Smiths see hope for Haley at General Assembly by Dennis Edwards

RICHMOND—“My heart isn’t full.”

So said 13-year-old Haley Smith after a press conference in front of the General Assembly Building Thursday, January 22. Haley suffers from a rare form of epilepsy called Dravet syn- drome, which causes her almost daily seizures and other developmental and health problems.

Haley’s mother, Lisa Smith of White Stone, and a team of other parents and legislators were there to urge the pas- sage of any of a series of bills before the General Assembly this year legal- izing medical marijuana in the state. Haley and others with conditions like hers have had very little success with existing medications, and early stud- ies from states that allow medical marijuana have had hopeful news for people with conditions like hers.

Haley wasn’t wasting words. Del. Kenneth Plum, who introduced HB 1605 to legalize possessing marijuana for medical purposes, gave Haley a heart-shaped box of candy at the beginning of the day, but a few pieces of candy were missing.

HB 1605 is one of a number of bills before the legislature this year. Current law allows medical marijuana for treating glaucoma and cancer, although all forms of marijuana remain a schedule I controlled substance under federal law. Del. Plum’s bill, as presented, would legalize medical marijuana more broadly by removing the language speci- fying that only allows its use for treat- ing glaucoma and cancer. It is currently in the House courts of justice committee.

“We’ve got to get ourselves together with our federal counterparts and come up with our part of the solution,” Del. Plum said. “It’s unacceptable that legislative bodies stand in the way of hope for people who have such limited hope and have such great need.”

HB 1445, introduced by Del. David Albo, takes a narrower approach by adding epilepsy to the list of condi- tions for which marijuana may be pre- scribed by a doctor. The bill has been assigned to the Committee on the Cul- tural law sub- committee of the House of Dele- gate commit- tee. SB 1255, introduced by Sen. David Marsden, takes a yet narrower approach by legalizing two substances specifically—cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil—for the treatment of debilitating epilepsy. These two oils are admin- istered by using a syringe to place them under the tongue. The bill has taken a different route through the legislative bodies and is being referred to the Senate committee on education and labor.

The day was a busy one. Lisa Smith and her allies lobbied other senators for medical marijuana for their children for years, and they’ve learned along the way. Their meetings Thursday were split into teams to cover as many of the legislative bodies as possible.

“It’s been a long day,” said Judy. “But we’re invigorated by the prospect of another trip to the capital and doing something,” said Judy.

The LeHardys, who had arranged a cruise for his West Point classmate Ward Andrews, have already become informal sponsors for the plan. The cruise coordinator helped set the stage for the two to sail around the world in less than 80 days. The only ship available was a small, exclu- sively off-duty cruiser. The LeHardys will begin their voyage at Andrews’s Alma Mater and make their way to Australia, where they will have to take a train to Perth.

The two are taking their trip to promote their own personal story. The two are taking their trip to promote their story, paying their way by giving talks along the way about their previous global circumnavi- gations. This bold adventure belies their age. Ward is 80, and Judy is 77.

By Dennis Edwards

Citizens voice approval for proposed $15.9 million school budget

by Audrey Thomason

LANCASTER—The recently pro- posed 1% (1.29%) fiscal year 2015-16 school budget was passed unanimously by the county supervisors Thursday, January 22. The $15,282,828 of the total expenditures are in the general school fund. The augmented 1% in the budget is $100,000 in a separate “textbook fund. The superintend- ent and school officers begin with this year’s book funds. The book funds are not addressed in teacher pay scale and are not part of the pay lagging behind adjacent counties with the scale over the past several years and handicapping the recruitment of top qualified teachers.

The budget includes a 3% adjustment in the salary scale step for teachers, an incremental step toward the full 7.5% recommended by a salary committee. It also includes placing all teachers at the proper step on the salary scale.

A step increase on the salary scale in an incremental increase in pay based on professional qualifications and years of experience. According to school officers, the district has not been keeping up with the scale for the past several years for various reasons, resulting in teacher pay lagging behind adjacent counties and hindering the recruitment of top qualified teachers.

