# Rappahannock Kecord

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Kilmarnock, Virginia

**Eighty-seventh Year** 

Number 21

**Three Sections** 

Sands of spring

Ripples in the sand at Hughlett's Point remain untouched although dozens of people took to the beach for walks during last weekend's beautiful weather. Hikers had to scramble over, around and through felled trees and tramp across sand washed ashore by Hurricane Isabel. (Photo by Reid Armstrong Pierce)

## Avis Trail project approved

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—Avis Trail could be paved by using state revenue sharing funds.

By a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Lancaster board of supervisors last Thursday adopted a resoluproject, estimated at \$165,000.

County approval was condiwrite the \$82,500 county share for the project.

tion of a mile of Avis Trail to use (R-2).

VDOT specifications for inclusion in the secondary road sys-

The county share would be secured through an irrevocable letter of credit from Morris.

The other \$82,500 would be tion signaling county participa- funded through a pending revenue tion in the Virginia Department sharing application submitted by of Transportation revenue sharing assistant resident engineer Carter

Morris has filed a request for tional upon the agreement of the rezoning of 214 acres at the John H. Morris IV to under- end of Avis Trail on the Western Branch of the Corrotoman River from general residential use to It would involve the construc- residential multi-family dwelling

## Club operations raise questions for neighbors

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—County supervisors were urged last week to review county code compliance by the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc. in its operation of a firing range on 55 acres along Blueberry Point Road near White Stone.

Club neighbor Diana Ryan raised issues related to the county noise ordinance and land development in addition to the club's consistency in following National Rifle Association guidelines for firing ranges

The range "looks like a war zone" and has adversely affected the value of her waterfront property, Ryan said. She said her property has been listed on the market for eight months without

"We believe in gun rights and second amendment rights, but we also believe we have rights," said Ryan, who along with her husband, William Ryan, and neighbor Lattimer Spinney appealed was dismissed in Lancaster a 2002 Lancaster County Board County Circuit Court last May.

of Zoning Appeals ruling that allowed the firing range to expand and add improvements under its nonconforming use

The BZA ruling was upheld in September by Judge Harry T. Taliaferro IV of the 15th Judicial Circuit of Virginia. However, the judicial order for the ruling remains pending.

Ryan's attorney, Douglas Fredericks, said in October that Judge Taliaferro's ruling would "probably" be appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court once the judicial order is entered.

In a separate matter, Fredericks also represented Diana Ryan and the Goal Program in a conspiracy suit against past and cur-rent Lancaster County school officials and other individuals. A three-judge panel heard a petition on February 18 and refused to advance an appeal in that

The \$2-million conspiracy suit



Dentist on a mission:

Dr. Darryl Pirok promotes, practices helping those in need ..... B1

waiting, thankful family ...... A14

■ Home from Iraq: Sqt. Bill George is back safely to a

Business ...... B6-7 Directory .... B10-11 School news .. B8-9 Calendar ......... A2 Obituaries ....... B3 Sports ........ A9-11 Churches......B2-4 Opinion.......A4-5 Upcoming.. A2-3,6+ Classified ...... C1-6 Police report ..... B1 Wildlife notes .. A11



legislators: B3

## RGH maternity ward closes Final baby arrives at 7:49 p.m. Feb. 24

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

KILMARNOCK—At 10 p.m. Monday night, Michelle Ercelino was heading to a Richmond hospital she'd never been to before to see an obstetrician she'd never seen before.

Ercelino, who has been on and off bedrest throughout her second pregnancy, was concerned about her blood pressure and increased edema. A former patient of Drs. James Hamilton and Matthew Vogel at Rappahannock OB/GYN Inc., she was forced to change obstetrical groups last week when Rappahannock General Hospital suspended its maternity services.

Her blood pressure had leveled after the hour and 45 minute drive to Mechanicsville's Regional Memorial Hospital Monday evening and although she was having contractions two to three minutes apart, physicians there monitored her through the night and sent her home Tuesday morning.

Ercelino's baby is due March

This has been a difficult pregnancy for the Weems woman, with sporadic contractions over the last few months. Her blood pressure has been unstable and she's had some gestational diabetes. Doctors now are concerned about pre-eclampsia.

She'd tried to see her local physicians last week but unfortunately didn't make the February 25 deadline for the closure of the OB unit. Instead of going to Richmond for an evaluation as doctors there and here suggested, she stayed home.

"I sat home that night because I didn't want to travel," Ercelino said. "I didn't want to have to go an hour and forty-five minutes away when I could have just gone five minutes up the road. ook what happened Monday." Ercelino is one of dozens of

maternity patients that now have to drive over an hour to Richmond, Newport News or Fredericksburg to deliver their babies. She was one of five expectant

mothers from the Kilmarnock

The rezoning request includes

a master plan for the development

of 20 waterfront condominium

units and 16 inland units. It is set

for public hearing by the plan-

ning commission on March 18.

house Landing subdivision and

existing residences at the end of

access for those people, as well

as future development," supervi-

sor Ernest W. Palin Jr. said of the

quency of R-2 rezoning requests

over the past two years was fur-

the iceberg and I think we need to

be prepared and have some over-

sight for that," said supervisor B.

The board authorized county

administrator William H. Pennell

Jr. to schedule a joint session

with the planning commission to

discuss ordinance changes that

could establish cluster develop-

ment and regulations for planned

By a 4-1 vote, the board agreed

to waive \$340 in fees for a

variance request and subdivision

application submitted by the Rap-

Supervisor Pete

the church cemetery.

property would profit the prop-

Pennell said the salary sup-

"I really think the board (of

plement was denied by the state

supervisors) needs to do some-

(continued on page A13

compensation board.

Wally Beauchamp.

unit development.

Other matters

structed.

ther addressed by supervisors.

Meanwhile, the increasing fre-

What we've seen is the tip of

the road.

road project.

Avis Trail also serves the Court-

"This will only improve the

area at Regional Memorial Hospital Monday night. "This is crazy. It's a headache and a half," said Ercelino, who delivered her son at RGH seven

years ago. "It's outrageously difficult to have to travel so far. The Regional Memorial.



Matt and Shannon Chapman are the proud parents of a big, bouncy baby boy. Jayden Scott Chapman, weighing in at 9 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:49 p.m. on February 24, was the last baby born at the Rappahannock General Hospital maternity

stress, the drive, the gas. It's all a problem.'

The added stress of switching obstetricians is something the 29-year-old doesn't need with an already difficult pregnancy.

"It's been one thing after another with this pregnancy and now I have to go to Richmond," she said. "At last week's appointment they didn't even have my charts. I had to retake tests I've already taken.'

Ercelino is scared she won't even know when she's in true labor since she's been having contractions so frequently.

"I'm afraid I won't make it to Richmond," she said.

Julia Shryock had also planned to deliver her fourth child at RGH in June but instead will travel an hour and a half from her home in Westmoreland County to

Last Friday afternoon, just after the OB department discharged its last patient, a woman in labor came to the hospital's emergency room but was sent to a hospital in Richmond.

"I have a bad feeling about this whole thing," said Ercelino. "I'm scared of the risks the hospital is taking. They haven't thought about the mothers and babies that could be lost on the way to Richmond.' The hospital closed the unit as

the inability of Drs. Hamilton and Vogel to retain malpractice insur-In its final week, the OB

a result of financial factors and

department was in a frenzy with six babies delivered there between February 21 and 25 Jayden Scott Chapman, who

arrived by caesarean section at 7:49 p.m. last Tuesday night, was the last baby born at RGH. Weighing 9 pounds, 13 ounces, he was born to proud parents Matt and Shannon Chapman of

"I was so scared I wasn't going to make it before it closed, said Shannon. "You get so comfortable with your doctor you don't want another one.'

Jayme Campagnola feels the

She and her husband, Jimmy Bartlett, were peering through the nursery glass at their newborn daughter, MacKenzie Bartlett, last week with relief.

"I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't been able to come here," said Campagnola, whose 11-year-old daughter, Genevieve, was delivered by Dr. Hamilton. "When they told me about this closing, I started bawling right there in the doctor's office. I just started crying when I thought I was going to have to go somewhere else.'

RGH averaged about 250 (continued on page A13



Proud parents Jimmy Bartlett and Jayme Campagnola peer through the nursery glass as obstetric nurse Peggy Swann holds up their newborn, MacKenzie.



From left, members of Rappahannock General Hospital obstetrical unit are (front row) Susan Clark-Frith, Chrissy Hughes, Leslie Yost-Shomer, Lois Hayes-Barr and Tina Smith; (back row) Lesley Hall, Jennifer Pugh, Laura Mills, Wendy Owens, Kristie Duryea, Peggy Swann, Dr. James Hamilton, Donna Haynie-Clark, Judy Hegamyer, Susan Flippin and Dr. Matthew Vogel gathered to say farewell last Thursday when the facility suspended its maternity services. "We'd like to thank the community for allowing us to share in your miracles of birth for the last twenty-six and a half years," said Clark-Frith.

## March

4 Thursday
The Rotary Breakfast Club
meets at 7:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m. The White Stone Town Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the town

The Wetlands Board for Northumberland County meets at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse in

The Marine Corps League Detachment meets at 7:30 p.m at the Callao Volunteer Fire Department building. 453-3458. The First Thursday Seniors meet at 11 a.m. at White Stone United Methodist Church. For lunch reservations, call

The Republican Committee of Northumberland County meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Northumberland County Public Library at 7204 Northumberland Highway

in Heathsville. 529-5856. Art Hicks will review Wonderful Life at Books and Coffee at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The review begins

Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

**5** Friday

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. in Charterhouse in Kilmarnock. 580-4400. Bingo is played at the Upper

Lancaster Ruritan Center in

Lively at 7:30 p.m. Dave Long is featured on the piano from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bambery's Restaurant in Heathsville.

For dinner reservations, call Bingo begins at 7 p.m. at the Mid-County Rescue Squad building in Heathsville.

The RFM Stitchers meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529. The RFM Quilters meet at 1 p.m. at the Reedville Fishemen's . Museum. 453-6529.

A Sandwich Bridge will be held at the Woman's Club of White Stone at noon. \$4. For reservations, call 435-6207.

Saturday

Line Dancing will be held by the Stepping Stones Square Dance Club from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Freeshade Community Center in Syringa. The cost is \$2.50.

The Rappahannock Concert Association will host the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. March 6 at the Richmond County Elementary School. \$20. Income Tax Preparation services and e-filing are available at Lancaster Community Library from 1 to 4 p.m.

The 10th Annual Cabernet Sauvignon Vertical Tasting will be held at Ingleside Plantation Vineyards in Oak Grove. Comparison tasting with gourmet hors d'oeuvres begins at 5:30 p.m. \$25. Reservations required;

An Oyster Roast begins at 5 p.m. at the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department in Urbanna.

224-8687

## Dr. Abed to share perspective on Palestian-Israeli conflict

"Behind the Headlines in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" will be Dr. Ali J. Abed's topic for the Lancaster Community Library Sundays at Two program on March 7.

Dr. Abed was born in Palestine in 1946 and has been a Virginian since he was 16. He brings a personal perspective to the on-going crisis in the Middle East. He has spoken often on the Arab-Israeli conflict "in the hope of promoting peace based on justice in that part of the world" and expressed his views in numerous articles and letters.

Although his education and career as a teacher focuses on American history and political science, he and his wife have traveled annually for the last 15 years to occupied Palestine and other parts of the Middle

Dr. Abed teaches in the Newport News School system and has taught as an adjunct professor at St. Leo College, Thomas Nelson Community

7 Sunday

church services.

land counties holds its lunch

brunch at For the Occasions Cafe

Dr. Ali Abed will present "Behind

the Headlines in the Israeli-Pal-

estinian Conflict" at Sundays at

Library in Kilmarnock. The pro-

The Historyland Community

Workshop meets at the Lancaster

Woman's Club clubhouse from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch.

The Lancaster County School

Board meets at 6:30 p.m. at

Lancaster Middle School in Kil-

The Northumberland School

Board at the school board office in

Flotilla 33 of the U.S. Coast Guard

Auxiliary meets at 7:30 p.m. in Grace House of Grace Episcopal

A Bird Walk will be led by the

Northern Neck Audubon Society

at Dameron Marsh Natural Area

Preserve. Participants may meet

at 8:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal

Church in Kilmarnock. The walk

The Northumberland County

Red Cross board of directors

meets at 7:30 p.m. 580-4933.

The Cobbs Hall Chapter of

meets at 1:30 p.m. at Rappa-

the National Society of the Daugh-

hannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Christ church education director

Robert Teagle will present a slide

Christ Church, Members are urged

The NAACP for Lancaster County

meets at 7 p.m. at New St. John's

program on recent research at

to bring articles for veterans.

Baptist Church in Kilmarnock.

ters of the American Revolution

Church in Kilmarnock.

begins at 8:45 a.m.

gram begins at 2 p.m.

**8** Monday

Visitors welcome.

marnock

Lottsburg

Two at the Lancaster Community

in Callao immediately following



Dr. Ali J. Abed

College, Old Dominion University and Hampton Univer-

He graduated from Frederick College in Portsmouth with a major in U.S. history and a minor in political science. He has a master's from Old Dominion University in American history and a doctorate in political science from Atlanta University.

Refreshments will be provided for participants as they chat with the speaker after the

**Tuesday** Narcotics Anonymous meets at The Widowed Persons Service

7 p.m. at Charterhouse in Kilmar-

"Surfin' the Net," a computer workshop with Richard Emory for middle and high school students, is from 3 to 5 p.m. at Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville.

The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band rehearses at 7:15 p.m. at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems. 462-7125. The Kilmarnock Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. at

the town office. Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-

Canterbury. The Kilmarnock Museum board of directors meets at 2 p.m. at the museum on North Main Street. The Rappahannock Pistol and

Rifle Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Northside Branch of the Bank of Lancaster in Kilmarnock. 435-2143. 'Boat Talk," an exchange of

ideas on classic and wooden boats, will be held at 4 p.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. A Joint Meeting of the Lancaster board of supervisors and school

board will be held at 6 p.m. at the school board office in Pitman's The Woman's Club of Nor-

thumberland County meets at the Northumberland County Public Library in Heathsville at 1 p.m. The program is "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and the speaker is Charlotte Hundley.

Wednesday The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30

a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian

Church in Kilmarnock The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock

Westminster-Canterbury. The Northern Neck Bay Tones meets at 3 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kil-

marnock. 438-5127. Piper's Pub in Kilmarnock hosts an acoustic iam session open to all musicians, beginning at 7 p.m. For dinner reservations, call 435-7178. The Lancaster Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at Willaby's Restaurant in White Stone.

A Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. at the White Stone United Methodist Church, 435-7585. "Mended Hearts" Chapter 119

meest at 11:30 a.m. in the Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center at Riverside Hospital in Gloucester. The group is for former heart patients. 725-4919.

## 10 Wednesday

The Woman's Club of Lancaster will hold its regular meeting. at 10:45 a.m. at the clubhouse in Lancaster. Guests welcome; call Anne Hanchey at

**Duplicate Bridge** will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers are invited. No reservations are needed. 435-2755

The Virginia Watermen's Association meets at 7 p.m. at the Pilot House in Topping. Painters of the Northern Neck are featured at The Food for Thought series hosted by Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern at the Northumberland Historical Society in Heathsville. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. \$30 including dinner; \$5 without. For

reservations, call 580-3536. The Rappahannock Comunity College Board meets at 1 p.m. in Warsaw.

Trustees of the Northumberland Public Library meet at 5 p.m. at the library at 7204 Northumberland Highway in Heathsville. Income Tax Preparation services and e-filing are available at Lancaster Community Library from 1 to 4 p.m.

Bill Evans is the speaker for a Grace Church men's breakfast. He will adddress the state of Boy Scouts in the Northern Neck. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday
The Rotary Breakfast Club
meets at 7:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m. The Wetlands Board for Lancaster County meets at 9:30 a.m.

at the courthouse in Lancaster. The Board of Supervisors for Northumberland County meets at 2 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m.

The Irvington Town Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the town

The Interfaith Service Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.

The Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Ruritan Center in Lively **American Legion Post 117** meets at 7:30 p.m. at the post

home in Reedville The Rappahannock Garden Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at White Stone United Methodist

Church. Art Hicks will review Wonderful Life at Books and Conversation at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. The review begins at

(Submit calendar items,to Robert

Mason Jr., editor]

For Display, Classified & Directory Advertising, Call 435-1701

IN MATHEWS, VA Phone (804) 725-7760

VIRGINIA'S Lil Ole Opry presents:

## **Oldies Show**

Saturday • Mar. 13, 2004 • 8 p.m.

