

Cooke Inc. acquires Omega Protein Inc.

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

REEDVILLE—The merger of Omega Protein Inc. with Cooke Inc. shouldn't affect production at the Northumberland County menhaden plant.

"We do not expect any significant changes to our operations in Reedville due to this merger," said vice president of operations Montgomery Deihl.

According to a press release on Omega Protein's website, Cooke Inc., a New Brunswick company and parent of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., and Omega Protein Corporation announced on October 10 that Cooke Inc. will acquire all outstanding shares of Omega Protein for \$22 per share. The transaction price represents a premium of 32.5% to Omega Protein's closing share price on October 5. The transaction totals approximately \$500 million.

The merger has been unanimously approved by the board of directors of

both Omega Protein and Cooke.

"We are excited about the agreement, which we believe recognizes the value of Omega Protein's successful, 100-year-old fishing business and also provides stockholders with an immediate premium," said Omega protein president and chief executive officer Bret Scholtes. "Cooke is a family-owned company and in many ways reminds us a lot of ourselves, and this agreement is the perfect fit for the two companies. Cooke is a highly-regarded and responsible leader in the global fishing and seafood industry."

Cooke carries on the business of finfish aquaculture globally through its wholly-owned subsidiary Cooke Aquaculture Inc. The New Brunswick, Canada-based Cooke family also has significant investments in wild fisheries globally through their ownership of

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No one was at home Sunday when a plane crashed into this house on Eubank Landing Road.

Disaster averted; minor injuries result from plane crash near Hummel Airfield

by Larry Chowning

TOPPING—So many things went wrong on Saturday, October 7, when a plane crashed into a home near the end of Hummel Airfield runway at Topping that it took at least two "miracles" to fend off a more tragic ending.

One "miracle" was that the three people inside the Mooney M2DC four-seat plane survived the crash, and the other "miracle" was that no one was in the house in the 400 block of Eubank Landing Road when the plane hit.

The Virginia State Police (VSP) were informed at about 9:02 a.m. that the plane had crashed into an unoccupied dwelling in Middlesex. By that time, rescue efforts were already in the works. A neighbor, Greg Rhule, was on the scene 10 minutes after the plane hit the tops of two tall trees, clipping off portions of the wings, and crashed into the house's sunroom. A piece of wing remained wedged in one of the trees, evidence of how close the plane came to having an even more serious crash.

Rhule said Greg Weik was not the first on the scene but was the first person to enter the house and help.

"There was a smell of aviation gasoline and since the plane had just been filled with gas at Hummel Field it had 40 gallons aboard," said Rhule.

"The plane tore through the wall of the house exposing broken electrical wires," he said. "The fuel tanks are in the wings and were leaking fuel. There was the possibility of a fire."

"Greg went in, moved debris and removed the couple and their child from the plane," said Rhule. "I would like to think that is what I would have done but you never know until it happens. Greg acted with bravery any way you look at it."

The owners of the damaged house were interviewed on Sunday at their summer home and preferred their names not be used. They have owned the house for eight years and are down regularly during warm weather months enjoying it.

The pilot, Keith M. Roxo, his wife and their infant child were taken to Bon Secours Rappahannock General Hospital in Kilmarnock for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. Mr. Roxo was treated for lacerations to his face and he and his family were released from the hospital.

Middlesex County Sheriff David Bushey said Roxo told him the family was flying from Florida, spent the night at the Pilot House Inn, and they had just fueled up at Hummel to continue on their flight to Connecticut.

According to VSP Trooper J.W. Krom, who investigated the plane crash, a witness reported the pilot did not use the entire runway when attempting to take off. Instead, Roxo came off the taxiway [from the fuel station] and turned north to begin his takeoff. Trooper Krom said Hummel's runway is about 2,200 feet long, but the point from which the pilot started his takeoff had only 1,200 feet of runway remaining. He said the plane did not attain enough speed to climb and "stalled," meaning the plane was not going fast enough to produce lift.

"They were very lucky," said Trooper Krom.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) also investigated the crash.

The Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department, Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad and Virginia Department of Emergency Management officials also responded to the crash.



From left, Lancaster High School student Jaquan Pope meets Dr. Craig Boykin after a motivational speech about the power of education. Pope wrote: "It was a pleasure meeting our speaker for today's assembly, Mr. Craig Boykin. He shared a story with my fellow peers about the challenges he faced in life and how he overcame them and he really motivated me even more to value my education. Much Love." The message was posted under Pope's picture on Boykin's webpage. Photo by Audrey Thomasson

Getting an education: 'Do it to change your life,' speaker advises

by Audrey Thomasson

His mother was 15 years old when she got pregnant with him. His father figures included a series of men who beat his crack-addicted mom in front of him and threatened him and his siblings.

From his earliest years, he was on his own to get up and dressed, find food to eat and get out the door to school. He repeated the third and fifth grades and was placed in special education classes because of a disability with reading and writing. He dropped out of high school like everyone in his family before him.

"Teachers wanted me to learn about compound fractions when I was just trying to survive," he said.

An arrest that left him sitting alone in a jail cell was the wake-up call Craig Boykin needed to turn his life around.

"The judge must have seen something in me, because he let me go," Boykin recently told students at Lancaster high and middle schools.

After getting his GED, he did a stint in the military, which taught him discipline and how to stick to a plan. When he learned he could get \$1,300 a month under the G.I. bill just to go to college, he signed up.

But he didn't stop there. He earned two masters degrees and last year completed course work for a doctorate in adult education.

"It wasn't easy. I was home every night studying," while his friends were out having a good time, he said.

STAY IN SCHOOL, continued on page A2



Homecoming royalty

From left, Keisha Mitchell and Terren Hardin were crowned queen and king of Lancaster High School's homecoming last Friday night. Related activities included theme days during the week, hall decorating, a parade, football game and dance. More homecoming coverage appears on pages C1-2. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Auto accident closes bridge for two hours

by Audrey Thomasson

WHITE STONE—A head-on collision on the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge in the early morning hours of Monday, October 9, resulted in a traffic jam that blocked traffic all the way to White Stone through peak morning travel times.

According to Lancaster County Sheriff Patrick McCranie, the accident occurred at 4:18 a.m. on the White Stone side of the bridge, outside the center span construction zone. According to the sheriff, the bridge was closed from approximately 5:15 to 7 a.m.

A 2012 Honda CRV driven by Warren Cruz of Irvington was crossing the bridge to Lancaster when his vehicle drifted over the center line and struck a 2001 Toyota sedan driven by Charles Walden of White Stone. Walden was traveling in the opposite

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Northumberland schools report progress in accreditation

by Audrey Thomasson

CLARAVILLE—Last month, the Virginia Department of Education announced that 86% of public schools in the Commonwealth are fully accredited this year, based on last spring's Standards of Learning (SOL) scores.

Locally, school districts are pushing to become part of that standard.

On Monday, academic and community members highlighted for the school board efforts to reach that goal.

According to the Rev. Linwood Blizzard, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and part-time high school calculus teacher, community churches from Lottsburg to Kilmarnock want "to become greater partners" in closing the achievement gap.

They will provide church facilities and volunteers to tutor struggling children, he told the board. Tutoring will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, he said.

