



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)

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 25.

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. Look 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 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



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 ward.

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 Regional Memorial.

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 a result of financial factors and the inability of Drs. Hamilton and Vogel to retain malpractice insurance.

In its final week, the OB 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 Robley.

"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."

Jayne Campagnola feels the same way.

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)

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 resolution signaling county participation in the Virginia Department of Transportation revenue sharing project, estimated at \$165,000.

County approval was conditional upon the agreement of John H. Morris IV to underwrite the \$82,500 county share for the project.

It would involve the construction of a mile of Avis Trail to

VDOT specifications for inclusion in the secondary road system.

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

The other \$82,500 would be funded through a pending revenue sharing application submitted by assistant resident engineer Carter White.

Morris has filed a request for the rezoning of 214 acres at the end of Avis Trail on the Western Branch of the Corrotoman River from general residential use to residential multi-family dwelling use (R-2).

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 planning commission on March 18.

Avis Trail also serves the Courthouse Landing subdivision and existing residences at the end of the road.

"This will only improve the access for those people, as well as future development," supervisor Ernest W. Palin Jr. said of the road project.

Meanwhile, the increasing frequency of R-2 rezoning requests over the past two years was further addressed by supervisors.

"What we've seen is the tip of the iceberg and I think we need to be prepared and have some oversight for that," said supervisor B. Wally Beauchamp.

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 development and regulations for planned unit development.

Other matters

By a 4-1 vote, the board agreed to waive \$340 in fees for a variance request and subdivision application submitted by the Rappahannock District of the United Methodist Church to subdivide the White Marsh United Methodist Church property into two lots. The action would separate the cemetery and the land on which the church building is constructed.

Supervisor Pete Geilich opposed waiving the fees because he said the sale of the church property would profit the property owner. However, supervisor F.W. "Butch" Jenkins Jr. noted that potential proceeds could be applied toward maintenance of the church cemetery.

The board approved an annual salary supplement of \$1,305 and \$435 for the remainder of the fiscal year for a potential new employee in the county treasurer's office. Treasurer Anna Lee C. Haynie said the salary increase from \$19,093 to \$20,398 would meet the current salary of the potential new employee who has worked for the Lancaster County sheriff's office for the past five years.

Pennell said the salary supplement was denied by the state compensation board.

"I really think the board (of supervisors) needs to do some-

(continued on page A13)

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 selling.

"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 a 2002 Lancaster County Board

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

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 current 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 case.

The \$2-million conspiracy suit was dismissed in Lancaster County Circuit Court last May.

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Praying for legislators: B3



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 Hegamy, 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.

Upcoming

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 office. **The Wetlands Board** for Northumberland County meets at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. **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 435-3046. **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 at 11 a.m. **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 Bamberg's Restaurant in Heathsville. For dinner reservations, call 580-8181. **Bingo** begins at 7 p.m. at the Mid-County Rescue Squad building in Heathsville. **The RFM Stitches** 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 Fishermen'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.

6 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. 435-6633. **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; 224-8687. **An Oyster Roast** begins at 5 p.m. at the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department in Urbanna. \$15.

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 East.

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



Dr. Ali J. Abed

College, Old Dominion University and Hampton University.

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 talk.

7 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at For the Occasions Cafe in Callao immediately following church services. **Dr. Ali Abed** will present "Behind the Headlines in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" at Sundays at Two at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. The program begins at 2 p.m.

8 Monday

The Historyland Community Workshop meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. Visitors welcome. **The Lancaster County School Board** meets at 6:30 p.m. at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock. **The Northumberland School Board** at the school board office in Lottsburg. **Flotilla 33** of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7:30 p.m. in Grace House of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. **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 begins at 8:45 a.m. **The Northumberland County Red Cross** board of directors meets at 7:30 p.m. 580-4933. **The Cobbs Hall Chapter** of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution meets at 1:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. Christ church education director Robert Teagle will present a slide program on recent research at Christ Church. Members are urged to bring articles for veterans. **The NAACP** for Lancaster County meets at 7 p.m. at New St. John's Baptist Church in Kilmarnock.

9 Tuesday

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. at Charterhouse in Kilmarnock. **"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. 580-5051. **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. 462-9829. **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 Corner. **The Woman's Club of Northumberland 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.

10 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 Kilmarnock. 438-5127. **Piper's Pub** in Kilmarnock hosts an acoustic jam 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 meet 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 462-0133. **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 Community 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 address the state of Boy Scouts in the Northern Neck. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.

11 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 office. **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 11 a.m.

(Submit calendar items, to Robert Mason Jr., editor)

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. Specializing 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

TRADITIONAL 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 & 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. 529-5936 Lottsburg, Va.

THE STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT: Enjoy casual dining while overlooking the beautiful Piankatank River Golf Club. We offer a traditional lunch menu, gourmet 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. Banquets, 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 off Rt. 33.