PLUS \* \* \* ★ All the Opry Regulars
★ Shades of Country ★
★ Uncle Jimmy Wickham

Adults: \$12.00 • Children under 12: \$2.00

TICKETS:

TICKETS:
Country Casuals, Mathews, 725-4050
Carolina Bar-B-Q, Gloucester Pt. 684-2450
Lynne's Family Restaurant, Mathews 725-9996
The Blue Fin Restaurant, Gloucester 693-9390
http://doi.org/10.1006/

For Information and Reservations 725-7760

Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern Foundation, Inc. Heathsville, Virginia **Presents** "Food for Thought"

Painters of the Northern Neck A look at artists and their art on the Northern Neck

Wednesday, March 10 5:30pm

\$30 Presentation and Dinner \$5 Presentation only 580-3536 for Reservations





Saturday, March 6 • 4 pm-7 pm

CONRAD'S SEAFOOD, MOLLUSK \$18-Beverages & Desserts not included

Benefit Corrotoman Civic Center

# Dining Guide

#### **TRADITIONAL** DINING

#### ALEXANDER'S:

Full service dining-Lunch & Dinner. Char-grilled steaks, seafood, salad bar. Sunday brunch 11-3, closed Tues., Wireless internet access. Power Point capability available for meetings. 555 North Main St., Kilmarnock. Take-out available. 804-435-3100.

#### **BAY BREEZE DELI:**

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast all day! Open late. Daily specials. Mon. - Sat. - 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun.- 6 a.m.- 4 p.m. Lancaster Square, Kilmarnock. 435-7796.

#### DIXIE DELI:

Family owned and operated (forever!) Serving lunch 5 days a week, Mon-Fri., 10:30-3:00, Subs, soup, our famous potato & chicken salad and sandwiches, 50 Irvington Rd., Kilmarnock 435-6745.

#### **ECKHARD'S:**

German and other fine foods. Open 7 days. Mon. - Sat., 4:30 - 9 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations suggested. 804-758-4060. Topping, Va.

#### LEE'S RESTAURANT:

Hometown cooking and atmosphere in a popular downtown Kilmarnock tradition. Full menu, local seafood in season. (B,L,D) Main St., Kilmarnock. 435-1255

## PIPER'S PUB & TEA ROOM: The finest in Celtic cuisine served in

a comfortable pub styled atmosphere in downtown Kilmarnock. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Lunch 11:30 to 2:30, Dinner 5 to 9. 37 N. Main St., Kilmarnock. 804-435-7178.

RIVER CROSSING: Fine dining in casual elegance with spectacular sunsets overlooking the Rappahannock at the bridge. Special-izing in seafood, steaks and pasta. Weekdays 5-9 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Lounge open 4 pm-till. Weekend entertainment. 888-309-9644, White Stone (D) 436-8439

## **DINING**

#### **SANDPIPER RESTAURANT:**

Est. 1982. Casual relaxed dining with friendly service. Featuring nightly specials, charbroiled steaks and fresh seafood dishes. Full menu. (D) Route 3 White Stone, 435-6176

#### SANDPIPER REEF RESTAURANT

4 Star Dining on the Piankatank Friendly, local atmosphere. Fresh seafood, prime beef. Thurs-Sat. 5-9. Sun 11:30-2. Special Parties-Off Nights Reservations accepted. Off Rt. 198 ir Mathews County. (D). 725-3331.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S GUILD 8 CAFÉ LOTTÉ: Great BBQ Ribs chicken, homemade salad, delicious desserts & more. Serving lunch Mon. Thurs. 11-3, Lunch and dinner Fri. Sat. 11-8. Closed Sundays. 529-5938 Lottsburg, Va.

#### THE STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT:

Enjoy casual dining while overlooking the beautiful Piankatank River Golf Club. We offer a traditional lunch menu, gourme and traditional evening menus and Sunday Brunch selections. Open Tues.-Sat. 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, Thurs., Fri. & Sat evenings 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Sunday Brunch 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Banguets, functions and group outings also available. Call 776-6589 (Reservations suggested). Located off Rt. 33 at 629 Hartfield, Va

#### TOBY'S:

Casual dining, fresh seafood, steaks chops & pasta. Open 7 days at 3 pm (D) 804-776-6913. Deltaville, just of Rt. 33.

#### WILLABY'S:

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

#### Animals for adoption The Animal Welfare League has many animals for adoption to good,

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



## **CLOCK REPAIRS**

GRANDFATHER, MANTEL & SHIP CLOCKS ANTIQUE & NEW Howard Miller Clock Service Rep.

John C. Willis, Clock Maker,

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Monday - Ladies Special \$6.00

STARSKY AND HUTCH (PG 13/1HR 40 MIN Fri. & Sat. (1:30, 4:00), 6:15, 8:15

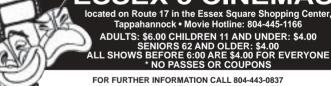
Sun. (11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:00), 6:15, 8:15 Mon.-Thurs. (4:00), 6:15, 8:15

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, (R/2HRS) Fri. & Sat. (1:00, 3:30), 6:00, 8:30 **Sun.** (10:30 a.m.) 6:00, 8:30

Mon.-Thurs. (3:30), 6:00, 8:30

Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military \$3.50 for all shows Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to16yrs. (any show) \$3.50 \*\*Shows in parentheses () all seats \$3.50/Adults all shows on & after 6pm \$5.50\*\*

Visit us at www.hillsidecinema.com or www.hc22.com for show time To print money-saving coupon click on *certificate* then *free stuff* icor



CALL 301-593-2460 REGARDING GROUP SALES SUN. 3/7
PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R)

FRI. 3/5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R) 7:15, 9:55 HIDALGO (PG13) 7:00, 9:45 STARSKY & HUTCH (R) 7:20, 9:35 50 FIRST DATES (PG13) 7:30, 9:40 BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13) 7:25, 9:35

2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 9:40 BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)

1:15, 4:15, 7:15 HIDALGO (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 STARSKY & HUTCH (R) 1:05 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 50 FIRST DATES (PG13) 2:15, 4:30, 7:30 BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:25

BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13)

SAT. 3/6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55 HIDALGO (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45 STARSKY & HUTCH (R) MON-THUR. 3/8-11 7:15 **HIDALGO (PG13)** STARSKY & HUTCH (R) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:39 50 FIRST DATES (PG13) 50 FIRST DATES (PG13)

........... Cash Prize of

\$1000.

Guaranteed!

# *BINGO*

This Friday, March 5, 2004

Lively, Va.

Ruritan Recreation Center

To benefit the Upper Lancaster Vol. Fire Department

# American Legion

Next Week!!

49th Annual

**Donation Dinner** 

Saturday, March 13 • 5 pm

"All You Can Eat...

For All You Can Give"

Sponsored by the

You and I Class

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall • Route 201

near Lively



## **EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT** WIN UP TO \$1000.

Come out and support your veterans!

Doors open at 6 p.m. • Play starts 7 p.m. Waverly Ave., Kilmarnock 1/2 mile past fairgrounds on the right.

BRING THIS AD AND SAVE A SBUCK

## for Lancaster and Northumber-



Nancy and Marty would like for you to join them for their

6th Anniversary this weekend.

#### ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS

Seared Scallops-large sweet scallops seasoned on one side then seared in butter and served in it's own butter sauce.

Sirloin and Mushroom Dijon-seasoned grilled sirloin steak, sliced then covered in a flavorful mushroom and dijon sauce served over a hot bed of rice pilaf.

## The Oaks

Restaurant

Route 3 • Downtown Lively 462-7050







## <u>Café Mojo Presents</u>

Mercy Creek

Earthy, Edgy, Music Aggressive Folk Rock

They're played on the radio from Richmond to Seattle Come to Café Mojo to hear them live in Urbanna

Friday, March 5th at 9:30 p.m.

Treat yourself to a night out of great food and music!

230 Virginia St. • Urbanna • 758-4141

## **GALLERY GALA**

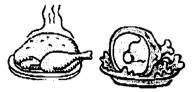
Saturday, March 6 10 am till 4 pm

- Chesapeake Academy Art
- KOKO The painting Gorilla
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Demonstrations



Rappahannock Art League 19 North Main Street Kilmarnock 436-9309

Bring This Ad For An Additional Door Prize Opportunity



## **Eagle Scout Benefit Dinner** For Tyler Haynie

at Claybrook Baptist Church March 13, 2004

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Menu

Turkey Dressing Mashed Potatoes/Gravv Baked Ham Green Beans Steamed Cabbage Bread

\$10.00 Adult \$6.00 Children 8 and under Assorted Desserts .75 cents extra

Carry out available

Advance tickets available by contacting Tyler Haynie at 435-2823

#### ■ Orchestra to perform

Members of the Northern Neck Orchestra will be featured in a Children's Theater Production of "Peter and the Wolf" sponsored by the Center for the Arts, at the Arts Building in Kilmarnock on March 13. The production begins at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 5 through 12. Children under age 5 are admitted free.

The whimsical strains will be accompanied by delightful slides prepared by Marianne Henderson to assist the audience in identifying the various characters. Each character is also represented by its own instrument or combination of instruments. The story is narrated by John Baumhardt.

#### ■ Roasting oysters

The Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department will hold an oyster roast Saturday, March 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the firehouse in Urbanna.

The cost is \$15 per person. Children under 5 years of age can eat for free. Proceeds benefit the department.

#### ■ Workshop set

A long-term care workshop will be held at noon March 18 at Lancaster Community Library at 235 School Street in Kilmarnock.

The workshop will be presented by Robert Bruce and Rusty Woods of Jefferson Pilot Securities in Williamsburg. A buffet lunch will be provided. To reserve a space, call 866-457-3437, extension 250.

#### Casting call

The Courthouse Players will conduct auditions for "Play On!" by Rick Abbot on March 13 and 14 at 1 p.m. at St. Therese Church in Gloucester Courthouse. Direc-

tor Hal Brown is looking for seven women and three men to

cast. For more information, call Brown at 725-3474, email him at playondirector@hotmail.com. or visit www.courthouse players

Oyster roast planned
On April 3, Aylett Country Day School in Millers Tavern will host its 20th annual oyster roast beginning at 5 p.m. The Time for a Change Band performs from 6 to10 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Tickets may be purchased at Copy Cat Printing in Mechanicsville, King William Pharmacy in Aylett, Watts Supermarket in Millers Tavern, Lakeview Tack in Mechanicsville, June Parker Mobil in Tappahannock and T-Town Tack in Tappahannock; or call the school at 443-3214.

#### ■ Gardening is topic

Three Sisters Antiques will present two gardening seminars on March 23 in White Stone. Waterfront gardening and lowmaintenance/drought tolerant gardening are the topics to be presented by Kathy Brooks, landscape designer and associate.

The seminars are from noon to 2 p.m. at 466 Rappahannock Drive. The fee is \$10 and includes a light lunch. Call 436-0000 or stop by the shop for reserva-

#### ■ Quilt guild to form

The first meeting of a new quilt guild in Warsaw will be held on March 17 at the Warsaw Baptist Church at 10 a.m.

Bring a basic sewing kit, show and tell and lunch. For more details, call Sue Dollins at 394-4506 or Joanne Forman at 529-7755.

## Homeland security chief to speak at MOAA luncheon

Major Gen. Russell L. Honore, commander of the Joint Force Headquarters for Homeland Security, will speak at the Military Officers Association of America March 9 luncheon at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury at 11:30 a.m.

He will discuss the role of the military in homeland security. His command handles the homeland security component of the U.S. Northern Command mission that coordinates the land and maritime defense of the continental

Changes in homeland security occur on a weekly basis and it's Maj. Gen. Honore's job to assure that his command is keeping pace. Since few service members have served in a military organization with a real-time homeland security mission, his descriptions may be of wide interest.

missioned in January 1971 and Korea. served in troop assignments from platoon leader, company commander to battalion commander of the 4th Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division in Germany and Operations Desert Storm Shield in Saudi Arabia.

More recent assignments include commander, 1st Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, Assistant Division, 1st Cavalry Division; commander and assistant commandant, U.S. Army Infantry Troy State University.



Maj. Gen. Russell L. Honore

Center and School

He subsequently was vice director of operations, J-3, the Joint Staff, Washington, and before his current assignment, commanded the 2nd Infantry

He has served in his present assignment since July 2002.

Maj. Gen. Honore holds the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters and other decorations.

He has a bachelor's in vocational agriculture from Southern University and A&M College and master's in human resources from

## APVA program to address interiors of historic homes

"Interiors of Historic Houses in the Rappahannock River Valley" annual meeting of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities-Northern Neck

Ron Fuchs II, assistant curator Hodroff Collection at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Del., is the speaker. Featured will be three houses with interior panelings now displayed at the museum, including the Ritchie House, Belle Isle and Morattico. Fuchs will also address Hillsboro in King and Queen County and Marmion in King George

Fuchs is a graduate of William and Mary College and The Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. With expertise in ceramics, he has always had a love of historic houses.

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The meeting will be held in the T. Dabney Wellford Parish Hall will be presented March 18 at the of St. John's Church in Warsaw, beginning at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Tickets must be acquired by March 12 from Kathey of ceramics for the Leo and Doris Farmar, P.O. Box 322, Warsaw,

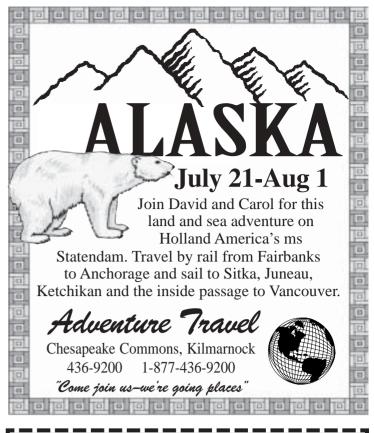


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WHEN: Saturday, March 6, 2004 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: \*Little River Seafood, Inc. Burgess, Virginia

TICKETS: \$18.00 per Person, Advance Sales \$20.00 At The Door BEER

Children Under 10 FREE **INCLUDES:** Raw and Steamed Oysters

> Bean Soup Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks. Coffee Beer Available at \$2.00 per cup

Oyster Knives - \$5.00 Tickets can be obtained from:

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\*Directions: From Burgess, proceed east on Rt. 360, one mile to Greenfield Rd. (Rt. 647) on your left. Go 1.6 miles north to Rocktown Rd. (Rt. 734) on your left. Continue 1/2 mile to Little River Seafood Co.

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# Fiction or

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

Meet Thelma. She's short and squatty, all stalk and no body.

But she's still an inspiration to look at. Her green succulent leaves and white to pale green arum-like flower heads are beautiful. There's not another potted plant like her anywhere. Some of the same species by the same maker may be found, but they just don't compare.

I think she is known in the floral world as a "White Sails." She was a gift from the Lancaster Players in the fall of 2002 when I became editor. We've bonded.

The fact that she has survived this long as a companion of mine is a miracle. I'm not that attentive, although she is very good at drooping almost to the point of exposing her roots to remind she needs a drink.

She has attitude. She has class. She's sometimes a pain in the knee. She's a watch plant.

She sits at the corner of my desk as a sentry, protecting me from those who would otherwise monopolize my time. She is the perfect bouncer.

I call her Thelma, not that I know with any certainty that she's female. With mammals it's easy, you just turn them end up and check for parts. With plants, it's a little more involved. I wouldn't know what to look for.

She's Thelma because that's an older name. You don't hear a lot of young parents these days naming their daughters Thelma.

And since she has to have a name, I consulted a friend on the subject and she suggested I select an "old-lady name" because they have a tendency to get in the way. Thelma stays in the way. Thelma is the way.

I settled on Thelma after my grandmother, not because she was always getting in the way, but because she always kept a bunch of plants around. My grandfather, Tom, would say those plants were always in

Now Thelma is in the way of sight of anybody popping into my office. She s strategi cally placed between my station at the keyboard and the door. That way, I can see someone entering my space before they see me.

They're looking straight into a jungle. With the trained eye of a tiger, I spot them quickly and size them up.

Although there is an opendoor policy. I appreciate short, sweet encounters and never at deadline.

With Thelma perched above the only visitor's seat in my work area, folks who plan to sit a spell ask first if they might move the chair. Otherwise, they would be talking right into a decorative pot.

This allows me to politely respond, depending upon the demands on my day.

Most often, those who first master the long, steep climb of steps to my office state their business as soon as they have caught their breath and are on their way with minimum interruption to the onscreen editing under way.