Support staff and salaried employees are not addressed in teacher pay scale increases. Parker explained that most of the year’s textbook funds were spent, but not this year due to the previously unspent previous year’s funds. Del. Bob Smart praised Parker for limiting the budget increase to 1% and included herself in the debate including purchase of the Lancaster County’s $75,000 pass to the ship Korea, bringing the alternative 1% additional funds.

“We still have minor adjustments to make but right now the task is to support the income to the vote, and Parker.”

The school board vote on sending the budget to the supervisors will take place in February Meeting.

Ward and Judy LeHardy of Kilmarnock and their son Andrew Andrews, who had arranged a cruise for his West Point classmate Ward Andrews, have already become informal sponsors for the plan. The cruise coordinator helped set the stage for the two to sail around the world in less than 80 days. The only ship available was a small, excul- sively off-duty cruiser. The LeHardys will begin their voyage at Andrews’s Alma Mater and make their way to Australia, where they will have to take a train to Perth.

The only ship available was a small, exclusively off-duty cruiser. The LeHardys will begin their voyage at Andrews’s Alma Mater and make their way to Australia, where they will have to take a train to Perth. The next leg of the journey, from Australia to South Africa, presented a problem for the LeHardys. Ward asked a cruise coordinator who had arranged a cruise for his West Point class to see what cruise ships were available. The only ship available was a small, exclusive ship with tickets priced at $35,000 each.

The cruise coordinator helped set the LeHardys up for free passage on the ship, paying their way by giving talks along the way about their previous global circumnavi- gations. The cruise coordinator helped set the LeHardys up for free passage on the ship, paying their way by giving talks along the way about their previous global circumnavi- gations.

This bold adventure belies their age. Ward is 80, and Judy is 77.

By Dennis Edwards

VIMS, continued on page 42

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VIMS, continued on page 42

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Legislators comment on bills of local interest

By Roni Greene

Sen. Ryan McDougle
Del. Margaret Ramone

Smiths see hope

continued from page A1

the most important votes as
they could, with strategies for
how to approach each dele-
crate. The day's high
points included the press
conference, testifying before
the senate committee on education
and health, and a meeting with
Speaker of the House William
Howard. TV crews followed the Smiths
around the state throughout the day.

Haley suffered a scenario during the senate com-
mmittee meeting, as well as during a meeting with Sen.
Solly McElwee of Virginia Beach, a member of the senate education
and health committee.

The day's meetings with legislation had mixed results.
Medical marijuana seems to be a political hot-button issue, and
with the stigma around mari-
jana on one side of the issue
and the possibility of treating
sick children on the other, many
legislators hesitate to come
down firmly on either side of the
issue. Nonetheless, the Smiths
came away from the day 
more optimistic.

"It was a good day," she said.
"It was long, it was good."
The group had helpful
news from their visit with Speaker
Howell.

"The personal visits are great,
and I'm still remembering all
you all," Howell said and he
would help the group set up
meetings with other legislators,
and would work with Del. Alb.
Smith has said she is against
SB 64, which decriminalizes
marijuana possession.
She has also spoken with reps-
resentatives of the Pre-
vention Council of Roanoke
City, a lobbying group opposed
to legalization of marijuana.
According to Smith, the group
has agreed not to lobby against
the medical marijuana bills.

"By the end of the conversa-
tion, I think it was agreed upon
that we’re all fighting for the
same thing," Smith said.

And despite the point in the
course of the day, Smith and
her group found enough
to fill the empty spots in Haley’s

thoughts.

From left are Haley and Lisa Smith with the heart-
shaped box of candy given to Haley by Del. Kenneth
McDowall. Haley left the General Assembly with her heart
full. For more coverage, visit R Frederik A. Gaskins, President

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RICHMOND—District 99 Del.
Margaret Ramone, District 4 Sen. Ryan McDougle recently
brought any of his colleagues to
local interest now making
their way into the General
Assembly.

