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Lancaster supervisors continue to hear both sides of boat tax issue; decision due tonight

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Some 60 citizens attended a public hearing last Thursday on Lancaster County's advertised \$29.7 million budget and 7% tax rate increase.

The hot issue for almost everyone was the possible elimination of a boat tax that produces \$395,000 in revenue, while at the same time supervisors consider a proposed tax increase on real estate of up to 4 cents on every \$100 of assessed value.

According to county administrator Frank Pleva, each penny increase in the real estate tax rate would produce about \$250,000 in revenue. The current rate is 54 cents.

Speakers were split down the middle on the issue.

Supporters of zeroing out the boat tax claimed the county could still maintain a healthy fund balance without a boat tax or raising real estate taxes. They argued that elimination of the tax would create a much needed economic boost to the county in terms of jobs and local spending.

Opponents asked supervisors not to eliminate a "luxury tax" on the backs of

the middle class. They stated there were no guarantees big boats would return to local marinas or that it would result in additional spending in local stores.

"Once you give it up, it's gone," said former county administrator Bill Pennell.

Others argued elimination of the tax in Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, and most recently Gloucester would leave Lancaster high and dry.

"Gloucester's just happened. You don't know what the results will be," argued Pennell, who is a member of the county's Economic Development Authority (EDA). "Rather than do away with \$395,000, use (that money) to bring broadband to Lancaster County. There is a return on investment with broadband, but not the boat tax."

Tom Smith said he owns a boat but is not in favor of elimination of the boat tax. "I agree with Mr. Pennell. This shifts the burden off a luxury tax. It's not only a reduction this year, but you have to make up \$400,000 next year," he said.

Floyd Hollister said he favored repeal of the boat tax for different reasons.

LANCASTER, continued on page A2



The class prepares to be officially declared "graduates." Photo by Maggie Somerville

NHS graduates urged to accept change and develop confidence

by Audrey Thomasson and Maggie Somerville

Northumberland High School on Saturday celebrated the achievements of its 2015 graduating class with speeches of wisdom and humor. Families, friends and peers cheered and shed a few tears as 101 graduates received diplomas, academic recognition and scholarships in the school auditorium.

"If you need a tissue, you're going to have to wait until next year when tissues are back in the budget," joked class president Danelya Hancock, who had decorated the top of her graduation cap with the Captain America logo.

Hancock credited teachers for the values they learned and told her fellow graduates "to instill them in the next chapter of our lives."

"Thank you for teaching us lots more than what's on the SOLs," said salutatorian Adam Parker. He talked about the ability of each student to change the world just by influencing 10 people in a chain of influence that could spread to a million others and more.

Valedictorian Thomas Parker strayed from the traditional graduation speech. Instead, he shared the spotlight with classmates by reciting their one-word descriptions of themselves, such as adorable, advocate, anomaly, awesome and bionic.

This year's commencement address was given by NHS 2013 graduate Elizabeth Hudnall who recently completed her sophomore year at James Madison University.

Hudnall offered the graduates some significant parting words about confidence, change, and growth as they prepare to enter post-high school life as adults. She gave an account of her first year at college, her struggle with change and how she worried her high school self would be erased.

"One of the reasons why we are so afraid of change is



Haley Brooke Headley is congratulated by principal Dr. Travis Burns. Photo by Audrey Thomasson

because we get caught up thinking about what we will lose rather than what we will gain," she said. "Although it might be scary, change is ultimately a wonderful thing. One door isn't going to close without another door opening."

Accepting change and developing confidence are two things Hudnall believes come with the independence

NORTHUMBERLAND GRADUATES, continued on page A2

Tornado confirmed

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Reports of a small tornado in Lancaster last Thursday evening were confirmed on Friday after inspection by the National Weather Service.

According to Chief of Emergency Services Terry McGregor, three tornadoes originated from one storm cell. One tornado hit between Mollusk and Morattico and two others were in Richmond County. All three were rated EFO, the lowest on the scale.

"They contained 60- to 70-mile-per-hour winds and hit tree tops, breaking branches, taking down power lines and damaging crops," McGregor said. "There were no reports of structural damage."

The weather service reported the Lancaster tornado touched down about 9:47 p.m. and traveled 3.8 miles with a maximum width of 50 yards.

McGregor said Saturday evening's storm only resulted in broken tree branches and a few downed power lines. No other damage was reported.

"I'd like to remind folks to keep a NOAA weather radio in their home," McGregor said. "They are available at any hardware store."

LHS art students focus on Rappahannock Record photos

by Maggie Somerville

Lancaster High School just wrapped up another year, but the students' art work can still be seen throughout the county.

Most recently students were inspired in the classroom by photos featured in the Rappahannock Record, specifically the photos of reporter and photographer Lisa Valdrighi.

"As often as possible, I display the sports and school photos featured in the Record at the entry of my classroom. Students love to see themselves in the paper," said LHS art teacher Sandra Manning.

Recently, Manning was teaching the principles of design and the concept of implied movement. In order to display what she called the "challenging concept" of implied movement, Manning used one of Valdrighi's photos. The implied movement that Manning refers to is the illusion of movement that is incorporated into a piece of art.

"Lisa's recent photo of Art Lang tossing a ball to his granddaugh-



From left, Jacquie Colligan and Pat Ramey admire student artwork on display in the Rappahannock Art League Studio Gallery in Kilmarnock. Both Colligan and Ramey are artists who volunteer at the gallery. Photo by Maggie Somerville

ter to open the baseball season at Dreamfields was just the answer to my challenge," Manning explained. "The shot was excellent. Art had

just released the ball and the young girl in the foreground held up her glove to make the catch; a perfect example of implied movement as

well as a creative way to take a group portrait."

Students in grades 9 through 12 were then asked, using Valdrighi's photo, to label the source, object in motion and the object's destination point in order to demonstrate their understanding of movement in art.

"My focus on Mrs. Valdrighi is based on her quality of work and commitment to our community. I have read about the awards the Record has won over the years and I see these professionals as high quality photographers," Manning said.

This is Manning's first year teaching art at LHS but it is not her first time in the classroom. Previously, she was the art instructor at Lancaster Middle School for seven years and at A.T. Johnson in Westmoreland County for five years. She also worked with the Northern Neck Regional Governor's School for nine years from 1991 to 2000.

"Art brings me great joy and delight. Seeing the young adults at LHS create is more than exciting; they are awesome innovators and creative thinkers," said Manning.

Although it is only her first year at LHS, Manning is proud of the accomplishments of her students in the past year. Works by her students have been displayed at the Lancaster School Board Office, Rappahannock Art League Studio Gallery, Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury and the high school. The students' art is also displayed throughout the region due to the contests these students entered.

This month there is a special display of LHS student art work at the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. Works by the students also will be displayed throughout the summer at the School Board Office, 2330 Irvington Road, Weems.

Reaching beyond the walls of the classroom to include photographs by the Rappahannock Record and classic or modern works of art expands the students' knowledge of visual art work, Manning said.

"Our students are excellent explorers of art and we must provide for them the adventures," she said.