More often than not, it's amusing to witness their reaction to Thelma. Folks hesitate. They don't know how close to get. Some move to the other end of the desk, beyond har-

m's reach. I know she can be intimidating to those who don't keep plants, especially to those who've had unpleasant encounters with house

plants in the past. She's not an attack plant and I don't think she'd intentionally hurt anyone. But with plants of her disposition, you iust never know.

As far as she's concerned, you're invading her space too. And for God's sake, whatever you do, don't touch her. She doesn't like that and I won't take responsibility for her

If you find her offensive, get over it.

She earns her keep around here and I'm keeping her

around.

Nice plant.

by Henry Lane Hull

ver my years of parenthood, I have learned more about the English language than I ever knew existed. The two B.E.s have taught me a rich and descriptive vocabulary, albeit invented by them, which I now find myself taking for granted and using with impunity. I even react quizzically when an extra-familial person appears not to understand, assuming that everyone speaks as we speak.

About five years ago I wrote about the elder B.E. having coined the new word "suvine" which he began using to describe a combination of the qualities intended by the words "superb" and "divine," the latter taken in a colloquial, nontheological, manner. These days when my good wife prepares a meal of her standard exquisite portions, I compliment her by saying, "This is suvine." The problem has arisen from my replying similarly when a waiter or waitress inquires as to our liking of the carte in a restaurant. I must remember that "suvine" is a word not yet discovered by the heirs of Noah Webster.

The younger B.E. has complemented 'suvine' with a word of her own, "delighting." If asked how she enjoyed a birthday party, she will respond to the effect that 'it was delighting." Obviously the verb "delight" is a standard in our language, but her formation of it seems new to me. Now I hardly ever say "delightful," having habitualized "delighting" in its place.

Four days before Christmas I forgot my razor and the result has been an unintended winter coat which I have not considered shaving until the temperature rises. Both B.E.s dislike the fur, but the younger is especially forceful in her comments. She even threatened no kisses at one juncture, but happily she has forgotten such a rash penalty. Lately, she has been proffering a new word, "plicked," to describe the process of combing hair. Clearly, it is a combo of "plucked" and "picked," an interesting amalgamation, but one I hope she will not attempt to practice on me, before I shave, that is.

Both B.E.s came up with another usage, this one more of an idiom than a new word. When something occurs unexpectedly and unplanned, it does so "on accident." Thus we hear, "I spilt the milk on accident." This term I was certain would pass with time and school, but it has shown a remarkable level of survivability. My good wife and I found it initially amusing, and not only have we not corrected, indeed we have found ourselves using it. Actually, I even think it is cool.

Many years ago we cleared a small area in our lower field which we kept mown until last summer when it grew up in weeds and we could not cross the cornfield to get to it. In October after the corn was cut, we saw the level of healthy weeds which died upon the first frost, but still remained as dead stalks, like vegetative zombies blowing to and fro in the wind.

Even before the harvest of the corn, the area was discovered by the B.E.s who decided that it was the ideal playground and they named it "deathland." Soon the furrows and little berms took on identities of their own. Ways were opened through the desiccated weeds and "traps" for groundhogs started appearing. The B.E.s cousin who lives in an apartment came to visit and Deathland became the venue of choice for the three adventurers. Of all their invented terms, I find myself most amazed that we parents have adopted it along with the others.

President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to bring about a distinctly Americanized version of the English language with our words spelled the way they sound. Onomatopoeia was a big deal to him. Well, the B.E.s have not gone that far, and their coinages might not make Webster's, but we have enjoyed the new usages. I must admit that I am concerned that the younger B.E. might decide to plick my winter growth which might be a delighting experience for her, and might even make me look somewhat more suvine, with the plickings being deposited in Deathland. Of course, she would claim it all was done on accident.

by Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr.

#### **Budget impact**

Taxes, taxes, taxes. It sure seems that taxes and the budget shortfall are all people are talking about this session, but it is not the only thing that is going on. It is, however, what is dictating most of what is happen-

With a little less than two weeks left to go in the 2004 General Assembly session, I see that the vast majority of my legislative agenda was negatively affected by this year's budget crunch. How so? Well, that's House Bill 130, which would

have lowered the number of repeat offenses before a stalker receives a felony, was killed in the House Courts of Justice Committee because of its fiscal cost was a paltry \$93,000, the cannot afford to tell the truth. committee did not have the latitude to make too many "tough" I had a resolution to study the ing about.

many "tough on crime" bills died that the impression is that budgeting is rationing justice.

Likewise, budgeting rationed truth in advertising. As you may recall, I had a bill that would require the lottery to advertise its jackpot prizes in present-day dollars; that is, the amount that would be paid in one lump sum as opposed to a 24-year annuity. Evidence shows that people buy more tickets when the jackpot is larger, thus, there is great budgetary pressure to give the appearance of a larger prize (twice the actual size) through

advertising the 24-year payment. My bill would have cost the lottery a mere \$10,000,000 a year House Committee on General be more pressing. Laws, with committee members cost money, and although the quite readily admitting Virginia are talking about here in Rich-

on crime" decisions. Indeed, so cost of implementing the No Child Left Behind Act. This federal education initiation has huge implications for our local school divisions; however, no one can really tell us the cost. Even though it mandates everything from busing to English-as-a-Second-Language course offerings, we only now know the cost of implementing the testing provisions. This, incidentally, is about \$10,000,000 a year.

Although the cost of the study would have been in the tens of thousands of dollars for a program costing hundreds of millions of dollars, we did not have the available resources. The House and the Senate had limited themselves to six studies each to tell the truth. It died in the and other issues were viewed to

So, the budget is not all that we mond. But it sure does seem to Last, but not in any way least, affect everything that we are talk-

## Tax reform: A day of reckoning has come enue with ongoing obligations.

by Sen. John H. Chichester

In Virginia, we pride ourselves on conservative and responsible public policy—policy founded on the Jeffersonian principles of limited government.

In Virginia, change is not a frivolous thing; it comes only after careful thought and reasoning.

That is precisely why Virginia's income tax structure remained unchanged for fifty years from the mid-1920s until 1972. That is precisely why the income tax structure has been unchanged for the past 30 years.

That is why our sales tax structure remains essentially unchanged, almost 40 years after Gov. Mills Godwin asked Virginians to embrace the sales tax as a way to improve our economic vitality by making higher education more accessible.

That is why Virginia ranks 44th in the nation in total state and local taxes as a percent of personal income. We do not take tax policy changes lightly in Virginia. To the contrary, we value stability.

And no one has abandoned our commitment to keep Virginia a low tax state.

One might ask, "So, John Chichester, why do you— a fiscal conservative . . . a student of Jeffersonian principles . . . a person who has opposed tax increases during 26 years in the state Senate. now propose changes in tax policy?"

The short answer is that I abhor raising taxes, but in my view, a glimpse at our financial future tells me a day of reckoning has come. Unless we are willing to accept further decline in our core responsibilities of education, public safety, human services, and transportation, it is time to deal with the problem that confronts us.

We simply can't make the investments needed to keep Virginia strong 10 or 15 years down the road, absent bold action.

We received a "wake up" call in September when Moody's, the national bond rating agency that determines our credit worthiness, placed Virginia on credit watch for a possible downgrade of our bond rating. Why?

Because we have exhausted our savings account (the Rainy Day Fund), we have placed unfunded obligations on the books (car tax relief and food tax relief) that will automatically grow and compete with our traditional core responsibilities and we continue to balance two-year budgets by "sweeping the corners" for one-time revenues to make

The bond rating agency has a name for this. They call it "structural imbalance," and note that we have not made the tough choices to match ongoing rev-

Some would say, "Who cares if we lose our Triple A bond rating?"

Any legislator who has the best interest of Virginians at heart should care, not only because we will pay millions more for debt in the future, but because of the tarnished image a downgrade will bring.

Businesses like stability as well. It isn't possible for us to know how many jobs Virginia will forego in the future, if we lose our prized bond rating. Companies may simply decide that Virginia isn't

such a good place to locate or expand. Virginia business leaders have told us, without hesitation, that we simply cannot let that bond

rating slip through our fingers. And, I take them seriously. We have emerged from the on-again, off-again

recession, and have begun to ride the wave of another economic recovery.

Some would say, "There is no need to do anything, we will simply grow out of the problem."

I would love to believe that view. But, today's economy is not what it was 10 years ago. I have taken the time in recent months to step back and look at our path out of the last recession and I have compared that path to what I see today.

My conclusion is that we are on a very different trajectory.

Ten years ago, the proliferation of high technology jobs in the service sector jet-propelled us out of the recession. Today, the only lightening speed I see is service jobs leaving this country. Ten years ago, annual productivity gains were

welcomed; today annual productivity gains are the norm, and that means fewer jobs.

Ten years ago, "baby boomers" were 10 years away from retirement; today "baby boomers" are at our doorstep, with obvious implications on both the income and service sides of the equation.

We have let investment in Virginia's future languish so long that we now are in no position to grow" our way out of decline.

Moving forward, we can expect "normal" revenue growth in the 5 to 6 percent range. That will let us tread water, at best.

It may let us serve the 31,000 new public school children who will arrive in the next two years; it may let us cover the double digit increase in health care costs for our Medicaid program; it may provide the additional half a billion dollars at some point in the future to let us reach 100 percent of car tax relief. But, it will do no more.

(continued on page A5)

## Letters to the Editor

#### Local ambulances are needed

To The Editor:

Last Saturday my husband had a heart attack. The electrical system in his heart shut down due to a small blocked artery. It didn't happen all at once. A friend and I were able to bring him back by doing our version of basic CPR. The rescue squad got there in a reasonable time and took him to Rappahannock General, where he had tests which determined that he had indeed had a heart

The decision was made to transport him to Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond via ambulance since RGH did not have the facilities to treat his condition. The emergency personnel at the hospital called for an ambulance. was told that it was coming from Middlesex since that was the closest one.

husband's condition seemed fairly stable, but they knew that he could have another attack at any time. More than half an hour passed and the ambulance was still more than half an hour away when my husband's heart stopped again. I watched as the emergency personnel did CPR on him and brought him back again.

They decided to call for helicopter transport instead of waiting for the ambulance and then another hour and a half ride to Richmond. The helicopter got there in about half an hour, some minutes before the ambulance that had been requested an hour

I wonder why RGH does not have local access to ambulances for emergency transport. Clearly, the hour it took for the ambulance to get to RGH could have made the difference between life and death in this instance.

This story has a happy ending. Even though my husband's heart stopped six or seven times that day, he is home now and recovering with a state-of-the-art pacemaker-defibrillator implanted in his chest. Prospects are good for a nearly full recovery.

My fear is that next time we, or someone else in a similar circumstance, will not be so lucky. What can RGH and we as a community do to correct this situation? With the OB ward closed, emergency transportation will be even more critical in the future. What if it was one of the reader's loved ones that needed critical care and the ambulance wasn't there? What can be done?

My thanks go to all the people who kept my husband alive, Rescue Squad, the emergency room personnel at RGH, especially Dr. Sutherland and Dr. McGrath, the helicopter transport personnel and the staff at Henrico Doctors Hospital.

Diane Berry Lancaster

#### Still seeking the truth

To The Editor: Rappahannock General Hospi-

tal really does not care. I am furious over the closing of the OB unit at our hospital. If the community really knew what the truth is, I believe they would be astonished.

I thought the RGH foundation was non-profit and run by volunteers. I had no idea that the director made over \$90,000 a year, and that was back in 2002. had no idea that the president made over \$250,000 a year for such a small hospital. Other salaries are also disproportioned according to the size of the hos-

The only salaries that are not good are those of the staff and nursing.

Why are there so many traveling nurses? Why are they paid so much more money?

If the hospital and board really cared and thought a plan could be worked out to keep the OB unit open, why did they sell and/or get rid of the equipment in that unit before the final date. They had no intention of keeping it open. This was a good way out; they had wanted to close that unit for some time.

I looked on the web page of the hospital and in part it states "Patients have the right to receive quality healthcare and have access to needed services whether or not those services are income producing." Isn't that a joke considering they keep stating that the unit does not make money?

I think if the community really found out the whole truth, things would change. Maybe it is time to sell the hospital.

Carolyn Rich

#### Another view on healthcare reform

To The Editor:

A recent letter writer cited her family's \$800 health insurance bill as the reason she intends to vote in November for the candidate who promises healthcare

I agree the nation needs to find a way to provide affordable coverage for all. But candidates, policymakers and taxpayers face a real dilemma. Under the most far-reaching reform plans, this family might find relief from the \$800 monthly premium, but it would come at the expense of millions like me whose insurance is largely provided by employ-

Our taxes would have to increase.

Furthermore, while I may be willing to assume a tax increase to finance extended coverage, I am not sure I am willing to the Upper Lancaster Volunteer pay the size tax increase that would be necessary if the plan prompted employers throughout the country to turn their benefit programs over to the government to finance.

> For me, the key question in November is which candidate offers a plan that preserves the employer-based system of benefits while making reasonable reforms to reduce healthcare costs and achieve broader coverage.

Jeffrey Warren Kilmarnock

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## Letters to the Edito

#### Recognizing a real hero

To The Editor:

I had the extreme fortune of meeting a true hero from the Northern Neck. His name is Bill "Mac" George

This gentleman came to me to shake my hand because I am retired military. He saw me getting into my car and noticed my military sticker on my car.

Bill is with the 101st Airborne and has spent a year in Iraq. He is one of the Americans putting their life on the line to stop terror and to give the people of a country like Iraq a chance to live a normal life.

Their sacrifice and dedication has changed the world. If they had not done their job, we and the world would still be threatened by the likes of Sadaam and his henchman.

They and the American service men and women are building a country for the Iraqi people that will give them the freedom to live their lives as a free people.

I commend Bill. He and his fellow service persons are the real heroes. It was an honor to meet him and to shake his hand. Fred O'Daire Sr.

Lancaster

#### Who killed Jesus?

To The Editor:

I am writing to confess, to lay at rest, once and for all, the mystery of who killed Jesus. I did.

I was Judas, when I followed along until following Jesus became too uncomfortable.

I was Peter, when I swore that I would give my life for my faith in Jesus, then in the presence of people that I wanted to impress, denied I ever knew him. I was the disciple that could stay up late to watch a good movie, but not to persevere in prayer.

I was the Pharasee who enjoyed my sense of spiritual superiority and resented Jesus's call to humility so much that I would rather see the message die than die to my right to be my own god.

I was the adoring throng proclaiming "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" when it seemed popular. I became the jeering crowd who screamed, "Crucify Him!" when it seemed popular.

I was Pilate when I held the power to choose his life for my own, and knew he was, and eternally is the truth but caved in to the crowd because it was easier.

I was the Roman soldier who mercilessly brutalized him with my unrelenting sin of unkind thoughts, words and deeds that propelled him to the cross to clear the way to the Father for my for-

through his hands and his feet he has been merciful to me. I was sinner, who followed him down ink budgets.

## Letters policy

Letters on any subject of public interest are welcome and encouraged. When writing, please observe the following guidelines.

#### DO:

- Be as brief as possible
- Sign your name
- Include your address.Include your phone number for verifi cation or clarification purposes (the phone number will not be published).

  • Include a hometown and phone number in all e-mail correspondence. (send to <editor@rrecord.com>) E-mail letters without a hometown noted will not be published

#### DO NOT:

- Write on personal matters. Praise or condemn private businesses
- Send form letters Send copies of letters written to oth
- All letters are subject to editing for length or potentially libelous statements

the Via Dolorosa to the cross, the one who loves much, because I have been forgiven much.

I was the disciple who ran to the tomb to see and believe the unbelievable, because I so desperately need a savior. I was the joy that was set before him, causing him to endure the cross, despising the shame, because he could see me here today, made safe and made whole because of his life, his death and his resurrec-

> Catherine T. Crabill Irvington

#### Aim complaints at federal target

To The Editor:

I'd like to take issue with comments made in the February 26 edition of the Record, under the heading "Tax increase is garbage." I strongly favor fiscal conservatism on the part of federal, state and local governments to insure best use of our tax dol-

However, the letter writer's comments reflect a mindset that do not agree with—no tax increases of any kind under any conditions for whatever purpose.

He fails, as do other singleminded persons of the same ilk, to set forth specific areas and percentage cuts for cost-reduction, beyond or in lieu of those currently proposed by members of the General Assembly. He also ignores a number of costreduction measures previously implemented by the governor, including reduced outlays for needed road repairs and improve-

Perhaps the writer should redirect some of his anger to the national level, where the current administration has taken us from a condition of significant fiscal surplus to the highest level of deficit spending in modern times. That fiscal irresponsibility is a significant cause of the crisis Further, I drove the spikes many states currently face.