WILLABY'S: Comfortable casual atmosphere. Featuring daily chef's specials, gourmet burgers & delectable desserts. Eat in or carry out available. Monday-Saturday 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.



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7321 J. CLAYTON HIGHWAY, GLOUCESTER, VA. • SCHEDULE FOR 03/05-03/11

Monday - Ladies Special \$6.00
Admission, Medium Drink and Medium Popcorn are all for

STARSKY AND HUTCH (PG 13/THR 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)
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Students, Senior Citizen & Active Military \$3.50 for all shows
Children under 2yrs. (any show) FREE/Children 2 to 6yrs. (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 times.
To print money-saving coupon click on **certificate** then **free stuff** icon.



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ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER: \$4.00
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ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 ARE \$4.00 FOR EVERYONE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 804-443-0837
CALL 301-593-2460 REGARDING GROUP SALES

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	SUN. 3/7 PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R) 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
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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) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:35 50 FIRST DATES (PG13) 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 9:40 BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13) 7:25, 9:35	MON-THUR. 3/8-11 PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R) 7:15 HIDALGO (PG13) 7:00 STARSKY & HUTCH (R) 7:25 50 FIRST DATES (PG13) 7:35 BARBERSHOP 2 (PG13) 7:30
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Next Week!!
49th Annual
Donation Dinner
at
Bethel United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall • Route 201
near Lively
Saturday, March 13 • 5 pm
"All You Can Eat...
For All You Can Give"
Sponsored by the
You and I Class

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

Oyster Roast
Saturday, March 6 • 4 pm-7 pm
CONRAD'S SEAFOOD, MOLLUSK
\$18-Beverages & Desserts not included
Benefit Corrotoman Civic Center

Cash Prize of
\$1000.
Guaranteed!
BINGO
This Friday, March 5, 2004
Ruritan Recreation Center
Lively, Va.
To benefit the Upper Lancaster
Vol. Fire Department

American Legion
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 \$BUCK

Area Events

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 its own butter sauce.

or

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

*Lunch served: Monday - Friday
Dinner served: Tuesday - Saturday*



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Mercy Creek
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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

RAL STUDIO GALLERY

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/Gravy
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. Director Hal Brown is looking for seven women and three men to cast.

■ **Gardening is topic**
Three Sisters Antiques will present two gardening seminars on March 23 in White Stone. Waterfront gardening and low-maintenance/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 reservations.

■ **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 Westminister-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 U.S.

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.

Maj. Gen. Honore was commissioned in January 1971 and 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



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 Division, Eighth U.S. Army, in Korea.

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 Troy State University.

APVA program to address interiors of historic homes

"Interiors of Historic Houses in the Rappahannock River Valley" will be presented March 18 at the annual meeting of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities-Northern Neck Branch.

Ron Fuchs II, assistant curator of ceramics for the Leo and Doris 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 County.

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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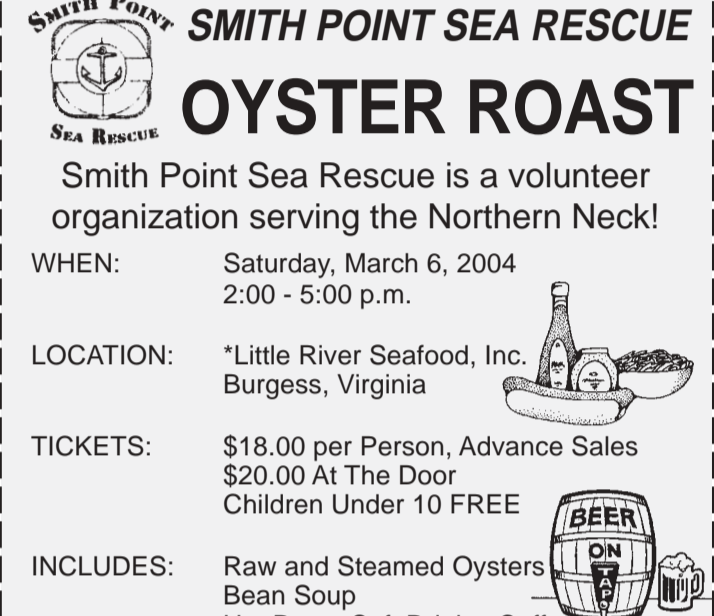
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Carvings, waterfowl art slated for annual show

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.