"We have 20 to 25 volunteers," said Rev. Blizzard.

The group also is discussing the need to provide transportation to and from the sites. Rev. Blizzard will report on their progress at the November school board meeting.

Traditionally, middle schools



At Monday's school board meeting, Denzel Mitchell was appointed student representative to the Northumberland school board. He is the first student representative selected to give students a voice at board meetings. Last summer, Mitchell was chosen as the 75th governor of Boys and Girls State. He was joined at the podium by his parents. From left are Donald, Denzel and Tanya Mitchell. Photo by Audrey Thomasson

have struggled the most with passing SOLs. Northumberland Middle School has had three years of partial accreditation. Principal Javornda Ashton reported plans to turn the school around. In part, she has set up sub-committees assigned to assess and address academic needs, leadership and providing a

safe and orderly environment for learning.

The fully accredited Northumberland Elementary School celebrated the success of last summer's reading program, designed to help youngsters maintain their reading skills during summer break, according to principal Stephanie Baker.

Reading specialist Lydia Haynie reported that 287, or 55%, of elementary school stu-

dents participated, exceeding their 12,000 book goal by reading 14,969 books over the summer months.

"There were no slides...except in the second grade" where students began reading for themselves, said Haynie.

District 5 school board member Gayle Sterrett submitted a report showing the district's record of accreditation.

According to her report, from 2004 through 2010 all the schools were fully accredited. The high school slipped to partial accreditation in 2011-12 because they failed to meet a newly added standard on graduation rates. However, that was corrected by the following year under superintendent Dr. Clint Stables.

District accreditation began to slump in 2013 under superintendent Dr. Rebecca Gates, when the high school went to partial accreditation and the elementary passed by averaging three years of scores.

In 2014, the middle school joined the slide to partial accreditation where it remains today. That same year the elementary school recovered and has maintained full accreditation ever since.

The high school fell to partial accreditation in 2015, but regained status this year using a three-year average.

Other business

District 3 member Gerald

Howard reported on air quality testing at the school board office in Lottsburg. Beside black mold, the building tested positive for dander.

"This is something that is to be taken very seriously," he said. "We don't want to endanger the lives of our school board employees...and I don't want to minimize the fact there is mold."

Howard said the building needs a thorough commercial cleaning, but first the roof must be repaired to prevent further leaking. "I went to that school in the fourth grade and I'm 68. I doubt it has ever been (commercially) cleaned," he said.

Attendance rates for the district's 1,234 students, plus 88 pre-K children, was reported to be 96% at NES, 97% at NMS and 95% at LHS.

The district was awarded a \$7,400 security grant from the state, reported superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo.

Student Corrin Minor reported this year's seventh grade Talented and Gifted project will be making the middle school courtyard a usable space with the assist of a \$4,950 grant from the Chesapeake Restoration Fund. The project will include an outdoor classroom, shaded area, planters for flowers and vegetables and painting inspirational messages on rocks.

"Everything will be purchased locally," said Minor.

Omega Protein sold

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Cooke Seafood USA Inc. and Icicle Seafoods Inc. Cooke Aquaculture has salmon farming operations in Atlantic Canada, Chile and Scotland, as well as seabass and seabream farming operations in Spain.

In 2015, Cooke Seafood USA Inc. was created and grew rapidly through the acquisitions of Wanchese Fish Company Inc. in the U.S. and the assets of Fripor S.A., the largest fishing company in Uruguay. The Cooke family also acquired Icicle Seafoods in 2016.

The addition of Omega Protein serves as a perfect strategic piece for the Cooke family of companies, according to the release. Omega operates seven manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Canada and Europe and operates more than 30 vessels for the harvest of menhaden. It's Reedville-based plant employees 250 people, according to Deihl.

Accident closes bridge

continued from page A1

direction to Middlesex County, according to sheriff's deputy Irving Brittingham, who investigated the accident.

Brittingham charged Cruz with failure to maintain control of his vehicle and failure to keep to his side of the road.

Cruz suffered a minor abrasion to his forehead.

Walden's injuries included a broken thumb and head injuries. He was airlifted to Riverside Hospital in Newport News, Brittingham reported.

The accident blocked both lanes of the bridge until the vehicles were towed away and debris was removed by VDOT crews.

Also responding to the accident were the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department and the Kilmarnock Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Stay in school, speaker advises

continued from page A1

"If you want to make a lot of money, find a career where you can make money when you're not working, when you're on an airplane or sitting at home."

The kid with a reading and writing disability went on to write five books that continue to earn him money while he's traveling from place to place. His books include *My Life, Your Inspiration*, *Right Motives*, *Wrong Methods*, *Masterminds of Mentoring* and *Human Motivation and College Success 2.0*.

"But more than the money, do it to change your life," he said.

"My 3-year-old son doesn't know anything about the life I came from, because when I changed my life, I changed his life, too," said Boykin.

Don't believe that "you can't be taught," he said. Have high expectations. Any student, even those with learning disabilities or living in poverty, can go to college, he said. "The choice to change your life and your kids' lives is yours."

Boykin said his younger

brother dropped out of school to join a gang and is now working in a factory, but still in the gang. Boykin has no relationship with his mother, who told him she would like to visit his grave just to spit on it. "It hurts," he admitted.

Boykin is a motivational speaker who travels around the country using his life experiences to inspire students on the value of education and assist educators on how to help at-risk students succeed in supportive environments and not to give up on them.

After school, he held an educational session with teachers.

Boykin's visit was sponsored through a grant to the GED program at Rappahannock Community College.

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RAL Has Talent: 6 X 6

The Public is Invited to Art Talks, Monday, October 16, 1:00pm



Artists Mary Jo Beswick, Linda Lavigne Long, Johnny Hayes, Dianna Jamison, Hank Roden, and Barbara Touchette, have taken on the challenge to incorporate six objects in a piece of artwork. The objects are identical but the six artists, with their own individual styles and mediums, are very different. Who knows what surprises await us? Come see their creations and hear about each artist's individual approach to the "6 by 6" challenge.



RAL Art Center, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, 804-436-9309
 RAL is a proud affiliate of VMFA and is partially supported by grants from VCA, NEA and RCCF

SMITH POINT SEA RESCUE REPORT

Smith Point Sea Rescue vice president Jim Bullard reported crews recently responded to the following calls for assistance:

September 3: At 5 p.m., the owner of a 22-foot center console reported that his engine had failed and he was dead in the water in the Chesapeake Bay, two miles northeast of the Little Wicomico River jetties. Rescue 1 was dispatched from Reedville and using the longitude and latitude provided by the captain was able to drive straight to the vessel. The boat, with five onboard, was towed into Smith Point Marina for repairs. Time on call, 2 hours.

