

Public addresses school budget from all angles; decision expected tonight

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—County supervisors will decide tonight (May 30) on a requested increase in the school budget.

Last week, citizens spoke on both sides of the issue, some supporting the proposed school request for \$15,832,191 and others saying the schools need controls on how their money is spent.

As proposed, the budget is an increase of \$247,191 over the current year. The county's portion would increase by \$420,001 to \$10,838,557.

Teacher and parent Tara Booth told supervisors to ask one question before making their decision: "What is in the best interest in educating the children of Lancaster County?"

Retired assistant county administrator Jack Larson delved into the budget numbers and questioned how school administrators are spending the money.

"I agree with school board member Robert Smart who said...10% of the total budget paid the salaries of 15 people," Larson said. "It perplexes me why the other board members don't see that."

Larson noted that some \$515,000 of the budget designated for instruction was spent in other categories. "We are still going to have money left over in the instruction category. Why isn't it being spent" on instruction? he asked.

Larson said county supervisors have no authority over the pay scale

for teachers, yet they are blamed for the county having the lowest paid teachers.

"In fiscal year 2012, the Department of Education report showed 11 counties spent more on education than Lancaster...that means 90% (of the counties) spent less...so why do we have the lowest paid teachers?" Larson asked. Teacher salaries and the step scale are determined at the school district level and not by supervisors, he said. "Why do we have the lowest paid teachers when other schools have lower funding?"

Larson suggested the purchase of new school buses should come from the capital improvement budget and not the general school budget. He noted that "in an end-of-year dump" of remaining school allocations, extra money was spent on the purchase of two additional buses, bringing the total new bus purchases to three that year.

"Why did we buy two extra buses out of instructional money? Were they really needed? This is where the problem is," he said. "We have good schools. We have good kids in schools. But a lot of the funds are also going into kids with (behavioral) problems."

Larson asked supervisors to consider appropriating the budget by category to prevent "...spending instructional money on buses that cost \$75,000 to \$85,000 each" and other non-instructional items.

"I believe the taxpayers, teachers

SCHOOL BUDGET, continued on page A2



Community observes Memorial Day with solemn services



From left above, retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel George L. Barton III and David Gutowski of American Legion Post 117 of Reedville salute during Taps Monday at Christ Church in Weems. Retired U.S. Navy Capt. NC Catherine A. Wilson addressed over 200 guests. Wilson, who said she was very skeptical about the future of our nation and its need for instant electronic gratification when she was deployed in 2005, quickly changed her mind. "I was very proud of our young men and women in our armed services," she said. "When you're deployed, you don't necessarily come back damaged," said Wilson, who is the executive director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. "But you do come back changed. I don't know anyone who feels the sights or sounds or smells of war ever leave them." Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Northumberland's proposed \$36 million budget would not require a tax rate increase

School budget request trimmed

by Shannon Rice

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will conduct a public hearing at 7 p.m. June 5 on a proposed \$36,073,548 budget for fiscal year 2013-14, effective July 1.

The proposed budget reflects an increase of \$12,188 over the current year's budget. However, it will not require an increase in county taxes, noted county administrator Kenny Eades. Real estate taxes will remain at 42 cents per \$100 of assessed value, he said.

Anticipated revenues total \$29,673,548 and include a \$16,242,000 county contribution from direct taxes such as real estate and property. Another \$3,378,280 will come from other local taxes such as sales tax, utility tax, motor vehicle taxes, recording taxes and permit fees, and \$10,053,268 from state and federal sources, reflecting an \$86,211 increase from last year. The estimated beginning undesignated general fund balance is \$6,400,000.

Education takes up the bulk of projected expenditures at \$16,577,808. It is followed by public safety at \$4,108,707, reflecting an increase of \$30,099 from last year. The parks, recreation and culture category maintains the same as last year at \$160,000.

Estimated general government administration expenditures total \$1,628,250, an increase of \$38,653 from last year. Judicial administration expenditures

would increase by \$42,696 for a total of \$831,931. Some \$1,245,551 has been allotted for public works, reflecting an increase of \$28,296. Community development will receive an increase of \$24,341 for a total of \$470,328. The budget anticipates ending the year with \$5,430,826 as the undesignated general fund balance.

Categories scaling back a bit include health and welfare with projected expenditures down \$38,925 from last year, for a total of \$3,161,215. The non-departmental category is reduced by \$1,399 for a total of \$2,458,932.

A work session will be held in the county administration building at 5 p.m. prior to the hearing in the courts building.

On May 16, the board approved a budget for the schools totaling \$15,983,431.

"This is a \$921,852 reduction in what they requested, but still a \$317,666 increase in local spending from last year," said Eades.

The school board was seeking an increase of \$1,239,518 in additional county funds compared to last year's budget. Some \$672,300 of that figure would have been used for capital improvements including a new roof on the elementary school, said superintendent Dr. Rebecca Gates. Additionally, the school board intended to provide all staff with a 5% pay increase.

Instead, the supervisors provided enough money to cover a 3% increase.

"The county provided an additional \$317,666, which we are very pleased to have. We are working on a 3% pay increase and have been able to revise our teacher's salary scale," said Gates.



From left, Jack Larson, Marty Shirilla and Joe Hecht begin the roll call for 90 service members buried in the Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Church Cemetery Monday. "Today is the day to remember all the families of those who did not return," said guest speaker Audrey Thomasson. "They are heroes who do not think of themselves as heroes, who pray for the safety of their loved one every day they are at war and whose prayers are answered in a way we do not understand...The families of our fallen heroes are warriors who also served their country but aren't recognized with medals or parades and don't expect it. They are families who share wounds that do not heal and grief that does not end." Photo by Audrey Thomasson.

Historic White Marsh Church honored its deceased veterans of war Monday by placing flags on its altar and placing crosses in its cemetery. The Rev. Winfield Talley read the names of 20 veterans buried in White Marsh cemetery in addition to the names of 28 veterans memorialized with white crosses. Jack Bailey delivered a message asking everyone to remember the reason for the long weekend—the troops. Photo by Shannon Rice

To view more photos of these ceremonies, visit **RRecord.com**



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From left are Kilmarnock councilman Howard R. Straughan Jr. and Flotilla 33 commander Ed Hind.

Retire colors on Flag Day

The Town of Kilmarnock and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a flag retirement ceremony from 5:30 to 7 p.m. June 14 on the town's property across from the Kilmarnock post office.

"Do you have old flags that you don't know what to do with? You can bring them to the town office by Flag Day, June 14th," said assistant town manager for community development Susan Cockrell.

Flags may be dropped off at the event or at the Town Hall at 514 North Main Street before June 13.

Assisting at the event will be the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department.

School budget decision due tonight

continued from page A2

and, most importantly, the students, deserve better," Larson said. "You've funded generously—you've done very well. The ball hasn't been picked up by the schools," he told supervisors.

Category spending was also recommended by several other citizens, including Charlie Costello and George Bott.

"I want to support the middle school's dean of students," added Costello. "He's had an immediate impact on students. Also, I support pay raises. The money you pay teachers stays here."