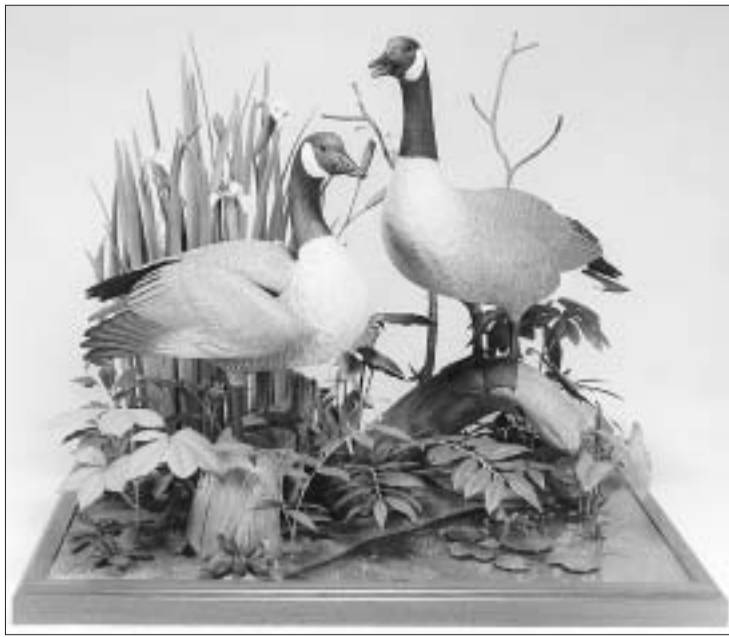
Perhaps one of Art LaMay's large herons, or groups of ducks in a whimsical pose caught attention.

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

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-

isfying career, bird carver.

He has won numerous awards for his work, which are in corporate 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 Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Md., the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston, S.C., and other general art shows.

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 challenges to express remarkable birds. His goal is to capture a moment in nature and bring that excitement into the sculpture and ultimately to the viewer.

To celebrate the 25th 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 original painting for the weekend door prize. LaMay is the Artist of the Year and has painted a special painting of widgeon for the show print.

Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac and the Northern Neck Audubon Society will have displays with information for show visitors.

Tickets for the Preview Night Gala March 19 are still available, but must be ordered in advance by calling 435-6355.

Contributors are W.F. Booth Inc., Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust, Connemara, Rappahannock Rentals, B.W. Wilson Paper Co., The Business Press, Bank of Northumberland and Currie Funeral Home.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 20 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. Admission is \$5. A weekend pass is \$6.

Proceeds benefit the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department.

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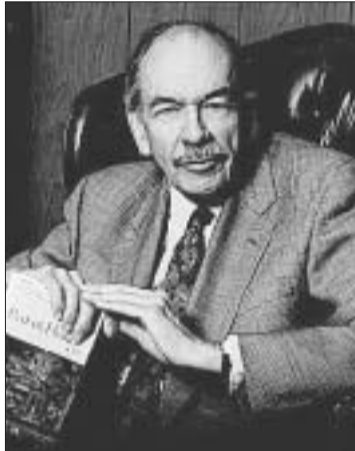
Historian to address SAR unit

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-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 James Madison.

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.

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



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 will be available to sign them.

Gallery gala to welcome 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 be served.

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 class.

The renovations that were completed 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 fun."

The exhibit room will have a display by the Chesapeake Academy students. Teacher Nancy O'Shaughnessy has promised some creative projects.

Annual auction May 8 supports Irvington school

The annual silent and dinner auction to benefit Chesapeake Academy will be held May 8 at the home of Arthur and Bonnie Bryant. "Mardi Gras in May" will pay tribute to the extravaganza and sheer excitement of New Orleans.

The annual auction is the academy's largest and most festive fund-raiser. Proceeds support the school's academic programs and help fund scholarships for eligible students.

Parents, grandparents, alumni and friends in the community attend and bid for items such as original artwork, furniture, jewelry, resort vacations and cruises generously donated from individuals and businesses throughout the Northern Neck and beyond.

To donate items for auction, call Ann Marie Horner at 438-5575.

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

On March 17, the Richmond County Museum will open "Can It," an exhibit featuring the many canneries which were an important part of life and the economy of Richmond County for 100 years.

More than 20 canneries were in operation throughout the period, processing tomatoes and English peas, corn, sweet potatoes, berries, pimientos and other produce. The canneries employed hundreds of Richmond County citizens, and helped to support other businesses. Canned goods were

shipped by steamboat and canneries equipment and supplies were delivered by boat until truck transportation gradually replaced the steamer.

The exhibit will include photographs, artifacts, labels, documents and other memorabilia that will tell the story.

The exhibit will continue through June 12 at Richmond County Museum at 5874 Richmond Road in Warsaw. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment. For group tours, call 333-3607.

Garden Club season begins

The first meeting of the 2004 season of the Rappahannock Garden Club will be held at 12:30 p.m. March 11, at the White Stone United Methodist Church. President Jennifer King will preside.

On January 29, members of the board met to formulate programs and events to be presented to the membership during the year. The board 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 Claybrook Baptist Church in Weems from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, 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 Master Gardener Lee Allain to speak March 11. Allain is director of Northumberland Association of Progressive Stewardship. Prior to moving to the Northern Neck six years ago, he was chief executive officer of a small Massachusetts company.

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

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.

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Engagements

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, Md.