Business..... C7-8
Calendar..... B2

Churches..... B4-6
Classified..... D1-5

Directory..... D5
Notices..... D3-5

Obituaries..... B5
Opinion..... A6-7

Police..... A3
Schools..... C4-6

Sports..... C1-3
Upcoming..... B1-3



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804

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Lancaster supervisors

continued from page A1

Noting that waterfront properties are not selling and prices are declining on homes, he said the county has more to lose when revenue from real estates taxes reflects the lower sales prices.

"Let the people know that Lancaster is the place to bring your boat," said Howard Kyzer, a former member of the EDA. "We've got to do something different. Zero out the tax and get the people in here."

A White Stone resident noted a buyer backed out of purchasing his house when he discovered the boat tax would cost him more than his real estate tax.

"When I first got here, the marinas were full of boats," said Ed Hutya of Merry Point. "Once they come here, they'll spend money."

Several people argued that more boaters will create jobs.

"What jobs will be created?" asked Barry Travis. He said creating more marina jobs would not keep his college educated son or other young people in Lancaster.

Kathy Howell noted the rising costs of taxes, health care and living essentials at the same time that Lancaster's population is declining. "There may be rich people here, but the majority are elderly and living on food stamps, medicare and medicaid, working two or three jobs," she said. "Houses are for sale for years—there's no one coming into the community. You raised the tax last year, now you want to raise the tax again. I wouldn't mind giving watermen an exemption because they've had a hard time. We need to do something to help the people, to raise them up."

Joe Urban said he's a former boat owner. "If everyone drops the tax to zero, what's the attraction?" He noted Hampton Roads has 1,293 boats 40-foot and larger, but they have the population to support elimination of the tax. "I'm opposed to shifting (the boat tax) to home owners," he said.

Urban said the reduction of boats is happening in Florida as well, although they have no state or local taxes. Where boat owners used to be on waiting lists for slips, now there are plenty of empty slips.

Marina owners Ken Knull and Bruce Sanders noted that young people are moving out of the county because they can't find jobs here. They maintained that saving the working waterfront would benefit everyone through

growth and job creation that is not limited just to the marinas.

Jimmie Carter, speaking on behalf of the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber, said they were concerned about the sluggish economy. "Investment in a local industry...results in economic return," he said.

"The time for filibustering is over," said Gordan Slatford, general manager of Tides Inn. "We need action and we need it now."

One resident said all the programs benefit the poor and the rich. "As a home owner, I can't get out of middle class because I'm too busy paying for those that can't and those that can," she said. "Those of us stuck in the middle are paying for it. If you make cuts for everyone else, please consider us in the middle."

Joel Dugan argued against maintaining a high fund balance, saying excess county funds should be invested in economic growth. "Eliminate the boat tax and keep the tax rate the same," he said.

County Treasurer Bonnie Haynie noted the importance of a healthy fund balance at the end of the year.

"Last year was the first year we had to go to the bank and borrow money" to pay county bills, she said. "With a \$3.8 million fund balance we will have to borrow money. At the end of 2016, I'll probably have to go to the bank again, but I won't have to borrow as much."

She reminded supervisors that while they contemplate elimination of \$395,000, they should be aware that county employees have gone several years without pay raises and the years they received an increase was no more 1% to 1.5%. "Our pay keeps going down every year" in relationship to rising costs, she said.

Former assistant county administrator Jack Larson said auditors have an expectation of what a county's fund balance should be, otherwise the county will have difficulty securing future loans for such things as building new schools.

He said he was troubled that the boat tax committee focused only on the first year in their discussions.

Larson urged supervisors to think about the middle class and the elderly, people who have lost half their income during a difficult economy, he said.

Supervisors are expected to vote on the issue tonight, June 25. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster.



During the ceremony, graduates left the stage to present parents carnations. Above, graduate Rebecca Daniel leans over the railing to hug her mom, Lisa Newsome. Daniel's cap is decorated to symbolize the Christopher Newport University Captains. More photos of the 2015 Northumberland High School commencement exercise appear at RRecord.com. Photo by Audrey Thomasson

Northumberland graduates

continued from page A1

of being an adult and making your own decisions in life, whether that means going off to college, embarking on a career, or entering the military.

"I developed the confidence I always lacked. Confidence isn't walking into a room and thinking everyone will like you. Confidence is walking into a room and not caring if they don't," said Hudnall. "You have to be prepared for the obstacles that get in the way because chances are they will be blessings down the road."

Principal Dr. Travis Burns noted class accomplishments, including 53 students graduating with advanced diplomas, 41 with plans to attend a four-year college, 36 attending a two-year college, nine going on to technical colleges—and a total of \$770,000 in scholarships.

But the biggest applause came for his announcement that eight graduates will be joining the U.S. Armed Forces.



Angel Lampkin receives her diploma. Photo by Maggie Somerville

Burns noted it is the class president's job to organize their 10-year reunion. For that event, he placed in Hancock's custody the white graduation robe seniors

signed last year as a pledge to graduate.

"I thank all the families for trusting us to make a positive influence on their children's lives," said Burns.

\$155,375 budget lands approvals in White Stone

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

WHITE STONE—In a matter of minutes last Thursday, the White Stone Town Council adopted and appropriated its fiscal year 2015-16 budget.

Mayor Randy Reeves opened and closed two public hearings on the proposed \$155,375 budget in less than five minutes without comment from any of the 11 people in the audience.

The budget is only \$550 higher than the town's current budget and includes

just over \$4,000 more in estimated expenditures for central administration and \$2,000 more for town council expenses. However, the budget projects \$1,725 less for public safety and \$5,147 less in capital improvement funding.

Councilman David Jones moved to approve the budget with Joe Sliakis making the second. Jones, Sliakis, Blair Kenyon, William Hubbard and Irving Brittingham voted in favor with the motion passing 5-0. Council members Jennifer Hodges

and Kelli Blankenship were absent.

Kenyon moved to appropriate the budget and Hubbard seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

In other business, council voted 5-0 to reappoint town manager Patrick Frere to another term on the planning commission. Jones made the motion for the appointment with Sliakis making the second.

Council also recognized former mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard as new president of the White Stone Business Association. L. Hubbard assumed the position last Tuesday and asked council if the association could hold its monthly meetings in the town office and additionally use one of its vacant offices as a location for records.

"You will see support from us for council," said L. Hubbard. "This is a crucial time for us to come together and an exciting time for this town."

Irvington adopts \$121,371 budget

by Audrey Thomasson

IRVINGTON—By a unanimous 6-0 vote, the Irvington Town Council on June 18 adopted a \$121,062 budget for fiscal year 2015-16.

The budget includes \$99,691 in operating expenses, \$41,447 in salaries for two part-time employees, and \$21,371 in community support.

All council members were present for the vote, reported member Fran Westbrook. No residents attended the meeting.

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SHERIFFS' REPORTS

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

Misdemeanors

A Buzzards Neck Road man, 46, was charged June 15 with two counts of assault and battery and one count of domestic assault.

A Lancaster Creek Drive man, 28, was charged June 16 with domestic assault and battery.

An Old Orchard Road woman, 27, was charged June 19 with contempt of court.

A Jones Drive man, 44, was charged June 21 with domestic assault and battery.