Bott said a budget increase of \$250,000 to the schools could be funded with a \$0.01 increase in the real estate tax rate per \$100 of assessed value.

Bott also noted that a recent report on the nation's public schools shows Virginia and Ohio rank highest for non-teaching staff outnumbering teachers by the widest margins.

"We have only three schools," said Joan Blackstone. "I don't know why we can't give more salaries to teachers and less... to administration."

Stephanie McClain said, "Perhaps the way (the budget) is divided up is not to your

liking, but when you cut it, it seems to hurt the students most. Make a statement about the use of the money, but don't cut it." McClain also suggested improving the facilities to attract and keep better teachers.

Kenya Moody said she graduated from Lancaster High School and her children were in the public school system here. "This is the first time I've been in the school system that we're at the bottom."

While stating she appreciates the job supervisors have, she doesn't believe people should say how the money is spent if they aren't directly involved. "For people to sit here and say how much administrators should have...I can't make that decision since I'm not a teacher...I'm a nurse."

Moody told supervisors to put aside personal feelings, "It's tiresome and cumbersome. This arguing is ignorant to me. We need to put aside this petty fussing every single meeting. Why are we still talking about the buses? It's done. Move on."

Welby Saunders said, "Last year you got them good. You cut their funding...so they couldn't hire the music teacher. My son

11-year-old is among two injured in holiday shooting

by Audrey Thomasson

WESTMORELAND—A weekend holiday party ended in a shooting that left two people injured, including an 11-year-old boy from Lancaster.

According to Westmoreland Sheriff C.O. Balderson, the boy, who was not identified because of his age, is in critical condition but improving. The boy's relative, Walter

Gaines, 46, of Warsaw suffered serious, non-life threatening injuries. Both are at VCU Medical Center in Richmond.

Sheriff Balderson said the shooting occurred around 2:30 a.m. Monday at a home on Dameron Way in the Oldhams area just as the party was ending. An unidentified black male subject walked up to a burgundy Cadillac and shot at least seven rounds into

the back seat, where the two victims were sitting.

While no witnesses have come forward, Sheriff Balderson said they are investigating several persons of interest.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Jay Mitchell with the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office at 493-8066, or make an anonymous tip on their website, westcoso.us.

The Agenda

Local Government News

LANCASTER—Supervisors will vote tonight, May 30, on the proposed \$15,832,191 school budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the county administration building in Lancaster.

Other public hearings will address:

- Updates to Chapter Six

of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, dealing with public infrastructure and service.

- A request from Maxine Laws to place an individual manufactured home on a 0.750-acre parcel at 10547 Jesse DuPont Memorial Highway.

- A request from Otis and Lindora Yerby to place an individual manufactured home on a 0.500-acre parcel near Greentown Road and Levering Lane.

- A request from Dennis Matt, trading as King Corrotoman Oysters LLC, to operate a year-round oyster aquaculture business on a 5.85-acre parcel at 162 Tide Lane off Yankee Point Road.

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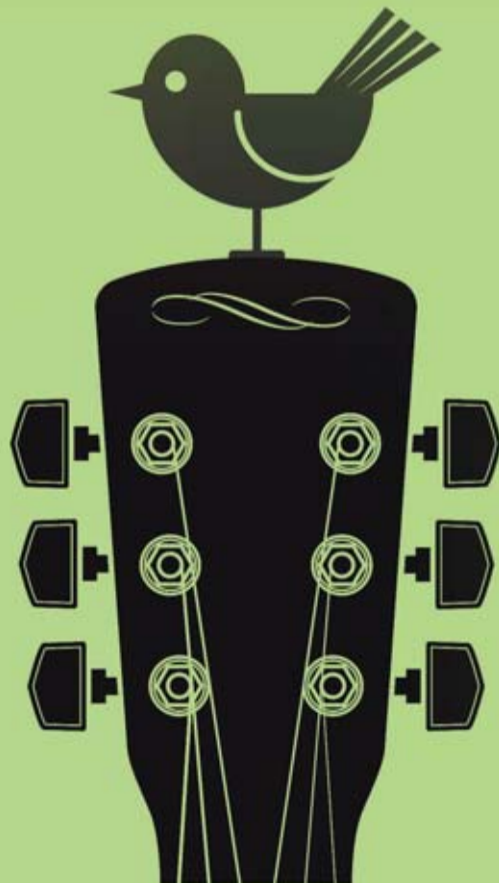
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Brought to you by the Village Improvement Association

Quick response stymies getaway attempt after armed bank robbery

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

LIVELY—Travis Devon Wiggins, 26, of the 13200 block of Mary Ball Road was arrested Wednesday, May 22, in connection with an armed bank robbery at Chesapeake Bank in Lively, according to Lancaster County Sheriff's Department Capt. Martin Shirilla.

Wiggins has been charged with five felonies and was being held at the Lancaster County jail without bond pending arraignment on May 28.

According to Shirilla, the sheriff's department responded to a reported armed robbery at the bank around 11:20 a.m. last Wednesday. Bank employees provided a description of the suspect and the suspect's vehicle, which was intercepted without incident near Mary Ball and Merry Point roads at about 11:30 a.m.

Shirilla said deputies executed a search warrant for the vehicle and recovered \$11,190 cash and a 12-gauge shotgun with pistol grips. The case holding the money was readily identified as coming from the bank, and the total matched the amount an internal audit reported as missing.

The felony charges against Wiggins include being armed with a deadly weapon while



The suspect in a bank robbery at Chesapeake Bank in Lively was apprehended on Route 3 in Lancaster last Wednesday. Above, investigators talk to the man, who was being held in car 8. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

entering a banking house with the intent to commit larceny of money, bonds, notes or other evidence of debt; using, attempting to use, or displaying in a threatening manner a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a robbery; stealing U.S. currency valued at \$200 or more and belonging to Chesapeake Bank; knowingly and intentionally possessing or transporting a firearm after having been convicted of a violent

felony, and possessing a controlled substance with the intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute.

The bank was cordoned off by deputies until 12:30 p.m., said Shirilla. John O'Shaughnessy, executive vice president of Chesapeake Bank, arrived about noon and closed the bank for the remainder of the day to conduct the internal audit.

Although shaken, none of the bank employees were



Travis Devon Wiggins

injured during the robbery, according to Shirilla.



Chesapeake Bank executive vice president John O'Shaughnessy discusses the robbery with Virginia State Trooper John Lee Lewis. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

Correction: The May 20 media release incorrectly reported the arrest of April C. Smith of Foxhill Drive on one count of felony bad check and two counts of misdemeanor bad check. The correct charges were three counts of misdemeanor bad check. The public information officer apologizes for the error.

Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett reported the arrest this week of eight individuals.

Felonies

Kenneth W. Horton Jr., 22, of Oyster Way was charged May 21 with assault and battery and felony probation violation.

Jimmy C. West Jr., 38, and Susan M. King, 25, both of Black Stump Road, were charged May 23 with felony probation violation.

Misdemeanors

A Rustburg man, 52, was charged May 20 with contempt of court.