Three bills this year are te-
gared toward regulating rela-
tionships with firearm
operations. These are HB 1290, the public law change;
HB 1461, the Coe’s Conserv-
ancy Act amendment to the Virginia Bill
of Rights; and HB 1283, the
ability to purchase directly from the
farmers.

Smiths has expressed doubts
about the bills.

"You’ve got a lot of aller-
gies that are out there now, and
when we pass a bill, we’re not
just talking about our little
neighborhood ‘Mill Neck,'" she
said, referring to the storm-surge
issues in her area. People in particular
have seen some health hazards,
even to children.

"I do believe in the want of
inspection," Ramone added.

McDowall also supported
the bill strongly in favor of the

He said the bill is a matter
of personal responsibility and
freedom.

"If you know who the pro-
ductor is, they’re going to come
after you, then you're assuming
the risk of it," Smith McDougall said.

Sen. McDougall has introduced
HB 1290, which would be
both referred to the agriculture
subcommittee of the House
conference, Chesa-
apeake, and released the legis-
lative committee. According to Smith, the
group has agreed not to lobby against
the medical marijuana bills.

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This compromise use pro-
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process with a lot of paper-
work," said Del. Ramone.

The Josh Hardy bill is moving quickly through com-
mittee. On Monday, a subcom-
mitee of the House committee
on health, welfare, and insti-
tutes reported the bill, moving it back toward the
committee and closer to a vote on the House floor.

She has also introduced HB 1751, the Administrative
Process Act Bill. This bill would require that the Depart-
ment of Planning and Budget
submit a report to the General
Assembly every year for a com-
pared, the DPB will notify the
Joint Commission on Adminis-
tration Council of the House,
the senate committee on adminis-
tration, the Senate Finance
committee, and the House
Finance committee.

In addition, Del Ramone has introduced HB 2340 to
outlining, introducing, stock-
ing, or releasing the blue catfish,
an invasive species. This bill
was introduced on Monday assigned to the
Chesapeake submarine of
Government, Chesapeake, and
natural resources committee.

Sen. McDougall’s bills
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Sen. McDougall’s bills
Committed Solvers

The last known address was 1064 Purs volunteer Fire Department. The call was a medical call and the volunteer fire department responded to a medical call on 20300 block of Mary Ball Road, and reported the call as a medical call.

February 25:

Staff received a complaint of theft from the roadway on Old Salem Bridge to report a crane too close to the Norris Bridge for safety reasons. The crane was not in its proper position, and it was causing a hazard to the public. The crane was removed from the roadway on Old Salem Bridge.

February 26:

Staff responded to a report of a vehicle failing to stop for a pedestrian who was crossing the street on Glenmont Road. The pedestrian complained that the driver of the vehicle did not stop and did not offer any assistance to the pedestrian. The pedestrian requested that the driver be contacted to see if they would provide any information about the incident.

February 27:

Staff responded to a report of a vehicle failing to stop for a pedestrian who was crossing the street on Glenmont Road. The pedestrian complained that the driver of the vehicle did not stop and did not offer any assistance to the pedestrian. The pedestrian requested that the driver be contacted to see if they would provide any information about the incident.

February 28:

Staff responded to a report of a vehicle failing to stop for a pedestrian who was crossing the street on Glenmont Road. The pedestrian complained that the driver of the vehicle did not stop and did not offer any assistance to the pedestrian. The pedestrian requested that the driver be contacted to see if they would provide any information about the incident.

February 29:

Staff responded to a report of a vehicle failing to stop for a pedestrian who was crossing the street on Glenmont Road. The pedestrian complained that the driver of the vehicle did not stop and did not offer any assistance to the pedestrian. The pedestrian requested that the driver be contacted to see if they would provide any information about the incident.

Fire calls

Fire calls and fielded three calls for fire and rescue, including one report of a chimney fire in the 20300 block of Mary Ball Road, a report of a chimney fire in the 20300 block of Mary Ball Road, and a report of a chimney fire in the 20300 block of Mary Ball Road.