Mr. Fearing is the grandson of the late John Fearing and of Myrtle Fearing of Zephyrhills, 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,



Malisa Ann Curran and Sean B. P. Fearing

in Kilmarnock.

A traditional Irish wedding is planned for September.

Lewis-Richards

Mr. and Mrs. William R. "Bill" Lewis of Lara announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Haynie 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 Lewis.

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



Laura Haynie Lewis and John Nathan Richards

Richmond.

A June 2004 wedding is planned.

Roberts-Carneal

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

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 graduate 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 Company.

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 Trust.

Players to hold membership meeting

The Lancaster Players Inc. will convene a general membership meeting on Sunday, March 14, at 3 p.m. at The Playhouse in White Stone.

President Don McClean will conduct the meeting. The agenda includes a treasurer's report and a preview of the upcoming performance schedule.

Wine and cheese will be served.

McClean and treasurer Harry Stemple will present a humorous and intellectually stimulating skit.

The meeting is open to all members and anyone with an interest in joining the community theater.

Attendees will have an opportunity to sign on to working committees.

Local News

Mrs. Jim Blankenship was in Morristown, N.J., several days last week where she met her daughter, Miss Sara Blankenship, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bill and Shannon Smith and children, Blair, Blake and Drew, and Sterling and Christie Caudle and children, Cassie, Colie and Sara, have returned after a week's visit with the ladies' parents, Eddie and Connie Dawson, in Port Charlotte, Fla.

Miss Kate Hinton of Rich-

mond was with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Meade Hinton, last weekend.

The Rev. and Mrs. Ian McMonomey and children, Ethan and Emily, were guests last week of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pruett of Lancaster. The Rev. Mr. McMonomey is a recent graduate of Wake Forest, N.C., Seminary and has accepted a pastorate in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Ms. Diane Dize of Alexandria

was with her mother, Mrs. Arthur Dize, last weekend.

Mr. LeRoy Vanlandingham is 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 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

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, in Falls Church.

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 Orlando.

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 Theater.

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

Orchestra 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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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 program'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."

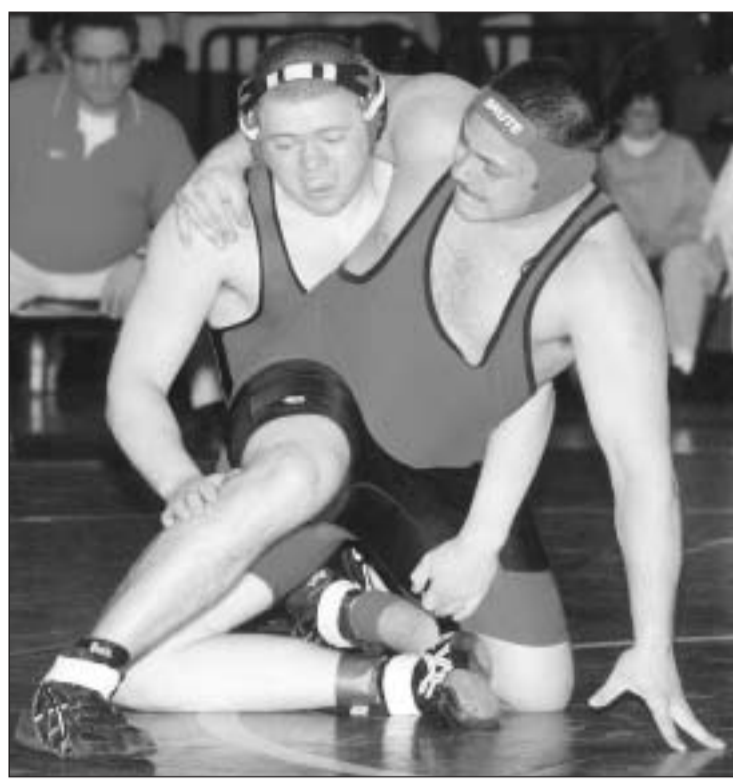
Lancaster finished second among the 11 Region A teams, host Mathews of the Tidewater District was the regional champion with 190 points and the Northern Neck's Essex placed third.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the Group A tournament March 6-7.