A Mosquito Point Road man, 29, was charged June 22 on a Richmond County charge of failure to appear in court.

A Lancaster Creek Drive man, 28, was charged June 22 with brandishing a firearm and violation of a protective order

Activity report

June 15: Staff notified the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) of a jet ski operator near the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge who appeared to be in need of assistance, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) of a downed tree interfering with traffic on Pinckardville Road, and the utility company of a loss of power on Meadowview Lane; responded to a possible mental health emergency in the 11900 block of River Road (no mental health services needed), to a shots fired complaint in the area of Shalem Place, to a possible burglary in progress in the 5300 block of Mary Ball Road (area businesses were checked and all were found secure; no criminal incident), and to a possible burglary in progress on Gemini Road (no criminal incident).

June 16: Staff notified VDOT and the power company of a downed tree that was blocking the road and had taken down power lines in the 1300 block of Little Bay Road; responded with Virginia State Police (VSP) to a single-vehicle traffic crash near Ocran Road and Turner Lane, to a domestic assault call (adult son/father) on Lancaster Creek Drive (arrest reported above), to a reckless driver/hit-and-run incident near Chinn's Mill, to a possible prowler/suspicious noise complaint in the 2700 block of Irvington Road (children playing near the house), to a possible rabid fox complaint in the 7300 block of River Road, to a possible mental health emergency call on Gunther Lane (no emergency mental health services needed); and received a complaint of an attempted telephone fraud (complainant was told he/she had an outstanding felony warrant and to call 510-779-6234 for information on how to pay to avoid arrest), a complaint of a hit-and-run (property damage only) from a Doggett Lane resident; and an attempted telephone fraud complaint from a Rose Drive resident

The Agenda

Local Government News

WHITE STONE—The town council will hold a visioning session from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight, June 25, at the Town Office, 433 Rappahannock Drive, White Stone. Business owners and those with property in the commercial area of town are urged to attend.

Neal Barber, former head of the Department of Housing and Community Development, will facilitate. Stakeholders are asked to share their vision for the town.

White Stone was recently awarded a \$5,000 Community Development Block Grant for planning a downtown revitalization project. Council has a July 17 application deadline for a larger grant.

LANCASTER—Supervisors will vote on a proposed \$29.7 million budget for fiscal year 2015-16 and possible real estate tax hike during an adoption session tonight, June 25, at the County Administration Building, 8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Supervisors will consider the elimination or reduction of the boat tax and up to a 4-cent increase in the real estate tax rate, which currently is 54 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Also on the agenda are four public hearings. The first is to consider moving polling site locations for precincts 301, 302 and 401.

Applications for special exceptions will be considered for Stephen and Julie Perkins of 514 Wharton Grove Lane, Donald W. Smith of 500 Wharton Grove Lane and Elizabeth Jane Baugh of 63 Carlee Road. All three applications are for expansion of existing structures on general residential parcels.

WEEMS—Lancaster superintendent Steven Parker will hold a strategic long-range planning session with school officials beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 30.

The meeting will be held at the Lancaster School Board Office, 2330 Irvington Road, Weems.

LOTTSBURG—The Northumberland school board will hold a special meeting Tuesday, June 30, to approve vendor payments for the end of the fiscal year. The board will convene at 10 a.m. at the School Board Office, 2172 Northumberland Highway in Lottsburg.

The board also plans to meet in closed session to discuss personnel matters.



Close encounter

On June 16, Sandy Boyd-Ball of Mollusk reported seeing this fox in her yard about 7:20 p.m. "It was very close to my house in my backyard," said Boyd-Ball. "It did not leave the area at all. I could not get out of my car to get in my house. I stayed out in my car for 25 minutes. I blew the horn, flashed my lights, but it would not budge. I called 911 and deputy Cliff Dawson came out immediately. He secured my area." Photo by Sandy Boyd-Ball

(messages purportedly from Verizon demanding payment).

June 17: Staff responded to a domestic disturbance (verbal only; subjects have a child in common) on Joyful Way; responded with Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to a trespass complaint (domestic related) on North Main Street, to a suspicious vehicle complaint on West Point Road (subject determined to be working in the area), to a suspicious person complaint near the intersection of Irvington and Christ Church roads, and to a man with a gun call on Greentown Road (suspect located and determined to be unarmed; intoxicated caller made additional abusive language call to dispatch); received a fraud report from a Lively area resident (victim released personal identifying/banking information when told he/she would receive a rebate from Walmart; victim's bank was notified; no financial loss reported), a walk-in complaint of a civil dispute, a walk-in complaint of an assault by threat (magistrate declined to issue criminal warrant or protective order); and notified Northumberland authorities of an animal control complaint on Painter Point Road.

June 18: Staff notified VDOT of a downed tree interfering with traffic near Lumberlost and Black Stump roads and reports of a downed tree blocking Crab Point Road, and the utility company of a power line that was pulled down by a commercial motor vehicle on North Main Street, as well as reports of downed lines/loss of power near Black Stump and Lumberlost roads, and in the 200 block of Buzzards Neck Road; responded to a prowler complaint on Farley Lane, to Taylors Creek Road on a complaint of suspicious persons at an abandoned house (staff determined the house was not abandoned; the subjects were guests of the resident); received a larceny report from a Greentown Road resident

(debit card fraud; \$540 loss), a larceny report from a foreclosed home on Beechwood Drive (2 HVAC units; \$16,000 loss), a walk-in request for information on how to obtain a paternity test, a complaint of a suspended driver in the area of Carlson Road; and a National Weather Service notice of a tornado warning in the Morattico area (county-wide alert broadcast; no reports of injuries or structural damages were received; VDOT was notified of downed trees blocking all or portions of the road near Black Stump and Lumberlost roads, Morattico Road near Litwalton, Tomlin Trace, and River Road near Belle Isle Road).

June 19: Staff notified VDOT of downed trees blocking Rocky Neck Road and King Carter Lane and Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries of a reported injured bald eagle on the shoreline off of Crab Point Road; checked on the well-being of a River Road resident at the request of concerned family members (subject was found to have fallen and been down for an extended time; EMS dispatched); received a walk-in complaint of violation of court-ordered child custody/visitation, a destruction of property report from the 900 block of Ottoman Ferry Road (cash, damages to door; \$140 loss), and a request for information on a civil matter; responded to a trespass complaint on Ronnoc Way, to a fight call in the 800 block of Devils Bottom Road, to a man with gun call in the 5300 block of Morattico Road (extension of adult son/father domestic incident reported on June 16), to a disturbance call on Alfonso Road, coupled with a walk-in complaint of a domestic assault, and to a disturbance/trespass complaint in the 5400 block of Morattico Road.

June 20: Staff responded with KPD to a domestic disturbance on Fox Hill Drive, with emergency medical services (EMS) to an emergency call on Cow Shed Road, to a single-vehicle traffic crash in the 600 block of Irvington Road (vehicle & subjects were gone on arrival), to a domestic assault call on Jones Drive (arrest reported on June 21), and seized several suspect marijuana plants when attempting to locate a potential witness; and notified VDOT of a downed tree blocking Irvington Road near Second Avenue.