September 4: At 7:50 a.m., the captain of a 30-foot sailboat called the sheriff asking for assistance. The captain, from Henderson, Nev., had sailed into the Little Wicomico River and gone hard aground. Rescue 1 was unable to approach the sailboat which lay in just 3 feet of water. An off-duty member of Sea Rescue who was watch-



Smith Point Sea Rescue responds to a sailboat hard aground on the Little Wicomico River on September 4. Smith Point Sea Rescue is a totally volunteer rescue unit which serves boaters from Coles Point to the mouth of the Potomac River, south to the Rappahannock River and across to the Chesapeake Bay to the Eastern Shore. The organization receives no governmental monetary support and depends solely on donations to fund its operations.

ing from his dock, launched his personal skiff and was able to carry the tow rope from Rescue 1 to the sailboat. Rescue 1, working in deeper water, was then able to pull the sailboat free and escorted it back out through the jetties. The captain then motored to Jennings Boatyard for repairs. Time on call,

3 hours.

September 23: At 9 a.m., Rescue 3 was dispatched from Olverson's Marina to assist a deadrise fishing boat with engine failure on Lodge Creek. The crew towed the deadrise to Lewissetta Marina for haul out and repair. Time on call, 2.5

September 23: At 2:05 p.m., the sheriff received a call from the captain of a 25-foot sailboat with engine failure in the Coan River near buoy Red 6. The Rescue 3 captain on duty lives near there so he took his personal boat and was able to tow the sailboat with two aboard to Lewissetta Marina for repairs. Time on call, 1 hour.

October 1: At the request of the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship, the crew of Rescue 1 served as the safety boat during a river clean-up program, staffed by local students, on the Little Wicomico River. Time on call, 5 hours.

October 1: At 6:40 p.m., the sheriff received a call from a boater broken down at the mouth of the Yeocomico River near the mark known as "The Birthday Cake." Rescue 3 was dispatched from Olverson's Marina but was called back when the boater called to say a good Samaritan had stopped and was towing his boat home. Time on call, 1 hour.

Smith Point Sea Rescue can be reached on channel 16 or by calling 911. Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 are based in Reedville and Rescue 3 is on Lodge Creek near Callao.

Inspections, steel work and painting project will delay Norris Bridge traffic

FREDERICKSBURG—Drivers using the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge between Lancaster and Middlesex counties will encounter brief daytime and overnight delays over the next two weeks for a scheduled bridge inspection and ongoing maintenance work to repair structural steel on the bridge.

The inspection crew and contractor performing structural steel repairs are coordinating lane closures and work zones with the bridge painting project, reported Virginia Department of Transportation Fredericksburg District communications manager Kelly Hannon.

These work area delays through October 20 will be in addition to the temporary traffic signals that are controlling one-way traffic at the center spans of the Norris Bridge. The signals controlling traffic continuously are part of a \$12.8 million painting project under way through June 2018.

Inspections will be conducted this week through October 13 and October 16 through 20, weather permitting. There will be single-lane closures from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. One-way, alternating traffic will cross the bridge controlled by automated flagging stations.

Structural steel repairs will be conducted this week through Thursday, October 12. There will be overnight single-lane closures on Norris Bridge with several complete traffic stops up to 15 minutes. Work will be under way from 7 p.m. each evening until 6 a.m. the following morning.

Alternating, one-way traffic will cross the bridge controlled by the temporary traffic signals already in place for the painting project. Crews are using heat to straighten an overhead section of steel at the truss damaged by vehicle traffic.

When lane closures for the bridge inspection work zone are in place, the temporary traffic signals at the bridge's center spans for painting will be placed in flash mode.

When inspection work is completed each day, the traffic signals will resume color operation and will again control traffic.

Correction

In a recent article, the Rev. Carl Perez stated that dual enrollment students are paying \$310 per credit hour. This is not correct.

Northumberland Public Schools are invoiced by Rappahannock Community College at \$10 per credit hour for students enrolled in dual enrollment courses offered at the high school.

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New program organizes to help stamp out elder abuse

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—When most people think of elder abuse, they imagine very old people with some form of dementia who have been neglected by nursing home caregivers.

However, the reality is 70% of elder abuse occurs at home by family members or someone they know and trust; 12% involved abuse by a caregiver or facility staff and 8% involved fraud by a con artist. Only half the documented cases were referred to police.

But thanks to Triad, a community-based initiative from the office of Virginia's Attorney General, law enforcement is partnering with Social Services and the community to protect the fastest growing segment of the population—the elderly.

Financial abuse

Because many victims are unaware they've been victimized, it is up to others to spot the problem.

Recently, a man forged a power of attorney over his elderly father's estate, drained his bank account and transferred property into his control.

"It wasn't until neighbors contacted the sheriff's department out of concern that the crime

was uncovered," said Lancaster County Commonwealth's Attorney Jan Smith.

Cases of elder financial abuse are not uncommon in local courts. Records in Lancaster County Circuit Court include the recent conviction of a caregiver who stole and forged checks from her patients at a nursing home, and another woman is awaiting trial on charges of unauthorized use of her mother's credit cards.

Financial fraud hits more than 1,000 elderly Virginians a year, resulting in an estimated loss of \$28 million to \$1 billion, according to estimates in a 2016 report by the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

The figures do not include losses where victims' cars, homes or land were sold without their knowledge or wills were changed through deceit or forgery.

Susceptible

Nationwide, it's estimated that the elderly lose upwards of \$3 billion annually to fraud, and those numbers will continue to rise as the senior population grows.

Why are older adults, even highly educated people, more vulnerable to financial abuse and scams? According to an MIT study, retirees are in general more trusting than other age groups.

UCLA conducted a study which showed higher levels of trust may result from actual changes in the brain due to aging. They found this may cause some elderly people to devote more attention and memory to positive information. While it helps keep mood and morale high, it could result in them ignoring the warning signs of aggressive and insistent telemarketers or bogus repairmen and to focus instead only on the potential rewards or profits they promise.

Whose anxiety hasn't risen with a call supposedly from the "IRS" saying money is past due and the subject will be arrested if it isn't paid that day? And, there's the "grandparent scam," an email from a "grandchild" asking that money be wired to get them out of a fix. The scheme plays on the emotions of a grandparent worried about their safety.

As people catch on to such scams, new and improved schemes designed to create fear continue to pop up.

Identifying abuse

Victims are often unaware they've been victimized or are too embarrassed to report incidents to law enforcement, social service agencies or family. Or they may fear retaliation from their abuser. It puts the burden on

other family members, friends or welfare agencies to spot a problem.

The discovery of financial abuse sometimes leads to physical abuse if the victim confronts the abuser. Cases of physical abuse by a caregiver stem over power, control and greed, while the offenders often blame stress, according to the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life.

Not all physical abuse leaves marks such as bruises or broken bones. Victims of neglect may have poor hygiene or develop bedsores, lack sufficient food or proper supervision. Sexual abuse may result in a sexually transmitted disease.

Additional signs include being isolated by the caregiver, withdrawal from normal activities, "unavailable" or "asleep" when authorities or loved ones call or stop by to check on a victim's welfare, or the victim makes excuses for the abuser.

Help for victims

The Commonwealth's Attorney offices in Northumberland and Lancaster counties are coordinating community and law enforcement efforts to bring awareness to the signs of physical abuse to those who work with the elderly, or who have an older adult in their life.

Triad is comprised of community volunteers, law enforcement, Social Services, churches and many other organizations working together to develop, expand and implement awareness and prevention programs to reduce criminal victimization of the elderly and focus greater attention to their crime-related concerns.

