

# Rappahannock Record

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75¢ Volume 96 No. 31

Thursday, May 16, 2013

www.rrecord.com

## Funding for our schools: You can comment May 23

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Supervisors will hold a public hearing next week on a proposed school budget for the next fiscal year starting July 1. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the county administration building in Lancaster.

The school board and superintendent Dr. Daniel Lukich are requesting \$15,832,191, an increase of \$247,191 over the current year. County taxpayers would need to pay \$10,838,557 of that total, an increase of \$420,001 over the current year.

The board of supervisors will vote on the school budget at its regular meeting, May 30. The figure is then included in the county budget, which comes before a public hearing and vote in June.

As projected, state revenue for the school budget will be \$3,356,256, up \$226,866; the federal share, at \$944,878, would decrease by \$316,480. Miscellaneous income is projected at \$107,500, down \$83,196.

Projected expenditures include instruction and technology at \$11,665,045, an increase of \$71,501 to help fund an additional math specialist and middle school dean of students. Operations/maintenance is expected to spend \$1,555,232, up \$71,501; trans-

**As proposed, the county's share of the 2013-14 school budget would be \$10,838,557, up \$420,001.**

portation at \$1,156,408, is up \$89,069; administration and health at \$783,111, is up \$15,083; and debt service is flat at \$87,395.

Cafeteria service is expected to break even at \$585,000.

The proposed budget includes a 3% salary increase for all school employees.

District 1 school board member Robert Smart voted against the proposal in March, saying the top 15 administrative personnel will receive over \$1,550,000 of the budget in salary and benefits.

"I am not protesting the amount of this budget request. I am protesting how the money will be spent," Smart said when casting the school board's only negative vote.

Lukich said the 3% salary increase is consistent with the Commonwealth's mandate for 2% plus an additional 1% "...to help raise our standing as the lowest paying division on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula."



Irvington officials hope to make the intersection above safer by creating a right turn "slip lane" where King Carter Drive meets Irvington Road. Although the street appears wide enough to accommodate two vehicles at the intersection, the white car attempting a right turn above should be in the designated lane to the left—until the Virginia Department of Transportation changes the road markings. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

## Proposed road safety plans outlined for Irvington council

by Audrey Thomasson

IRVINGTON—An official right turn "slip lane" is planned on King Carter Drive at Irvington Road as part of plans to improve safety, zoning administrator Bob Hardesty reported to town council last week.

Vehicles have been using the space as a second lane for right hand turns despite road striping intended to limit cars to one lane of traffic as they try to enter Irvington Road. Council members complained it was causing a hazard for those vehicles using the roadway properly as it often resulted

in two lanes of traffic making a right turn at the same time.

Another safety improvement at that intersection will be the addition of reflective devices installed along the center line as it rounds the curve on Irvington Road. The reflectors also will act as a center-line rumble strip to alert drivers if they cut the corner.

Hardesty said the Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the changes but did not give a time frame for completing the project.

Also winning VDOT approval is the addition of a second flashing light for Irvington Road traffic coming from the direction of White Stone. Hardesty said the flashing sign will mark a change in speed limit and will be installed in the vicinity of North-

ern Neck Insurance. Currently, there is one flashing light on the roadway just before it intersects with Steamboat Road. No time frame was given for the installation, said Hardesty.

In other business, council unanimously approved signage for Objects, a new shop expected to open around Memorial Day weekend at 4462 Irvington Road. Owned by Terri Wesselman and managed by Terri Thaxton, Objects will feature works of art for sale.

Council members also approved a \$600 donation in support of Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department and a \$4,000 contract with Webworx Inc. for webpage design and maintenance, including a down payment of \$2,100.

## Voter registration deadline is Monday

Those who are not already registered to vote must register by 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, in order to be eligible to vote in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, June 11.

In Northumberland County, the office of Voter Registrar Kathy Goddard is in the old courthouse at 72

Monument Place in Heathsville. Her phone number is 580-4655.

In Lancaster County, the office of Voter Registrar Susan P. Jett is on the lower level of the county administration building at 8311 Mary Ball Road in Lancaster. Her phone number is 462-5277.