Unlike the federal government, when I refused to be merciful as states do not have the "luxury" of deficit spending to remedy (tem-Mary Magdalene, the repentant porarily, at best) repetitive red-

Former U.S. Senate majority leader Newt Gingrich sponsored a short-lived "Contract with Amerthat, among other things, called for an end to deficit spending and an imperative for a balanced federal budget. With a conservative Republican President and Republican majorities in the House and Senate, one can only wonder if fiscal responsibility will ever again be achieved at any level of government—federal, state or local. **Bob Gonter** Ophelia

#### Pro-crime. or pro-terrorist?

To The Editor:

I just read that Virginia's conservative Sen. George Allen says he will vote against extending the assault weapons ban. This move flies in the face of the recommendations of 25 Virginia police chiefs and sheriffs to extend the

Understand, assault weapons are high-powered military rifles that have no place in any form of sport shooting or hunting. They have one purpose, to kill people With the tremendous firepower, most police are completely outgunned when they encounter these weapons.

Sen. Allen's logic makes no sense. On one hand, he says assault weapons are only used in 1 or 2 percent of crime. Then he adds, "criminals continue to commit criminal acts, they just do so with other weapons, with other guns, knives or objects."

Pardon me, but isn't that supporting evidence that banning these weapons is helping to keep them out of criminals' hands?

So why would Sen. Allen not support law enforcement on this

Very simple, Sen. Allen's vote is owned by the National Rifle Association. He is a co-patron of that outrageous NRA legislation about to be voted on which would immunize gun makers and gun dealers from lawsuits.

This law would keep relatives of Virginia's sniper victims—Sen. Allen's own constituents—from suing the Bulls Eye Gun Store in Washington that let Malvo and Mohammed walk out with a \$1,500 hunting rifle with no record of a sale.

No other U.S. industry enjoys such protection. Since this bill benefits and encourages rogue gun stores known to sell weapons used frequently in crimes, this bill is clearly "pro-crime." And since guns are often used in terrorist attacks, one might even call it "pro-terrorist." It has already passed in our House. That's our present day Congress for you.

Incidentally, Sen. Warner says he will support the assault weapon ban. Thank God somebody representing Virginia has some back-

#### Grieving for pets

Cocoa was a friendly retriever and the grand old-timer of our river-side community. He loved the water and would plunge in and join anyone who came to swim in his

Whenever I walked Kody, my Rottweiler-mix, Cocoa, would run out to walk along with us. No matter what the season, as soon as we got to the river that old retriever would wade out into the water and with a friendly bark beckon Kody to join him. And Kody always did. But with each passing year, I noticed Cocoa's walk was a little stiffer until it became difficult for him to keep up. After a time, he stopped joining

Cocoa passed away a few weeks ago stirring in me a flood of happy memories and sadness as it came near the anniversary of Kody's passing a year earlier.

Kody was my faithful companion and source of unconditional love for many years. When we lived in the city, there were numerous occasions when his imposing presence kept us safe. I remember the night he insisted on being let out and then high-tailed it to the front yard where he confronted a man trying to steal my daughter's car. He chased that guy half way up the block. At 165 pounds, Kody was only good for a short sprint, but the thief was so scared he kept on running and never looked back.

Kody had many talents. He was a real pro when it came to sniffing out a sandwich left by a picnicker at the park. That doesn't seem impressive until you learn the sandwich was six months old, wrapped in foil and buried under three feet of

When we moved to the river, he discovered crabs. He spent hours in the water, stirring the sand with a foot until he uncovered one, dunking his head in to catch it. Those crabs were half-eaten before he came up for air.

And if I wanted to lie on the lawn and read or take a nap, he made the perfect pillow.

It was a tumor on his spine that crippled him and forced me to face the truth that he was in terrible pain and nothing would save him. For weeks after his passing, I couldn't enter a room without seeing his face or hearing his tail thumping against the floor. I was so sad I had to leave town for awhile.

It's not easy to say good-bye. Add to that a society that generally does not give permission to grieve for pets and it is easy to feel isolated in the pain of that loss.

According to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), psychologists recognize that the grief suffered after a pet dies is the same as that experienced after the death of a person. In particular, for the elderly, singles or childless couples, pets can be like children and the grieving experience just as real. just as traumatic. The loss leaves their lives in an upheavai Frank Mann one to nurture or care for.

Children's grief, while generally

shorter, is no less intense. Encourage them to talk about their pet, giving the child plenty of hugs and reassurance. Tell them to treasure the memories of the happy times they had together, and if their pet was sick or injured, let them know he is no longer in pain.

Nancy Peterson of The HSUS explains: "It is important for adults to express their grief and to serve as a model for children to express their own sadness. If adults don't grieve, it sends a signal to the child that the pet wasn't important."

Other pets in the household may grieve as well, becoming restless, depressed, or lose their appetite. They may search for their dead companion or crave more attention from their owners. It is important to keep their routine as normal as possible and allow them time to recover, too.

There are several ways a griefstricken owner can speed up the healing process: they can surround themselves with people who understand their loss; accept the feelings that come with grief; be patient with themselves and not let others dictate how long mourning should last; and not be afraid to get help. Pet loss web sites, support groups and grief counselors are available.

One can help to bring closure by honoring their pet with a memorial: hold a service, write down their feelings, make a donation to a rescue organization in the pet's name. Barbra Streisand memorialized her dog, Sammy, by recording

"Smile" in his honor. "Smile" is now part of The HSUS's Kindred Spirits memorial program for those who have lost their pet companion. Animal Tails is my memorial to Kody. And to Cocoa and all the beloved pets waiting for us on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.

Lancaster County
Animal Welfare League: 435-0822 or 462-0091. Dogs: 4 mixed breeds, 2 yrs, M&F, med, friendly. Kane, Lab mix, M, blk, orphan of Isabel, friendly. Emma, English setter, 7 yrs, lemon & white, spayed, all shots, sweet & gentle. Lab mix, F, 1 yr. Lab mix puppy, 4 mos. Cats: Kitty-Kitty, orange tabby, 18 mos, M, needs love & home now. Cree, F, 1 yr. Delia, calico, F, 1 yr. Kittens: 8-10 mos, all colors, M&F. Orange F, 1 yr, good with kids. Orange tabby, neutered, 8 mos. 3 kittens, F, 7 wks, mixed colors. 6-yr-old, wh & blk, neutered, declawed. Many others available. Other animals: 2 rabbits, M&F, 6 mos blk & wh. 2 pigs, home needed immedi

Lancaster Animal Shelter: \$20 Fee. 462-7175. **Dogs:** 2 tan mixed-breed, M&F, 8 wks, medium. Brindle-colored M, 4 yrs, very large, friendly. Small beagle-mix, F, 1 yr. Akita, purebred, M, 2 yrs., friendly. Bassett hound mix, M, 2 yrs, friendly. Schip-perke-mix, F, 2 yrs, blk & tan. Friends of the Shelter: 435-0737.

Accepts donations to treat animals at the

Animals First: 462-5067. Desperate for

volunteers, donations of food and dog Northumberland

Friends of the Shelter: 435-2597. Dogs: China, blk Lab, 3 yrs, spayed, a sweet-heart. Roxy, blk & tan hound mix, 8 mos, reart. Roxy, bik & tan nound mix, 8 mos, F, friendly, tries hard to please. Sampson, yellow Lab, 3 yrs, M, strong, gentle, loves people. Mixed-breed, sm. tan & blk, young F, loves to play. Terrier-mix, blk & red, M, 8 mos, med, calm. Sweet tempered tri-colored hounds. Big Boy, M, huskie-mix, much energy, playful. Sasha, shepherd mix, F, I yr, beautiful. All the kennels in the shelter are full

Those considering a pet should visit.



An Affiliate of RAPPAHANNOCK HEALTH SYSTEM

Chesapeake Medical Group is pleased to announce that Mathew Vogel, M.D. will be joining them to offer prenatal care and gynecology services.

His office will be located in Building #2 (formerly Rappahannock OB/GYN) in the Medical Complex adjacent to the hospital. To schedule an appointment, please call 804-435-2686

Office hours will be as follows:

Monday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Tuesday** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Thursday Friday** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

New patients welcome

#### **▼ Chichester: For tax reform, a day of reckoning has come...** (continued from page A4)

There will be nothing left man the beds; to reverse the decline that has occurred in Virginia's core responsibilities.

What are the signs of decline?

- A Virginia where: • mentally retarded adults for services as their elderly par-
- ents die: court cases are delayed because the turnaround on DNA analysis is three quarters of a work year.
- over 2,000 prisoners have backed up in local jails because there aren't enough state prison beds or state prison guards to

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804-435-1701 • FAX: 804-435-2632 Web site: www.rrecord.com Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Gaskins,

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recycled paper

All items submitted for publication are subject to inclusion in digital or other electronic formats for use in other Rap-

• the probation officer caseload federal funds. has increased 40 percent.

• eight juvenile correction facilities are operated on a budget designed for seven;

remain on the critical waiting list critical infrastructure can't be

patrolled past midnight; • "first responders" to emergencies can't talk with one another because there is no statewide

radio system; • new state parks can't be opened because there are no funds to hire staff;

· citizens feel the pinch of rising real estate taxes because the state can't afford to revise the education standards to reflect reality; in the meantime, every dollar the state doesn't pay ends up in someone's real estate tax

• transportation revenues soon will cover only maintenance of existing roads, leaving nothing

for new construction. • federal transportation taxes paid by our citizens soon will

can't match all of the available means.

These are but a few signs of decline that I see.

Over the fall, I laid these signs alongside inequities that we long • state waterways around have recognized in our current tax structure.

A tax structure where a family of four with income one dollar over the \$18,400 poverty level owes more in state taxes than a 65-year old couple with income of \$60,000; where a person with taxable income of \$50,000 pays the same tax on every additional dollar he earns as a person with \$5 million of income; and where half of the largest employers in the state pay no Virginia corporate income tax.

My thinking initially was focused on these inequities as participated on the latest Tax Reform Commission. Our dialogue focused on the fact that restructuring the system would mean higher taxes for some and lower taxes for others, in the interest of making the system flow to other states, because we fairer. That is what tax reform

But over the course of the fall. as I lay these concerns about equity alongside the disinvestment that has occurred in our core responsibilities, I came to realize that we are fooling ourselves to believe we can reverse this trend with "business as usual."

I came to realize that only a bold step will put Virginia back on the path of prosperity that our children deserve. Only a bold step will produce investment in Virginia–10 years and beyond.

And so, my personal bottom line is this: Those who are elected to lead have a responsibility to weigh all the evidence-to examine all of the facts. And if that examination leads to a change in course, if that examination leads to an unpopular decision, so be it.

We must have the courage to pull the trigger when reason and logic tell us it needs to be pulled.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "We are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error, so long as reason is left free to combat it.'

## Letter writer, Record fall victim to rumor

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to honoring African Americans on stamps and will continue

A letter-to-the-editor appearing last week in the Rappahannock Record stating that the Postal Service will discontinue its longstanding Black Heritage stamp series is totally untrue, as is the allegation that the Postal Service

has directed that current stamps be destroyed. The letter was submitted to the Record by Lloyd N. Hill of Wiesbaden, Germany.

"This rumor is totally false." said executive director of stamp services David Failor. "In fact, on January 20, we issued the Paul Robeson commemorative stamp, the 27th in our popular Black Heritage series.'

Currently, two Black Heritage stamps are available, Paul Robeson and Thurgood Marshall.

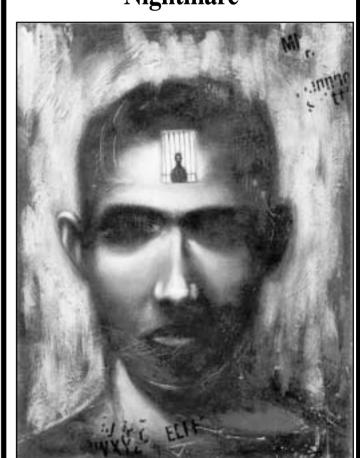
"If a local Post Office has sold out of these stamps and hasn't had a chance to reorder, customers can easily and quickly order the Black Heritage series stamps at www.usps.com/shop online or by phone at 800-782-6724" said

## **Email your NEWS to:**

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## The NORTHUMBERLAND **Nightmare**



When Justice Ignores Mental Illness By Paul L. Wegkamp, Jr. What really happened!

## On sale now!

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## Carvings, waterfowl art slated for annual show

Each year visitors to the Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show find amazing paintings, carvings or sculpture they talk about for days, weeks and months.

Many tell friends about David Turner's coffee table with the bronze crab, or his full-size osprey with the silver fish. Some comment about Vince Ciesielski's songbirds poised atop a pitcher or garden tool, where the entire piece is carved from wood.

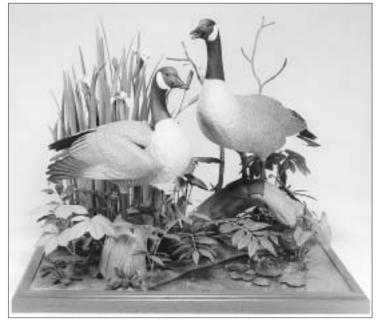
Perhaps one of Art LaMay's large herons, or groups of ducks in a whimsical pose caught atten-

There is always something for all interests at the Waterfowl Show, March 20 and 21 at the Stone firehouse and

This year, one of the most memorable pieces is sure to be Chuck Robertson's "Soul Mates," said show director William Bruce. The spectacular carving was the Masterpiece Carving for the Easton Waterfowl Festival last November, he said.

Taking a little over a year to create on a full-time basis, and measuring four feet by three feet, the piece is a study in nature. The title relates to the lifetime bonding of geese and the bond between man and nature.

"On a first look you will



"Soul Mates"

see two magnificent geese standing among grasses," said Bruce. "However, close inspection of the piece shows so much more. There is a warbler on the underside of grass, a frog, a turtle, a dragonfly, beautiful flowers and much more. This is not a carving to stand back and admire; it is one that requires close inspection in order to see every detail The artist has made the habitat

as interesting as the geese themselves."

Robertson, a full-time wildlife artist, lives in Linville Falls, N.C. After attending an art show in 1981, he became captivated by the realistic and detailed bird sculptures he saw. After completing his own first carving later that year, he decided to move from his Air Force communications background to a more personally sat-

# art patrons

The Rappahannock Art League Studio Gallery will hold a Gallery Gala Saturday, March 6, to celebrate the completion of a renovation project.

The public is invited to visit the gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and participate in special activities. Artists will be drawing models in one of the gallery windows. There will be balloons, painting activities for children and art demonstrations by Charles VanDenburgh and Ben Richardson. Refreshments will

All visitors will receive a ticket for a drawing at 3:30 p.m. Prizes include a gallery gift certificate, a painting, hand-crafted jewelry, crafts and a gift certificate for a

pleted last week include fresh paint, a new wall-covering in the exhibit room, and improved lighting all designed to enhance the gallery experience.

We are thrilled with the results of our renovation project and we want to share our enthusiasm with the community," said manager Margaret Powell. "All of our artists are re-hanging their work and many have new paintings to show. Local support for the gallery has always been strong, and we hope everyone will drop in to see our exhibits and share in the

display by the Chesapeake Academy students. Teacher Nancy O'Shaughnessy has promised some creative projects.

## Gallery gala to welcome

The renovations that were com-

The exhibit room will have a

## Ali Kat Custom Designs

isfying career, bird carver.

He has won numerous awards

for his work, which are in corpo-

rate and private collections in the

U.S. and Europe. His carvings

have been included in the "Birds

in Art" exhibition at the Leigh

Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

He exhibits yearly at the Water-

fowl Festival in Easton, Md., the

Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

in Charleston, S.C., and other

The inspiration for his work

comes from seeing live birds in the wild or aviaries, photographs

and nature films. Robertson is

constantly looking for new chal-

lenges to express remarkable

birds. His goal is to capture a moment in nature and bring that

excitement into the sculpture and

celebrate the

anniversary of the show, several

of the exhibitors from the first

show are donating artwork. Bruce

is donating an original carving

for the Preview Night door prize.

Ned Ewell is donating an origi-

nal painting for the weekend door

prize. LaMay is the Artist of the

Year and has painted a special

painting of widgeon for the show

Lab Rescue of the Labrador

Retriever Club of the Potomac

and the Northern Neck Audubon Society will have displays with

Tickets for the Preview Night

Gala March 19 are still available,

but must be ordered in advance

Contributors are W.F. Booth

Bay Trust, Connemara, Rappa-

hannock Rentals, B.W. Wilson

Paper Co., The Business Press,

Bank of Northumberland and

p.m. March 20 and 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. March 21. Admission is \$5.