A Tappahannock man, 25, was charged May 20 with failure to appear in court.

A Benson Road woman, 49, was charged May 20 with public drunkenness.

A Crawfords Corner Road man, 64, was charged May 21 with assault and battery and brandishing a firearm.

A Sullavans Road man, 30, was charged May 25 with domestic assault and battery.

Activity report

May 20 : Staff responded with Virginia State Police (VSP) to a single-vehicle traffic crash in the 6700 block of Mary Ball Road and responded to a disturbance call on Gunther Lane.

May 21: Staff responded with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to a medical emergency in the 100 block of Morattico Road, to a personal alarm call on Levelgreen Road, and to an E911 disconnect call on Bayview Drive (no emergency services needed). Staff received an attempted fraud report from a Middle Gate resident (complainant received a telephone call advising that he/she had won a lottery; two unknown males were to deliver lottery proceeds to him/her at the residence and the complainant was concerned that this could either be an attempt to defraud him/her or possibly to set the victim up for a robbery). Staff received a walk-in complaint of annoying telephone calls advising that there is a delivery item for him/her (complainant has told this repeat caller on numerous occasions that he/she does not want the item and not to call again), responded to a possible rabid raccoon complaint on The Pony Pasture, attempted to intercept a reported drunk/reckless driver in the area of Mary Ball and Merry Point/Regina roads, responded to an assault and battery and brandishing a firearm complaint in the 600 block of Crawfords Corner Road, and responded with the Kilmarnock

Police Department (KPD) to a Peeping Tom complaint on Wiggins Avenue.

May 22 : Staff received a report of an assault with a knife at LMS on May 9, responded to a reported armed bank robbery at the Lively branch of the Chesapeake Bank (see separate story) and responded with VSP to a two-vehicle traffic crash at Mary Ball and Regina roads.

May 23: Staff responded to a traffic complaint on Devils Bottom Road near Lancaster Primary School, to a destruction of property/trespass complaint in the 4600 block of River Road, with EMS to a medical emergency on Lancaster Drive, and with KPD to an E911 disconnect call in the area of School Street and Cralle Court (unable to locate the source of the call). Staff received an attempted residential burglary report from Washington Street (window broken; \$300 loss), responded to the 5300 block of Mary Ball Road on a school bus driver's complaint of a disorderly student (the child was removed from the bus by school administration), to a larceny complaint on Pinckardsville Road (civil incident), to a mental health emergency in the 5500 block of Mary Ball Road, to an E911 disconnect call in the 1100 block of Devils Bottom Road (no emergency services needed) and to a disturbance call in the 500 block of Rappahannock Drive.

May 24 : Staff responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint in the 7600 block of Courthouse Road (driver was changing a flat tire), with KPD to a trespass complaint on Wiggins Avenue, and to a disturbance call on Peirces Road. Staff investigated a suspicious vehicle incident on Slabtown Road (no criminal incident), responded to a possible mental health emergency on Oak Hill Road, to Twin Branch Road to make contact with a parent and advise that his/her child inadvertently remained on the school bus and was returned to the Northumberland Elementary School to be picked up by a parent, to a traffic complaint on Black Stump Road, to a disturbance call on Sandlin Drive, with KPD to a complaint of possible narcotics in a hotel room on N. Main Street, to a fight call, two subjects involved, another 6-8 teenagers watching, near River and Thomas Landing roads, and to a trespass/drinking in public complaint at a Lively area convenience store. Staff checked on the well-being of a West Bay Drive resident at the request of a concerned citizen (no emergency services needed) and responded to a larceny complaint on Fleets Bay Road (intoxicated subject who has a history of reporting thefts and later locating the reported stolen property within the home).

May 25 : Staff responded to a domestic disturbance/assault on

Sullavans Road, to a complaint of heavy debris interfering with traffic on the Norris Bridge, checked on the well-being of a Keep Safe program participant after prearranged telephone contact could not be made (no emergency services needed), responded to an assault call on Pintail Lane (incident occurred in Richmond County), to a hit-and-run traffic incident that occurred on Western Branch Road, and to a possible disturbance call in the 5400 block of Mary Ball Road.

May 26 : Staff responded to a noise violation complaint at Windmill Point, to a complaint of shots fired in the area of Irvington and Old Salem roads, to a noise violation that originated at a Windmill Point boat slip, to Burgess to assist Northumberland authorities on a fight call, and with KPD to a mental health emergency on Fox Hill Drive. Staff destroyed an injured game animal in the area of Greentree Drive, responded with VSP to a possible mental health emergency on the Norris Bridge (motorcycle was disabled; operator was not threatening harm to himself), notified Mathews County authorities of an intentional drug overdose as reported by a third party, and responded to a mental health emergency call on Wild Flower Lane (domestic related incident). Staff responded with the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department (ULVFD) and Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad (ULVRS) to the Beach Creek area on a motorist's report of an occupied vehicle on the beach that was sliding towards/into the water (vehicle was winched out by ULVFD; no injuries reported). Staff responded to a domestic trespass complaint on Wild Flower Lane, to a man with a gun and shots fired call on Twin Branch Road, with KPD and VSP to a shots fired call on Campbell Road, and to a shots fired complaint in the area of Benson Road.

May 27 : Staff notified VDOT of a downed tree blocking Gaskins Road, received a larceny report from Gaskins Dock (lock box and cash; \$60 loss), received a walk-in complaint of an assault and battery, received a larceny report from a Muskcreek Road resident (gold earrings, emerald & diamond ring, gold dinner ring, sapphire and diamond ring, gold and diamond ring; \$5,614 loss); responded to a disturbance call, possible domestic, in the 800 block of Nuttsville Road, notified VMRC of a disabled boater near Fleets Bay and Tabbs Creek, notified VMRC and Belle Isle State Park authorities of a boater aground in the mud flats off of Belle Isle Road, and responded to a fight call on Buzzards Neck Road (no fight involved; subjects partying).

May 28: Staff notified authorities in the surrounding area to be on the lookout for an overdue motorist traveling from Lancaster

to Warsaw for a medical appointment (subject last seen driving a white Chevrolet pickup truck, last four of the license plate "4027"), notified patrol units to be on the lookout for a possibly impaired driver on the Norris Bridge traveling towards White Stone, received a larceny report from the 500 block of James Wharf Road (three window air conditioning units; \$500 loss), received a credit card theft/fraud report from an Irvington Road resident (no loss reported), responded with EMS to a medical emergency on Persimmon Lane, and received a walk-in complaint of an assault by telephone threat (incident involves a protective order).

Staff also conducted 19 traffic stops during the week, issued seven traffic summonses, assisted 12 motorists, recorded five deer strikes, provided traffic control seven times, responded to eight building alarms, processed two mental health orders, transported seven prisoners and handled six calls for animal control.

Fire calls

The ULVFD responded to traffic crashes in the 6700 block of Mary Ball Road and Mary Ball and Regina roads, to a vehicle fire in the 9200 block of Mary Ball Road, to a downed tree blocking the roadway near Chinn's Mill, to a vehicle sliding into the water at Beach Creek and to a hazardous material spill in the 6000 block of Mary Ball Road.