June 21: Staff responded to Weems and Johns Neck Road on a motorist's report of a pedestrian flagging down vehicles (subject was gone on arrival), with KPD to check on the well-being of a Second Avenue resident who had not been seen by a neighbor for several days (it was determined that the resident was visiting out of town family members), to Johns Neck Road on a complaint of several juveniles riding dirt bikes on the highway (subjects were gone on arrival), to a complaint from EMS staff responding to an emergency call of an aggressive driver tailgating the emergency response vehicle, to a civil complaint involving gun fire and an "aggressive" pit bull in the 200 block of Taylors Creek Road, and to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Nuttsville Road (both subjects were intoxicated; no criminal incident); notified VDOT of a downed tree blocking Black Stump Road; removed heavy debris that was blocking Courthouse Road near Davis Mill Road; received a complaint of speeding on Oak Hill Road,

a boat owner's report of his/her boat sinking at their dock at Snug Harbor (VMRC and U.S. Coast Guard notified; both advised to tell the caller to contact his/her boat mechanic; no hazmat spill involved), and several 911 hang up calls that were determined to originate from RW-C (residents attempting to call out must first dial 91 to get an outside line).

June 22: Staff received a complaint of destruction of a mailbox in the 2100 block of White Chapel Road; transferred an E911 call from a Remo Road residence to Northumberland authorities (unknown reason for the E911 call); notified VDOT of a downed tree blocking James Wharf Road; responded to a suspicious person complaint in the area of Windmill Point Road and Osprey Lane (subject purported to work for the utility company, asked numerous personal questions of the complainant).

Sheriff's staff also conducted 11 traffic stops, issued four summonses, assisted five motorists, reported a deer strike accident, handled a call for traffic control, investigated 10 building alarms, logged two inmate transports and recorded 33 E911 hang up calls.

Fire calls

The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire alarm in the 100 block of Lancaster Drive, a traffic crash near Ocran Road and Turner Lane, a fire/smoke alarm on Bay Water Drive and a hazmat gas spill in the 600 block of Rappahannock Drive.

Kilmarnock VFD responded to a downed power line on North Main Street. Kilmarnock VFD and Upper Lancaster VFD responded to a power line/brush fire in 11200 block of Jesse duPont Highway and to a structure fire/request for mutual aid in Reedville.

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

Felonies

Terrel Phillip Dickerson, 18, of Heathsville was charged June 21 with entering a building at night with intent to commit a larceny, petit larceny and trespassing on school property.

Misdemeanors

A Lottsburg man, 35, was charged June 15 with failing to vaccinate his animal and purchasing dog tags.

A Heathsville man, 38, was charged June 16 with assault and battery of a family member.

A Heathsville man, 54, was charged June 16 with a capias/attachment of the body for failing to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court.

A Heathsville woman, 44, was charged June 17 with assault and battery.

A Woodbridge woman was charged June 17 on a capias/attachment of the body from Prince William General District Court for failing to appear.

A Woodbridge man, 33, was charged June 19 on a capias/attachment of the body from Richmond County General District Court for failing to appear.

A Richmond man, 22, was charged June 21 with driving suspended/revoked three or more times.

Kessler arraignment is Friday in Lancaster County Circuit Court

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—James Todd Kessler will be arraigned Friday in Lancaster County Circuit Court on charges of first degree murder and concealment of a dead body in the disappearance of Claudine J. Gifford, 43, of Burgess.

Should Kessler plead not guilty to the charges, he will be tried in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court. A jury trial is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. July 28, at the courthouse, 9115 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania. The trial is expected to last four days.

Judge Harry T. Taliaferro III will hold a hearing on separate charges against Kessler for felony assault and misdemeanor assault of William G. Rose Sr. The hearing is to determine change of venue and a court date in the case, said Clerk of Lancaster County Circuit Court Diane Mumford.

Commonwealth's Attorney Robert L. Cunningham this week indicated some folks may not understand what a change of venue means.

"To clarify the procedure for such a change, it is simply moving the trial location from Lancaster County Circuit Court to Spotsylvania County Circuit Court," he said.

The jury and the courtroom will be the only elements that

will be different, he said. Judge Taliaferro, Clerk of Circuit Court Mumford, the prosecution team and the defense team will conduct the proceedings in Spotsylvania.

The emphasis and reason for the move is so that the jury pool will be completely different in the new location, added Cunningham.

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Concert precedes Veteran's Retreat weekend

Salty Dawgs with Faith (above) opened the second annual Veterans Benefit Concert June 20 at Yankee Point Marina. Proceeds from the concert benefit Firefighters Assisting Armed Forces Families and Truckin' 4 Troops. Guests of honor included Capt. John Woodall of FFAAFF and Scott and Lynne Mallory of Truckin' 4 Troops. Band members from left are Johnny Kemp, Brent Small, Faith Kemp, Jamie Segar and Rick Gilbert. Other performers included Capt. Woody, TypeCast, ONYX, Jaye & Parker Arnold and Ottoman. Yankee Point Marina also is raising money to hold a Veteran's Retreat weekend in September, with sailing, fishing, music therapy and fellowship. A donation of \$150 will cover a wounded veteran's travel and expenses for the weekend. To sponsor a vet, contact Karen Knull at Yankee Point Marina, 462-7635, or karen@yankeepointmarina. Photo by Robert Mason Jr.

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Northumberland's new budget includes funds to implement professional emergency services

by Renss Greene

HEATHSVILLE—By a 4-1 vote, Northumberland supervisors on June 18 adopted a \$36 million budget with funding for professional first responders.

The county added \$180,000 to its ambulance and rescue services to supplement volunteer first responders with professionals, said board of supervisors chair Ronald Jett.

"Volunteerism is down, and call percentage is going up every year, and it's more than you can ask the volunteers to do," said Jett. "They've done a great job."

The budget also includes a 3% raise for employees, with raises closer to 5% in building inspec-

tions and local planning. Jett said these higher raises were to bring Northumberland salaries in those departments in line with other counties.

Supervisor Thomas Tomlin cast the only dissenting vote. He said he voted against the budget because he has a philosophical disagreement about taking on long-term debt without a referendum, such as in the case of Northumberland's new courts building, schools, and sheriff's office and switching from the Northumberland jail to making contributions to the Northern Neck Regional Jail.

Other than that, Tomlin said the budget is "about as good as I was going to get it."

There are no new long-term debts in this budget. Tomlin has voted against every budget since 2000, when the county entered the regional jail partnership, except in 2011 when he and Jett abstained from voting to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

As adopted, the budget does not require a tax increase. Vice chairman Richard Haynie made the motion to approve the budget, seconded by Joe Self.

By category, the \$36,001,141 total includes allocations of \$1,542,601 to general government administration; \$791,644 to judicial administration; \$4,307,142 to public safety; \$1,468,018 to public works; \$2,464,312 to health and wel-

fare; \$17,083,663 to education; \$193,263 to parks, recreation and culture; \$410,220 to community development; \$2,594,531 in non-departmental spending; and a \$5,145,748 transfer to the general fund.

The county expects to take in \$16,842,074 in property taxes; \$2,728,280 from other local sources; and \$10,030,787 in state and federal moneys.