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**LANCASTER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT REPORT**

From left are Student Support Services counselor Tanya Olliver, administrative assistant Jessica L. Kautz, Rev. Keith Parham, Dr. David Kaull and Dr. Donna Alexander.

**LANCASTER—The following cases were heard in Lancaster Circuit Court on January 27 by Judge Harry T. Taliferro III.

**Ryan James Fisher’s trial on a charge of forgery of public documents**

Ryan James Fisher’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor DWI was continued to 9 a.m. April 30.

John Christopher Robbins pled guilty to eight felony counts of breaking and entering and grand larceny in a bench trial. Six other charges were nolle prosequa. Judge Taliferro sentenced him to a total of 40 years with 37 years suspended and an active sentence of three years. He will have two years of supervised probation, must participate in a substance abuse program and program in the amount of $57,966.

John Arthur Jones Jr. pled guilty to felony destruction of property. He was sentenced to five years, all suspended, one year supervised probation and 99 participation in a substance abuse program. No restitution was required because Jones had filed or replaced the property.

The show cause against Troy Maysa Dorrough was dismissed after restitution was paid in full.

Rajeefft Jaffetisms Smith’s attorney filed a motion to continue the arraignments on the convictions for five felonies for use of a firearm in a felony, grand larceny, abduc- tion and assault. Attorney Brent Jackson also filed a motion to withdraw from the case and appoint a new attorney. The judge granted the motions and the motion to withdraw.

Monta Devon Letts’s sentencing for felony eluding police and misdemeanor driving on a suspended license was continued to 9 a.m. April 30.

Sharon Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 24.

Darrin Otano Minut’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor assault was continued to 9 a.m. March 13.

John Joseph Simms’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies was dismissed after restitution was paid in full.

Joseph Derrell Harcum was indicted on one charge of malicious assault involving a firearm and one of larceny. A hearing is set for March 30.

Kyle Lee George was indicted on charges of manu- facture of a controlled substance and three charges of drug distribution. Trial has not been set.

James Tirell Thomas was indicted on a charge of mali- cious assault resulting in injury. A hearing is set for March 30.

Jeffrey Michael Thomas was indicted on charges of felons for use of a firearm in a felony in a bench trial. The motion to withdraw from the case and appoint a new attorney was denied. A hearing is set for April 30.

Marena T. Bettie’s review of alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 25.

**Grand jury**

A Lancaster Circuit Court Grand jury meeting January 25 returned the following true bills of indictment:

- Sharon Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 24.
- Monta Devon Letts’s sentencing for felony eluding police and misdemeanor driving on a suspended license was continued to 9 a.m. April 30.
- Mya T. Sumiel’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies was dismissed after restitution was paid in full.
- Frank Reese’s payment of restitution for assault and battery and a suspended license was continued to 9 a.m. March 30.
- Demetria Key’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor assault was continued to 9 a.m. March 24.
- Joseph Derrell Harcum was indicted on one charge of mali- cious assault involving a firearm and one of larceny. A hearing is set for March 30.

**By Audrey Thomasson**

**Lancaster—The following cases were heard in Lancaster Circuit Court on January 27 by Judge Harry T. Taliferro III.

**Joseph James Baum’s trial on a charge of forgery of public documents**

Joseph James Baum’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor shoplifting was continued to 9 a.m. March 13.

**Allen Conaway’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies**

Allen Conaway’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 30.

**Carlisha Shawnel Read’s show cause for alleged probation violations on felony and five misdemeanor charges**

Carlisha Shawnel Read’s show cause for alleged probation violations on felony and five misdemeanor charges was continued to 9 a.m. March 30.

**Doyene Jackson’s trial on a charge of felony assault**

Doyene Jackson’s trial on a charge of felony assault was continued to 9 a.m. March 13.

**Frank Reese’s show cause for alleged probation violations on assault and battery and a suspended license**

Frank Reese’s payment of restitution for assault and battery and a suspended license was continued to 9 a.m. March 30.

**Monta Devon Letts’s sentencing for felony eluding police and misdemeanor driving on a suspended license**

Monta Devon Letts’s sentencing for felony eluding police and misdemeanor driving on a suspended license was continued to 9 a.m. April 30.