The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the 4700 block of Jesse Dupont Memorial Highway.

The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department responded to Clark Point Drive with the Coast Guard and marine police on an overdue boater call.

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WHEN: Friday, May 31, 2013 – 5:30 to 7:30 PM
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PLEASE BRING: A lawn chair and business cards. Please share this invitation with others you know who might be interested. In the event of rain, we will move inside. Donations encouraged to help the work of the Bay Center.

Supported by a grant from The Robert B. Lantz Foundation

Yoga enthusiasts ‘connect’ at Camp Kekoka retreat

KILMARNOCK—More than 60 people ages 18 to 72 attended the recent Kekoka Yoga Retreat at YMCA Camp Kekoka outside of Kilmarnock, reported retreat chairman Susan Johnson. The theme was “Connect.”

The retreat opened May 17 with a Mixed Bag Yoga class taught by four instructors from the waterfront stage and ended May 19 with another multi-level class taught by co-chairman Amy Wright-Maloney.

The retreat raised approximately \$6,500 for camp scholarships, said Johnson.

“Our intention was to provide a weekend that encouraged participants to connect with themselves, with others and with nature, while providing them an opportunity to impact the lives of children they may never meet,” she said.

The range in the participants’ yoga experience was wide, from people brand new to yoga to instructors and other seasoned practitioners, continued Johnson. Classes and activities included all levels of yoga, meditation, Qi Gong, a Thai massage partner class, laughter yoga, an Ayurveda lecture, pranayama, anatomy, an holistic healing panel discussion, small group discussions, arts and crafts, fireside Kirtan, massages, energy work, clairvoyant readings and acupuncture.

Session leaders included Johnson, Wright-Maloney, Sue Chewning, Renata Gregori, Danielle Grinnen, Carey Gaenzle, Judy Knight, Kirsten Knull, Jenny Landry, Anna Pomaska,



Denise Greene and Kae Kindle participate in a Mixed Bag Yoga session.

David Scarbrough, Caroline Shifflett, Dr. Matt Shifflett, Audrey Stewart, India Stuart, Dr. Michael Sullivan, Pamela Witthaus and Troy Wyne. All of them volunteered their time to help send kids to camp.

Massages were given by

Glynda Antonio of LaSource-Professional Spa and Wyne of Results Oriented Massage. Thai massages were given by Gregori, energy work and clairvoyant readings by Chewning, acupuncture by Stewart and Ayurveda consultations by Dr.

Sullivan. All of them generously donated a portion of their fees to the camp’s scholarship fund.

The meals were donated and prepared by The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock in White Stone, The Table at Wilton, Wake Forest Farm, and the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club. Every effort was made to use the freshest food from local sustainable farmers, most of whom donated the ingredients, said Johnson.

Participating farms and other food donors included the Parker Family Farm in Gloucester, Georgiatown Farm in White Stone, Old Church Creamery in Manquin, Dayspring Farm in King and Queen, Rick and Nancy Krogh, Kelsick Market in Gloucester and Edmonds Farm in Lancaster.

At the start of the weekend, committee member Stuart asked participants to write down their intentions for attending the retreat on colored strips of paper and place them in an “Intention Box.” From these, Stuart will create a framed patchwork to be placed permanently at the camp to connect the campers with retreat participants.

Kathryn Vose covered the weekend for the Spring 2014 issue of the Local Scoop. She spoke in depth with many of the participants about why they attended the retreat.

“Several people I spoke with said the yoga retreat was their absolute favorite weekend of the year,” said Vose. “And

absolutely everyone was energized by the program, the quality of the instructors and the opportunity to connect with other like-minded yogis.”

“I came to the retreat on Friday very excited but also distracted by all the concerns and stresses of the week,” said participant and session leader Grinnen. “As the Mixed Bag Yoga ended that evening, I felt all the stress that I had come with had fallen off of me. I felt rejuvenated, filled with life and so connected to my fellow yogis. This vibrancy continued throughout the weekend as I soaked in the wisdom of the amazing teachers, tasted each delicious bite of the local

food and laughed with friends. Every part of the retreat was so mindfully thought out and executed and everyone felt connected to one another and to the camp. I am looking forward to next year.”

Camp Kekoka is a residence camp for children aged 8 to 15. It occupies some 97 acres of waterfront at the end of Boys Camp Road near Kilmarnock. The campers learn to sail, wind surf, kayak, water ski, and much more, all in a safe environment based on the YMCA character values of caring, respect, responsibility, and honesty. As with all YMCAs, no one is turned away for inability to pay.



From left are Kathy Eskridge, Floyd Hollister, Celeste Gates and Dick Draper.

Adult music students play dessert

The adult students of Celeste Gates, Realistic Expectations Studio of Music, recently participated in a Musical Dessert, in the chamber tradition. All students present contributed to the event with solos, duets, a trio, a quartet and dessert.

There was a lot of variety in the musical genres; Mozart’s Wiener Sonatina no. 6 was featured by a clarinet quartet and the Blues were played and improvised by a bass guitar, piano and guitar, said Gates.

Chamber music is a form of classical music written for an ensemble of instruments where no two parts are doubled and no conductor is needed. But attention is rarely given to the word chamber which implies a palace chamber and later the home, said Gates.

This activity gained popularity as an intimate activity among friends, she continued. Chamber music has spanned more than four centuries. It began in the Baroque era with Bach and Telemann. Haydn, in the Classical era, expanded the repertoire by developing the string quartet.

The quartets of Haydn and Mozart were often lighthearted and humorous, appropriately conceived for amateurs and the home, she said. Although the string quartet overshadowed the other musical combinations, many other instrumental groups existed.

With Beethoven, chamber works got more complex and in the Romantic era chamber music saw its first concert halls, she said. The 20th century further expanded the musical combinations, adding brass and woodwind quintets as well as other combinations.

Of those musical works played at the Musical Dessert, were guitar duets from the Renaissance, and Scott Joplin’s “The Entertainer.”

A pianist soloed and many clarinet duets were played. Mark Gates played the dulcimer and Appalachian-style hymns.

“This longtime musical tradition was a lot of fun and appreciated by all,” said Gates. “Oh, and the desserts weren’t bad either!”

She thanked Floyd and Ellen Hollister who hosted this event.

1,400 quarts of strawberries are devoured during festival

HEATHSVILLE—An estimated 5,000 visitors turned out in perfect spring weather for the annual Strawberry Festival May 25 on the grounds of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Heathsville. “I would like to express our appreciation to the thousands of people who turned out for the festival and to the members of the congregation and many friends who helped. This century-old event truly belongs to the community,” said event organizer Ellen Kirby.

Folks enjoyed the beautiful day, homemade strawberry shortcakes and other food, including hot dogs by the YMCA, while listening to music provided by Legacy. Over 150 festival artists, craftsmen, and community groups

filled the lawn and extended across St. Stephen’s Lane and beyond.