The budget shrank overall \$1,622,459 from last year with the completion of the new \$2 million sheriff's office. Law enforcement saw a \$180,654 jump due largely to three new hires, according to county administrator Kenny Eades.

There is also \$75,000 in planned capital spending to renovate the EVB building in Heathsville.

JEWELRY FACTS



BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

For those ecology-minded readers, may we suggest that some of their jewelry be recycled? This can be done in a variety of ways. Recycling your jewelry can mean having it cleaned and checked by us to assure you that it is looking its best and is safe to wear. We can also advise you on remounting or designing new jewelry for your treasured gems.

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Last Saturday, Northumberland County Rescue Squad president Elsie Tomlin (above) and other members introduced a new ambulance to the community. The vehicle's exterior has special alternating pinwheel LED lights to make it more visible to motorists when in service.

Northumberland County Rescue Squad displays new emergency response vehicle

by Audrey Thomasson

BURGESS—Northumberland County Rescue Squad displayed its new \$187,000 fully loaded ambulance Saturday and gave visitors a free blood pressure check.

The all-volunteer squad purchased the vehicle with a 50/50 matching grant from the Jesse Ball duPont Fund and donations from the community.

"We have a generous community," said Pat Baber, who is in charge of squad equipment.

Squad captain Stephen Tucker said the volunteers are celebrating 50 years of serving the community.

"People don't realize there is no difference in quality between paid and volunteers," he said. "We are both inspected and certified by the same state office of EMS (Emergency Management Services) to make sure we comply with all regulations."

The ambulance has already logged some 2,000 miles of service.



Volunteers recognized

The Northumberland Volunteer Rescue Squad recently hosted an appreciation dinner for members of the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department. From left are (front row) Phyllis Hammock, Judy Webb, Phil White and Patrick Baber; (next row) Dale Clarke, John Hudnell, Herbert Hammock, A.C. Crockett, Bobbie Blair, Mark Bershaw, Elsie Tomlin, Paul Carey, Tommy Tomlin; (next row) Bob White, Phillip Keyser, Edward Bowlin, Donald Cummings, Stan Norris, Steve Tucker and Bill Harrison. The two Northumberland County service organizations support each other to provide fire and medical assistance within the east/southeast portion of the county, responding to over 600 emergency calls per year. To join either organization, call 453-7788.

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Grant would help enhance White Stone as a destination

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

WHITE STONE—The plan is to make White Stone a destination.

“The whole objective...is to give people a reason to stop,” instead of just pass through town, Jerry Davis told White Stone’s town council and 11 audience members during a special meeting last Thursday. “We want to make White Stone a place where people want to shop.”

White Stone was awarded a \$5,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant May 18 from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for a proposed Downtown Revitalization

Project. The funding is to reimburse the town for the completion of seven requirements before a larger grant application can be submitted by July 17.

Last week’s meeting, plus a management team meeting, were two of the requirements. Next on the list is a visioning session from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight, June 25, at the Town Office, 433 Rappahannock Drive, White Stone. All business owners and stakeholders in the proposed project area are urged to attend.

Neal Barber, former director of the DHCD, will facilitate and business owners are asked to share their visions for the town, said town manager Patrick Frere. “The state wants to see dem-

onstrated public support for this project,” added Frere. “We really need to do what we can to get people and support for the visioning session.”

If all the requirements are met by July 17 and approved, the town could have access to another \$35,000 in planning money.

Among the requirements is a physical survey of the commercial properties in the project area, including square footage, conditions of the buildings and whether the buildings are vacant or occupied.

According to Davis, executive director of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC), the project area includes some 30 structures. The area includes buildings along Rappahannock Drive from the Allure Art Center, 419 Rappahannock Drive, to Isabell K Horsley Real Estate, 608 Rappahannock Drive. It also includes commercial properties along Chesapeake Drive from Jim & Pat Carter Real Estate Inc., 349 Chesapeake Drive, to just beyond Rappahannock Rentals, 459 Chesapeake Drive.

“The source of funding [for these projects] are federal funds which flow through the state agency,” said Davis. “These funds are very competitive and the town should feel very fortunate to have access to any of these CDBG funds.”

According to Davis, the NNPDC has been working with



The red border shows the proposed project area for White Stone’s downtown revitalization. Map courtesy of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission

the towns of Colonial Beach and Montross on current revitalization projects and with the town of Warsaw and village of Callao on proposed projects similar to the one in White Stone.

In the Montross project area there have been six new businesses with about six new jobs created, said Davis. Outside of the project area in Montross, some 10 or 11 new businesses have been created and 30 to 40 jobs, he added.

“You will see new businesses come in, increased activity and new jobs created,” said Davis.

If White Stone receives a planning grant for downtown revitalization, the state establishes goals regarding new businesses and new job creation.

“We use the Main Street model,” said Davis. “It’s a proven program on how small downtown areas can be active and thriving.”

According to Davis, the

project may include physical improvements to building facades, signage, seating areas and economic restructuring activities with a strong business organization to market the town, including website and social media marketing.

“This can take some months, up to a year to get through,” said Davis. “But the goal is to... develop some strategies to help the town.”



In pursuit of a brewery

Bob Nolting (above) explains to the Northumberland County Planning Commission the regulation to which he would be subject under state and federal law if he opens a brewery. Nolting plans to open a brewery on his property on Cod Creek, but first the county must create zoning law that addresses breweries. The commission voted unanimously to recommend new zoning language to define “brewery/microbrewery/distillery” and add the conditional use to agricultural, residential waterfront and general business districts. Photo by Renss Greene

Planning commission wades into reservoirs

by Renss Greene

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland planning commission had the future of the county’s water supply in its sights Thursday, June 18.

The planning commission was revising chapter one of the county comprehensive plan, drily titled “Analysis of physical and environmental conditions.”

Many of the staff-proposed updates reflected Northumberland’s slumping economy in the last several years, striking lines like “There is some evidence that development of the interior lots is progressing” from a section on subdivisions.

However, the comprehensive plan also includes a section suggesting reservoirs as a potential answer to future water supply problems. A study in 1969 identified nine potential reservoir sites in the county, although as Northern Neck Planning District Commission environmental planner Stuart McKenzie noted, only one is near a population center, in Lodge Creek near Callao.

Other potential reservoir sites are on Hampton Hall Creek, the Great Wicomico River, three sites along Bush Mill Stream, Sydnors Mill Creek and Mill Creek.

Commission members worried about the cost to build a reservoir, which has not been estimated since the 1969 study but is assumed to be expensive.

“I understand the potential need, and part of our job is to plan for the future both economically, environmentally and socially, but I think nobody has sat down with figures and said, well, this is going to cost [for example] \$7 million, and where’s that money going to come from?” asked vice chair Al Fisher Jr.

Dr. Greg Haugan suggested the county take steps to make sure the reservoir option is still available if it becomes necessary by implementing an overlay district to protect potential sites. He said that at some point in the future, the county may be forced to choose desalination or reservoirs to confront a dwindling water supply.

“All we want to do is protect the land so if it does turn out that reservoirs, one or more of them,

are economically viable at this point in the future, even though they might not be today, that the land is preserved,” Haugan said.