## Restored lofty landmark dedicated

by Shannon Rice

What started as a small gesture to save a historic Reedville landmark saw its completion after three years on May 12. A dedication ceremony was held for the restored Morris-Fisher fish factory stack off Menahden Road with the unveiling of a six-by-ten-foot bronze plaque.

Over \$300,000 was raised for the project through a variety of sources including individual donors from around the country, fishing families, companies and through major fundraising events such as the Woodstack Music Festival.

"Being able to raise this level of money during the toughest economic times since the Great Depression is a testament to the stack and what it means to the Northern Neck as a reflection point of the area's deep-rooted fishing and maritime heritage," said Save the Stack committee chairman Blaine Altaffer.

The bronze plaque crafted by Currie Funeral Home in Kilmarnock includes a brief history of the stack with a diorama designed by Kathy Humphreys modeled after the original Morris Fisher factory stack built in 1902.

Rep. Rob Wittman spoke at the dedication ceremony and cut the ribbon, which was no easy feat considering the windy weather and the size of the stack.

"This stack stands as a symbol to remind us how important that fishery (menahden) is to our community. It also reminds us what all of us need to do each and every day to make sure that fishery continues," said Rep. Wittman.



Rep. Rob Wittman cuts the ribbon (above) on the restored Reedville Morris-Fisher Stack on Cockrell's Creek.



The plaque (right) includes an "honor roll" of the names of individuals and community entities for whom the stack restoration project is dedicated. Photos by Shannon Rice

## Back-to-school wardrobe set for Lancaster primary; LMS parents to be surveyed

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Next year's "must have" fashion for students at Lancaster Primary School will be polo shirts and navy or khaki slacks, shorts, skirts, jumpers or skorts.

School board members on Monday voted 4-1 for the new uniform dress code to start with the fall term. Only District 2 member Ella Davis voted against the measure.

Uniforms at the primary and middle schools were first suggested in January by school board chairman Alex Fleet.

As adopted, LPS students will be allowed to wear long- or short-sleeve polo shirts in a variety of colors, including white, gray, blue and red. The variety of pants to skirts must be navy or tan.

At Monday night's school board meeting, four LPS students modeled the clothes for members.

Principal Dr. Holly Wargo said LPS teachers are in favor of the dress requirement as are 70% of parents surveyed.

Wargo noted research that shows uniforms eliminate economic and social barriers and result in students tending to take school more seriously and demonstrate better behavior. Also, a uniform policy can lead to a possible reduction in cliques, fights and competition while school pride and belonging increases. Families may experience some cost savings

and attendance may improve.

According to the research, she said challenges include difficulty in enforcing the policy and that it may cause economic hardship with parents having to buy uniforms and casual clothes. Also, it could mask bigger issues and suppress individuality.

Cindy Clark and Tara Booth spoke in favor of the dress code, but stressed the importance of extending it to the middle school because students from both schools ride the same buses.

"If they ride the same bus, they should all wear uniforms" to prevent the older kids from taunting the younger ones about it, said Booth. She also questioned how the school would enforce the requirement, which she feared would take away from instructional time.

"We must enforce it consistently," Wargo said, while admitting enforcement will impact instructional time.

Lancaster Middle School principal Kim Hammond said teachers favor the dress code, but the school has not surveyed parents.

The school board asked her to move forward with a parent survey in time for the June meeting when they will vote on whether to implement the same dress requirements at LMS.

While Lancaster High is exempt from the uniform policy, its dress code was adjusted for clarity and consistency, said principal Dr. Lori Watrous.



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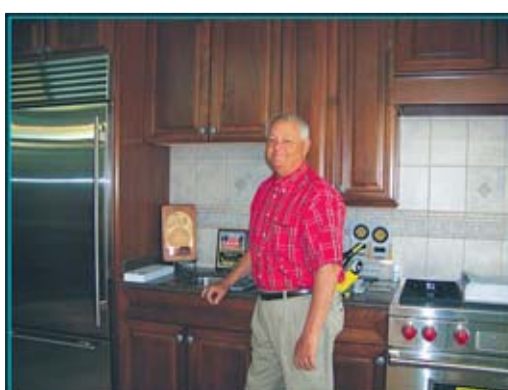
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 www.RRecord.com

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J.E. Currell, Publisher, 1927-1993

 Published weekly except Christmas week  
 at Kilmarnock, Lancaster Co., VA.