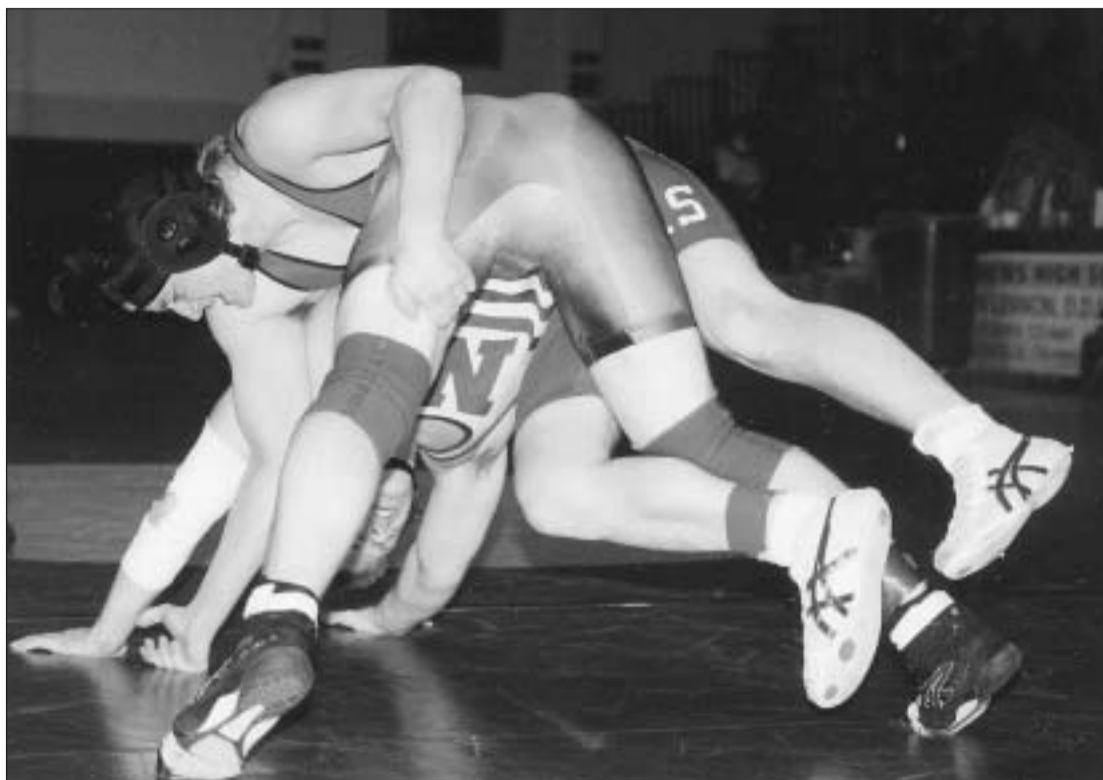
Lancaster had four wrestlers finish as regional runners-up, including freshman Ross Kellum, who lost in the final to go 2-1 in his first Region A tournament.

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.



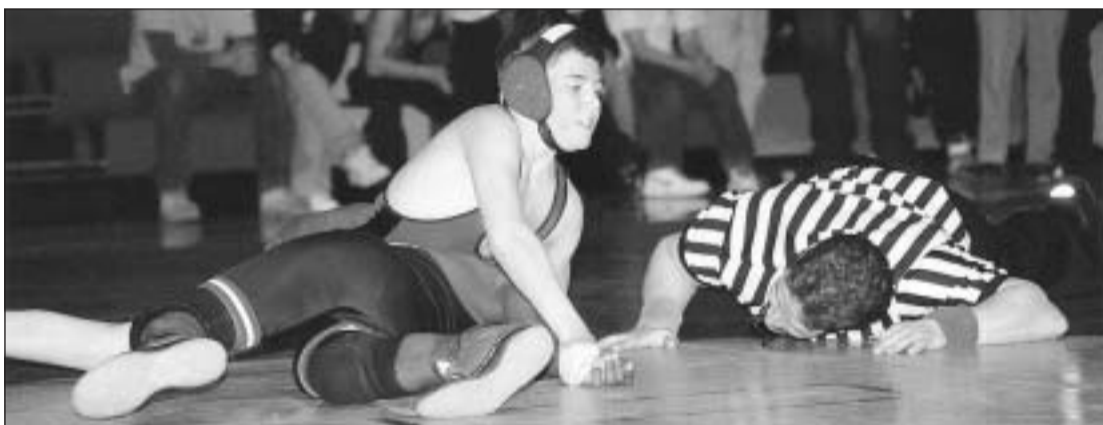
Lancaster's Conrad Wineland (top) upset Jordan Gates of Northumberland in the 160-pound semifinals Saturday. Wineland lost in the finals to finish as the Region A runner-up.

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 final.

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 meet.

"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.