“We couldn’t have done it without our kind neighbors who allowed us to expand the booth area and provide overflow parking,” Kirby said. “Traffic flow was improved and we thank the Northumberland County Sheriff’s Office for providing traffic control.”

The fresh, local strawberries—all 1,400 quarts of them—lasted until noon. The few plants remaining from the 1,000-plant sale will be offered for sale at Trifles and Treasures Thrift Shop, according to Kirby.

Many children delighted in the free face painting and enjoyed the Callao Volunteer Fire Department dunking booth, manned by YMCA volunteers.

The Lancaster High School ROTC got the festival off to a patriotic start with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. “Very fitting for the start of Memorial Day weekend,” Kirby said.

“We are delighted to be able to continue this tradition, adding new vendors each year and keeping it fresh and exciting for the attendees,” Kirby said. All proceeds go to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church outreach programs.


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Lance Barton (left) accepts a load of peanut butter from area Girl Scouts.

Area Girl Scouts donate peanut butter to Northern Neck Food bank

WHITE STONE—Girl Scout Troops across the Northern Neck and in Essex County collected over 200 pounds of peanut butter during the Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s (GSCV) annual Peanut Butter Drive. All four troops (368, 663, 2302 and 5327) in Lancaster County participated.

For many years, GSCV has spearheaded a peanut butter drive for food banks throughout the council’s territory, said Wendy Mataya, membership manager/volunteer advancement. This year, local troops donated their peanut butter to the Northern Neck Food Bank (NNFB) which provides food to pantries in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County.

This annual community service project helps supply food pantries with shelf stable, protein rich peanut butter—a great food for children to eat during the summer months, said Mataya.

Girls from three Lancaster Troops delivered their peanut

butter to the Northern Neck Food Bank in White Stone May 3. NNFB executive director Lance Barton showed the Girl Scouts their facility and spoke with them about food security and Food Bank Operations.

“The Northern Neck Food Bank is very proud to have been chosen as a recipient of the Girl Scout peanut butter drive,” said Barton. “As the father of a future Girl Scout, it has been a wonderful introduction to the dedicated leaders in our area.”



From left are MaKenzie Thomas, Adair Stanley, Caroline Stinson, Auston Dungan, Bank of Lancaster senior vice president Richard Abbott, Tavish Anderson-Leichty, Emily Rice and Larkin Denton.

Northern Neck History Fair awards presented

WEEMS—An awards ceremony held recently at Christ Church honored participants in the 2013 Northern Neck History Fair.

Students from Chesapeake Academy, Lancaster Middle, and Northumberland Elementary schools submitted exhibits on an event, person, or cultural development related to Virginia from 1607 to 1789, explained Foundation for Historic Christ Church education director and curator Robert J. Teagle. The fair is designed to promote research on life in colonial and revolutionary Virginia by the area’s elementary students, who study the period as part of their Virginia Studies Standards of Learning.

The fair is sponsored annually by the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, the Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust Company, Chesapeake Bank, Connemara Corporation and Anna’s Pizza of Kilmarnock, said Teagle.

Each student received a certificate for participation and a gift-certificate from Anna’s Pizza for two slices of pizza and a drink courtesy of Tony Volo. Bank of Lancaster senior vice-president Richard Abbott presented awards to the winners, he said.

Emily Rice’s creative display “Bad, Bad Times: Colonial Virginia Punishment” earned first prize and \$100 courtesy of the Bank of Lancaster.

Adair Stanley’s detailed comparison of English settlers and Powhatan Indians earned second place and \$75 courtesy of Chesapeake Bank.

Caroline Stinson’s “How They Lived” exhibit on Powhatan Indians and English settlers took third place and a \$50 prize from Connemara Corporation.

Honorable mentions and \$25 courtesy of Historic Christ Church went to Larkin Denton for his display on Powhatan Indians, Tavish Anderson-Leichty for his re-creation of an English house and plantation, Elle Williams for her display on colonial writing tools, and Alyssa Hasson for her exhibit on Monticello and Thomas Jefferson.

Austin Dungan won a random drawing sponsored by Historic Christ Church from all participants for two tickets to Busch Gardens.

The Lancaster Community Library hosted an exhibition of the fair for three weeks in April, followed by a display at the Bank of Lancaster.

Other participants were Lexi Grillakis, Elizabeth Stanley, MaKenzie Thomas, Bay Wiggins and Spencer Wojtach.

TOGA will provide oyster floats on Little Wicomico

Would you like to participate in an experiment to see if natural “strike” of oysters in the Little Wicomico can be increased? The Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association (TOGA) will provide everything you need to give it a try.

TOGA will provide a Taylor float made from 4” PVC pipe, 30” x 60” in size, supporting a wire basket, according to Dr. Lynton S. Land. The basket will contain between 1 and 1 1/2 bushels of diploid (fertile) seed oysters. You must agree to let the oysters spawn this summer and not eat them.

Oysters are “simultaneous spawners.” When a few animals release gametes (eggs or sperm) into the water, usually triggered by a spike in temperature, chemicals released at the same time trigger other animals to spawn. Having many animals spawn at the same time increases the likelihood of fertilization. There is a lot of shell being put into the water this year for aquacul-

ture, so lots of fresh substrate should be available for larvae to attach.

You have the option to purchase the oysters in October and continue to use the float if you want to grow more diploid (fertile) oysters (which TOGA can provide), or return the float.

If you are interested, contact Dr. Land and provide your physical address, phone/email, creek name and latitude/longitude of your pier. “We want to spread the floats around all the arms of the Little Wicomico east of Cockrell’s Railway,” said Dr. Land.

You will be responsible for mooring the float so it is free of contact with pilings, bulkhead, etc. One line to the pier and a small anchor to hold the float off the pier, allowing for the tide, works well.

TOGA recommends you obtain an Oyster Gardening Permit. There is no cost and the form can be obtained at oystergardener.org.

Lancaster student-teacher web design team creates new site for animal shelter

LANCASTER—Trevor Jackson recently assisted Lancaster High School web design teacher Joey Scott in the creation of a new website for Michelle Lackert of the Lancaster County Animal Shelter.

The opportunity originated when Lackert took to social media in an effort to contact the former webmaster for access to the old site. Scott saw the appeal, and offered to build a new site with the help of a student in his web design class.

“The first person I thought of was Trevor. He loves animals and has a plan to open his own boarding/pet shop someday,” said Scott. “The biggest challenge was to create a website that Michelle could update easily.”

Jackson and his web design classmates have been learning how to use Adobe Dreamweaver to create websites. Although the program is very user-friendly, it requires the webmaster to own the expensive software. So Jackson and Scott did research to find an online website program that would allow Lackert to update the site as needed.

“We found a terrific website development program online. From there Trevor applied his knowledge of design from class, and we made a great site for the shelter. It looks good and is functional,” said Scott.

The main goal of the shelter site is to provide the public with access to pictures and information on animals that are available



From left are Michelle Lackert and Trevor Jackson.

for adoption and allow people to post information on their lost pets. An area for donation information may be added in the future. There was already a Facebook page in existence, but not everyone is on Facebook. So now there is a website for anyone in the public to view.

