Clean Water Act fines.

The courts have already assessed \$4 billion in criminal fines from BP, more than half of which will fund coastal restoration projects. Transocean, the company that operated the rig, also pleaded guilty and will pay a \$400 million fine, in addition to a \$1 billion settlement with the federal government for Clean Water Act violations. Much of that Transocean money will also go to a restoration trust fund.

It could be years before

coastal industries see any of the \$18 billion, and it will probably be far less than that after all of the legal wrangling.

Still, Tesvich called the news "huge," and said he hoped it would also signal a turnaround in the way Louisiana managed its chemical industries.

Tesvich's nephew hopes his uncle is right. Luke Civilich, 22, left college with one year to go on an engineering degree because, he said, the water is in his blood. Raised on stories of the glory days on the waters around Empire and Port Sulphur, he said he could only think of working leases. He outfitted the Croatian Pride and plies the waters every day, even when there are no oysters to catch.

"I hear the stories that my dad and my uncle tell. They seem to me almost like tales, not very realistic," Civilich said. "I'd like to have a story like that one day."

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Governor declares November Virginia Oyster Month

RICHMOND—Gov. Terry McAuliffe recently announced November is Virginia Oyster Month.

Visitors and Virginians alike are urged to experience the fresh wild-caught and farm-raised oysters from Virginia's seven different oyster regions throughout the month as well as participate in the numerous oyster festivals and events around the Commonwealth.

Virginia oysters have diverse flavors from the saltiest in the waters of Chincoteague on Virginia's Eastern Shore to the sweet taste of Rappahannock River oysters and the rebirth of Lynnhaven oysters in Virginia Beach. This diversity gives visitors a lot to love about oyster travel in Virginia.

"Virginia oysters are the best in the world, and they play an increasingly important role in growing our economy and keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean," said Gov. McAuliffe. "My team and I are working hard to make

Virginia the Oyster Capital of the East Coast, and I hope Virginians will join us by enjoying local, fresh and delicious Virginia oysters during the month of November."

Virginia's oyster harvest increased by 25% from 2012 to 2013, with more than 500,000 bushels—the most in nearly a generation. Over the past 12 years, the oyster harvest in Virginia has increased from approximately 23,000 bushels in 2001 to last year's level of just over 500,000—the highest level since 1987. The dockside value of the oyster harvest in 2013 was more than \$22 million, up from approximately \$16 million in 2012.

"Tourism is an instant revenue generator for Virginia, and the continued growth of the oyster industry, combined with private sector investment, positively impacts the tourism industry in the Chesapeake Bay region and the Commonwealth," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones. "In

2013, visitors spent \$21.5 billion, supporting 213,000 jobs and contributing \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes. Marketing Virginia as an oyster destination will help us attract more of those visitors and continue to help our economy grow."

"The oyster industry plays a significant role in Virginia's recognized position of being the nation's third largest producer of marine products and, the leading seafood producer on the East Coast," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore. "In addition to the domestic impact of our marine products sector on the tourism and agricultural industries, we're proud of the successes we've had in promoting Virginia oysters on international trade missions, where we've generated new export sales to China, Hong Kong and Canada. These deals and others we hope to help achieve will help generate business and attention for Virginia's thriving

oyster industry."

In August 2014, Gov. McAuliffe announced the development of the Virginia Oyster Trail, a major tourism development project connecting travelers to Virginia oyster purveyors, raw bars and restaurants, and the watermen culture throughout Coastal Virginia, the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and the Eastern Shore. As a result of these exciting developments with the Virginia oyster, Gov. McAuliffe officially declared November as Virginia Oyster Month and named Virginia the "Oyster Capital of the East Coast."

"By pairing Virginia oysters with other Virginia products including wine, craft beer, cider and spirits, travelers can experience the state with taste," said Virginia Tourism Corporation president and chief executive officer Rita McClelleny. "Oysters only add to the impressive list of things Virginia has to offer."

57th annual Urbanna Oyster Festival slated November 7-8

The 57th annual Urbanna Oyster Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, November 7-8. The festival features parades, food and entertainment. The festival, sponsored by the Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation, will be held from 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

The Fireman's Parade at 7 p.m. Friday will feature 60 fire and rescue units, beauty queens and dignitaries.

The Oyster Festival Parade at 2 p.m. Saturday will feature more than 80 entries, including beauty queens, antique cars, marching bands and the U.S. Army Marching Dixie Jazz Band.