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#### Historical author Alf Mapp Jr. will speak to the Richard Henry Lee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on March 15. The luncheon meeting is at Rappahannock Westminster-

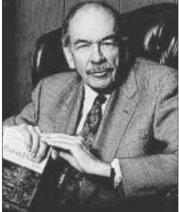
Historian to address SAR unit

Canterbury at 11:30 a.m. Mapp specializes in the American Revolution Period. Based on his book The Faiths of Our Fathers: What America's Founders Really Believed, he will discuss the religion of the top 11 founders including Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and

Mapp graduated from Old Dominion University in 1961. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1982. He became a professor of History at Old Dominion University.

James Madison.

Later, he was professor emeritus and eminent scholar emeritus. He has received the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Distinguished Research Award. He has contributed reference material for the Encyclopedia Britannica and will be available to sign them.



Alf Mapp Jr.

World Book. He was honored with a Notable Citizen Award by Portsmouth and Great Citizen Award by Hampton and is listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in the World."

Twice Told Tales of Kilmarnock will have copies of his book at the meeting and Mapp

## Annual auction May 8 supports Irvington school

The annual silent and dinner New Orleans.

The annual auction is the acadmey's largest and most festive Ann Marie Horner at 438-5575. fund-raiser. Proceeds support the school's academic programs and help fund scholarships for eligi-

Parents, grandparents, alumni auction to benefit Chesapeake and friends in the community Academy will be held May 8 at attend and bid for items such as the home of Arthur and Bonnie original artwork, furniture, jew-Brvant. "Mardi Gras in May" elry, resort vacations and cruises will pay tribute to the extrava- generously donated from individganza and sheer excitement of uals and businesses throughout the Northern Neck and beyond.

> To donate items for auction, call Invitations will be mailed in the

near future. Those interested in attending the event may call Chesapeake Academy at 438-5575.

## Canning exhibit to open

It," an exhibit featuring the many canneries which were an important part of life and the replaced the steamer. economy of Richmond County for 100 years.

More than 20 canneries were in operation throughout the that will tell the story. period, processing tomatoes and English peas, corn, sweet potaother produce. The canneries employed hundreds of Richhelped to support other businesses. Canned goods were call 333-3607.

On March 17, the Richmond shipped by steamboat and can-County Museum will open "Can nery equipment and supplies were delivered by boat until truck transportation gradually

The exhibit will include photographs, artifacts, labels, documents and other memorabilia

The exhibit will continue through June 12 at Richmond toes, berries, pimientos and County Museum at 5874 Richmond Road in Warsaw. Hours are Wednesday through Saturmond County citizens, and day 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment. For group tours,

## Garden Club season begins

The first meeting of the 2004 season of the Rappahannock Master Gardener Lee Allain Garden Club will be held at to speak March 11. Allain is 12:30 p.m. March 11, at the White Stone United Methodist Church. President Jennifer Stewardship. Prior to moving King will preside.

the board met to formulate officer of a small Massachuprograms and events to be presented to the membership during the year. The board to share his horticultural members are excited about a schedule that promises to be exciting, entertaining and educational.

#### Eagle Scout benefit scheduled in Weems

A turkey/ham dinner to benefit Tyler Haynie's Eagle Scout project will be held March 13 at Člaybrook Baptist Church in Weems from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravey, baked ham, green beans, steamed cabbage and bread.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 8 and under. Carry-out service is available. For tickets, call 435-2823.

Club members have invited director of Northumberland Association of Progressive to the Northern Neck six years On January 29, members of ago, he was chief executive

> He is frequently called upon expertise with civic groups, garden clubs and private homeowners. His topic is "Pruning and Preparing of Flowering Shrubs and Perennials."

setts company.

#### Rappahannock Record **Deadlines**

Display advertising: Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising: Tuesday at noon

News with photos and for calendar listing: Tuesday at 11 a.m. All other news:

Tuesday at 2 p.m. email: mail@rrecord.com 804-435-1701

## **March Introductions**

## **New Releases...New Artist**

"Taking The Oath"



**Bradley Schmehl** Issue Price \$150

**New Release** Size 20" x 30" **Edition Size 500** 

"Airing The Quilts"



**Linda Nelson Stocks Issue Price \$145** 

Size 20" x 24" Edition Size 1750

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## Lngagements

## Curran-Fearing

Retired Master Chief and Mrs. Mark A. Curran of Heathsville proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Malisa Ann Curran, to Mr. Sean Brendan Patrick Fearing of Weems, the son of retired Major and Mrs. John W. Fearing of Weems.

Miss Curran is the granddaughter of the late William and Charlotte Curran of Golden Beach, Md., and of the late John and Doris Gotch of Bladensburg,

Mr. Fearing is the grandson of the late John Fearing and of Myrtle Fearing of Zephyerhills, Fla., and of Glenn and Patricia Wilsey of McKinleyville, Calif.

Miss Curran is a dental assistant to Dr. Stephen S. Radcliffe, D.D.S., in Burgess. Mr. Fearing is a chef at his family owned and operated restaurant, Piper's Pub, planned for September.



Malisa Ann Curran and Sean B. P. Fearing

in Kilmarnock.

A traditional Irish wedding is

## Lewis-Richards

Mr. and Mrs. William R. "Bill" Lewis of Lara announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Havnie Lewis, to Mr. John Nathan Richards, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Tyler Richards Jr. of Oldhams.

Miss Lewis is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hinton and the late Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer

Mr. Richards is the grandson of Mr. John Tyler Richards Sr. and the late Mae Richards and Shirley Smith and the late Ralph Smith.

Miss Lewis and Mr. Richards are graduates of the College of William and Mary. Miss Lewis is a first-grade teacher in New Kent County. Mr. Richards is an accountant with the Ernst and Young accounting firm in planned.



Laura Haynie Lewis and J. Nathan Richards

Richmond. A June 2004 wedding is

#### Roberts-Carneal

Ms. Carol L. Roberts of Kilmarnock engagement of her daughter, Miss Amy Carol Roberts of Richmond, to David Lyell Carneal of Rich-

The groom-to-be is the son of Harold Lee Carneal of Churchview and Ms. Nancy Ball Lyell of Tappahannock.

The bride-to-be is also the daughter of the late Fabian O. Roberts Jr. of Kilmarnock.

Miss Roberts is a 1989 graduannounces the ate of Lancaster High School and a 1993 graduate of the University of Virginia's McIntyre School of Commerce. She is employed with Performance Food Group Com-

Mr. Carneal is a 1982 graduate of Lancaster High School and a 1986 graduate of the University of Virginia. He is employed with Cornerstone Realty Income

#### Players to hold membership meeting

3 p.m. at The Playhouse in White

conduct the meeting. The agenda includes a treasurer's report and a preview of the upcoming per-

formance schedule. Wine and cheese will be served. ing committees.

The Lancaster Players Inc. will McClean and treasurer Harry convene a general membership Stemple will present a humorous meeting on Sunday, March 14, at and intellectually stimulating

The meeting is open to all President Don McClean will members and anyone with an interest in joining the community

> Attendees will have an opportunity to sign on to work

## Moving Sale!

Saturday, March 6 • 8 am

Bonner Florist is relocating to Chesapeake Commons April 1, 2004

Fixtures, display cases, supplies, old cash register, etc.! Sale also includes several families' household items: furniture, kitchen, 3 TV's, VCR's, air conditioner, boating chairs and much more!

Sale will be at Bonner's Florist

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## Local N

last week where she met her weekend. daughter, Miss Sara Blankenship, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

and Sterling and Christie Caudle week's visit with the ladies' parin Port Charlotte, Fla.

Miss Kate Hinton of Rich-

Morristown, N.J., several days and Mrs. Meade Hinton, last

McMonomey and children, Bill and Shannon Smith and Ethan and Emily, were guests children, Blair, Blake and Drew, last week of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pruett of Lancaster. and children, Cassie, Colie and The Rev. Mr. McMonomey is a Sara, have returned after a recent graduate of Wake Forest, N.C., Seminary and has accepted ents, Eddie and Connie Dawson, a pastorate in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Ms. Diane Dize of Alexandria

## Richmond Symphony will return for 'On Stage' concert

Concertmaster Karen Johnson and the Richmond Symphony will visit Kilmarnock March 27 for an "On Stage" concert sponsored by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School

Johnson also performs with the Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony and Washington Ballet Orchestra. She has performed as concertmaster for the Julliard Orchestra and the Jerusalem International Symphony Orchestra.

She also has performed with the Prometheus Chamber Orchestra in New York, the Vaux String Quartet and has appeared as soloist with numerous other orchestras in New York, California, Washington, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

She is pursuing a master's at the University of Maryland and is studying with Cleveland

Karen Johnson

Orchesra concertmaster William Preucil, who will be joining the Richmond Symphony as guest conductor for the On Stage performance.

The Richmond Symphony last appeared on the local stage in the spring of 2002.

For tickets, call 435-0292.

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Dize, last weekend.

Mr. LeRoy Vanlandingham is The Rev. and Mrs. Ian reported recovering nicely following surgery at M.C.V., Richmond. He is recuperating at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Vanlandingham, and children in in Falls Church. Richmond.

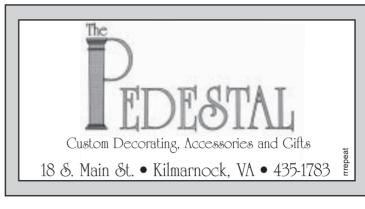
Weekend guests of Mrs. James Hudnall were Linda Hudnall and David Rhineholt of Newport News and Kay Bunch and daughter, Emily, of Chesapeake. Billy and Susan Hudnall of Urbanna joined the family on Sunday.

Mrs. Helen Hoffman was in Orlando.

Mrs. Jim Blankenship was in mond was with her parents, Mr. was with her mother, Mrs. Arthur Chesapeake several days last week with the Rev. and Mrs. Larry Adams. Mrs. Hoffman then visited her sister-in-law, Mrs. Rose Dixon, in Falls Church, and the Adamses visited their son's family, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Adams and infant son, Delany,

> John and Barbara Paffen of Bumpass were the weekend guests of cousins, Tom and Lucy Spafford of Merry Point.

Al and Janet Cioppa have returned from a ten-day Florida vacation which included Palm Beach, Melbourne, New Smyrna Beach, Mount Dora, Epcot and





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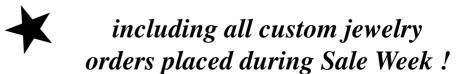
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## Lydia Bryant celebrates 80th birthday

ville celebrated her 80th birth- ments, viewing photos, remiday February 15. The party was held at Corrottoman Bapshe is a lifelong member.

Family and friends were welcomed in the sanctuary by pastor Rev. Frank Schwall.

Childhood memories were shared by her grandson, Bryan, and her daughters, Beverly and Selma. Members of the Lewis family sang hymns. The singers included Stanley Lewis, Connie Kennedy, Phyllis Efford, Sherry VanLandingham, Jody Hudson and Joel Lewis. Ryan Lewis and Crystal Wilmore provided banjo and guitar selections

The festivities were moved of Florida.

Lydia L. Bryant of Nutts- to the social hall for refreshniscing and sharing memories.

Mrs. Bryant is the daughter tist Church in Ottoman where of J. Joshua and Eva E. Lewis and the widow of Calbert J. Bryant. She has two daughters. Beverly Courtney and Selma Foster, both of Richmond; a grandson, Bryan Courtney, and his wife, Melanie, and their daughter, Madison, of Williamsburg; two granddaughters, Anne Courtney, and her daughter, Denai, of Williamsburg, and Laura Foster of Richmond.

Her five brothers, who all attended, are Stanley, Calvin, Hampton and Raymond Lewis of Ottoman, and Gene Lewis



Lydia L. Bryant

#### Bluegrass headlines library fund-raiser

"Haley & the Boys" will perform March 13 at 7 p.m. at St. Clare Walker Middle School as part of the Middlesex County Public Library fund-raising event, "Bluegrass, Blue Jeans, and 'Swift' Stories.'

Haley Stiltner, a 16-year-old banjo prodigy, lights up the stage with her smile, and awes the listeners with lightening fast finger work on her banjo. She won the youth competition at the Galax Old Time Fiddler's Convention in 2000.

Other band members include Kevin Brown, playing dobro for 10 years; Fred Staggs, a two-time Virginia State Champion on the bass fiddle; Chris Rose, guitar player; and Bill Bryant, guitar and mandolin, who traded a peanut butter sandwich for his first guitar lesson 23 years ago.

For tickets, call 758-5717.

## Wonderful Life to be reviewed

Art Hicks will review Wonderful Life by Stephen Jay Gould at Books and Conversation March 11 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Social time begins at 10:30 a.m.; the review follows at 11 a.m.

The book focuses on the discoveries amid the fossil remains found at the Burgess Shale in the Canadian Rockies, which Hicks has visited. He worked for Exxon and was involved in the international oil and gas industry for 30 years, including assignments in France, North Africa and the Middle East.

He and his wife, Mary, settled at Drum Point on the Corrotoman River 23 years ago and recently moved to RW-C.

**1EWELRY** 

## This Side of 60

Like many people this side of 60, I shed a lot of my stress when I left my job after almost 25 years

The deadlines weren't so hard. had time to garden and clean my closets, didn't have to tangle with difficult people and could choose my friends.

I still got up at the same time. But I walked with friends, instead of hurrying to get to the office by

Life should have been completely stress-free. But, unfortunately, that's not the way it

Self-imposed deadlines are almost as stressful as work deadlines. And, somehow, our "to do" lists never disappear.

Waiting in line, missing the bus, recovering from a computer crash, being cut off by a rude driver. These experiences can be as stressful as work.

And as we get older, we often have more severe stresses-financial problems, health worries, the loss of good friends. And pain. When you're in pain, it's much more difficult to handle the stresses of everyday life.

Stress is a fact of life.

The Mayo Clinic staff says that stress is a physical response to an undesirable situation.

Stress occurs when you feel out of control. It's too difficult to handle unpredictable events, things don't work out the way you want or the world situation looks terrifying.

On June 6, 1983, Time magazine's cover story was "The Epidemic of the Eighties." The story identified stress as our most serious health problem.

Today, researchers say that most Americans feel even more stressed than they did two decades ago. It is estimated that 75 to 90 percent of visits to physicians are

for stress-related problems. Stress can be a factor in ailments as diverse as insomnia, backaches depression, headaches, high blood pressure and the common cold. In addition, stress can be a strain on your whole cardiovascular system.

"The response to stress is highly individual," says Edward Creagan, an oncologist at Mayo. "It's like a football player who has repetitive trauma in the game. One hit and he'll survive. But add up week after week of hits in a season and he'll be hurting. He may not be able to handle it any-

"The only way to survive our stressful existence is to recognize that we have choices in the way we respond to stress. People can modify their behavior and choose how to respond to a situation."

Creagan has some practical tips on how to become healthy even when you're "stressed out."

Be easy on yourself. Simplify your life. Cut out some activities or delegate tasks. Don't be a perfectionist.

Focus on one thing at a time. Learn to prioritize and do the most important things first. Be positive. Limit the time you spend with negative people.

Take a break. Go on a vacation. Or at least take minibreaks during your workday.

Practice relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing. Pray or

And most of all, enjoy yourself. Read a good book or watch a fun movie. Indulge in a hot bath. Hug your family and friends. And pet your dog.

make sure you follow Dr. Crea- on The Thea Marshall Show on gan's tips on coping. Don't let stress ruin your health or your joy in living.

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#### IRS issues reminder about advance payments

The Internal Revenue Service has received over a-half million 2003 tax returns where taxpayers failed to subtract the amount of last year's Advance Child Tax Credit payment, according to spokeswoman,

Ŵajciechowski. "Failure to subtract the amount of the Advance Child Tax Credit will reduce and could delay tax refund claimed,

Wajciechowski said. Taxpayers check on the amount of the credit they visiting www.IRS.gov, calling 800-829-1040, or referring to the IRS Notice 1319 they received prior to the advance payment, she said.

Once taxpayers have the correct amount of their advance payment, they should use the worksheet located in the Form 1040 or Form 1040A Instruction Booklets or Publication 972 to compute the amount of the credit they can claim on their 2003 tax return. If the advance payment was reduced because of past-due taxes or certain non-tax debts, the taxpayer must use the full advance amount in the worksheet. This is because the person received the benefit of the advance payment amount that was used to pay the past-due

Taxpayers claiming the Child Tax Credit who did not receive an advance payment will get their entire benefit from the credit on their returns. Taxpayers whose advance payment was larger than the amount of their credit will not have to repay the difference and will not claim any Child Tax Credit on their 2003 returns.