“Trevor took great pride in this project and it turned out excellent. I hope it increases public awareness of the shelter and encourages anyone looking for a pet to consider adopting one from the shelter,” said Scott.

The site does not cost the county any money. It is a sub-page of the web creation tool Weebly. To access the site on desktop or mobile device, go to lancovashelter.weebly.com.



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Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

Wake up call.
Pardon the cliché, but this ain't no ordinary wake up call. It's one of those life changing, earth shattering, smack you in the face revelations.
Like:
• Realizing at about middle school age that no matter how many growth spurts you have your dreams of becoming an all-time leading scorer in the National Basketball Association will never materialize.
• Opening the envelope to find you have been accepted to the college you were hoping to enter in the fall—or not.
• Uttering “I do.”
• Your wife saying I'm not happy with our relationship anymore, why don't you move out?
• Finding Jesus.
• Hearing you've won the lottery—Don't get your hopes up. That doesn't happen in real life. If they can fake man landing on the moon, what's there to staging a winning lottery act?

So anyway, I recently experienced one of those wake up calls. When the doctor said the lab has confirmed it—you've got cancer on the base of your tongue and it spread to the lymph node that was extracted from your neck, my dream of someday becoming a singer for a rock 'n' roll band, the next Mick Jagger, vanished.Zap—poof—they were gone.

However, the cancer remains an issue. It is treatable, says the doctor. Several weeks of chemo and radiation therapy are in my immediate future.

While I'm dealing with it, I'll be working a reduced schedule. So, the columns may appear infrequently.

If you harbor any dreams of becoming the editor of a community newspaper, keep dreaming. Coworkers say they've got my back until I return full force.

My family and friends have volunteered to meet other needs.

Meanwhile, the medical professionals will be looking out for my health.

I'm not worrying over it—I'm praying over it. Jesus is with me.

If you are the praying kind, you too can pray for my health and recovery. Say one for yourself and your neighbors while you're at it.

If you haven't found Jesus, it's not too late.

If it is your hope to go to heaven when it's your time to leave this place, the Bible tells us you must first accept Jesus Christ as your saviour. See John 3:16-17: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

With your prayers, me, Jesus and my medical team are gonna whip cancer.

Wake up—accept Jesus as your saviour. The church directory on page B4 includes contact information for numerous local ministers; call one today and begin your journey.

Focal Point



Rose from above.

Photo by Jennifer Gordon

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

YESTERYEAR

(Reprints from the May 30, 1913, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

Millenbeck

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Ficklin, of Litwalton, boarded steamer here on Monday for Baltimore and Aberdeen. They go to the latter place to visit Mrs. Ficklin's parental home.

Mrs. Geo. E. Lewis and brother, E. T. Schools, were called to Saluda on Saturday of last week by the illness of their mother, Mrs. R. S. Schools.

G. O. Howeth, of Morattico, was at Corrottoman Point last Friday on business.

Mrs. Ida Dunaway is out again after being indisposed for several days last week.

The farmers in this section have been busy this week setting out tomato plants. Corn in this section is looking fine since the rains of the past week.

L. G. Connellee, of Bertrand, has been awarded the contract to carry the mail from Bertrand by Somers to Millenbeck, from July 1, 1913, to June 30, 1917.

John A. Rogers, of Irvington, spent several days here last week.

Kilmarnock

Dedication of the Baptist church here, announced to take place the second Sunday in June, has been postponed until some time in July, date to be made known later. Dr. H. M. Wharton, of Baltimore, is expected to be present on that occasion.

Mrs. Eustace Brent expects to leave shortly joined her husband. They will spend several weeks autoing through the Valley of Virginia and Maryland.

Ladies of M. E. church held a strawberry and ice cream festi-

val in Sargents hall Wednesday night.

Mrs. L. Slocum took tea with Mrs. Demby Monday.

Rev. T. C. Bagby was tendered a birthday surprise party Monday evening. Refreshments were furnished and those present enjoyed a pleasant time. To the surprise of those present, it happened to be the Rev. B's horse's birthday. Haven't heard if corn and fodder were brought.

Ocran

Misses Fannie and Nina Bellows attended Blackstone finals this week.

Misses Ruby Bellows, Leah Toleman and Etta Cornelius have returned from Blackstone where they have been the past session.

H. R. Humphreys was in Norfolk this past week.

Lively

Mrs. Y. D. Clark and child, of Middlesex, spent from Wednesday until Sunday with Mrs. C. W. Clark.

Mrs. W. J. Barker has returned home after a few days spent at the bedside of her father. Our sympathy goes out to her in her bereavement.

Miss Carrie Norris has closed her school in Norfolk and returned home, accompanied by her sister, who has been visiting her.

R. O. Norris, Sr., has returned home after a ten day's outing.

E. B. Clark has returned from a pleasant trip to Baltimore.

Many of our people attended the Sunday School Convention at Lebanon on Sunday last.

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

Why wait and see?

Some recent letters regarding the increase in atmospheric CO2 argue for a do-nothing approach to global warming.

The position that humans can live in closed spaces with much higher CO2 levels raises questions such as: Why would anyone want to? And, what if the increase is world-wide and affects everyone? The writer claims that “there is no evidence indicating CO2 increase causes global temperature increase.” Both sides of that argument can be seen online by Googling, “Does CO2 cause increase global warming?”

Most scientists now believe it does and it creates a problem that can only get worse. Many feel it can reach a point where it becomes irreversible.

For those who prefer the minority view, I offer the following: Your doctor tells you he believes you have cancer that is treatable, and a second doctor says he can't be sure, but agrees that if so, waiting will make it harder and perhaps impossible to treat. Would you treat or wait and see?

John P. Ellis, Kilmarnock

Job well done

May we say the Memorial Day Service at Historic Christ Church on Monday, presented by the Northern Neck Military Officers Association, was magnificent.

The Lancaster High School JROTC, the piper, the taps, the organ music, the laying of the wreath and tribute to Lt. Colonel George L. Barton III, (Ret.) and Dabney Riley were all so touching.

The address by Captain Catherine A. Wilson, NC, USN, (Ret.) was eloquent and upon meeting her afterward, she was equally gracious. If you have never been, make it a point to do so next year.

To all who worked so hard to put it together, to all who served in the past, those who are currently serving, a job well done—and especially to those who paid the ultimate price—the true meaning of Memorial Day!

Dolly and Toby Holloman, Reedville

Straight talk on the climate

The letter published May 23, inappropriately titled “More Science,” repeats many common misunderstandings about Earth's climate history. As a geologist who taught this subject at the University of Texas for three decades, let me try to set the record straight.

Earth has recently been through alternating glacial and interglacial periods. Analyses of gasses trapped in ice cores document atmospheric carbon dioxide levels oscillating between about 180 and 300 parts per million. The carbon dioxide concentration in Earth's atmosphere

YOUR LETTERS

has risen steadily in the last half century and is now 400 parts per million, considerably higher than can be documented at any time in the last million years.