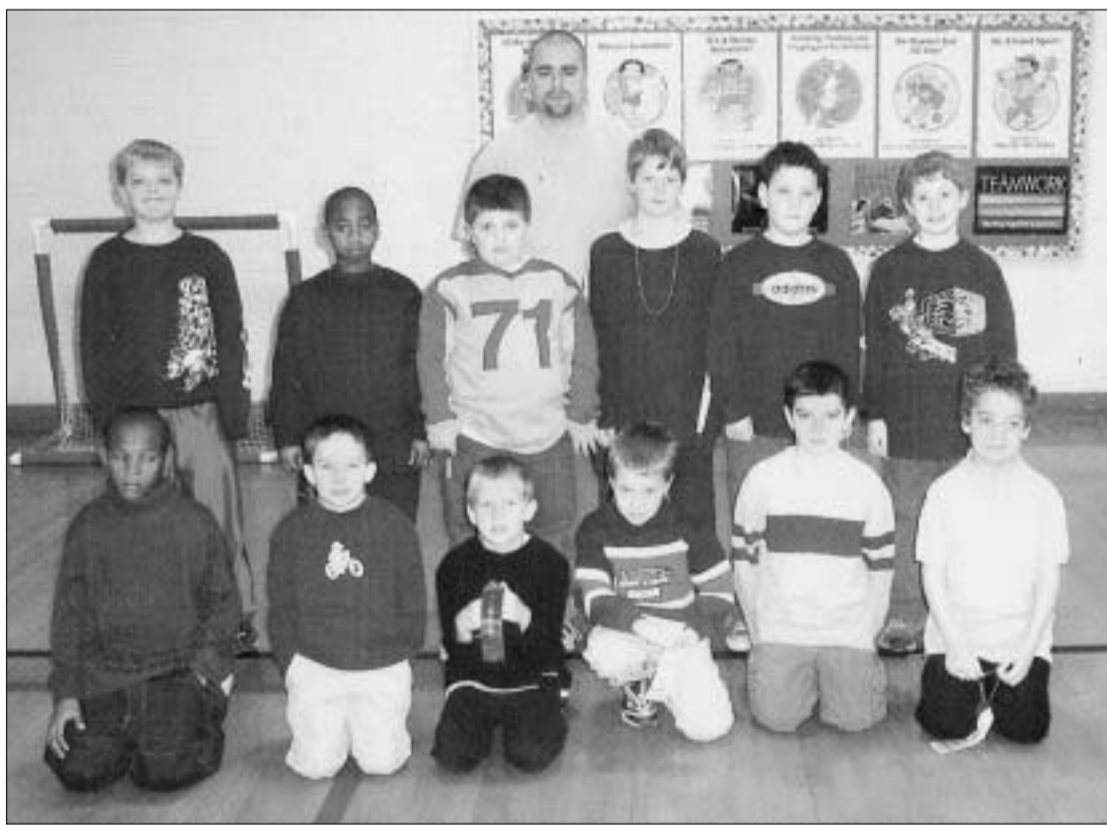
also nice to see all three of the guys who aren't coming back next year, Conrad, Travis and Brian, going on to the state tournament." Oren also will take freshman

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. Lancaster's Corbin Marchand

(130), Daniel Robertson (135) and Bobby Crockett (145) each finished fifth. Brett Jarvis (171) placed sixth and Daryl Doggett (152) came in seventh.



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 championship 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 Jepsen, 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.

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 game.

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 third quarter.

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

Franchelle Sutton had a team-high 19 points for the Indians and kept Northumberland alive in the third quarter with seven of the team's 12 points.

Shrina Seldon added 10 points and Loren Messick eight for the Indians (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

advancing, the Northern Neck District will have two representatives in the state playoffs again this season. Northumberland lost in the quarterfinals last year while JM advanced to the Group A final and lost to J.J. Kelly.

Northumberland: 7 12 12 11 --42 James Monroe: 19 11 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.

Scoreboard

Varsity boys basketball
Region A tournament
Final
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.)
Girls
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

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 1967.

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 p.m.

Following the girls, the all star boys will take to the floor in a contest that will feature Tidewater player of the year



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

Brian Hickman and Coach of the Year Barren Holmes of King and Queen High School.

A half-court shootout will take

place during half-time. Anyone, for \$1, will have an opportunity to win one of two \$100 cash prizes.

* RAPPAHANNOCK ALMANAC *

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

Fri	3/5	Moonset 6:09 Sunrise 6:31 Moonrise 4:47 Sunset 6:04	Low 4:26 High 10:30 Low 5:04 High 10:46	0.0' 1.5' 0.0' 1.4'
Sat	3/6	Sunrise 6:29 Moonset 6:38 Moonrise 5:55 Sunset 6:05	Low 5:11 High 11:10 Low 5:42 High 11:27	-0.1' 1.6' 0.0' 1.5'
Full - 6:14				
Sun	3/7	Sunrise 6:28 Moonset 7:05 Sunset 6:06 Moonrise 7:02	Low 5:54 High 11:49 Low 6:19 High -	-0.1' 1.6' -0.1' -
Mon	3/8	Sunrise 6:27 Moonset 7:31 Sunset 6:07 Moonrise 8:11	High 12:07 Low 6:39 High 12:29 Low 6:56	1.6' -0.1' 1.6' -0.1'
Tue	3/9	Sunrise 6:25 Moonset 7:58 Sunset 6:08 Moonrise 9:21	High 12:49 Low 7:24 High 1:10 Low 7:36	1.7' -0.1' 1.5' -0.1'
Wed	3/10	Sunrise 6:24 Moonset 8:27 Sunset 6:09 Moonrise 10:33	High 1:33 Low 8:12 High 1:54 Low 8:19	1.7' -0.1' 1.5' -0.1'
Thu	3/11	Sunrise 6:22 Moonset 9:00 Sunset 6:10 Moonrise 11:47	High 2:21 Low 9:03 High 2:41 Low 9:06	1.7' 0.0' 1.4' -0.1'
Fri	3/12	Sunrise 6:21 Moonset 9:39 Sunset 6:10	High 3:14 Low 10:00 High 3:35 Low 10:00	1.7' 0.1' 1.3' 0.0'