"There's a lawful mechanism in place to take over a parent's financial care" should they prove to be unable, said Smith. The consequences of not following the legal avenue is "going to jail and paying restitution."

Darrel Longest, a retired prosecutor who handled many senior abuse cases in Montgomery County, Md., is heading the effort in the lower Northern Neck.

Longest said the council plans to create a bureau of attorneys working on a pro-bono basis who will offer advice on appointment of guardianship to families that can't afford an attorney.

The group will be making informational presentations in

nursing homes, churches and with service providers in an effort to spread awareness. Free educational workshops on fraud and scam prevention will be offered to senior groups.

To report elder abuse in Lancaster, call victim's advocate Dave Farley, 462-5151, or Smith, 462-7240. In Northumberland, call victim's advocate Iris Fisher or Commonwealth's Attorney Jane Wrightson, 580-4471.

NEWS BREAKS

■ Missing sign

A sign announcing an upcoming American Red Cross Bloodmobile is missing from the Burgess site at Routes 360 and 200, where it was placed on September 21.

Report any information as to what happened or could have happened to the sign, to the Northumberland County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 580-4933, or 580-1496, or the Northumberland County Sheriff, 580-5221.

■ 50/50 raffle

The Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library Fall 50/50 Raffle is underway. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five. The goal is to sell 500 tickets. A drawing will be held at the "Shuckin' and Jivin' on the Lancaster Green" Oyster Roast November 11 at Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library, 8346 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster.

Tickets for the Oyster Roast and Fall 50/50 Raffle can be purchased at www.mkt.com/maryball, 462-7280, or at the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Raffle tickets also are available from any board member, H.W. Scott, Jane and Page Henley, Mike Osteen, B.H. Hubbard, Butch Jenkins, Anita Tadlock, Betty Pettyjohn, Ammon Dunton, Lex Forrester, or Carolyn Cook.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lancaster County Sheriff Patrick McCranie this week reported charges against 10 individuals.

Felony

Christopher R. Brooks, 29, of Middlesex County was charged October 7 with felony probation violation.

Misdemeanors

An Aylett woman, 33, was charged October 3 by Hanover authorities for contempt of a Lancaster County Court.

A Buzzards Neck Road man, 47, was charged October 4 with contempt of court.

A Lumberlost Trail woman, 26, was charged October 4 with failure to pay dog license tax, failure to vaccinate a pet and animal cruelty in Northumberland County cases.

A Merry Point Road man, 50, was charged October 5 with contempt of court.

A Deep Water Drive man, 21, was charged October 5 with misdemeanor probation violation.

A Riverwood Drive man, 25, was charged October 6 with driving suspended, eluding police and escape, violation of pretrial services and contempt of court in Northumberland County cases and contempt of court in a Lancaster County case.

A Ring Farm Road woman, 42, was charged October 6 with contempt of court.

A Fleets Bay Road man, 28, was charged October 6 with failure to appear in a Gloucester County Court.

A Heron Crest Lane man, 29, was charged with drunk driving and reckless driving.

Activity Report

October 2: Staff responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint on DMV Drive, to an animal control complaint on Gill Road, and to an emergency medical services/lift assistance call on King Carter Drive, checked on the well-being of a Pinckardsville Road resident at the request of Social Services, removed heavy debris from Crawford's Corner Road and on the dual lane near Kilmarnock, received a hit-and-run damage complaint from a citizen, and transferred to Northumberland authorities a telephone complaint of a drunk on Pine Reach.

October 3: Staff responded to a trespass complaint in the 5700 block of White Chapel Road, and with the Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to a trespass complaint on New South Road.

October 4: Staff responded to a single-vehicle traffic crash near Goodluck Road and Jesse duPont Memorial Highway, to a drunk/disorderly conduct complaint on Twin Branch Road, to a suspicious person complaint on Alfonso Road, and to an E911 disconnect call in the 400 block of Rappahannock Drive (no emergency services needed), and received a larceny complaint from a River Road resident (money taken by complainant's child was recovered, no juvenile petition to follow).

October 5: Staff responded to a fight call in the 2500 block of Irvington Road, to assist KPD with a fight call on East Church Street (EMS dispatched for a pregnant female), with KPD to a reported domestic disturbance on School Street, and to a reported burglary in progress on Doggett Lane (open doors, resident located, search and rescue operation began at 11:45 p.m., including use of tracking dogs and Virginia State Police helicopter, search suspended at 3:15 a.m. Follow up on October 6: Deputies made contact with the out of state homeowner, who reported the resident was at an undisclosed location in the Warsaw area, the missing resident said she was wanted by Stafford County and refused to disclose her location to the home owner), and checked on the well-being of a Keep Safe program participant after prearranged telephone contact could not be made (telephone line problem).

October 6: Staff responded with Northumberland authorities to a domestic disturbance on Crawford's Corner Road, to a financial

exploitation complaint filed by Social Services (victim sent \$8,000 out of state), with the White Stone Police Department to a drunk/disorderly conduct complaint on Rappahannock Drive, to a domestic disturbance complaint on Quarters Cove Drive, to a loud music complaint in the 6000 block of Windmill Point Road, and to a domestic disturbance on White Marsh Lane (subjects were gone on arrival, female located in Middlesex, criminal charges undetermined), received a walk-in complaint of a trespass, a complaint of an attempted fraud by telephone call (IRS scam), a complaint of harassing social media posts, and a civil complaint involving guests in a home, and checked on a suspicious vehicle parked at Mary Ball and Pinckardsville Roads (driver waiting to meet family members), and on the well-being of a Keep Safe program participant after prearranged telephone contact could not be made (telephone line problem).

October 7: Staff responded to a domestic disturbance on Woods Drive, to an assault by threat complaint on North Main Street, to a single-vehicle traffic crash near Black Stump Road and Waddy Drive, to a loud music complaint in the area of Mary Ball and Old Salem roads (determined to be from a party on Turner Lane), and to an unusual noise complaint in the 8700 block of Mary Ball Road (screen door banging due to wind), and received a walk-in report of a missing person (subject determined to be receiving inpatient treatment at a Roanoke area hospital).

October 8: Staff received a suspicious vehicle complaint from a Lara Ridge Road resident, and a complaint of an abandoned boat on a Windmill Point property after owner notified boat owner to remove it, responded to a suspicious vehicles complaint in Ottoman (closed business building checked, no criminal incident), to a self-admit mental health emergency incident on Merry Point Road, with KPD to Bayridge Avenue/Waverly Avenue to assist the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office in a foot pursuit (wanted subject not named, nor arrested), to a trespass complaint on Split Oak Lane (incident involved target shooting), and to Daniel Drive on a complaint of unknown persons with flashlights in a field, intercepted a reported reckless driver traveling from Middlesex towards Kilmarnock, and checked on the well-being of a Keep Safe program participant after prearranged telephone contact could not be made (no emergency services needed).

October 9: Staff responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash on the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge (med-evac involved for one patient, bridge traffic closed from approximately 5:15 to 7 a.m.), and notified Virginia Department of Transportation of a reported large hole in the roadway near North Main and Brent Streets.

Staff also conducted 30 traffic stops, issued 14 summonses, assisted two motorists, recorded a deer strike accident, handled five calls for traffic control, investigated six building alarms, logged two inmate transports, received nine E911 hang-up calls and fielded five calls for animal control service.