 Periodicals Postage Paid at Kilmarnock, VA  
 22482 and additional mailing offices.

 Postmaster: Send address changes to  
 the Rappahannock Record, P.O. Box 400,  
 Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0400

 Subscriptions (payable in advance): \$27 per  
 year in the Northern Neck and Middlesex  
 County; \$37 per year elsewhere.  
 Single copy: \$.75.

 Member: Virginia Press Association  
 and National Newspaper Association

Printed on recycled paper.

 All items submitted for publication are  
 subject to inclusion in digital or other  
 electronic formats for use in other  
 Rappahannock Record products.

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## Friends organization presents \$10,000 gift to library

During a board of trustees meeting May 8, the Friends of the Northumberland Library presented the library a check for \$10,000. Up to \$2,500 has been earmarked for the establishment of an eBooks program for the library.

Pointing out that access to eBooks is essential for libraries to remain vital, Friends president Ellen Kirby said, "We are excited to be able to fund this very worthwhile and important program for our library and help bring it to fruition."

Library director Alice Cooper has begun researching various eBook programs, including regional cooperative ventures. She reported to the Friends board that small libraries gain greater access to books at lower cost by joining a consortium. However, there are also drawbacks that need to be considered, such as log jams in availability, she said. Cooper is also looking at eBooks for children.

Kirby told the trustees, that with a Super Raffle under way as the major fundraiser, "I look forward to being able to present the library with another donation later in the year."



From left, Friends of the Northumberland Library treasurer Dorian Tolbert presents a check for \$10,000 to trustees president Lien Groenwold and library director Alice Cooper.

## Air Force JROTC to remain intact at Lancaster

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Lancaster High School's Air Force JROTC program has been removed from the probation list thanks to changes in Air Force requirements, Dr. Lori Watrous reported to the school board Monday.

"I am very pleased to inform you that I am removing Lancaster High School from probation for failure...to meet minimum enrollment standards," said Col. Matthew Anderer in a letter to Watrous. "Previously, our minimum enrollment criteria was 75 cadets for your school. Our criterion is now based solely on the public law requirement of 10% of your school's population or 100, whichever is less. Therefore, your school is exceeding the minimum number of cadets required to operate."

At the same time, the Air Force ROTC program is now requiring participating schools to pick up a portion of the instructor's pay, scaling down from an 11-month reimbursement to 10-month, effective in the 2014-15 school year. Watrous estimated the additional cost to the school district will be about \$7,000.

Instructor positions are partially funded by the Air Force, Watrous explained. LHS has two ROTC instructors, however, only one is an 11-month employee, she said.

## Number crunching in Northumberland

by Shannon Rice

HEATHSVILLE—During the May 9 meeting of the Northumberland board of supervisors, county administrator Kenny Eades reported that over \$10 million worth of construction has been permitted so far this year.

"For the first time in three to four years, this is up from the previous same period. We're up about \$3.2 million," said Eades.

With money in mind, the board moved on with approval of the Northern Neck Regional Jail budget totaling \$7,385,589. This reflects a \$1,040,984 decrease from last year's operational budget.

"We've had a huge drop in the number of federal prisoners, which affects the budget quite a bit. The number of

federal inmates has lowered to 185. Last year's budget was based on 217," said Eades.

District 3 supervisor Jim Long made the motion to approve the budget which was seconded by District 1 supervisor Joe Self and approved following a unanimous 5-0 vote.

The board also held a public hearing on the proposed school board budget totaling \$16,905,983. The request reflects an increase of \$1,452,002 over last year's approved budget.

Superintendent of schools Dr. Rebecca Gates said \$672,300 will be used for capital improvements.

"Because next year is the last year that we will be paying off the loan for the elementary school, which needs a new roof, that would free up money the following year to do that so

we can make compensation our top priority," said Gates.