**Sharon Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies**

Sharon Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 24.

**Darrin Otano Minut’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor assault**

Darrin Otano Minut’s trial on a charge of misdemeanor assault was continued to 9 a.m. March 13.

**Juliette Derrell Harcum’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies**

Juliette Derrell Harcum’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies was dismissed after restitution was paid in full.

**Sarah Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies**

Sarah Harrison Stetabrook’s show cause for alleged probation violations on four felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 24.

**Joseph Derrell Harcum’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies**

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**John Joseph Simms’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies**

John Joseph Simms’s show cause for alleged probation violations on two felonies was continued to 9 a.m. March 30.
Northern Neck CASA program is awarded national certification

LANCASTER—The Northern Neck Coast Appointment Specialist Advocate (CASA) program has earned national certification by the National CASA Association.

The certification recognizes the Northern Neck CASA is in compliance with National CASA standards and provides the high quality child advocacy, as well as the quality of work done for abused and neglected children.

“The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, reflects our commitment to being the best we can be,” said National CASA Association chief executive officer Michael Piraino. “This certification says Northern Neck CASA has demonstrated to us a high capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children served by their community.”

The Northern Neck CASA program was incorporated in 2003 and has served over 350 children with an average of 15 volunteers per year.

“Northern Neck CASA is an indispensable component in addressing issues affecting children, especially in matters of child abuse and neglect,” said Judge R. Michael Piraino. “The volunteers who serve in advocacy for particular children are well-trained and respected. These volunteers share their time and talent to ensure that the concerns of children before the court are addressed. Thanks to CASA, the children of Northern Neck have a friend in court.”

“CASA, over the years, has been most helpful to the court in gathering or clarifying facts in a particular case and very professionally reporting same to the court,” said Judge J Matson Davis.

Those interested in advocating for the best interests of children, contact director Betty With at 462-0841, or bww茺eech@kaballero.com.

River Counties Community grants foundation programs due April 1

Rural digitization project sheds light on African-American lives

TAPPANNAH—In rural communities of eastern Virginia, the obscure stories of thousands of deceased African Americans are finding their way to the internet. The Virginia African-American Funeral Programs project, which was founded five years ago as a collaborative initiative between FamilySearch and the Middle Peninsula African-American History Society of Virginia (MPAAGHS), and the Bessie Cauthorne White Family History Project, are programs that were digitized, and include over 850,000 deceased persons and their families. The one-page obituaries were placed in the programs were linked by volunteers and published in a free searchable database at familyse-

arch.org, said White. “Funeral programs are a veritable treasure trove of family history information because they provide a wealth of information about the deceased,” she said.

A typical funeral program includes the names and places of birth and death, parents, spouses, children and other relatives. Many of the programs are mini-biographies that tell the history by disclosing cultural work history, church and school affiliations, military ser-

vices and accomplishments. The pictures of the deceased contained multiple photographs of the family and deceased person.

“We often use the print copies of the funeral programs to answer family his-

tory questions,” said White. “To be able to finally search the programs electronically will be tremendous.”

Years ago it was not always easy for African Americans to get their obituaries published in newspapers, she said. “For many African Americans, the only newspaper that didn’t have those limitations. You published the obituary or the richer picture of the deceased,” added White.

The society is working with FamilySearch to begin the next round of the Virginia African-American Funeral Programs project. Those interested in having their deceased family members included in their programs should contact contact MPAAGHS at 758-5163, or mpaaghs.va@msn.com.
Fiction or Fact

From Bob Almacen

by Robert Mason Jr.

February is knocking on the front door. Valentine’s Day isn’t far behind, and winter won’t be too far behind either. It’s getting chilly, and I think it’s safe to say that we’re all going to need to stay warm. The best way to do this is to bundle up and enjoy the great outdoors.

Many of us enjoy outdoor activities during the winter months. We go hiking, skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating. These activities are great for getting exercise and staying active, but they can also be dangerous. It’s important to take precautions when engaging in these activities to avoid injury.