He asked the planning commission to keep that idea in mind when it next suggests updates to zoning law. His suggested zoning law would create a reservoir overlay district that prevents building below the potential reservoir’s waterline; rigorously enforce Bay Act law within the overlay district; and prevent land use that would contaminate the reservoir watershed with waste or fecal matter from livestock, landfills or other uses.

Haugan agreed that a reservoir could be an expensive project, and that more study is needed, but said it could also have many benefits.

“There’s a lot of advantages to a reservoir,” Haugan said. “You’re creating a lot of new waterfront property, you’re creating recreational property, so it isn’t all just expenses.”

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Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

I can't tell you who invented the hand-held flat fan so popular with churches in the south.

But he must have been a genius.

These simple fans date from the early 20th century, prior to air conditioning.

If you've ever been caressed by the breeze, on a hot summer's eve, you will appreciate them as much as I do.

They were a necessity for tent revivals and camp meetings.

You can find many sources for them. The traditional models often had a copy of a church or Biblical scene and expressions of faith on one side and an advertisement from a business who sponsored the fan on the other side. Often the business was a funeral home.

They're also popular as wedding favors, and politicians embrace them.

Today, they can be as elaborate as you can stand. They take on different shapes and carry any message or scene you want. You can order them "customized."

Or, you can make your own. It's a good summer-time project for the kids.

All you need is some card stock, a large wooden craft stick (a paint stirrer would work) and some glue.

You can use color markers to draw pictures or write messages on the card stock.

Attach the card stock to the stick with the glue. Can it get any simpler?

Add a staple or two for stability. Be sure to let the glue set up for several hours before using the fan.

The hand-held flat fan ranks high up there on my list of all-time greatest inventions, just below duct tape and kites.

Other inventions on that list, in no particular order, include:

- The knife, fork and spoon.
- The bowl and skillet.
- The thermos, refrigeration and the microwave oven.
- The compass and the gun.
- The steam engine and the internal combustion engine.
- Automobiles, aircraft, submarines and rockets.
- Cameras.
- Calculators, computers and robots.
- Telephones, cell phones and smartphones.
- Radios, televisions, stereo systems and digital music.
- Penicillin, antibiotics, insulin immunization, radiation therapy and chemotherapy.
- Para-aramid synthetic fiber.
- Zip-locking plastic storage bags.
- Indoor heat and modern plumbing.
- Nuclear power.

Focal Point



This rainbow was seen recently on the Potomac River near Edwardsville.

Photo by Cassidy Hope

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

YOUR LETTERS

So far to go

Since the shooting at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, approximately 142 have been killed or wounded on school grounds in the U.S. And those figures only scratch the surface of the total number of gun-related deaths in this country. Now, nine people have been gunned down at a prayer meeting in Charleston, S.C. The slaughter goes on.

Innocent people are mowed down in places of learning and houses of prayer; we wring our hands, cry and pray. And, we do nothing to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to themselves and others, terrorists, convicted felons and domestic abusers. Our legislators cut funds for mental health care despite the near unanimous opinion by mental health care experts that we could dramatically cut all crimes if we put a major effort behind improving mental health care.

No one ever speaks of the rights of people who have been murdered. Instead, the dialogue turns into a feeding frenzy of emotions hindering and not helping tackle the root causes of this violence. Sadly, in the case of the Charleston slaughter the root cause was racist hatred. I am at a complete and utter loss for words. I thought, as a nation, we had come so far, but I was wrong, so terribly wrong. We have so far to go.

The greatest nation in the world does not sit still while students are used for target practice by those who

are threats to society; nor do the citizens of a great nation remain silent while people are murdered at a prayer meeting. Charleston has shown that demanding action on the part of our elected officials to help stop these massacres is an imperative.

David Cariens,
Kilmarnock

Father's Day sparks reflection on fatherhood

Father's Day is becoming an increasingly token gesture to a fading role.

The percentages of children raised without fathers is growing, already a majority among some demographics. We celebrate Father's Day, but don't seem to really care about the role.

The values, responsibilities, and disciplines of fatherhood are important to the degree that family, specifically the traditional two-parent male and female family, now in steep decline, is important.

In practice, society treats traditional families as unimportant, but when measured by studies of family structures, traditional families become vital to a healthy society. Children raised in other than traditional families have poorer outcomes. Adjusted for factors of race, income, and education, children from single-parent homes are, by significant margins, more likely to commit suicide; drop out of school; be treated for emotional and

behavioral problems; be physically abused; smoke, drink, and use drugs; be aggressive; engage in violent, delinquent, and criminal behavior; commit a rape; and go to prison.

So who can be against the traditional family?

Statists, seeing strong families as competitors for centralized authority, have invariably tried to weaken the family. Hedonists, focused on the pursuit of pleasure, find the responsibilities and disciplines (especially sexual) of forging and maintaining family anathema; anathema also to the new entitlement mentality, for being a father or mother is primarily a dedication to giving.

Unfortunately, the trend is not toward becoming less statist, less hedonistic, or less entitled and many of our institutions now directly or indirectly encourage the opposite.

Let's end this unwitting hypocrisy; either forget Father's Day or get serious about fatherhood. If we choose the second, we will need the courage to answer questions we have not bothered or dared to before and act on the answers.

Edgar Doleman,
Heathsville

Supervisors face boat tax decision

On Thursday, June 25, the Lancaster board of supervisors will have a choice to encourage economic development by creating quality jobs, expanding the revenue base and creating incentives for potential buyers to pur-

chase homes and businesses.

We are at the fork in the road. It's their choice to make the right decision for the economic viability and growth for the citizens and visitors of the county. Which path will they choose for their constituents?

Will they take affirmative action to enhance tax revenue in Lancaster and create new jobs by eliminating the property tax on boats?

This option will expand the funding pool to keep and grow tax revenues in Lancaster County, broaden the tax base, bring revenue and tax dollars to the county from residents of other Virginia and Maryland counties, create new jobs in the county and support current businesses and encourage new businesses in the county.

Or, will they suppress the economic growth and vitality of the county to stay on the same, tired path and downward economic spiral, unemployment and closings of waterfront and water-dependent companies along with proliferating adverse impacts on all the businesses where visitors/residents could spend and invest?

This option will continue to subsidize other jurisdictions' budgets with tax revenue from my constituents, continue to export jobs to neighboring counties, increase the tax burden on the diminishing population, maintain the disincentive to potential home/business buyers, encouraging them to buy property and spend money in other jurisdictions.

Bruce A. Julian,
Weems

The Congressional Report

by Rep. Rob Wittman

I hope you have been able to take advantage of the warm weather with your friends and family as we recognize National Outdoors Month in June.

As a member of the Natural Resources Committee in the House of Representatives, I am frequently debating and voting on legislation that impacts our natural areas. My two decades working in the field of public health as a shellfish sanitation specialist certainly provided me with a unique perspective on the committee, and as a father and grandfather, I consider the conservation of our natural resources to be one of my priorities in Congress.

Among these natural resources that our government has a role in managing are fisheries. I believe that any program the government implements should be thoughtful, utilizing the best data and science available in a transparent manner.

Recently, I played a major role in successfully passing a bill to strengthen the way our marine resources are managed. This effort is critical for promoting robust domestic seafood and recreational fishing industries, both of which play an undeniably significant economic role in Virginia and across the nation.

This Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act promotes better science and requires the consideration of more data in managing fisheries. This is a commonsense effort to increase transparency and improve decision making. I am hopeful the Senate will pass it soon.

Decisions about the natural resources, of course, are sometimes a bit more personal, such as parents considering the safety of their children in the outdoors. Lyme and other tick-borne diseases continue to have an impact on many families in our region, and I've been committed to raising awareness of these conditions and ensuring that Virginians have the opportunity to hear from experts about important steps they can take to protect their families.

Recently, I hosted a forum on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Manassas, which featured panelists from the Virginia Department of Health and the National Capital Lyme Disease Association. Raising awareness of these conditions is absolutely critical. If you ever have questions related to this issue, please know that my office can be a resource.

As we transition into summer, the House of Representatives will consider a number of significant policies, and I hope you'll reach out to me with your opinions. The thoughts and feedback of Virginia residents is instrumental to me.

I can be reached at 202-225-4261, or wittman.house.gov.

Excerpts

Last month our family trip to Ireland was my fourth visit there, but it was the first for my good wife and the two B.E.s. On my first youthful trip, I traveled by ship, the R.M.S. Queen Mary, on her fifth last trans-Atlantic voyage before becoming a floating hotel in Long Beach California. I learned that Cunard liners bore the designation, R.M.S., to signify that they were Royal Mail Ships, heralding from the days when mail crossed the Atlantic on the surface, rather than in the air.

In those days Ireland retained much of its Georgian past. The cities were clean, and modern architecture had not impinged on the stately elegance that had hallmarked the centuries of British rule. Dublin was perhaps the greatest Georgian city in the world, with rows of brownish brick houses of uniform height facing squares and parks of pristine design.

During the ensuing years, a substantial amount of that historical fabric has disappeared. The ancient buildings along the Liffey River, which transects the city, are showing signs of neglect, and the modern intrusions of glass, concrete and steel are poor replacements.

In 1966, Irish nationalists bombed Nelson's

From the train windows, a visitor sees what is the real Ireland, with herds of cows partitioned off into segments produced by gathering stones from the fields that then have been placed in beautiful walls.

Pillar, the imposing monument in the center of the city to the Victor of Trafalgar. In its place now stands a massive, extraordinarily ugly, stainless steel needle that is totally incongruous with its environment. Saint Stephen's Green, the wonderful square in the center of the city, sadly has lost some of its Georgian overlookers, which have been replaced most unattractively.

Cork and Galway also have not done right by their illustrious heritage, but their appearances are not quite as disheartening as that of the Capital. In the North, Belfast has recognized that its heritage is a compelling tourist

attraction, and as I noted in an earlier item the new Titanic Museum there is one of the best exhibitions I ever have seen. The older buildings have been refurbished, and repurposed for contemporary use without sacrificing their historical appeal.

Where Ireland has remained most the same across the decades has been in the countryside. Taking the train across the island, whether to the West to Galway or to the South to Cork, the bucolic nature of traditional farming and animal husbandry is omnipresent. Ireland must have one of the largest populations of Holstein cattle of any country in the entire world.

From the train windows, a visitor sees what is the real Ireland, with herds of cows partitioned off into segments produced by gathering stones from the fields that then have been placed in beautiful walls. The vistas are akin to passing through a series of gardens, all on a very large scale.

In the North we took the train out to Moira to see the small town where our family originated before hopping across The Pond. The community has grown since my first stop many years ago, but in an orderly fashion,

retaining its engaging charm. We spent an hour visiting the tombs of ancestors behind the 18th-century church, and walked to the town center for a meal in a venerable old eatery.

Because of the need to preserve agricultural land for subsistence, the towns and urban centers have expanded methodically, rather than in the unplanned manner that often bespeaks the burgeoning explosions of American cities. Here the cows tend to reign supreme, especially in the South where Cork has its own Butter Museum, a testament to one of its most important products.

Unfortunately, today only seven percent of the Irish population is fluent in Gaelic, as opposed to Wales where a far higher percentage speaks Welsh. Although I know but a few words in my ancestral language, I enjoy hearing it spoken, and hope one day it will thrive once again.

Despite its incidences of urban decline from its magnificent past, Ireland remains an oversized jewel box of a country, filled in each cranny with a new object of beauty. I hope one day to see the Georgian heritage of Dublin both appreciated and restored.

by Henry Lane Hull



Do you Remember?

The Kilmarnock High School Class of 1955 (above) represents the last graduating class of the former school, said Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. From left are (front row) Lois Kellum, Beverly Benson, Ann Ashburn, Etta Jo Sadler, Myrna McKenney and Shelva Abbott; (next row) Jimmy Kelley, Imogen Daniel, Nancy Norris, Doris Christopher, Sallie Hoffman and Nancy Lanford; (next row) Ryland Gaskins, Bobby Crowther, Bobby Abbott and Edward Layman; (next row) Eddie Detrick and Ben Winstead. **Tommy Hughes is not pictured and the ladies are identified by their maiden names.** "Do you Remember?" is a community service of the museum. Photo courtesy of Doris Christopher Scott

(Reprints from the June 25, 1905, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

Some Steamboat Notes

Summer schedule for Rappahannock river route will go into effect June 30th. Among other changes there will be two trips a week to Norfolk, the Essex going through to Fredericksburg. The Caroline will be discontinued for a while, making her last trip from Fredericksburg June 27.

Weems officers used ordinary citizens, but now from assistant purser up to captain they are bedecked with handsome gold-laced uniforms—each a thing of beauty, if not a joy forever. The ladies can proceed to take notice of the magnificence of the M, D & V officers to date.

YESTERYEAR

Fish And Oyster Notes

Oystering was bad, trawling was bad and the menhaden season opened with little promise, but last week the Chesapeake fleet caught millions of menhaden. No one can tell what the summer will bring forth. With warm nights and calm weather the fleet will, in every probability, do well. Severe conditions will bring disaster.

Caught On The Fly

A big time is advertised for Fleeton on the fourth of July. The Reedville and Kilmarnock baseball teams will play two games of ball, besides other attractions.

There will be a meeting of the Westmoreland Game Association at Montross on June 26, court day. All persons interested in the protection of the game are invited to attend.

Ray Simmons, of Dunton's Mill, is visiting Lee and Perry Simmons.

Messrs. Griffith and Hammonds are painting W. McD. Lee's residence.

Messrs. Conellee and Lowery were here this week overhauling the telephone lines.

Dr. John Turner, of Baltimore, a native of Irvington, has been selected a member of the National Geographic Society, Washington.

Children's Day at the Baptist church here last Sunday night was a very entertaining affair.

Ice Cream every Saturday at Smith's Drug Store, Irvington.

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



YOUR LETTERS

Global warming: Man-made hoax

Consider the text of President Obama's speech to the newly commissioned officers of the U.S. Coast Guard several weeks ago.

What more does a thinking person need to understand that the man-made warming premise is a hoax. I believe that a small percentage of these "man-maders" are sincere in their quest to save our earth, as am I.