Fire calls

The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department responded to a carbon dioxide alarm on Hardings Wharf Drive, cancelled by homeowner, and to traffic crashes at Goodluck Road and Jesse duPont Memorial Highway, and at Black Stump Road and Waddy Drive.

The White Stone VFD responded to a traffic crash with med-evac involved on the Norris Bridge.

EMS calls

For the week of October 1 through 7, the Kilmarnock-Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad, Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad and Lancaster County Emergency Services responded to 32 calls for service including 13 medical emergencies, six injuries, a fire and 12 other calls.

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Brass Transit opens On Stage series

The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts 2017-18 On Stage season opened October 7 with Brass Transit, a Chicago tribute band. Above, RFA vice president Jamie Tucker (center) and president Peggy Stalaker (second from right) join Brass Transit members following the show. The next concert will be folk and bluegrass artists Robin and Linda Williams at 7:30 p.m. November 18 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock. Admission is by season subscription, or \$39 if tickets are available. To purchase tickets, call 438-5555 or visit rappahannockfoundation.org. Photo by Donna McGrath

Town adopts resolutions to move forward on water and sewer projects

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

WHITE STONE—There was a lot of action taken at White Stone's town council meeting last Thursday but little debate about any of it.

Council members voted unanimously on eight different action items with six of them relating to ongoing town renovation and public sewer projects.

Council approved four resolutions related to funding for phase I and phase II of the public sewer

project, including resolutions allowing town manager Patrick Frere and Mayor Randy Reeves to act on behalf of the town in obtaining financial assistance from state and federal agencies.

Frere and Reeves were authorized to accept a loan of \$807,000 and a grant of nearly \$2 million for phase I of the project and a loan of just over \$2 million and a grant of \$2.5 million related to phase II. Voting in favor of the four resolutions were Blair Kenyon, Drew Hubbard, William

Hubbard, Ran Reeves, Irving Brittingham and Paul Elbourn. Kelli Blankenship was absent.

In a related matter, council voted unanimously, 6-0, to approve a bond counsel resolution directing Frere to finalize an agreement with Webster Day of Spilman Thomas and Battle PLLC of Roanoke. Spilman Thomas and Battle is a banking and finance group specializing in municipal bond counseling for public infrastructure projects. Brittingham made the motion

and Ran Reeves seconded it to have Frere finalize counsel for phase I of the sewer project.

Frere delivered some frustrating news to council last week after being notified the town did not receive Department of Housing and Community Development grant funding for a downtown revitalization. Frere said he received word on September 29 that White Stone did not receive a Community Development Block Grant for the second consecutive year.

“We hope to schedule a meeting to find out why,” he said.

However, council voted unanimously, 6-0, to reapply for the grant. W. Hubbard made a motion directing Frere to begin a reapplication process. Elbourn seconded the motion.

Council also will be donating \$500 to the White Stone Business Association for upcoming festivals. It will donate \$250 each to the WSBA for Oktoberfest on October 28 and Winter Wonderland on December 9.

Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion meets

RICHMOND—The Commonwealth Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion held its first meeting Tuesday, October 10, at the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond.

The commission is chaired by Rabbi Jack Moline of Alexandria and chief deputy attorney general Cynthia Hudson of Richmond, according to the office of Gov.

Terry McAuliffe.

Established by Executive Order 69, the commission will identify policy changes that can be made at the state level to combat intolerance, expand opportunity for all and make Virginia more open and inclusive to people from every walk of life.

The commission will examine how people become radicalized

and what steps can be taken to prevent political violence.

There are some 32 members serving on the commission including Kathy J. Spangler of Kilmarnock, executive director, 2019 Commemoration, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

NEWS BREAK

■ Candidate's forum

Friends of Lancaster County and the Lancaster Community Library will sponsor a candidates' forum at 7 p.m. tonight, October 12, at the library, 16 Town Centre Drive, Kilmarnock.

The November 7 ballot in Lancaster will include seats on the board of supervisors and the school board for Districts 1 and 5; as well as District 99, governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general races.

Lancaster Republicans to meet on October 17

KILMARNOCK—The Lancaster County Republican Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, at the Chesapeake Bank Training Center, 51 School Street, Kilmarnock.

This is the final committee meeting before election day, said chairman Sue Clingan. It is important for all members to attend.

“We have several critical tasks to be completed in order to be ready for November 7,” said Clingan.

Those who have not yet picked up yard signs for the statewide ticket may do so, she added.

The committee's precinct captains will be assigning times for volunteer workers to man the county's election sites. Committee members also will consider the publication of a sample ballot.

The Agenda

Local Government News

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will meet at 5 p.m. today, October 12, at the Northumberland County Courts Building, 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville.

The board is expected to hear from school superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo, representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation and Francis Bradley of Atlantic Broadband, which recently purchased Metrocast.

At 7 p.m., supervisors will conduct a public hearing on a request from Charles D. O'Bier for a conditional use permit to construct a 21-foot by 30-foot by 23-foot boat-house alongside an existing pier on Kingscote Creek at 108 Island Lane, Lottsburg.

IRVINGTON—The Irvington Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight, October 12, at the Town Hall, 235 Steamboat Road, Irvington. Holiday events and decorations will be on the agenda.

Members will set the date for hanging holiday lights in the commons and promoting upcoming events such as the tree lighting ceremony.

The agenda also includes committee reports on the town budget, zoning ordinances, public safety, sidewalk repairs, development of the commons, technical support, human resources and maintenance of building and town property.

If your bank is changing names, maybe you need to change banks.

Photo used courtesy Lynn Haynie Kellum.

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Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

Friday the 13th is approaching—October 13, 2017, as a matter of fact.

It's the second time this year Friday has fallen on the 13th day of the month. January 13, 2017, didn't bring any unwanted surprises as I recall and I'm not generally superstitious.

However, I read somewhere recently that if your name has 13 letters, you have the devil's luck. Count them—Robert Mason Jr.—13 letters.

And while it sounds bad, devil's luck, or luck of the devil, from what I gather is extremely good luck, so good one who possess such good fortune might be full of the devil.

You might want to avoid me on Friday. I might want to avoid me on Friday.

As superstitions go, no one can say for sure where the stigma originated.

Biblical scholars note Judas, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus who later betrayed him, was the 13th guest to sit down at the last supper.

According to numerologists, 12 is a "complete" number. There are 12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 apostles of Jesus. So is 13 bad because it's 12 plus 1? It just ain't 12—am I missing something here?

There are 12 months in a year, 12 hours on a clock, 12 inches in a foot.

I can't recall ever being overly blessed with good luck on a Friday the 12th.

And when it comes to superstitions, there's more to worry about than Friday the 13th.

Walking under a ladder brings bad luck.

A black cat crossing your path brings bad luck.

Breaking a mirror brings seven years bad luck.

Opening an umbrella in the house brings bad luck.

Singing at the table brings bad luck.

Sleeping on a table brings bad luck.

Placing new shoes on a table brings bad luck.

A bird flying into the house through an open window brings bad luck.

Refusing a kiss under mistletoe brings bad luck.

Chasing someone with a broom brings bad luck.