Taxpayers should not guess at the amount of the advance payment," Wajciechowski said.

## Garden tour features six Lancaster properties

fourth annual Just Gardens tour May 14 and 15. Six gardens in Lancaster County will be featured. Five of the gardens are open for the first time.

"We have four lovely country gardens and two 'in-town' gardens open this year," said Dana Smith, a tour organizer.

"Our two gardens in Irvington are very diverse," said Smith. "One is a more formal raised bed plan while the other garden features a koi pond, and informal beds that wrap around a point on Carter's Creek.'

The four country gardens are on the Towles Point peninsula. A garden in Millenbeck has a sweeping view of the Rappahannock River bridge. It's both formal and informal with a wonderful plant mix, she said.

French Landing has a marvelous mix of hardy shrubs and perennials, Smith added. Two gardens near Yankee Point are next door to each other.

The tour benefits The Haven Shelter and Services. Proceeds go directly to The Haven's building fund.

Brochures and tickets are available at The Dandelion in Irvington, Greenpoint Nursery in Kilmarnock and Kemper Nursery on Route 3. Advance tickets are \$12. Tickets may be purchased on tour days for \$15.

Tickets and brochures also are available by sending a selfaddressed stamped envelope with check to, Just Gardens, P.O. Box 429, Irvington, VA 22480; or call

## Players to host Readers' Theater

The Lancaster Players beginning March 8 will accept reservations for a Friday, March 26, presentation by the Readers' Theater and Radio Company.

The company, under the direction of Thea Marshall, will present "Love, Marriage and Other Wars" at 8 p.m. at The Playhouse in White Stone.

Versions of the show were previously presented for the Lancaster Community Library Whenever you get stressed, Sundays at Two audience and WNDY.

Tickets for the cabaret performance are \$15. For reservations, call 435-3776 and leave a message to include name, the number of tickets requested and a phone

Calls will be returned, at which time reservations may be placed by credit card.

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# LHS places second in region; seven wrestlers to compete in state tournament this weekend

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Lancaster High School's wrestlers set a few lofty goals at the beginning of the season, namely to win the Northern Neck District, finish second among Region A teams and take more than seven to the Group A meet.

Last Saturday in Mathews, they reached all three.

The Devils scored 141 team points to finish as the regional runner-up and had seven wrestlers finish in the top four to qualify for this weekend's state rounds in Salem.

"Every wrestler, whether they qualified for state or not, contributed to this success," said LHS coach Craig Oren, whose team went 14-1 this season and had the best regional finish in the pro-

gram's five years.
"We've been working all year on improving team unity, on stepping up when another wrestler doesn't do as well as he could have," said Oren. "And Saturday we did that. When some of the guys had already lost and been knocked out of contention for state, they still stepped up and won the next match to help with the team points."

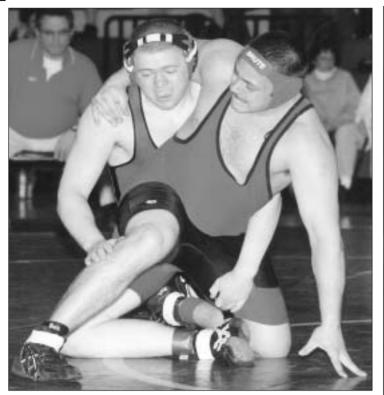
Lancaster finished second among the 11 Region A teams, host Mathews of the Tidewater District was the regional champion with 190 points and the Northern Neck's Essex placed

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the Group A tournament March

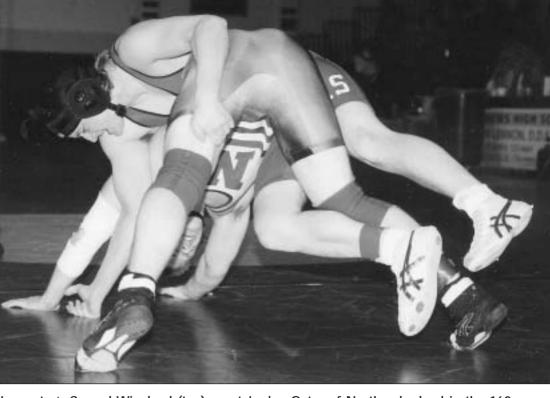
Lancaster had four wrestlers finish as regional runners-up, including freshman Ross Kellum, who lost in the final to go 2-1 in his first Region A tour-

Senior Brian Jarvis lost by decision to Dave Shultz of Mathews in the 215-pound championship.

Senior Travis Rice took second among 189-pounders after being pinned by Colin Smith of Northumberland in the final.



Brian Jarvis of Lancaster (left) pinned his Arcadia opponent with 59 seconds remaining in the second period to advance to the Region A final in the 215-pound division.



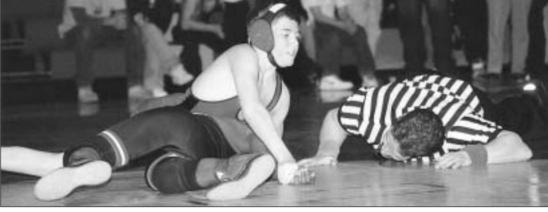
Lancaster's Conrad Wineland (top) upset Jordan Gates of Northumberland in the 160-pound semifinals Saturday. Wineland lost in the finals to finish as the Region A runner-up.

Junior Conrad Wineland, in just his fourth appearance with the team, went 2-1 and upset Jordan Gates of Northumberland in the semifinals to finish as a region runner-up. Wineland pinned Gates with a minute remaining in the third period in the semis, but lost by fall to Dave Thornton of Mathews in the

Sophomore Tim Blake went 3-1 on the day to finish third among 140-pounders and sophomore Patrick Oliver went 3-1 to take third in the 119-weight class.

Both Blake and Oliver will make a return trip to the Group A

"I thought our two returners, Tim and Patrick, who went to state last year, had a good tournament against some tough competition," said Oren. "And it's



In his first Region A meet, freshman Ross Kellum went 2-1 to finish as the runner-up among 103-pounders and advance to the Group A tournament.

also nice to see all three of the guys who aren't coming back next vear, Conrad, Travis and Brian, going on to the state tournament.'

Oren also will take freshman

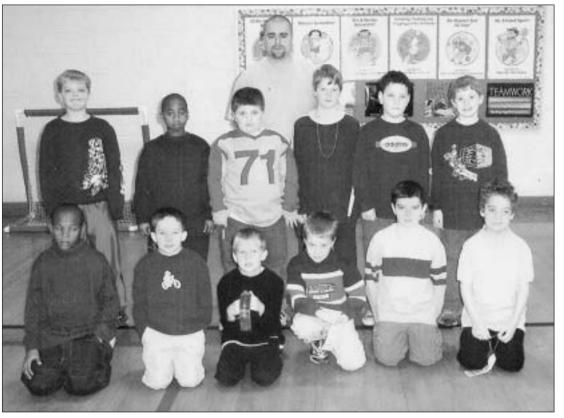
Thomas Frere to the Group A meet. Frere, in his first Region A tournament, went 2-2 for a fourth place finish among 125-pound wrestlers.

and Bobby Crockett (145) each finished fifth. Brett Jarvis (171) placed sixth and Daryl Doggett Lancaster's Corbin Marchand (152) came in seventh.

(130), Daniel Robertson (135)



Coach Craig Oren gets a little help from his wrestlers as they lift up the Region A runner-up trophy in celebration Saturday.



LPS fields wrestling team

Lancaster Primary School grapplers are gearing up for the Peninsula Youth Wrestling champion-ship March 19-20 at Hampton University. The team has two regular season meets remaining, including an invitational in Williamsburg on Friday, March 5. Coach Dave Zeiler said "the fact that the children are doing their best is my main goal for the year." The LPS team competes in the Peninsula League with nine school districts. From left, LPS wrestlers include (front row) Tyler Colding, Soren Jepersen, Graham Shivers, Matthew Joyner, Josh Moore and Mathew Walker; (back row) Jaed Herring, Derek Jones, Danny McGrath, Zeiler, Kai Antonio, Griffin Clark and Bradley Hudson.

## Reunion set for all-star game

Members of the 1965, 1966 and 1967 Lancaster High School girls basketball team have been invited to return for a reunion during the Norlan Shrine All Star Basketball games at LHS on March 20.

Activities include the retirement of jersey #21 worn by the late Fay Purcell who died from leukemia in 1966. Purcell and her twin sister, May, were members of the team that eventually won the Northern Neck District Championship going undefeated with 11 straight victories in

The ceremony will take place during half-time of the girls all star game featuring the best of the Northern Neck versus the best of Tidewater/Eastern Shore. The game begins at 6:30

star boys will take to the floor in a contest that will feature Queen High School. Tidewater player of the year



A reunion is planned for members of this Lancaster High School girls basketball team of 1965, 1966 and 1967.

Following the girls, the all Brian Hickman and Coach of the place during half-time. Anyone, Year Barren Holmes of King and

A half-court shootout will take prizes.

for \$1, will have an opportunity to win one of two \$100 cash

## JM girls take Region A title

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

James Monroe won its 18th straight game Saturday, beating Northumberland 61-42 in the Region A girls basketball championship for a home berth in next week's Group A tournament.

Alicia McMorris scored 19 points to lead the Yellow Jackets and sparked JM's 24-7 run to start the title game. McMorris hit two of her three three-pointers in the early minutes as JM set the tone.

The Yellow Jackets had beaten the Indians two weeks ago in the Northern Neck District title

James Monroe and Northumberland have faced each other nine times in the past two seasons with the Jackets winning eight, including seven straight. The Indians have lost to the Jackets four times this season.

JM, which had 11 different players score in the outing, led by 11 points at the half and increased the margin to 15 in the hird quarter.

Tameka Christopher chipped in 11 points for the Jackets and tournament MVP Lauren Garland had seven points.

Piankatank River, Cherry Pt.

Great Wicomico River Light Smith Point Light

Franchelle Sutton had a team- advancing, the Northern Neck high 19 points for the Indians District will have two repreand kept Northumberland alive sentatives in the state playoffs in the third quarter with seven of again this season. Northumberthe team's 12 points.

and Loren Messick eight for the Group A final and lost to J.J. 19-4), who will play Region B champion Altavista Saturday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at William Campbell High School in the state quarterfinals.

As the Region A top seed, JM (22-2) will host Region B runner-up Buffalo Gap Saturday at an undetermined neutral site.

With JM and Northumberland

land lost in the quarterfinals last Shrina Seldon added 10 points year while JM advnced to the

Northumberland..7 12 James Monroe..19 11 12 11 --42 15 16 --61 Northumberland -- Messick 8, Stevenson 2, Sutton 19, Cockrell 3, Seldon 10, Lewis 0. Three-point goals: Seldon

2, Sutton, Cockrell.
James Monroe -- Williams 2, McMorris
19, Bumbrey 3, Christopher 11, Garland 7, Washington 2, Lucas 6, Stone 4, Hevner 3. Three-point goals: McMorris 3, Garland, Hevner.

## coreboard

Varsity boys basketball Region A tournament

W&L 66, King & Queen 52
Varsity girls basketball
Region A tournament Final

James Monroe 61, Northumberland 42

–Upcoming-Varsity basketball Group A Tournaments

Boys at King William March 6 **Quarterfinals:** Buffalo Gap vs. W&L (7 p.m.)

March 6: Quarterfinals Northumberland vs. Altavista

at William Campbell (7 p.m.) James Monroe vs. Buffalo Gap at undetermined site Wrestling

March 6-7: Group A Tournament at Salem

## \* RAPPAHANNOCK ALMANAC \*

White Stone/Grey's Point Tides, Sun, & Moon - March, 2004

Fri	3/5	Moonset Sunrise Moonrise Sunset	6:09 6:31 <b>4:47</b> <b>6:04</b>	High 10:	<b>0.</b> 0'	Tue	3/9	Sunrise Moonset Sunset Moonrise	6:25 7:58 6:08 9:21	High Low High Low	12:49 7:24 1:10 7:36	1.7' -0.1' 1.5' -0.1'
<b>Sat</b> Full - 6:14	3/6	Sunrise Moonset Moonrise Sunset	6:29 6:38 5:55 6:05	High 11:	<b>42</b> 0.0'	Wed	3/10	Sunrise Moonset Sunset Moonrise	6:24 8:27 6:09 10:33	High Low High Low	1:33 8:12 <b>1:54</b> <b>8:19</b>	1.7' -0.1' 1.5' -0.1'
Sun	3/7	Sunrise Moonset Sunset Moonrise	6:28 7:05 <b>6:06</b> <b>7:02</b>	High 11:	54 -0.1' 49 1.6' <b>19</b> -0.1'	Thu	3/11	Sunrise Moonset Sunset Moonrise	6:22 9:00 <b>6:10</b> <b>11:47</b>	High Low High Low	2:21 9:03 2:41 9:06	1.7' 0.0' 1.4' -0.1'
Mon	3/8	Sunrise Moonset Sunset Moonrise	6:27 7:31 6:07 8:11	High 12: Low 6: High 12: Low 6:	39 -0.1'	Fri	3/12	Sunrise Moonset Sunset	6:21 9:39 <b>6:10</b>	High Low High Low	3:14 10:00 3:35 10:00	1.7' 0.1' 1.3' 0.0'
Corrections High Low Height PM times are in holdface type.												

PM times are in **boldface type**. Unusually high & low tides are also in boldface. © BenETech 2004 (tides@benetech.net)



-1:44

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0:30

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Stripers from left are Kathy Broderick, Charlotte Hollings, Kelley Dameron and Kathryn Gregory.

## **Stripers place at invitational**

Four members of the Northern place finishes. Neck Family YMCA Masters Charlotte Ho Swim Team, the Stripers, placed at the Virginia Masters Winter Invitational Swim Meet February 14 and 15 at the Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center in Rich-

Kelley Dameron swam a team record time in the 200-yard butterfly for a first-place finish. She also placed first in the 50-yard butterfly and 100-yard individual medley.

the 50-yard freestyle.

Coach Kathryn Gregory swam the 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard backstroke for first-

Charlotte Hollings swam in her first Masters meet. A team record 1,000-yard freestyle, for a first place; and team records in the 100-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke swims in a very competitive age group clearly demonstrated her abilities. She placed third in the 100-yard freestyle, second in the 200-yard freestyle and third in the 100-yard breaststroke.
"Charlotte demonstrated poise,

Kathy Broderick swam a confidence and speed. She has 50-yard butterfly event for the worked terribly hard to achieve first time and received a first an outstanding level of swimplace. She also placed second in ming in a very short time," said Coach Gregory.

The Stripers are preparing for the National YMCA Swimming Championships April 15 through 18 in Ft. Lauderdale.



A seaplane on the Lower Machadoc raises right-of-way issues.

## **Boats have right-of-way**

In the early '90s, wooden the "Nav Rules" puts seaplanes workboats were plying the local at the bottom of the who-haswaters. Eventually everyone went to go-fast fiberglass. Still, there are several sailing vessels and an increasing number of canoes and kayaks that help slow the pace on navigation." the Lower Machodoc. Life was simple.

Late last year something changed. Now there's a seaplane or float plane practicing landings and take-offs.

Do you wonder who gives way under the navigation rules?

Guard Auxiliary says Rule 18 of Hawley at 436-1030.

the-right-of-way list. To wit, "A seaplane on the water shall, in general, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their Why anyone would want to get

close to the seaplane is a mystery. That prop looks pretty menacing.

To learn more about the rules of the road (water-wise), join the auxiliary or sign up for a safety course. In either case, contact Oliver Knight at 529-6039. In the Flotilla 3-10 of the U.S. Coast Kilmarnock area, contact Gerald

## Yacht club to host workshop

at 9 a.m.

Jerry Latell, owner of Ullman Skelley Sails in Irvington and an experienced racer, will lead the event.

The seminar will include lunch Little League about noon and continue into the afternoon. In the morning, the most **tryouts planned** important concepts involved in sailboat racing will be introduced and techniques for reinforcing them on the water will be explored. The afternoon will be devoted to discussion based on participant questions.

"As with most talks on sailing, participants will bring a range of experience, skill and commitment to racing, but all of them should benefit from this workshop," Latell

The concepts that will be covered fall into the four essentials of racing: boat preparation, handling, speed and strategy. The talk will

The Rappahannock River Yacht focus on a system for developing Club will host a workshop, "Win-racing skills over the course of a ning Sailboat Races," on March 13 season and provide participants with a method for absorbing what they

# **Northumberland**

Tryouts and final player registration for the Northumberland County Little League 2004 season are set for Saturday, March 6, at the Little League field in Claraville.