Corrections High Low Height
 Piankatank River, Cherry Pt. -1:42 -1:44 86%
 Great Wicomico River Light 0:30 0:20 76%
 Smith Point Light 1:01 0:44 86%

PM times are in boldface type.
 Unusually high & low tides are also in boldface.
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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 Neck Family YMCA Masters 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 Richmond.

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.

Kathy Broderick swam a 50-yard butterfly event for the first time and received a first place. She also placed second in the 50-yard freestyle.

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

place finishes.

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, confidence and speed. She has worked terribly hard to achieve an outstanding level of swimming 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 workboats were plying the local waters. 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 the Lower Machadoc. 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?

Flotilla 3-10 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary says Rule 18 of

the "Nav Rules" puts seaplanes at the bottom of the who-has-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 navigation."

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 Kilmarnock area, contact Gerald Hawley at 436-1030.

Yacht club to host workshop

The Rappahannock River Yacht Club will host a workshop, "Winning Sailboat Races," on March 13 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 about noon and continue into the afternoon. In the morning, the most 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 said.

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

focus on a system for developing racing skills over the course of a season and provide participants with a method for absorbing what they are exposed to during the seminar.

Northumberland Little League tryouts planned

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

Men's League

On February 26, H&W 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 Kopperski 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 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 Hodges, 369.

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; Evans, 1,429; Lenny's, 1,410; D&L, 1,365; H&W, 1,355; Cap'n John's, 1,329.

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

Standings

	W	L
The Oaks Restaurant	21	7
Evans Bowling Center	18	10
D&L Marine Const.	15	13
H&W Painting	13	15
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 Steffy 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 game.

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

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 rolled a 307 set with a 127 game. Jean Reynolds had a 302 set with games of 103 and 115. Patsy Headley rolled a 102 game.

Northern Neck Surgical Service won two games against Cap'n Red's Seafood when Bev Benson bowled a 355 set with a 163 game. Elsie Rose rolled a 301 set with games of 105 and 110. Betty Steffy had a 106 game. For Cap'n Red's, Alma George bowled a 329 set with games of 107, 111 and 111. Emma Robertson had a 112 game.

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

Standings

	W	L
Callis Seafood	9	3
J. C. Marsh	7	5
Young Country	7	2
Lively Oaks Girls	6	6
Yeatman's Forklift	6	6
Cap'n Red's Seafood	5	4
N.N. Surgical	4	8
R. P. Waller	1	11

Registration Lancaster Co. Little League 2004



Fri., Feb. 27 5pm - 7pm
Sat., Feb. 28 10am - 1pm
Sat., Mar. 6 10am - 1pm
held at Dream Fields,
Kilmarnock

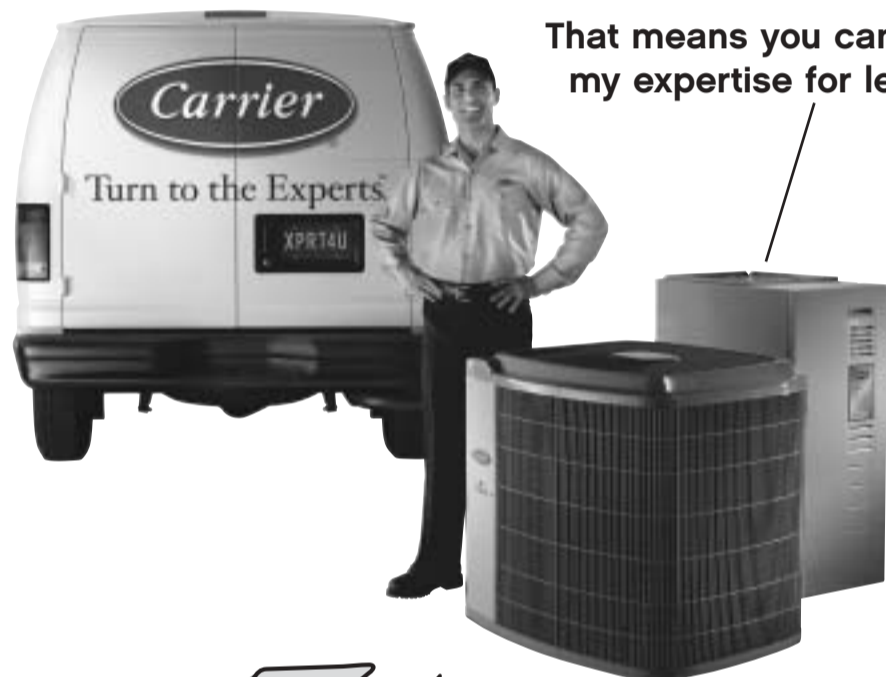
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Window on Wildlife

by Joyce Fitchett Russell



Coming Attractions

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 this week popped out of an onion when I sliced it. It was

SPRING PEEPER



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

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 too.