Getting out of bed on the side opposite from where you got in brings bad luck.

Spilling salt, without making amends by tossing some over your shoulder, brings bad luck.

Leaving a plate of unfinished food sitting out overnight brings bad luck, rodents and bugs.

Passing others on the stairs brings bad luck.

Eating another's last piece of chocolate brings bad luck.

Reading lists of bad luck omens to the end of a column brings bad luck.

Focal Point



Line of the times: Crossing the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge, Friday, October 6.

Photo by Doreen Hamblet

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

YOUR LETTERS

Ransone supports conservation of natural resources

Margaret Ransone is a strong proponent of the conservation of our natural resources throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I have known Margaret Ransone since 2010. She is a native of Westmoreland County. Margaret has been very proactive regarding conservation issues in the Commonwealth and most importantly in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. She serves on the agriculture, Chesapeake and natural resources committee in the General Assembly and on the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Del. Ransone sponsored a budget amendment during the 2015 General Assembly session to reinstate the Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS) program with funding of \$150,000, effective on July 1, 2015. With reinstatement of the SEAS program owners of waterfront property across the state that have shoreline erosion problems can once again have access to free and unbiased engineering and educational assistance when making decisions on how to best manage their shoreline erosion problems.

Del. Ransone has continued to support Conservation on the Ground Practices through the 47 Conservation Districts in Virginia and is the recipient of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Legislator of the Year Award for 2015.

Please join me in re-electing Margaret Ransone as our delegate to the District 99.

E. Derwin Booker Jr.
White Stone

Re-elect Ransone for effective representation

I vote for candidates from different parties on a regular basis based on the quality of the candidate. In the upcoming House of Delegates race I urge you to consider voting for Del. Margaret Ransone.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Margaret on many issues of local concern and have always found her to be smart and responsive.

A lifelong resident of the Northern Neck, Del. Ransone is also a successful businesswoman in our local seafood industry and a mother of two. She has a broad range of important experiences that uniquely equip her to effectively represent us in the state legislature.

Thank you for considering voting to continue Del. Ransone's service to our region.

Jimmie Carter,
White Stone

Bott has sights on the future

Jack Larson, candidate for Lancaster board of supervisors in District 1, claims in a two-page campaign flyer that he supports "all efforts to obtain high-speed internet access."

His opponent George Bott not only supports bringing the Northern Neck into the 21st Century, he's doing something about it.

Bott is working with Design Nine and the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative to bring high-speed fiber optics to the Northern Neck,

especially the neglected rural areas. In fact, a Design Nine subsidiary is bringing fiber optics to Morattico next fall. And the electric cooperative is studying ways to bring fiber optics to all customers' homes, just like it does electric power.

The internet, which is becoming as vital as electricity, is important for the future of Lancaster County and the Northern Neck. New people and new jobs will not come here without modern internet and our county will continue to decline.

More important, Larson opposes the school board's proposal to bring our schools into the 21st century. My wife and I have no dogs in this fight, but we support the school plans for our future's sake. Larson says new schools would cost too much and we should renovate and upgrade the old schools. Bott disagrees.

There comes a time when pouring money into that obsolete hunk of junk is a waste of good money. Time for a new car.

Bott was among 20 prominent citizens who spent two years developing the school plan. They had many public hearings along the way. He was highly skeptical going in and evolved into an avid supporter of our county's future.

The Northern Neck is a beautiful place to live, but we are losing population and school enrollment to the modern world. And that's precisely why we must support rapid internet, modern education and George Bott.

Jack Chamberlain,
Lancaster

YOUR LETTERS

Edwards will listen

For all of the people who sing the praises of our Del. Margaret Ransone and those voters who are undecided, I would like to ask you why she continually refuses to attend discussion groups, meet-the-candidates forums or have a debate with our other candidate, Francis Edwards?

She has been invited to attend numerous meetings including the NAACP Forum held in Northumberland County and the Indivisible Group in Westmoreland County.

Throughout her tenure as the representative of the 99th District she has never held a town hall meeting nor has she been willing to meet with an entire group of people other than Republicans. She only agrees to meet with four or five representatives.

I ask all of you, is this what you call a true representative of all the people in the 99th District? I don't think so.

I plan to vote for Francis Edwards in the November election. I want someone who is not afraid to discuss with and help all the people in our district not just her own group of supporters.

Mr. Edwards is willing to listen to all the voters in our district and try to do what's best for our entire population.

Kitty Creeth,
Reedville

We need Jack Larson

Citizens residing in the District 1 in Lancaster County have an opportunity to choose a uniquely qualified member for the county board of supervisors on Election Day.

Jack Larson has served as an assistant county administrator and prior to that as the planning and land use officer, zoning administrator and subdivision agent for the county. In addition, he has an abundance of experience in financial management and has served as a budget advisor to Lancaster County Public Schools.

Larson served 27 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and at his retirement he was deputy chief of staff, financial management, for Marine Corps Systems Command. He has a bachelor's in accounting from the University of Maryland, and a master's in information systems from the Naval Postgraduate School.

He is devoted to sound money management decisions for Lancaster County, and he has the knowledge and determination to see tough issues resolved.

Larson is open and honest about his views, listens well and encourages voters to share their own views with him.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Jack is now generously offering his expertise to help build a stable economic base for Lancaster County so that jobs are available for our local school graduates.

We need Jack Larson as our next District 1 supervisor.

Carol Dawson,
Morattico

Del. Ransone represents us

I write in support of the re-election of Del. Margaret Ransone to continue to represent District 99 in Virginia's House of Delegates.

Margaret is an outstanding supporter and defender of what makes the Northern Neck of Virginia special. In Richmond, I have witnessed her strong defense of the traditional jobs found in this area when they have come under attack by those representing much larger urban areas who don't understand the unique attributes, history and challenges faced by many smaller rural areas.

Margaret's staunch support for our traditional farming, commercial fishing, small businesses, hunting and recreational activities has again and again proven the critical reason we can continue to enjoy the lifestyle for which we have been blessed, which has been passed on to us and which we have chosen to undertake.

Margaret believes in our right to continue to pursue these activities because she grew up here, understands how important they are to the unique culture and lifestyle of the area and she doggedly defends these rights in Richmond.

I have seen her battle against her own party on our behalf which clearly demonstrates that her first priority remains the people of this area and not party affiliation. I have no doubt that Margaret represents the people of this area to the best of her ability and as well as it can be done and highly recommend we continue to send her to Richmond to represent us.

Monty Deihl, Lt. Col. (ret) USAF
vice president, Omega Protein
Reedville

Invest in a child

An old proverb is "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." We can add another line to this: "Teach a child to fish and you feed generations."

The point here is the value of providing good education to our youth. Not only is it the right thing to do, you might say: "What's in it for me?" The answer is, "Plenty."

If you don't like taxes, then teach the youth to earn more so they will carry more of the tax burden. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree is 2.7% while it is 7.4% for those with less than a high school diploma. The former's median weekly wage is \$1,156 while the latter's is \$504. Moreover it has been shown that children of more highly educated parents are more likely to become well educated.

Today's investment in a child's education can reap benefits for all citizens and for the competitiveness of all of the U.S. for generations.