The rain date is March 13.

Tryout times are 10 a.m. for coaches pitch, ages 6 to 8; 11 a.m. for minor baseball, ages 8 to 10; 11 a.m. for major softball, ages 9 to 10; noon for major baseball, ages 11 and 12; noon for major softball, ages 11 and 12; 1 p.m. for junior baseball, ages 13 and 14, and 1 p.m. for junior softball, ages 13 and 14.

## **Bowling Results**

a 328 set with games of 101, 109 and 118. Myrtle Royall rolled a 313 set with a 128 game. Corinne Beauchamp had

games of 101 and 102. For Lively Oaks

Girls, Lynn Gordon bowled a 338 set with games of 104, 106 and 128. Becky Thrift

olled a 307 set with a 127 game. Jean

Reynolds had a 302 set with games of 103 and 115. Patsy Headley rolled a 102

Northern Neck Surgical Service won two games against Cap'n Red's Sea-

food when Bev Benson bowled a 355

set with a 163 game. Elsie Rose rolled a 301 set with games of 105 and 110.

Betty Steffey had a 106 game. For Cap'n

Red's, Alma George bowled a 329 set with games of 107, 111 and 111. Emma

High game: Bev Benson, 163; Mary Savalina, 157; Gladys Sisson, 150.

**Standings** 

Robertson had a 112 game.

Callis Seafood

Young Country Lively Oaks Girls

Yeatman's Forklift

Cap'n Red's Seafood N.N. Surgical R. P. Waller

J. C. Marsh

Men's League On February 26, H&W Painting won On February 26, HaW Painting won three games and lost one against D&L Marine Construction. For H&W, Wayne Candry had the high set of the week of 372 with games of 126, 113 and 133. Kasey Kocperski bowled a game of 144 in a 354 set. Bill Hendershot rolled a 130 game. For D&L, Steve Hinson had the high set of 336 with a 122 game. Mark Obsharsky bowled a 114 game. Dana Stillman had a 100 game.

The Oaks Restaurant won three games and lost one against Cap'n John's. For The Oaks, Bob Huff had the high set of 367 with games of 137, 110 and 120. Lee Gill bowled games of 125, 124 and 114 in a 363 set. Jim Coates rolled a 117 game. For Cap'n John's, Ernie George had the high set of 322 with games of 112 and 114. Harry Donavon bowled a 118 game. Herbert Hammock rolled a 113 game.

Evans Bowling Center and Lenny's Auto Repair each won two games. For Evans, Bunks Mitchell had the high set of 347 with games of 120, 116 and 111 Johnny Evans bowled games of 125 and 129 in a 343 set. John Forrester and 129 in a 343 Set. John Portester rolled a 140 game. Woodie Evans had a 118 game. For Lenny's, Steve Hinson bowled games of 114, 119 and 121 in a 354 set. Curley Lewis had games of 118 and 134 in a 354 set. Lenny Dawson rolled a game of 118.

High game: Lee Gill, 161; Wayne Candry, 158; Johnny Evans, 154; Lacy Rose, 148; John Forrester, 147.

High set: Lacy Rose, 408; Wayne Candry, 404; Lee Gill, 400; Johnny Evans, 377; Curly Lewis and Gary

High team game: The Oaks, 512; Evans and Lenny's, 506; H&W, 484; D&L, 475; Cap'n Johns, 474.

High team set: The Oaks, 1,456; vans, 1,429; Lenny's, 1,410; D&L, 365; H&W, 1,355; Cap'n John's,

High average: Wayne Candry, 126; Lee Gill, 118; Johnny Evans and Lacy Rose, 117; Curly Lewis, 115. Standings

3-	W	L
The Oaks Restaurant	21	7
Evans Bowling Center	18	10
D&L Marine Const.	15	13
H&W Painting	13	
Lenny's Auto Repair	10	18
Cap'n John's	7	21

**Ladies League** 

Bowling results for the week of February 16 are incomplete. Games were canceled due to weather. Two teams have not made up their games. The other results were as follows. Callis Seafood won two games against Lively Oaks Girls when Gayle Conrad bowled a 361 set with games of 107, 116 and 138. Donna Thomas had a 319 set with games of 105 and 117. Mary Savalina rolled a 303 set with games of 102 and 103. Lillian Potter had a 108 game. For Lively Oaks Girls, Nancy Carter bowled a 317 set with two games of 109. Lynn Gordon rolled a 312 set with games of 102 and 119. Patsy Headley had a 302 set with games of 103 and 108.

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against Northern Neck Surgical Service when Myrtle Royall bowled a 324 set with games of 107 and 136. Gladys Sisson rolled a 309 set with games of 105 and 116. Sis Ransone rolled a 109 game. For N.N. Surgical, Bev Benson bowled a 320 set with games of 106 and 115. Betty Steffey had a 310 set with games of 105 and 107. Terry Stillman

rolled a 124 game. J. C. Marsh won three games against R. P. Waller when Marie Piccard bowled a 305 set with games of 100 and 107. Cindi Hollowell had a 103 game. Vicki White rolled a 100 game and Sandra Evans bowled a 106 game. For R. P. Waller, Ola Nash had a 105 game.

For the week of February 23, Young Country won three games against R. P. Waller when Theresa Davis bowled a 361 set with games of 108, 118 and 135. Linda Lake rolled a 348 set with games of 125 and 131. Cathy Savalina had a 110 game. For R. P. Waller, Bea Hodges bowled a 317 set with games of 109 and 110. Ola Nash had a 109

J. C. Marsh won two games against Callis Seafood when Marie Piccard bowled a 320 set with games of 103, 106 and 111. Greta Walker rolled a 109 game. Cindi Hollowell had a 100 game. Vicki White rolled a 109 game. For Callis, Donna Thomas bowled a 345 set with games of 105, 108 and 132. Mary Savalina had a 328 set with games of 103, 105 and 120. Lillian Potter rolled games of 109 and 117. Gayle Conrad had a 101 game.

Yeatman's Forklift won two games against Lively Oaks Girls when Gladys Sisson bowled a 347 set with games of 109, 115 and 123. Sis Ransone had

#### Registration Lancaster Co. Little League 2004



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NORTHERN NECK ENCLOSURES

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by Joyce Fitchett Russell



On a brisk walk down a quiet country road on February 20, I stopped suddenly to listen to Spring Peepers, always harbingers of spring. The tiny frogs were chirping from a ditch filled with water. Knowing I had little chance of seeing the inch-long creatures, I was glad when Evie Thorndike drove up and stopped.

"Are we hearing Spring Peepers?" she asked, and I nodded. We agree we are ready to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Although it will be several weeks before warm weather will be here to stay, every day brings new evidence of nature waking. At our feeding station, we have a pair of downy woodpeckers and a pair of sapsuckers eating suet, plus five doves eating corn on the ground. On the oak tree, a male dove is chasing a female, but she's moving away faster.

The strangest creature I've seen and two stripes on each cheek. this week popped out of an onion when I sliced it. It was

Majestics win division

The Gloucester Baystars Majestics Under 13/14 squad won

its division in a recent Williamsburg Indoor Soccer Tourna-

ment. From left, the team included (front row) Chelsea Guy,

Ashley McBride, Amanda Reed; (next row) Kati O'Brien, Helen Roundy, Shelly Bloomfield, Shelly Milks; (next row) coaches

Adam Murphy and Lee Murphy, Grace Burger, Hannah Varnell,

coach Tom O'Brien and Elyssa Hester. The team beat the Virginia Rush Rapids, 7-1, and the Virginia Rush Fury, 4-3, and tied

the Colonial FC Capitals 1-1. Kati O'Brien of Irvington scored

the only Majestics goal in the final match and served as goal-keeper in the first two matches.

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a tiny bright green caterpillar. I squashed it and got another

Gwen Keane has outdone me by seeing a live bobcat near her home. Through the years I have heard other nature lovers talk of spotting one of these wild cats in our wetlands. I'd like to see one

My best sighting all week was a small kestrel that swept in, landed on the suet post, then vanished when I blinked. This 10-inchlong sparrow hawk had blue-grey wings, rust-colored back and tail

Not wanting to miss anything new outdoors, The Man I Mar-

ried and I visited Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, where we enjoyed the resident Canada geese honking, graceful swans swimming and black ducks feeding. I found many still-fresh basal leaves of an August-blooming orchid. The leaves are dark green on top and shiny purple on the underside.

Another day we went hiking on Hickory Hollow Nature Trail. Because we had not taken the Short Loop trail for a long time, I chose that one, forgetting how long it is.

The path was clear and we made good progress up, down and around hills, heading to the wandering stream bed and vistas of valleys and heights. I think we took a lot of side trails too, because I got tired. I rested on a couple of benches and a lot of downed trees.

When TMIM finally led me back to the parking lot, I looked at the "Short Loop Trail" sign and decided that whoever named that trail had to be named "Henry Bashore."

## Audubon to walk Dameron Marsh

The Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) will conduct a bird walk Monday, March 8, at Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve.

NNAS member Pamela Collins, an experienced local birder, will lead the walk along the trail through the 316-acre preserve at the Great Wicomico River and the Chesapeake Bay. The preserve features beach, forest, marsh and open field habitats and a variety of flora and fauna. Participants may spot bald eagles, hawks, swans and ducks from the observation deck at the end of the trail.

Participants wishing to carpool should meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. Participants are urged to bring binoculars and wear water resistant shoes.

To drive directly to the preserve from Kilmarnock, take Route 200 north toward Burgess. Turn right on Shiloh School Road. Go two miles and turn left on Ball Neck Road. Go about a mile and turn right on Cloverdale Road. Go a mile and bear left on Guarding Point Lane. Go two-tenths of a mile and turn right onto a gravel road. Follow the gravel road to the preserve entrance. The parking area is two-tenths of a mile past the preserve entrance sign Plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m.

#### **Piankatank Ladies**

The Ladies Association of Piankatank River Golf Club will host its yearly kickoff luncheon at the club on March 18 at 11:30

A buffet luncheon begins at noon followed by a brief meeting. PRLGA members also will be treated to a trunk showing and sale of 2004 Liz Golf fashions by a company representative.

To join the PRLGA, attend the luncheon. To reserve a place, send a \$16 check payable to PRLGA to Carole Elliott, 511 St. Albans Way, Richmond, VA 23229.

Membership is \$25 and may be paid at the luncheon.

## Golf tourney to support **Deputy Santa**

department will host its 8th annual golf tournament on April 8 at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems.

The four-person modified scramble will tee off at noon with an

ceeds benefit the Lancaster County Deputy Santa Porgram.

net in each division, closest to the

To register, call 462-5111.

## JIM'S **GYM**

## **Annual bridge** luncheon set

Sales Catholic Church in Kilmarnock will hold their annual St. Patrick's Dessert Bridge at noon on March 19 at De Sales Hall. Festivities include bridge, des-

The Women of St. Frances de

serts and door prizes. The fee is \$20 per table. Mahjong players are welcome.

For reservations, call Dolly Abel at 462-5315 or Barbara Newlond at 462-5139.

Eight tables of duplicate bridge were in play February 26 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country

Winners north/south were first, Joe and Beverly Oren; and second (tie) Norma Drinnon and Barbara Hubbard and Carolyn Reed and Ilva Doggett.

Winners east/west were first, Pat Hurlbut and Teensa Williams; second, Peggy Dent and Terry Taylor; and third, Joan May and Marilyn Reed.

The next bridge for this group is March 4 at 1 p.m.

Five-and-a-half tables duplicate bridge were in play February 24 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Winners north/south were first, Cynthia Birdsall and Dianne Monroe; second, Ilva Doggett and Kay Williams; and third, Sheila Babcock and Jane Hughes.

Winners east/west were first, Carolyn Reed and Rebecca Harger; second, Tot Winstead and Liz Hargett; and third, Peggy Dent and Terry Taylor.

The next bridge for this group is March 9 at 1 p.m.

#### ■ Birders to meet

The March meeting of the Westmoreland Nature and Bird Club will be held at the Glebe Harbor/Cabin Point Club House at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March

Tony Bidroski will address the effect of the mute swan on local environment.

#### ■ NNSA to meet

The Northern Neck Sailing Association will open the season with a brunch on March 20 at the Mt. Holly Steamboat Inn. A program will follow. Prospective members are welcome. Call Lou for details at 529-7965

#### Apply for camp

Applications are now being accepted for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. Boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply.

Camp locations include Baltimore, Md., and Blacksburg, Va. brochure, For a 704-373-0873.

#### ■ CAP to meet

The Hummel Field Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadron will meet in the Miller building at Christchurch School on Wednesday, March 9, at 7

Students in area middle schools and high schools are invited to attend and learn more about the CAP cadet program. To join, call 435-6078.



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awards banquet to follow. The fee is \$200 per team. Pro-



Rotary supports CASA

Terri Vehse, director of the Northern Neck Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), explained the program at the February 12 meting of the Northern Neck Rotary. CASA volunteers serve as advisors offering assessments and recommendations concerning children who may be wards of the court or the subject of custody disputes. The Northern Neck Rotary supports CASA through its CAPINNÉ program. From left are CAPINNÉ chair Linda Morris, club president Roy Cameron, Vehse and sponsoring Rotarian Linda Saylor.

## Center helps callers regarding poisonings

National Poison Prevention locked cabinet. Week is March 21 through 27. Accidental poisonings in young children account for about half of all cases handled by the nation's poison control centers.

more likely to need admission to a hospital from a poisoning than any other injury. There were more than 35,000 children in Virginia who were poisoned in 2002.

"The poisons that children tend to get into most often include cleaners, cosmetics, plants and medicines," said Evelyn Waring, RN, director of education programs at the Virginia Poison Center. "The most dangerous poisons are the medications, because they typically cause more deaths than the others.

Most of the injuries are preventable. The Virginia Poison Center at the VCU Medical Center in Richmond recommends these simple steps to prevent injury or death:

• Keep all household chemicals and medicines out of sight in a ings involve adults.

• Store chemicals, cleaners, and medications in the original containers.

• Use child-resistant closures.

• Post the telephone number for In Virginia, a preschooler is the Virginia Poison Center near your telephone. The number is 800-222-1222

> · Call the center right away if poisoning is suspected.

This is a free service available 24 hours. A Registered Nurse specially trained in poison information will answer questions. Eighty percent of childhood poisonings are safely treated without going to the doctor, with advice from the poison center.

The Virginia Poison Center is available for anyone with poison emergency, which includes adults. Adults may be victims of poisoning by splashing chemicals onto skin or into eyes, inhaling a gas or fume, and contact with harmful plants, insects, snakes and other "critters." More than 90 percent of fatal poison-

Kilmarnock, VA 804-435-1701

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It is time for boaters to start readying their vessels for the new season, according to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33 in Kilmarnock.

Jack Blaine of the auxiliary hopes new boaters have taken a boating skills and seamanship course; a one-day course on "Boating Safely" will be held April 24.

Meanwhile, the auxiliary offers the following advice. Boating can be fraught with emergencies, a sudden change from good to bad weather, engine failure, running out of fuel, ignition or cooling system failure and grounding. A key safety rule is to anticipate problems that might occur while afloat. Even novice boaters know that personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required by law. Pleasure craft must be equipped with the legally required safety items.

Boats must carry the correct number and type of Coast Guard approved PFDs and they must be stored appropriately and in serviceable condition.

Boat owners also should check their boat's inventory for other required or recommended items including a fire extinguisher fully charged and tested, in-date distress signal flares, a loud horn or whistle, flashlights and a signal mirror or other means of attract-

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Flotilla notes safety concerns

A marine radio is not required but having one on board is recommended, as is a paddle or oar for paddling a small boat ashore, or for sounding water depths in shallow areas. Boaters should also consider a well-stocked first-aid kit, a container of fresh water, a tool kit with a screw driver, wrenches, pliers, hammer and other tools, an extra set of spark plugs and shear pins.

In meeting emergencies, an anchor and adequate line should be aboard all pleasure vessels. Larger craft usually have automatic bilge pumps. Small boats should be equipped with a manual pump or bailer.

Flotilla 33 will conduct free vessel safety checks this spring. Those needing a vessel safety check earlier should contact Michael J. Sachen at 438-9202. Boats need not be in the water for a safety check.

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## Governor declares March 16 is Tornado Preparedness Day

claimed March 16 as Tornado Preparedness Day in Virginia.