If you plan on going outside during the winter months, here are some tips to keep in mind:

1. Dress warmly: Wear layers of clothing to trap heat and stay warm.
2. Wear appropriate footwear: Make sure your shoes or boots are waterproof and have good traction to prevent slipping and falling.
3. Be aware of your surroundings: Take note of any signs of potential danger, such as ice or snow on the ground.
4. Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
5. Know your limits: Don’t push yourself too hard, especially if you’re new to outdoor activities.

By following these tips, you can enjoy the great outdoors during the winter months and stay safe at the same time. So grab your coat, gloves, and boots, and get out there and have some fun!”

Focus Point

Opportunity for mentorship

Over the last several months, I have enjoyed articles in the Rappahannock Record about the recent Holly Ball— including the news story on the front page of the February 12th issue about the event’s impact on our community. I was really touched by the account of how the Holly Ball came to be and how it affected so many people. I think it’s really important to recognize and support these types of events, as they bring our community together and provide a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and celebrate.

I think it’s really important to recognize the hard work that goes into organizing these events and to thank those who make it possible. I also think it’s important to encourage others to get involved and support these types of events in the future.

I’m really looking forward to seeing more stories like this in the future, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this topic.

Your Letters

Successful social event

For the past four years, our family has been watching the PBS period soap opera, “Downton Abbey,” and we were thrilled to see the 5th season premiere on January 12th. We’ve been eagerly awaiting the return of our favorite characters and the continuation of the story.

As a fan of the show, I’m excited to see how the characters will develop and what new plots and subplots will unfold. I’m particularly interested in seeing what happens to Mary and Robert, as their relationship is one of the most intriguing aspects of the show.

The theme of the show is love and relationships, and I think it’s a great reminder of the importance of these things in our lives. I’m also impressed by the attention to detail in the costumes and scenery, which really sets the show apart from other period dramas.

Overall, I’m looking forward to seeing what the 5th season of “Downton Abbey” has in store for us. I’m sure it will be another season filled with drama, romance, and intrigue.

Thank you for reading my letter, and I hope you enjoy the 5th season of “Downton Abbey” as much as I do.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
This was the first full week of session and we have officially hit the ground running in the House of Delegates. Since this is only a 45-day session, I have been hard at work introducing legislation to make Virginia a better place to live, work and raise a family.

On Wednesday, I presented my first testimony of the year on the House Judiciary subcommittee. My bill, HB1949, provides the opportunity for individuals who have previously been convicted on charges taken out against them to have that public record expunged when it is determined by the court that the accusation was false or unfounded. Under current law, individuals who are falsely accused have no recourse for expunging that record and their sensitive personal information becomes public record indefinitely.

On Thursday, I chaired the first 2015 meeting of the House elections subcommittee, where we stopped several pieces of legislation that threatened to undermine the integrity of the voting process. Thank you for supporting me as I continue this important work.

My first piece of legislation passed out of committee this year HB2207 re-establishes the membership of the Virginia Broadband Advisory Council to give Virginians an opportunity to communicate a stronger voice in developing a healthy broadband infrastructure. In the Northern Neck, and across most of the state, we also see the too-few frustrations many in Virginia face when trying to access broadband services. On Friday, I presented two of my joint resolutions in the House, both resolutions themselves. The Community of Interest (CoI) HB393 declares August “Loudoun Loves Our Veterans Month.” I am proud of all the hard work Christina Dempsey of King George has done to help pass this bill.

Delegates’ Report

by Dl. Margaret Ransone

Delegate Ransone also saw a group of eager students from the Richmond Public Schools visit the Richmond County School Board members met with us to discuss legislative issues, as did King George, Richmond, and King William County Registrars, and Trey Davis, principal of the Northern Neck Technical Center Richmond county members also spent time with Speaker Morgan Quirk and sheriff Doug Boyd stopped in to say hello on Thursday.