Not providing for the education of our youth is like bailing your leaking boat every day rather than fixing it.

Ralph Northam knows this well. Check him out for yourself. I am voting for Northam for governor.

Al Pollard Sr.,
Irvington

Excerpts

For some of us the opportunity to witness firsthand a historic event is a rare experience.

For John Cunningham that experience came at an early stage in his professional career. He was a native of Alexandria, and after graduating from George Washington High School he served in the U.S. Army for two years, then joined the National Capital Park Police. For 20 years he was a mounted police officer patrolling the national monuments along the Mall and through Rock Creek Park.

Shortly after joining the Park Police, John was assigned the most visible duty of his career. The time was the summer of 1963, and as the Civil Rights Movement was unfolding, plans were afoot for a great rally on the Mall, with addresses from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the principal one of which was to be delivered by The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Today we know it as the "I Have a Dream" speech.

At the age of 21, new to the police force, John was given the task of standing in uniform next to Martin Luther King to afford him protection in the event of violence ensuing. Five years previously, King had been stabbed with a

At the age of 21, new to the police force, John was given the task of standing in uniform next to Martin Luther King to afford him protection in the event of violence ensuing.

letter opener while signing copies of his book on the Montgomery Bus Boycott at a gathering in Harlem. Having survived that attack, the Park Police wanted to assure his safety in the far larger milieu of the Mall.

Four years ago during the retrospective coverage of the Mall rally, all of the television networks presented copious scenes and interviews with participants who were still alive, but nowhere, save for the original footage itself, were there pictures of John, who had stood as a young officer immediately by King's side, nor was he interviewed.

John did not initiate talk of his historical experiences, but willingly described what he

had seen and done when asked. Once when we were discussing the rally, I asked him what his dominant memory was of that day when he truly was a witness to history. He replied, speaking of King, "He really could give a great speech."

In the years that followed, John served during the Vietnam War protests on the Mall, where he encountered hostility and a level of violence that fortunately had not occurred in 1963. He spoke of the time when a protester hit his horse with a stick and of the difficulty of blending the rights of free speech with civil order.

John gave 20 years to the Park Police, then he retired. I asked him where he went riding after he stepped down from his duties. He replied that he did not ride. The day he retired he rode into the stable, dismounted, brushed down his horse and left. He never touched a horse again.

In retirement he pursued his lifelong interest in automobiles, working in Northern Virginia, prior to retiring a second time when he and his wife, Sonia, built a home on land inherited from his father at Topping, next to the home his brother, Bill, had built. He enjoyed helping Bill in his antiques business, especially when

dealing with vintage cars.

John was a master at handling other people's crises and turmoil. Fifteen years ago I saw him speaking with a lady who was quite distraught about her situation, having to move and being uncertain of her future. After 20 minutes, she remarked, "I feel so much better after talking to you."

He could put people at ease merely by being in his presence. He told me that people were like horses and if you knew what they wanted or needed, no problem should exist. He said that for the duration of his police service he had no trouble with any horse because he made the horse understand that he would receive a reward for good behavior. He said people were the same.

Over the last two years John underwent a long and severe decline in his health and last month he died in his home at Topping. With him died a vast resource of knowledge and wisdom about life and how to live it well and happily. He was the quintessential gentleman, always a delight and treasure to know, one whose company was perpetually memorable.

John Wayne Cunningham, March 22, 1942 – September 22, 2017. R.I.P.

by Henry Lane Hull

YESTERYEAR

(Reprints from the October 13, 1927, issue of the *Rappahannock Record*)

Bass-Smith Company tomato factory lost

The Bass-Smith Company tomato factory at Litwalton was totally destroyed by fire last Saturday night. The fire was of unknown origin but Mr. Smith says that it may have started from the boiler or from a cigarette carelessly thrown away.

Mr. G. H. Smith of Taft had only a few days before he bought out the holdings of the parties. Besides the factory, 1500 cases of tomatoes, 600 empty cases, baskets, labels and other equipment were destroyed. The loss, according to Mr. Smith's estimate, is between eight and nine thousand dollars which is partially covered by insurance.

Millenbeck

Oyster season has begun again and local packers are busy getting their oyster houses in shape.

On Sunday September 8th at South Mills, N.C., Miss Mary Ficklin, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ficklin of Millenbeck and Mr. William P. East of Norfolk, the only son of Mr. C. W. East were quietly married by the Rev. Spenser of South Mills, N.C. They will reside in Norfolk. They have our best wishes for a long and happy married life.

Margaret, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Lewis, had her tonsils removed in Richmond. She has been quite ill since, but we are glad to note she is much improved at this writing.

Mr. Harry Smith, one of our local boys and Miss Carrie Shelton, were married at her home in Westland. Our best wishes go out to this happy couple.

Capt. G. P. Murphy, after

spending the summer with his daughter has returned to Baltimore.

Mr. G. Oscar Howeth was seen in our village on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. East and family visited relatives in Weems on Sunday Last.

Local mention

It is quite possible to run a car on three cylinders and a home without the Universal Handbook. The question is, "Is it a wise economy?"

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Dohrman went to Baltimore Tuesday. They were accompanied by Mrs. E. G. McKenney.

Mr. C. E. Dixon returned Wednesday from a short plea-



Do you remember?

This pitcher was purchased by Henrietta Hall Shuck, the first American woman missionary to China, who was born in Kilmarnock. The pitcher was bought along with a trunk of gifts to be brought back here for her friends, reported Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. However, Shuck died at age 27 in Hong Kong, where she is buried and many of the gifts were probably never delivered. This pitcher found its way to a relative, John Ellis Brown of Mecklenburg County and eventually to the Dorsey family, who donated it to the Kilmarnock Museum. "Do you remember?" is a public service of the Kilmarnock Museum. Gift of David Dorsey

sure trip to Wilmington, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Keane and children motored to Washington Friday and returned Sunday night.

Heathsville court is in session this week.

Mrs. T. W. Bonner attended the Richmond Fair with friends.

Miss Catherine Blake spent most of last week in Richmond. She reports that her sister, Miss Gertrude, is getting along very well and likes it so much at Westhampton College.

The big one cent sale is now in full blast at the Kilmarnock Drug Company's store.

Morattico

Miss Evelyn Sparrow, teacher in Callao High School spent the weekend with her parents, Capt. and Mrs. A. M. Sparrow.

Miss Virginia Marshall, student at Farmville, came home Thursday to attend the marriage of her brother, William, to Miss Anna Morgan of Warsaw.

Mrs. H. C. Glenn and son, Dillard, of this place and daughter, Mrs. Algert Alexis, of Haiti motored to Richmond Friday. Mrs. Glenn and Mr. Dillard Glenn returned Saturday and Mrs. Alexis went to Williamsburg to meet her husband.

Mr. Elliott Dodson of Litwalton attended to the Morattico Post Office Friday and Saturday while our post mistress, Mrs. Glenn was in Richmond.

Messrs. T. G. Hale and A. B. Hammell were in King George Court House Thursday on business.

We are glad to say that Mrs. L. L. East is very much better, after her recent operation for appendicitis.

Mr. William Marshall arrived Friday from Houston, Texas.