Most of the increased carbon dioxide comes from the burning of fossil fuels. We know how much coal, oil and gas have been burned. About half the carbon dioxide from the fuel we have burned has accumulated in the atmosphere and about a third is dissolved in the ocean.

Our understanding of the “greenhouse effect” is uncontested. Everybody has experienced the result of leaving a vehicle in the sun with the windows closed. Thicker glass would further impede the passage of infrared photons out of the vehicle, and it would heat up even more. The same is true of Earth. The carbon dioxide we continue to add to the atmosphere impedes the return of infrared radiation to space, and Earth heats up.

Finite reserves of fossil fuels, which accumulated over hundreds of millions of years, are being burned at a prodigious rate causing other well-documented phenomena such as sea level rise, melting of mountain glaciers and less ice cover on the Arctic Ocean in summer. Human activity is releasing carbon dioxide to the atmosphere more rapidly than has ever occurred in the history of the Planet, causing Earth to warm.

Dr. Lynton S. Land, Ophelia

Budget request increase explained

I'd like to set the record straight on the Boys & Girls Club request for an increase in funding from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the coming year from Lancaster County.

These funds will provide life-enhancing programs and activities to the 75 to 100 young people, ages 6 to 18, we serve each day. This includes having the right equipment, such as reasonably up-to-date computers. In addition, in partnership with the Lancaster County public schools, school resource officers, Visions, Lancaster Community Library and the local religious community, we will address the problem of local gang formation and delinquency issues. Locally, we will call this program JOY—Jumpstarting Our Youth.

This new effort begins immediately, when we take 20 young people into our summer program who have shown gang or other inappropriate behavior in and around our communities. These targeted youth will be mainstreamed into regular club programs in a non-stigmatized way.

Individualized assessments and plans will be developed for each student so that they can benefit most from our programs. Staff also will establish a bond of trust

necessary to create a positive sphere of influence and a long-lasting relationship. Bonding with a staff member is one of the most effective tools the club can have to influence the life of a young person.

We are proud to report that 45 of our members have achieved honor roll status in their schools so far this school year. And our mentoring program has had measurable results: before the club's inception in 2008, juvenile felonies and misdemeanors in Lancaster County totaled 91; the same report for 2011 showed a decrease to only 38. We believe this decrease in offenses over the four-year time frame may be attributed to our work with at-risk youth in our communities.

We will be grateful for the county's increased support.

Phillip Mumford, executive director

Remember May 30

“Happy Memorial Day” is not a proper greeting for Memorial Day. It's a day of mourning and honoring our war dead.

Paula's dad built the runways throughout the Pacific during World War II so our airplanes could win the war, and was one of the first Americans in Japan where he cleared the bombed out runways for our planes to land. He later built the secret runways in Norway at which the top secret U-2 aircraft landed after over flying Russia.

My dad was executive officer of a 240 MM Howitzer battalion in France and Germany in General Patton's 3rd Army, he spent three years in Japan with the Army of Occupation, and spent several years in Korea with the prisoner exchange program.

You are not speaking German, or Japanese, or Russian, or Chinese now, instead of English, because of brave men like our dads.

Years ago, the caveman Thor in the BC comic strip, chipped a message on a piece of wood, and floating it off on the ocean. It read: “May 30th is Memorial Day, the day we honor our war dead. But we celebrate it on Monday so we can have a three day holiday.”

The board floated back: “You people are sicker than I thought!”

So on Memorial Day, when we honor our war dead, and the American flag passes by, get up off your butts, stand at silent attention, place your hands over your hearts, and thank God for men like our dads, and for the thousands of men like them, many of whom gave their lives so we can enjoy these freedoms that we take for granted.

You are not honoring just a flag, but the country and history and the brave men and women who gave it to you, that it represents.

Rob Ransone, Wicomico Church

Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Over the years one of the bright lights of Kilmarnock and the Northern Neck has been Iris Smith, who lives at the north end of town where she and her late husband, Arnold, retired some years ago. She is one of the most ebullient individuals that anyone could meet, and for many is an iconic image of the “grande dame.” Stated quite simply, she truly loves people, listening to and learning about them, and most importantly, reacting to and caring for each of those whom she meets.

Her generosity is legendary. She gets great pleasure in giving things to folks, and seeing the gratitude in their eyes. When she drives her large sedan around town, she usually has something in it that she is taking to one of her friends. She is an old-fashioned person, rooted in the ways and mores of former days in doing things.

A native of Irvington, Miss Iris was raised in the atmosphere of knowing the history of what was happening in her locality, as well

Her tales of the past always seem to come effortlessly to mind, and no one can speak with her without learning some new piece of information.

as in the broader scope of the Northern Neck at large. Her tales of the past always seem to come effortlessly to mind, and no one can speak with her without learning some new piece of information. As a repository her font is endless, and she presents the contents of its larder with humor and foresight.

For our time she has preserved many of the old ways of doing things, ideas that she resurrects most poignantly each year during the growing season, particularly in late summer as the figs start ripening. When she preserves

that delectable fruit, perhaps according to the traditions of an ancient family recipe, or perhaps from her own concoction, she produces a memorable culinary treat that leaves the appetites of the beneficiaries of her generosity in a state of appreciative nirvana. One of the happiest annual news items is to hear that a local fruit grower has brought her some figs, knowledge that automatically causes the listener to begin salivating.

Over the last few years, she has undergone the loss of her kind and supportive husband, a genuinely consummate gentleman, sustained two hip replacement operations, and faced other health concerns, all of which she has accepted with resignation and serenity, being grateful to be alive, and most importantly, to be of service to her fellow travelers.

A conversation with Miss Iris is, in a phrase, an upbeat exchange on history and life in general. Her knowledge is encyclopedic. She has lived the history of the Northern

Neck across her lifetime, and has remembered every nuance of each event. She is the ideal repository for mining local lore and tradition, the consummate raconteur, (or is the correct form “raconteuse?”) and the authority for understanding the past as it really was. My good wife and I are of the opinion that at present she needs to follow in the footsteps of her late sister, Pauline Franklin, and begin putting pen to paper to record what to her is routine memory, but to her friends is a vanishing glance at the past through the eyes of a precocious observer.

This coming Monday, June 3, is Miss Iris' birthday, an occasion for which those who live in and know Kilmarnock and the Northern Neck can offer both congratulations and thanks for her lifetime of enhancing the quality of our lives, in short for her being a Great Lady in our midst.

Happy Birthday, Miss Iris! “Ad multos annos!”



Do you remember?

The entire faculty of Kilmarnock High School for 1947 included (from left) principal H.B. Chase Jr., Mrs. Warren Johnson, Mrs. Ray Carter and Mrs. Ralph Haugh. There were 15 graduates in the KHS Class of 1947, said Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. “Do you remember?” is a community service of the Kilmarnock Museum.