Special attractions

The 2014 Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned on Friday at 4 p.m. inside the Urbanna Firehouse.

Antique and classic cars will be on display at Waverly and Virginia streets starting at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The Old Tobacco Warehouse/Urbanna Visitor's Center on Virginia Street will feature a new exhibit, "Oyster is King," and the town's 1755 John Mitchell Map, one of the earliest maps of the original 13 colonies.

"Community Row," sponsored by EVB, will be on Virginia Street between Cross Street and the waterfront. Community Row will feature crafts, demonstrations and exhibits from Middlesex artists and local groups.

Food and crafts

More than 100 craft and food vendors will participate. Oysters will be sold raw, roasted, fried, steamed, frittered and stewed. Visitors also can purchase crab soup, crab bisque, seafood chowder, clams, crab cakes, shrimp, fish, corn dogs, sausages, hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, roast beef, funnel cakes, kettle corn, roasted nuts, ice cream,

cotton candy, snow cones and candy apples.

Crafts will include hand-made furniture, stained glass, wood carvings, sculpture, pottery, dolls, brass, silver, leather goods and jewelry.

Waterfront activities

A water taxi will operate from the Urbanna Town Marina from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Along the waterfront there will be a variety of boats and seafood displays. Watercraft will include Godspeed, a re-creation of the 1607 ship that brought the first permanent English settlers to Virginia, as well as the buyboats F.D. Crockett and Propwash.

Exhibitors of the Marine Science Legacy program at the waterfront will include Yorktown Watermen's Museum, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Ready Reef Inc., Shellfish Growers of Virginia, Tidewater

Oyster Gardener's Association, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Science, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

Shucking Contest

The Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest will be at 11 a.m. Saturday behind the firehouse.

The top professional shucker in the contest wins \$300. The first-place prize in each of the men's and women's divisions is \$100; second, \$50; and third, \$25.

There will be an amateur shucking competition with a plaque for the winner, and official Oyster Festival t-shirts for second and third place.

Fun for children

Bon Secours Virginia Health System is proud to sponsor the children's activity area that will be focused on fun for kids.

Crafts available for children include paper bag puppets, foam animal hats, sand

art, necklaces, face painting and many zoo animal themed crafts.

Activities will include a magician/juggler, pony rides, carnival games and bounce houses, model trains, web portal and costumed characters.

Music

Music Friday will include:

- Stuck on a Name, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Festival Village Stage, Rappahannock Avenue; 8 p.m. to midnight, Firehouse Stage.

- Robert Keyes, 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m., Old Tobacco Warehouse, Virginia Street.

- Bad Ace, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Urbanna Town Marina.

Music Saturday will include:

- The Pat Russell Band, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., Festival Village Stage.

- Robert Keyes, 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Old Tobacco Warehouse.

- Riverrox, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.,

Urbanna Town Marina.

- 33 East, 1 to 5 p.m. Firehouse Stage.

Street closings

The town will be closed to motor vehicle traffic as a safety precaution on Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. for the Fireman's Parade; and on Saturday from about 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The town streets may also be closed to motor vehicles on Friday as pedestrian conditions dictate.

On Saturday only, two shuttles will transport senior and handicapped persons across the bridge to and from parking areas on the Rosegill (east) side of town. The shuttle operates from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee is \$2 per person each way.

Official Oyster Festival parking prices on both sides of town will be \$10 on Friday and \$20 on Saturday.

Handicapped parking is at the corner of Virginia Street and Red Hill Drive on the west side of town.

Some days are just special.

Shop Local Day is November 8.



Join Chesapeake Bank and Lancaster By the Bay Chamber of Commerce and mark your calendar for Shop Local Day on November 8. Participating merchants displaying The Buck Stays Here™ decal will be offering hard-to-resist bargains and special incentives.

Ready to make your customized Shop Local Day shopping list? Go to blog.chesbank.com. Select the "For Shoppers" tab to preview all the merchant offers. Start creating your personal shopping itinerary by selecting from specific categories, like Clothing & Accessories or Art & Antiques. Choose your preferred location, like Lancaster County. Next, print out your list and shop like you mean it. Some merchants will be extending their offers, so be sure to read each one carefully to get all the details. And, if you're serious about shopping, you're going to need the right gear. Pick up your free Shop Local shopping bag at any Chesapeake Bank branch or Chamber office.

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