However, I also believe that a large percentage of these activists are misguided, and are driven by a strong religion-like political agenda. They are comfortable with confiscating money from the producers and redistributing it to non-producers, government, cronies, and creating more dependency programs for those already trapped in their welfare existence.

Specifically, President Obama in his speech spent the better part of an hour claiming that global warming was a serious threat to national security, one which these young men and women face now and will face in the future. He stated that global warming was partially responsible for the emergence of ISIS and Boko Haram. Further, he said that our military generals and admirals agreed with him, and that they are required to factor ways to reduce and combat global warming in their war plans. He claimed that man is responsible for the extremes in weather, droughts, floods, and the rise in sea level. All nonsense!

Over 31,480 scientists (9,029 with doctorates), the names of same are readily available, have so far signed a petition which in part states that "there is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environment of the Earth."

Quoting UN IPCC Japanese scientist Dr. Kiminori in referring to global warming fears "...worst scientific scandal in the history... When people come to know what the truth is, they will feel deceived by science and scientists."

Oh, by the way, Pope Francis's "scientific background" is two years of elementary chemistry.

F.C.Dugan, Hague

Pope addresses climate change as a moral issue

With the release of his encyclical, "Laudato Si" (Praised Be), Pope Francis has re-framed the climate change issue as a moral imperative for which all, especially wealthy nations, are responsible. This has also been the position of most other major religions for some time.

The Pope is telling the world that we are called upon to be good stewards of God's creation and turn away from behavior that alters the Earth's climate and puts the world's poor and most vulnerable at risk.

Some excerpts follow:

- The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. A number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases ... released mainly as a result of human activity....

- What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?....

- We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay.

A conservative solution that would meet the Pope's concerns is the market-based option of a steadily-rising fee on carbon with revenue returned to households. Coupled with border-adjustment tariffs to protect American businesses, this approach, known as Carbon Fee and Dividend, uses market forces to drive the transition away from fossil fuels.

Gregory T Haugan, Ph.D., Heathsville

Heritage or hatred?

It is clear that the Confederate flag means different things to different people. A Confederate flag loving white man walked into an historic black church in Charleston, S.C., and in two minutes killed more Americans than Isis has killed in two years. It seems obvious to me that to this person hatred of a race of people is what this flag symbolizes.

It is reported that he said he wanted to kill some black people. He wanted to start a race war. He is alleged to have said you rape our women, you are taking over the country, and you have to go. Again it is rather clear what his aims were.

Yet Fox News wants to call this act a hatred of religion. Several of the candidates for president didn't know what to call it. If you want to be president of all the U.S. and you don't know blatant hatred when you see it, you need to step aside. You don't have the moral courage it takes to hold this high office. If you are more concerned about offending South Carolina voters just before the upcoming primaries than

being able to see a hate crime, you are in the wrong business.

If this murderer travelled from Columbia, S.C., to Charleston, a two-hour drive, passing up thousands of churches on the way, I don't believe this is about religion. There is no evidence that this unemployed ninth-grade dropout thought about religion. This is plain and simple hatred.

Gov. Haley has taken the necessary first step to get rid of this divisive symbol. I applaud her for her decision. Removing the flag will start the healing process but we need to address what caused this illness in the first place.

Lloyd N. Hill, Weems

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Look for

The Rivah Visitor's Guide on stands and in blue boxes now!

Pick up a copy this weekend to see what's made it one of the most popular visitor's guides on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula since 1993! Packed with information -- where to eat, where to stay, entertainment listings and a calendar of family-friendly events!

In the July issue:

- All aboard: Ride the Urbanna Trolley
- Things to do in Kilmarnock
- Naylor's Beach, past and present
- Dining at The Seabreeze

Democrats to plan campaign strategy

The Northumberland County Democratic Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 25, at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville.

The committee will discuss plans to support board of supervisor candidates Syd Garriss in District 4 and Kitty Creeth in District 5, said chairman Frank Kober.



Bryan Byrd of Byrd's seafood dumps the first bushel of oyster shells into the oyster shell recycling bin at the Lancaster convenience center on White Pine Road near Kilmarnock.



Government agencies, nonprofit organizations and businesses came together to make the oyster shell recycling bin a reality. From left are (front row) Brian Barnes, Nathaniel Barnes, Jake Janeski and Jackie Shannon; (next row) Robert Janeski, Kallie Johnson, Marshall Sebra, Todd Janeski, Bryan Byrd of Byrd's Seafood, The Dog and Oyster Vineyard and Hope and Glory Inn representatives Jum Jirapan and Landon Clark of The Dog and Oyster Vineyards and Hope and Glory Inn and Bailey Horsley of Windmill Point Oyster Company.

Oyster shell recycling is a trip to the dump away



Virginia oyster shell recycling program director Todd Janeski puts finishing touches on the oyster shell recycling bin with help from Nathaniel Barnes and Janeski's son, Jake.

by Renss Greene

LANCASTER—Oyster shell recycling is growing in the Northern Neck.

The Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program, an initiative of the Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center, has installed oyster shell collection bins in Richmond, Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Hampton, Virginia Beach and the convenience center on White Pine Road near Kilmarnock.

"This Northern Neck bin is actually our programs' first publicly accessible bin," said Virginia Oyster Recycling Program director Todd Janeski.

He worked with Kilmarnock planning and zoning director Marshall Sebra, Lancaster environmental officer Brian Barnes, Chesapeake Bay Foundation employees Kallie Johnson and Jackie Shannon, and his father and Lancaster wetlands board member Bob Janeski all morning June 19 to build the bin.

The bin was built with lumber sold at contractor prices by Lamberth Lumber, and volunteers will collect shells in buckets donated

by Kilmarnock Farm and Home.

"It really is a real grassroots, homegrown partner network," Janeski said. As soon as the bin was finished, more help showed up from The Dog and Oyster Vineyards, the Hope & Glory Inn, and Windmill Point Oyster Company to throw in the first batch of shells, donated from the tasting room at the Dog and Oyster.

The shells will have a multiplying effect when they are collected by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said oyster restoration manager Jackie Shannon. The foundation seeds the shells with spat before putting them back in the water, and each oyster shell can play host 10 to 12 baby oysters.

"Every shell is really a great, critical habitat," Shannon said, estimating that when collected, the shells in the bin could provide a home to around 300,000 oysters.

Returning shell to the water is a very old practice, but seeding it first is relatively new, said Janeski.

"When you put naked shell down, you're hoping for the best," he said. "You put shell that's seeded with spat, it really has the

potential to make a difference."

The connections the project has made in the community are as important as the bin itself, Janeski said.

"This is the real value added of this program," he said. "It's a direct connection with so many levels of the general public to communicate the value of this byproduct and everyone's ability to contribute to helping improve the Chesapeake Bay."

With each shell providing a home for several baby oysters, and oysters' well-documented ability to clean up waterways, the shell recycling program has the potential to snowball dramatically. Janeski called it "a giant math problem."

And customers who buy from businesses that contribute to the program can be part of the solution.

"The consumer is going out that night, they just want to have a plate of oysters," Janeski said. "They're not thinking, 'I'm going to do something environmental.' They're thinking, 'I'm going to have a nice time.' But what they're indirectly and passively doing is supporting bay restoration."

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