Lastly, I want to remind you all once final time to take any legislation survey at magaretm@lannova.com. It is an honor to serve as the voice of the 99th District of Delegates. I hope to see and hear from more of you during session about issues you care about and encourage you to reach out to my office in Richmond at 698-1099.

Democrats in the House are dedicated to making Virginia a better place to live, work, and raise a family. The Democratic majority looks forward to a productive 45-day session of the House of Delegates this year for the betterment of our Commonwealth.

Join us in making our vision a reality. Let’s work together to make Virginia a better place to live.

by Dl. Margaret Ransone

The Virginia Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, came to town.

Lancaster County CERT is hosting a Basic CERT course at the Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad, Thursday, March 20th from 6:30 PM-9 PM at the first 2015 meeting of the House elections subcommittee, where we stopped several pieces of legislation that threatened to undermine the integrity of the voting process. Thank you for supporting me as I continue this important work.

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Civil War Sesquicentennial

150 Years Ago This Month
January 1865: The Thirteenth Amendment

On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. This ended the amendment’s journey through Congress since the Senate had passed it in April 1864. It stated, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

The amendment was then sent for ratification by at least three-fourths of the states. The Confederate states were included since the U.S. did not recognize their secession, but it was expected that the Unionist states (26) could achieve the ratification majority (27). This theory was not fully tested before the war ended and political situations changed.

By early March, the amendment was approved by 19 states. Virginia was counted because it acted through its minority Unionist legislature in Alexandria. Through governments placed by Lincoln, three other Confederate states ratified the amendment before the war ended: Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. After the war, the process continued more slowly. Ratification was completed on December 6, 1865, with Georgia as the 27th state. Five more states ratified the amendment by the end of January 1866 and another in 1867. Three states that rejected the amendment in 1865 approved it much later: Delaware in 1901, Kentucky in 1976, and Mississippi in 2013!

The headline on the front page of the New York Tribune on February 1, 1865, read: “FREEDOM TRIUMPHANT! COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW ERA. DEATH OF SLAVERY. PHANTOM. COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW ERA. DEATH OF SLAVERY.”

The Constitutional Amendment

NEW ERA. DEATH OF SLAVERY.
1,1865, read: “FREEDOM TRIUMPHANT. COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW ERA. DEATH OF SLAVERY.”

The Thirteenth Amendment to reinforce their cause. They portrayed the Union’s actions as a rallying cry that the South needed. In a Dispatch article from February 7, 1865, a satirical introduction led to serious conclusions:

“From the bottom of our heart we thank the Federal Congress for this most timely and decisive legislation. We assure them that it did not come a moment too soon, that it is not in any way too stringent or too sweeping.

The United States Congress has abolished slavery in the United States... Let them make good their laws by deeds instead of words. We are going to resist them henceforth as one man, and to defend our hearthstones and our lives as men do who have no hope but in God and in their own right arms. The ‘moral strength’ of the Confederacy is this day turned into a miracle... We shall maintain our cause, our constituencies, the magnificence of our soldiers. We ask no more for peace, nor do we expect it, nor will we have it whilst the foot of a Yankee soldier pollutes this soil, or a hostile Yankee flag is unfurled on this continent.”

This monthly research article is a service of the Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library and Lancaster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

100 Years Ago This Month
January 1915: The Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution has a long tradition of excellence and innovation in the sciences and humanities. In 1915, the Institution published a significant report on the American bison, which highlighted its importance as a keystone species in the prairie ecosystem.

The report’s publication coincided with the peak of the Great Plague of 1918, which swept across the United States and resulted in a significant number of deaths. The report’s release was met with widespread interest and generated significant public debate about the future of the American bison and the importance of preserving natural ecosystems.

In the article, the Smithsonian Institution emphasized the importance of conservation and called for greater protection of the bison and other endangered species. The report’s release was a significant milestone in the Institution’s history and its ongoing commitment to scientific research and public education.

The Smithsonian Institution continues to be a leading institution in the fields of science and research, and its work has had a significant impact on the world. The Institution’s legacy of excellence and innovation is a testament to its ongoing commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of society.