Eades said the proposed budget would require an increase of \$1,239,518 in additional county funds.

No members of the public commented on the budget. The board is expected to vote on the school budget at 6 p.m. May 16 at the county administration building.

The board also voted to approve zoning amendments proposed after a complete review and rewrite of the zoning ordinance. Most changes entailed definition clarifications and administrative policies.

Self made the motion to approve the amendments which was seconded by Long and carried in a 5-0 vote.

District 4 supervisor Tommy Tomlin then made a motion to

send an additional amendment to the planning commission for review. Tomlin requested that the county include Warren County's dog boarding definition in its zoning ordinance. The proposed definition clarifies the difference between dog kennels used for breeding and those used for boarding while listing both as conditional uses.

Long seconded Tomlin's motion which carried in a 5-0 vote.

The supervisors also adopted a formal proclamation designating the week of May 19-25 as Emergency Medical Services Week following a unanimous vote. Self made the motion which was seconded by Tomlin.

"These volunteers are saving the taxpayers a lot of money," said Tomlin.

## School board carefully reviews policy changes

by Shannon Rice

LOTSBURG—While many school divisions approve policy revisions simply based on the recommendation of the Virginia School Board Association, Northumberland proved at its May 13 meeting that it makes no changes lightly.

Led by vice-chairman Dick Saxer, the Northumberland school board carefully reviewed a series of suggested policy revisions before approving each one individually.

The first policy regarded teacher removal of students from class. Saxer explained that as proposed, this policy would prohibit a teacher from removing a student from class until after two written referrals have been made and a conference with the student's parents held.

"It was unfair to teachers. You had a child in your class that was

incorrigible, yelling, screaming ... the teacher could not have this student taken out," Saxer said.

After seeking clarification from other school boards, Saxer said the proposed policy referred to long-term suspensions and expulsion. Saxer proposed adding this clarification to Northumberland's policy. Chairman Betty Christopher moved to approve the policy and Susan Saunders provided a second and the policy carried in a 5-0 vote.

A proposed bullying policy also contained a few gray areas, some board members noted. Perhaps that's why it took the state three years to develop a definition for bullying. As proposed, bullying is defined as, "any aggressive act and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor and victim; and is repeated over time

or causes severe trauma. Bullying includes cyber-bullying. Bullying does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay or peer conflict."

Although the policy does not take effect at the federal level until July 2014, Saxer said he saw no reason not to make the revision now.

Myrtle Phillips made the motion to approve the policy and Christopher seconded it. Although the policy was approved in a 5-0 vote, it was not met without questions.

Saunders said she disagreed with the last line's exclusion of peer conflict.

Dean Sumner had questions about the "repeated over time or severe trauma" stipulation, asking if this was an "either-or" issue. Saxer explained that one or the other would classify an aggressive act as bullying.

"That one little line there makes it all gray," said Sumner.

"I'm sure changes will be made but it's all that we've got," said Saxer, adding with a chuckle, "This is a political definition."

The mandatory student fees policy did not sit well with Sumner either. The policy specifies what fees may or may not be charged to students.

For students who live within the division's boundaries, schools are not permitted to charge for enrollment, instructional programs and activities, materials required for instruction, textbooks or text deposits, pupil transportation to and from school, summer school and other forms of remediation required by the school, and materials that have been donated to the school.

The school board may not withhold any academic report

card, schedule or diploma and cannot suspend or expel a student because of nonpayment of fees or charges.

The policy also stipulates that schools must send home a schedule of fees each year with an explanation of what each fee covers. Those who cannot afford fees may apply for a waiver.

"Public education in Virginia is supposed to be free and this is basically ensuring that it's free," said Saxer.

Saxer moved to approve the policy and Saunders seconded it. The motion carried in a 4-1 vote.

"The federal government is too involved already. Even though I agree with everything in here, I'm voting no," said Sumner.