Del. Ransone thanks supporters at official 2013 campaign kickoff

On May 24, District 99 Del. Margaret Ransone held her “Re-Election Campaign Kick-Off.” The event was the official kickoff of volunteer efforts. The event was attended by her supporters from every county in the district. Speakers included pastor Reggie Rumburg; U.S. Air Force veteran Larry Greene, Rodger Meredith of Northumberland; Northern Neck Building Supply owner Rhys Weakly; King George County Sheriff S.F. Dempsey; Joe Schumacher of Rep. Robb Wittman’s office and Sen. Richard Stuart. Speakers shared their reasons for supporting Del. Ransone that included her commitment to traditional values, business experience, hard work, public safety, and the ability to follow through with tasks.

Sen. Stuart reflected on her commitment to the oath she took when elected into office and her determination to work hard for her constituents. Del. Ransone asked the crowd for their support so that she can continue her work promoting the District’s qualities that will expand business opportunities and jobs, continue the focus on workforce development, and encourage less governing policies. She ended the program by thanking her supporters and the constituents for allowing her to serve. “I appreciate the opportunity to educate other legislators and the Administration about the needs of our district, but also the great value we are to the Commonwealth,” said Del. Ransone. “I am thankful to you for standing with me and my family as we make our community a greater place.”

Boating this summer? Start with a life jacket

“Always wear your life jacket!” is the theme of a National Safe Boating Council campaign—and the best way to prevent drowning while on a boat or other watercraft. In 2011, there were 758 U.S. boating fatalities, the highest number since 1998, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Nearly 70% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned; of those who drowned, more than 75% were not wearing a life jacket. “Whether you can swim or not, it’s important that boaters of all ages, on any size watercraft, wear a life jacket at all times while on the water,” said Virginia Farm Bureau safety

manager Jimmy Maass. “Life jackets made today are lighter and less obtrusive, so there’s no excuse not to wear one.” Another way to stay safe while boating is refraining from alcoholic beverages. “Boating and alcohol mixed together is a fatal combination,” Maass said. “You don’t drink and drive on the highway, so why would it be OK to do it on the open waters?” Maass said a boat operator with blood-alcohol content higher than .10 is 10 times more likely to die in an accident. “Besides asking for trouble, operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Don’t get blown away; prepare for hurricanes

Over the past two years, the region has seen numerous major hurricanes and tropical storms. In 2011, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee brought fierce winds, and heavy rains. Last year Hurricane Sandy brought battering storm surge to coastal and bay areas, and heavy snows to inland areas. All areas of our region saw the various effects that hurricanes and tropical storms can have. As the 2013 hurricane season approaches, FEMA Region III continues to proactively work with its state, local, and federal partners to increase preparedness, coordinate response and recovery capabilities, and empower individuals to take an active role in their community’s emergency management team. Starting on June 1, hurricane season lasts until November; the greatest potential for storm activity is August and September. A great time to begin planning for hurricane season is Hurricane Preparedness Week May 26-June 1, 2013. Everyone should take time to ensure that their family, household, and/or business is properly prepared for a potential hurricane or tropical storm. Residents should also communicate and interact with their local emergency officials. By talking to local officials, citizens gain valuable insight, lend input, and develop relationships for planning and communications before a storm. FEMA recommends everyone have enough supplies to last at least 72 hours. Emergency supply kits should include essential items like bottled water, battery-powered radio, flashlight, batteries, medicines, toiletries, non-perishable food items, manual can opener, and first aid supplies. Copy and store important documents in a waterproof bag. These may include medical records, deeds, leases, banking records, insurance policies and birth certificates. When planning, think about the potential needs of everyone in the household

during an emergency. If the household includes a person with a disability, an infant, or a senior citizen, be sure to take the necessary steps to assist and make them comfortable during an emergency. Pets are part of the family, too. It is up to pet owners to research pet boarding options and pet friendly emergency shelters in case of an evacuation. Be aware that animals may not always be welcome at some public shelter facilities. Hurricane season is an appropriate time to assess risk of flooding and consider purchasing a flood insurance policy. Most homeowners’ policies do not cover flooding, so evaluate whether a flood policy is right. Don’t delay—flood insurance policies take 30 days to take effect. To assess flood risk for home or find a local agent selling national flood insurance, visit floodsmart.gov, or call 1-888-379-9531. For more preparedness information, visit fema.gov, ready.gov, or nhc.noaa.gov.

Report shows fatal boating accidents declined last year

The U.S. Coast Guard recently released its 2012 Recreational Boating Statistics, revealing boating fatalities last year totaled 651, the lowest number of boating fatalities on record. From 2011 to 2012, deaths in boating-related accidents decreased from 758 to 651, a 14.1% decrease; injuries decreased from 3,081 to 3,000, a 2.6% reduction; and the total reported recreational boating accidents decreased from 4,588 to 4,515, a 1.6% decrease. The fatality rate for 2012 of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels reflected a 12.9% decrease from the previous year’s rate of 6.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. Property damage totaled approximately \$38 million. “We’re very pleased that casualties are lower, and thank our partners for their hard work over the past year,” said Capt. Paul Thomas, director of inspections and compliance at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters. “We will continue to stress the importance of life jacket wear, boating education courses and sober boating.” The report states alcohol use was the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, machinery failure and excessive speed ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents. Almost 71% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, with 84% of those victims not reported as wearing a life

jacket. Approximately 14% of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received boating safety instruction. The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats, personal watercraft and cabin motorboats. The Coast Guard reminds all boaters to boat responsibly while on the water: wear a life jacket, take a boating safety course, get a free vessel safety check and avoid alcohol consumption.

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**Rural Health Outreach Team from Richmond Veterans Medical Center
Coming to Kilmarnock**
Veterans living around in and the surrounding area are invited to visit our mobile outreach team.

An enrollment specialist will be on hand to assist new Veterans with the enrollment process.

Wednesday, June 12, 10am - 2pm
Commonwealth Assisted Living at Kilmarnock
460 South Main Street, Kilmarnock
Please call or email Sharon Rhone at 804-675-5000 ext. 3382 or sharon.rhone@va.gov for additional information

Irvington Farmers Market: 6.1.13

Farmers markets are the essential shop local experience, connecting people in our communities on the most fundamental level. They offer opportunities to purchase seasonal, fresh vegetables and fruit from local farmers; handcrafted wares from area artisans; and so much more. So, in this spirit, Chesapeake Bank and the Lancaster By the Bay Chamber of Commerce invite you to join them June 1st, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the Irvington Farmers Market on the Irvington Commons. Stop by our Shop Local booth and pick up free giveaways while supplies last. And remember, when the buck stays here, we’re recirculating money in our community to create a stronger and more prosperous local economy.

Find the latest community updates at blog.chesbank.com.

IT’S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY.™

Northern Neck **ACE** Hardware

Summer Kick Off Sale

Saturday Only, June 1st
8 am to 5 pm

**The owners of the
Outer Rondak Chair Company
will be here!**

***10% off all
Adirondak
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**Partnering with the
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(footrest not included)



Drawing to be held at 4 pm Saturday
Sign up begins at 8 am

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10% off On ALL Sales under \$100
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***Northern Neck Ace will be providing Hamburgers, Hotdogs and
Drinks and accepting donations for a local charity.***

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