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

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 TMM 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.

Club Golf

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.m.

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

The Lancaster County sheriff's 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 awards banquet to follow.

The fee is \$200 per team. Proceeds benefit the Lancaster County Deputy Santa Program.

Prizes will be awarded for low net in each division, closest to the pin and longest drive.

To register, call 462-5111.

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Annual bridge luncheon set

The Women of St. Frances de 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, desserts and door prizes. The fee is \$20 per table. Mahjong players are welcome.

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

Bridge Results

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

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 of 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.

Sports Shorts

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 11.

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. For a brochure, call 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 p.m.

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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Rotary supports CASA

Terri Vehse, director of the Northern Neck Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), explained the program at the February 12 meeting 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 CAPINNE program. From left are CAPINNE chair Linda Morris, club president Roy Cameron, Vehse and sponsoring Rotarian Linda Saylor.

Center helps callers regarding poisonings

National Poison Prevention 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.

In Virginia, a preschooler is 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

locked cabinet.

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

- Use child-resistant closures.

- Post the telephone number for 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 a 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 poisonings involve adults.

Governor declares March 16 is Tornado Preparedness Day

Gov. Mark R. Warner has proclaimed 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 direction.

- 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

Flotilla notes safety concerns

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-

ing attention.

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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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 emergency room.

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.

Main Street project easements signed

KILMARNOCK—All the necessary easements for Kilmarnock's Main Street revitalization project have finally been obtained.

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 central business district along Main Street, removes a major barrier to progress in the federally-funded improvement project.

"Having all the easements

signed is mandatory before we spend any TEA-21 funds on construction," said Main Street chairman Fletcher Brown IV.

"The fact that we have 100 percent of the Main Street easements signed shows the support of the property owners for keeping the momentum of the project," said Mayor Mike Robertson.

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

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

to match \$650,000 in TEA-21 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 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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Tuesday at 2 p.m.

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▼ OB unit closes (continued from page A1)

deliveries a year, with some 65 percent of them coming to mothers on Medicaid. That left the facility with nearly a \$250,000 shortfall.

Also at issue was the hospital's standard of care for new mothers. During a public forum a month ago, administrators told concerned citizens that RGH cannot offer patients the specialists such as neonatologists and

perinatologists that are on staff at larger facilities.

"What I call a quality standard of care has nothing to do with that," said Shryock. "They kept saying what they don't have but what they do have are nurses that know me by name and that come to the room before you even call them. What they offered was the standard of care that I'm looking for."

Prevent colorectal cancer with regular screening, proper diet and exercise

During Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (March), the American Cancer Society (ACS) urges people age 50 and over to get tested for the disease.

The ACS also emphasizes that proper diet and regular exercise can help prevent colorectal cancer, the third most common cancer in America.

In 2004, the ACS estimates that 146,000 people will be diagnosed 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 younger than the half-century mark 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.

Factors associated with increased risk for the disease include:

- Age, colorectal cancer most often strikes those 50 and older.
- Race, African-Americans have a greater risk.
- Family history of colorectal cancer and/or intestinal polyps.
- Personal history of inflammatory bowel disease.
- Smoking or use of other tobacco products.
- Physical inactivity.
- Diets high in red meat.

For more information on colorectal cancer, call the ACS at 800-227-2345, or on-line at www.cancer.org.

▼ Avis Trail

(continued from page A1)

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

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

The 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.

"You're making progress toward the 10- to 15-percent, or really 15- to 20-percent, budget reserve we'd like to see," Lee said.

He said the county has \$4.7 million in net assets, which includes county-owned property and equipment minus debt.

"If you sold off everything at book value and paid off your debts, that's what you'll have," Lee said.

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.

No action was taken following the closed session.

The board adjourned its meeting until March 9 at 6 p.m. for 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.

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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 planning commission has again recommended the board consider them on a case-by-case basis. The commission also proposed a set of possible conditions to place on the special exception permits, if approved.

The board will hear public comments on the matter at its March 11 meeting.

Among other issues set for hearing, Debbie S. Bowers is seeking a special exceptions permit to operate a bed and breakfast 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 last month recommended that the board discuss the matter. The commission will consider eliminating all references to the three-story rule in all zones.



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" George.

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 military."

"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 in Iraq.

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 action.

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 to see."

"The people in Iraq would beg for anything from



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 gum."

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.

Back home

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 the conflict.

"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 with the military.



Sgt. William "Bill" George shows off a machine gun taken from an Iraqi helicopter.

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