According to the National Weather Service, 2003 was the most active year for Virginia tornadoes in more than 50 years of recorded storm data. From Roanoke to Loudoun County to Virginia Beach, a record 31 confirmed twisters hit Virginia last year.

The majority were F0 or F1 on the Fujita Wind Damage Scale with winds of up to 112 mph. Though these weather events were weak and short-lived, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) state coordinator Michael Cline cautions that tornadoes often strike with little or no advance warning and can destroy lives and property.

"Tornadoes can occur anytime and anywhere," said Cline. "Regardless of where you live in Virginia, now is the time to start thinking about tornado preparedness and safety.

Environmental clues that may indicate an approaching tornado include a dark, often greenish sky, large hail and a loud roar similar to a freight train. The general rule for tornado safety is "go low and stay low," go to the lowest level of the structure away from windows and crouch in a low position with your head covered.

"Being prepared and using a NOAA Weather Radio can give citizens sufficient time to take action before a tornado strikes," said Wakefield warning coordination meteorologist Bill Sammler. "The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings to alert the public about possible tornadoes."

A tornado watch means weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. If a tornado watch is broadcast, stay tuned for further information and possible warnings. Be prepared to take cover if necessary.

A tornado warning means a tornado has actually been sighted. Warnings are issued for individual counties and include the tornado's location, direction and speed. If in or near its path, seek shelter immediately. Don't attempt to look for the tornado. Many Virginia tornadoes are obscured by rain and may not be visible at all or until it is too late to take cover.

The VDEM and the National Weather Service offer the following

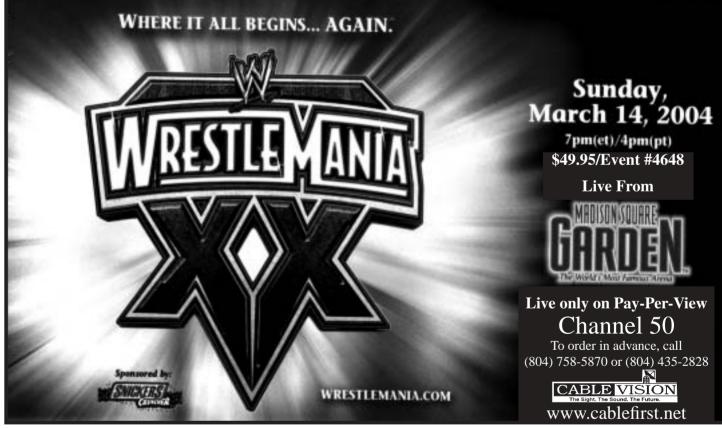
- tornado safety tips. • Know the names of the counties, cities and towns. It will be easier to track the tornado's direc-
- tion.. • Focus on finding appropriate shelter.
- In homes, go to a basement or to a small, windowless interior room such as a closet, bathroom or interior hall on the lowest level of the house. Avoid windows and seek

Gov. Mark R. Warner has pro- protection from flying debris with a heavy blanket or sleeping bag. Do not open windows to equalize pressure because it is ineffective in reducing tornado damage. mobile Leave immediately and seek shelter inside a nearby sturdy building or lie down flat in a ditch away from the home covering the head with hands. Mobile homes are extremely unsafe during tornadoes.

• In open buildings such as shopping malls, gymnasiums or civic centers, try to get into the restroom or hallway. In larger buildings, these areas are usually made of concrete block and will offer more protection. If there is no time to go anywhere else, seek shelter right where you are. Try to get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris and protect the head by covering it with arms.

• Outdoors, seek shelter immediately in the nearest substantial building; or lie down flat in a ditch or depression and cover the head with

• In automobiles, get out of the vehicle and try to find shelter inside a sturdy building. A culvert or ditch can provide shelter if a substantial building is not nearby. Do not take shelter under a highway overpass.







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## **Doctors note changes**

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

KILMARNOCK—There was no interruption of care for Dr. Matthew Vogel's gynecological patients last week, despite the closure of Rappahannock OB/GYN Inc.

Dr. Vogel will remain in his current office as part of Chesapeake Medical Group.

As a staff physician at Rappahannock General Hospital, he also will continue to have hospital privileges for surgery and be available if a "true" emergency delivery is necessary in the

Dr. Vogel, who has been a partner with Dr. James Hamilton at Rappahannock OB/GYN Inc. for nine years, was forced to close his practice there when the group's insurance company failed to renew its malpractice insurance. As a consequence, RGH suspended services in its obstetrics and maternity unit.

Although Dr. Vogel is not currently offering prenatal care, RGH president and CEO James Holmes said "it is our intention to offer prenatal care and we're working on that as quickly as possible."

The group ran into a snag when the practice opened Monday morning, realizing that many insurance companies offer "bundled" payments for nine months of obstetrics care and the delivery.

"We have to work some things out with the insurance companies or other [obstetric] groups," said Holmes. "We had to make the transition so quick we found out some of these things just [Monday] morning when we opened."

Holmes said he hopes Dr. Vogel's office will be offering prenatal care within the month.

Dr. Hamilton this week said he plans to open a private practice in the medical complex adjacent to RGH in April.

#### **▼ OB unit closes** . . . . (continued from page A1)

deliveries a year, with some 65 perinatologists that are on staff percent of them coming to moth- at larger facilities. ers on Medicaid. That left the shortfall.

"What I call a quality stanfacility with nearly a \$250,000 dard of care has nothing to do with that," said Shryock. "They Also at issue was the hospi- kept saying what they don't have tal's standard of care for new but what they do have are nurses mothers. During a public forum that know me by name and a month ago, administrators told that come to the room before concerned citizens that RGH you even call them. What they cannot offer patients the special-ists such as neonatologists and offered was the standard of care that I'm looking for."

## Prevent colorectal cancer with regular screening, proper diet and exercise

Awareness Month (March), the risk for the disease include: American Cancer Society (AMS) urges people age 50 and over to get tested for the disease.

The ACS also emphasizes that a greater risk. proper diet and regular exercise can help prevent colorectal cancer, cancer and/or intestinal polyps. the third most common cancer in

In 2004, the ACS estimates that 146,000 people will be diagnosed products. with colorectal cancer and nearly 57,000 will die of the disease

While nearly 90 percent of colorectal cancer cases are diagnosed after age 50, those much 800-227-2345. or on-line at younger than the half-century mark www.cancer.org. can help reduce their chances of getting the disease with proper nutrition and regular exercise. A diet that includes several daily servings of fruits and vegetables, plus 30 minutes of exercise four times a week, is recommended.

"Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable of all cancers,' said Robert Brookland, MD, president of the South Atlantic Division board of trustees. "More people are following the advice about regular colorectal screening, proper nutrition, and the importance of physical activity. The death rates are steadily decreasing, and we need to continue this positive trend."

In 2001, legislation was passed that required all health insurers in Virginia to provide coverage for colorectal screening.

Men and women have an equal chance to develop colorectal cancer.

#### Northumberland sets two hearings

HEATHSVILLE—The question of whether to allow wind turbines in Northumberland County has blown back onto the docket of the board of supervisors.

After reviewing the matter for a second time, the county planof possible conditions to place on said. the special exception permits, if approved.

comments on the matter at its March 11 meeting.

hearing, Debbie S. Bowers is seeking a special exceptions Lee said. permit to operate a bed and break-fast in her home at 446 Northumberland Highway in Callao.

The supervisors will not hear comments this month on whether to eliminate the three-story limitation on buildings in business districts.

The issue will be sent back to the planning commission, which ing until March 9 at 6 p.m. last month recommended that the board discuss the matter. The commission will consider eliminating all references to the threestory rule in all zones.

During Colorectal Cancer Factors associated with increased

• Age, colorectal cancer most often strikes those 50 and older.

• Race, African-Americans have

Family history of colorectal

Personal history inflammatory bowel disease.

• Smoking or use of other tobacco

· Physical inactivity. • Diets high in red meat.

For more information on colorectal cancer, call the ACS at

(continued from page A1)

thing for the salaries of the constitutional offices because they are so low," said chairman Patrick G. Frere.

In additional action, Richard S. Krolak of District 4 was appointed to the board of equalization, which hears disputed reassessments of property.

board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of a proposed cancer treatment center in Montross.

The board also unanimously adopted a resolution in support of state highway system abandonment of Route 1107. Six Lancaster Shores subdivision lots on the road are planned for a reduction to two lots, each with direct access to Route 1102.

Paul Lee of Robinson Farmer Cox Associates reviewed the county audit for the past fiscal year. He noted the county's beginning general fund balance had increased to \$1.2 million, up from an ending balance of \$560,000 the previous year. The \$1.2 million represented about 6 percent of the county's \$20-million budget in fiscal 2003.

ning commission has again recommended the board consider toward the 10- to 15-percent, or them on a case-by-case basis. The commission also proposed a set reserve we'd like to see," Lee

He said the county has \$4.7 million in net assets, which The board will hear public includes county-owned property

and equipment minus debt. "If you sold off everything at Among other issues set for book value and paid off your debts, that's what you'll have,"

> The board convened in closed session to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in voting Districts 1 and 3, and for consultation about probable or actual litigation.

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No action was taken following the closed session.

The board adjourned its meetfor a joint work session with the school board on the 2004-05 school budget. The meeting will be held in the school board office at Pitmans Corner.

## Main Street project easements signed

marnock's Main Street revitalization project have finally been

Councilman Gerald Sellars delivered the final signed easement from the Masonic Lodge to the town office on March 1, just a few hours before the Virginia Department of Transportation's re-application deadline for federal TEA-21 funding.

Securing the final easements, which will allow the town to improve sidewalks in the cen-Street, removes a major barrier to progress in the federallyfunded improvement project.

construction," said Main Street chairman Fletcher Brown IV.

"The fact that we have 100 percent of the Main Street easements signed shows the supkeeping the momentum of the project," siad Mayor Mike Rob-

The Main Street project began under the sponsorship of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce in 1996. The community identified needed tral business district along Main changes in a series of meetings with design engineers as early as 1999.

In 2002, the town was able to "Having all the easements earmark \$140,000 in local funds

KILMARNOCK—All the signed is mandatory before we to match \$650,000 in TEA-21 necessary easements for Kil- spend any TEA-21 funds on funds accumulated from three grant applications.

An additional \$219,540 in local funds were allocated in July 2003 to match a \$878,156 federal grant application for port of the property owners for utility relocations. That application was not approved, but the town was allowed to submit a revised and updated request by Monday, March 1.

For the reapplication, the design and the construction were divided into phases. Additionally, the overall project was revised to simplify funding and to allow for utility relocations and a pilot or demonstration phase to be completed as the next step.

The revisions will give the town time to refocus on another grant application for the next round of funding in the fall.

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Sgt. Bill George recently returned home from duty in Iraq and visited family in Lancaster with his wife, Margaret, son Brandon and daughter Kaitlyn.

## Georges are touched by war

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

ALFONSO—With the military, the only thing certain is uncertainty, according to Sgt. William "Bill"

So when he was told weeks before the U.S. went to war in the Middle East that his unit was being deployed to Iraq, George and his family had doubts.

"We'd been told so many times he was going here or there and it wouldn't happen," said his wife, Margaret. "So we just kind of kept hoping he wouldn't have to go. Plans change on a daily basis in the

"It's gotten to be that we don't believe he's going to go until he's on the plane and in the air; and I don't believe he's coming home until he's on the ground and I see him," she said.

The two high school sweethearts, who married nine years ago, slid closer to each other on the brown, plush sofa. George slipped a hand onto Margaret's knee. She put her arm around his shoulder, almost needing that tangible proof that he was there, seated beside her and their two children in her mother's home in Lancaster County. Margaret is the daughter of Betty Barrack George of Alfonso.

George, 29, is a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne division, stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. The son of the late Bill George of White Stone, he returned for a visit last week after over 11 months

The day he left, on March 1, 2003, Margaret rushed home from work, picked up the kids to join him for a family photo, then kissed her husband good-bye as he boarded a plane with no return date.

His brigade, with a mission to secure the airport, crossed into Iraq on March 18 and was part of the initial force to occupy Baghdad.

It was over two and a half months before George was able to call home.

For the first 22 days, his unit was in the thick of the

One morning, awakened by the sound of an exploding patriot missile just 276 yards away, he jumped upright in his sleeping bag, wrapped it around him and hopped to the front of his truck. His reaction was chronicled by a reporter with U.S. News and World Report.

"Reporters are awesome," said George, who sent emails to Margaret through reporters embedded with his unit.

Conditions in the Iraqi desert were nearly unbearable for the first three weeks, said George. "Then we got plywood outhouses."

Human waste was routinely burned as thousands of troops used the same bathroom facilities. Buckets of cold water, poured by a friend, were welcome makeshift showers as temperatures soared to well above 138 degrees during the summer months.

The heavy chemical protective gear and tactical vests, worn by all the troops early in the war, were like sauna suits in the 90-degree spring weather.

Margaret worried about George, who suffered even in Kentucky with bouts of heat exhaustion.

The smallest task we do here at home would take twice as long there," said George. "We did our laundry in buckets. And we had to pace ourselves because it was just so hot.'

Sandstorms would spring out of nowhere, leaving troops paralyzed.

"We couldn't do anything, couldn't move, couldn't see to drive when one hit," he said.

In support of the country's decision to wage war in Iraq, George said the issue of Saddam Hussein and his followers having weapons of mass destruction should not even have been an issue.

"Seeing how he treated his people," said George, pausing to gather his thoughts. "No one should be treated that way.

"The life that was pushed on the people by the government was saddening. The life we know here is taken for granted. We can be so blind sometimes. When you're a child and you're told by your parents to eat because there are children starving somewhere, you don't really believe it. But it's true, and terrible

"The people in Iraq would beg for anything from



The sky turns a brilliant sienna as a sandstorm approaches U.S. troops in an Iraqi desert.



An Iraqi baby grips a U.S. flag patch torn from the uniform of a soldier.

the troops: a half bottle of water or a little pack of

George's division would be traveling through a desert, devoid of any plant life or water, and "all of sudden there'd be this hut and a family living there. "I don't know how they even survived," he added.

Sgt. William "Bill" George shows off a machine

gun taken from an Iragi helicopter.

Serving as mother and father for nearly a year to 6-year-old Kaitlyn and 11-year-old Brandon has given Margaret new respect for single parents.

While George was away, she quit her job to stay home with the children, redecorated their house, bought a new van, lost weight and colored her hair.

"She can do everything for herself now," said

George. "She's been both mom and dad for a year and it's actually hard for me to feel needed.

"That's one of the most difficult things for soldiers when they return home," he added. "They see that they're not needed."

Margaret cuts him off. She needs him, she assures.

The two have been together over 14 years, falling in love as students at Lancaster High School. She's followed him across the country as he moved from one place to another. A former member of the Virginia

National Guard, he was put on active duty in 1995. When George's division was first deployed, Margaret watched the news constantly, trying to absorb everything that was going on a world away.

He'd left just a week before Kaitlyn's fifth birthday. "In the beginning when I wasn't hearing from him, it was difficult not knowing what was going on," she said. "Brandon tried to follow the news but I tried to keep him from hearing too much. And the mother of one of Kaitlyn's friends told her that their dads had gone off to a big sandbox."

Although Margaret tried to maintain life as usual, she never wanted to leave the house for fear she'd miss George's one call in weeks.

"Sometimes you'd wait in line for two and half." three hours to use the phone, then get an answering machine," said George. "That was heartbreaking. Oh, you try to act all tough with the other guys around, saying 'she's not there. I'll just try again later.' But inside, you're dying.

The reality of the danger hit home for Margaret when a neighbor's husband was killed in action. "Even though I didn't know her, I thought that

could have been me," said Margaret. But George's unit was one of the fortunate ones not to have had a casualty

One man was injured, he said, by celebratory fire. "When the electricity and water came back on in the city, the civilians got excited and did what Saddam had taught them to do. They went out into the streets and fired their guns into the air," said George.

A stray bullet hit a soldier in his unit. George isn't surprised that U.S. soldiers are being injured or killed more now than during the heat of

"It's always easier when you initially go in," he said. "You know your enemy. You see the tanks and the weapons. But after the war is over and the only people left fighting are rebels in civilian clothes, the weapons are under cover."

Unfortunately, he believes the Iraqi conflict is far from over, with the U.S. needing to have some presence there for another 10 to 15 years.

We need to occupy it," said George. "It's going to be like a Korea or Germany, where we're going to have to stay there for years and years until the government is settled.'

After a week at home in Lancaster and another week in Chesapeake visiting family, the Georges will return to Kentucky where he resumes active duty at the end of March. His unit is not scheduled to return to Iraq, but as the Georges know, nothing's certain

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