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

Supporting Young

It is such a pleasure for me to support Carolyn Young for the District 5 seat on the Lancaster County School Board. Carolyn believes that every student should graduate with a job in hand or an acceptance letter from the community college or from a four year university.

She is dedicated to raising the bar for all graduates. With a slight change in Lancaster County academic curriculum, should the county build a new high school and/or primary school, all participants will move in with an elevated academic bar that Lancaster students can not only reach but reach with sound personal achievements and makeable goals in hand.

Because of her experience as a teacher in high schools, community college, Peace Corps and because she has worked as a respected leader in community organizations, Carolyn has the personal skills to develop, describe and articulate her plan to the school board and the board of supervisors to get it started and running during her first term in office.

Carolyn's plan is economically based recognizing that we not only need leaders in the business world, but we are starved for young men and women who graduate from the Lancaster school system with the basic understanding of the crafts that keep the community functioning, i.e. electricity, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, mechanics, welding, to name a few. With her new position on the school board she will be able to network with other community leaders to further the community and economic development.

I hope that those voting in the fifth district will join me in supporting and voting for Carolyn Young.

Douglas D. Monroe Jr.,
Irvington

YOUR LETTERS

Hard to reach

Contacting Del. Margaret Ransone has proven to be very difficult.

Earlier this week I decided to hand deliver a letter to Del. Ransone inviting her to a discussion with Francis Edwards at Rappahannock Community College, giving her three possible dates to select from. I was hoping that with choices of dates we might have a dialogue between candidates to help voters make the best decision on November 7.

First I went to Bevans Oyster Co., where I was met by a woman who looked like Margaret Ransone, but was in fact her sister. I told her the purpose of my visit and showed her the invitation.

She said she had no idea of when she might see Del. Ransone, but would take the letter in case she saw her. I asked where else I might try to reach her and she suggested the office recently opened in Callao. At the office in Callao I met with a young man named Jake, who said Del. Ransone was not in. I told him about our invitation to her and asked if he could see that she got it.

He stated that he had no idea when she would be in, nor did he know where she was. He did however say he would try to see that she got the invitation.

In neither encounter did I seem to be of any importance, a voter and a constituent, not the usual warm Northern Neck reception I have come to expect in this area. Pity.

Eve Jordan,
Heathsville

Del. Ransone is everywhere

Members of the radical left echo chambers, also known as Indivisible groups, have taken to criticizing Margaret Ransone, our member of the House of

Delegates, for not paying enough attention to them.

Most recently, they complained about her non-appearance at an Indivisible meeting in Westmoreland County (she was speaking at a public safety information event in Warsaw at the time) and at a forum in Northumberland County (she was hosting a large public forum in Kilmarnock featuring gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie at the time).

If the radical lefties paid attention, they would have to concede that Margaret Ransone appears at an astounding number of community events per week, often up to three or four a day. They would also concede that one of the best places to study the real issues affecting the Northern Neck is Margaret Ransone's Facebook page, rather than listening to someone who has never voted in an election for the House of Delegates ramble on about non-issues like fracking—something that has never occurred in District 99, and given the economics of the industry, likely never will.

I speak often to responsible Democrats and independent voters. Given how often Margaret appears at public events, it is not surprising that all of them recall meeting Margaret and speaking with her. It is pure fabrication to suggest otherwise.

While I sympathize with the plight of persons backing a hopeless candidate for office in an area he doesn't know and which is populated by those who do not share his views, I believe the radical left is hurting itself by not engaging in some sort of fact-based discourse. Supporters of Margaret Ransone's re-election to the House of Delegates probably hope they stick to fiction.

Patrick J. O'Brien,
Lottsburg

More letters on page D8

Strong Roots

— Get to Know Robert Fleet

There are scores of uncommon bankers at Bank of Lancaster.

While our bank will change its name to Virginia Commonwealth Bank in mid-November, our bankers won't change. So, getting to know Robert Fleet and others like him demonstrates that our roots in the Northern Neck are as solid as an 87-year-old oak tree.

You already know the Fleet name. Robert's grandfather, Robert Hill Fleet, was a State Delegate from Lancaster County. His uncle, Alex, was Superintendent of Lancaster County schools for 18 years. So when Robert completed his master's degree from Old Dominion and made the switch from a career as a teacher to a banker, he wanted to be where his roots were—Lancaster County.

"My customers tell me that I do a great job of communicating what they need to know in their home loan process. I guess it's because I was a teacher before I became a banker."

Robert Fleet
Sr. Vice President, Residential Lending

"I love the Northern Neck and have been a mortgage lender here for 21 years," says Robert. "I know that buying a new home is about living the dream—not about the many details of a home loan. I do the heavy lifting for my customers to make the process easy." For that reason, Robert earns frequent referrals from Northern Neck realtors and past customers who know he'll make the home buying process simple for their customers.

When Robert isn't at work, he's likely at home with wife, Dawn, spending time with his son Hill, or at church. He is Chairman of the Deacons at Irvington Baptist Church. His passion remains in education, where he is a board member of the Lancaster County Library and on the finance committee. "Education is so important to our community. Literature is at the heart of developing a lifelong love of learning," Robert explains.



BANK OF LANCASTER
An Affiliate of Bay Banks of Virginia, Inc.



Supporting Strong Branches

Robert is responsible for helping those in the Northern Neck secure home loans for their families. With seven branches in the Northern Neck, Bank of Lancaster makes banking easier and convenient. There are scores of other uncommon bankers, like Robert, at Bank of Lancaster. No matter the name, our bankers will assure you of exceptional service, optimum return on your investments, and an enduring focus by our bankers on making our community a better place.

Want to speak with Robert about your home loan? Call (804) 435-4133 or e-mail him at robert.fleet@vcb.bank.

vcb Virginia Commonwealth Bank
the uncommon bank

Visit us at vcb.bank





Strong Roots and Branches

Because growth is essential

A bank is more than a name. It's about our people and their dedication to the Northern Neck that is as solid as an 87-year-old oak tree. In mid-November, the sign outside "your" Bank of Lancaster will read Virginia Commonwealth Bank. Here's what that means for you:

- More dollars to help Northern Neck businesses create new jobs
- Better services to make banking easier for you
- New options for families to save and invest
- Numerous branches in the Northern Neck for maximum convenience
- New resources to support community initiatives
- The staff you already know and trust

For more information about our banking services, call 800-435-1140 or visit VCB.bank

Callao Branch

24-Hour ATM
18 Sandy Street
Callao, VA
(804) 529-6161

Warsaw Branch

24-Hour ATM
4935 Richmond Road
Warsaw, VA
(804) 333-3691

Kilmarnock Branch

24-Hour ATM
100 S. Main Street
Kilmarnock, VA
(804) 435-1140

Colonial Beach Branch

24-Hour ATM
680 McKinney Blvd.
Colonial Beach, VA
(804) 224-0033

White Stone Branch

24-Hour ATM
708 Rappahannock Drive
White Stone, VA
(804) 435-0593

Burgess Branch

24-Hour ATM
15104 Northumberland Hwy.
Burgess, VA
(804) 453-4754

Montross Branch

24-Hour ATM
15648 Kings Hwy.
Montross, VA
(804) 493-8071



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