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## The Highwaymen: Florida's Outside Artists



Forum Monday, May 20, 1pm

The Highwaymen were a group of young, untrained African-American landscape painters who emerged from the small central Florida town of Fort Pierce in the late 1950's and early 1960's. They were prevented by segregation from selling their paintings in traditional art galleries. So they sold their painting out of the trunks of their cars, usually for around \$35 a painting. In 1995, the Highwaymen became recognized by the art world and their paintings began to sell for thousands of dollars.

Video Presentation (58 min.)

RAL Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, 804-436-9309

Organized by the VMFA Office of Statewide Partnerships and is supported by the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund





### Free screening

Rappahannock General Hospital employee Christina Pittman performs free cholesterol screenings at the Northern Neck Family YMCA to promote education for May being National Stroke Awareness Month. The hospital and the YMCA offer monthly blood pressure screenings.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

Northumberland County Sheriff Charles A. Wilkins this week reported charges against 12 individuals.

### Felonies

Priscilla Browder, 27, of Heathsville was charged May 6 with felony malicious wounding and one count of misdemeanor child neglect.

Curtis Norman Diggs, 48, of Lancaster was charged May 8 with a Northumberland County grand larceny charge and arrested by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Joshua Martin Knuth, 31, of Richmond was charged May 9 with failing to register as a sex offender in Northumberland County. He also was charged on felony warrants out of Richmond City and Henrico County and a misdemeanor capias was served for Caroline County at the time of the arrest.

James R. Coleman, 31, of Heathsville was charged May 9 with intimidation, breaking and entering, grand larceny and two counts of failure to obey court orders.

Michael Lee Newton Jr., 23, of Lancaster was charged May 10 with refusing to stop for law enforcement, reckless driving, reckless driving in a parking lot and resisting arrest.

Nicholas Zarco-Ramirez, 28, of Lottsburg was charged May 11 on a direct indictment for grand larceny and failing to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court.

### Misdemeanors

A Lottsburg man, 26, was charged May 6 with assault and battery.

Three Heathsville men, each 18, were charged May 8 with petit larceny from the Heathsville Buoy Convenience Store.

A Heathsville man, 38, was charged May 9 on a direct indictment from the Northumberland Circuit Court.

A Heathsville man, 44, was charged May 11 with drunk in public.

## Hurricane season to come in less than a month

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—With less than one month until the official start of the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season on June 1, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urges Americans to ensure their families, homes, and businesses are prepared for the risks associated with hurricanes and tropical storms.

Individuals and families are urged to have a family communications plan and make a kit with essential items like non-perishable food, bottled water, spare batteries, a can opener, and specialty items like medical prescriptions and spare eyeglasses and don't forget pet food. Property owners should also review their insurance coverage with their agent—including flood insurance—to ensure they'll be adequately protected in the event of a storm.

As hurricane season approaches, FEMA is coordinating with state and local officials to ensure that all communities along the coast and hurricane-prone areas are prepared to respond. Even as long-term recovery efforts continue from Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy in 2012, now is the time to prepare for this year's approaching hurricane season. As hurricanes and tropical storms move inland, the high winds and storm surge are often accompanied by torrential rains that increase the likelihood of flooding.

Flood insurance policyholders who live in areas far from traditional hurricane country saw the impacts of Hurricane Sandy last year. Floods are the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States and everyone is at risk.

## RPRC to present two-day home protection course

WHITE STONE—The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc. will conduct a National Rifle Association "Personal Protection in the Home" course on May 30 and June 1.

This NRA basic Personal Protection in the Home course exposes the student to several schools of thought regarding in-home defensive shooting techniques, reported training officer John Henley.

The course is for law-abiding adult citizens, as defined by applicable state, federal or local law, said Henley. It is much more than a routine

shooting course and is taught by NRA Certified Instructors.

Participants must be experienced shooters including shooters able to show mastery of the basic skills of safe gun handling to maximize what can be learned from this course, he said. Proof of shooting experience is required and successful completion of the NRA First Steps Pistol Course is acceptable as well as certain other certifiable experience. Additional information may be found at RPRClub.com.

For enrollment and other information, please contact John Henley at 435-6550.

## Mini-Grants available for Healthy Community Prevention Programs

WARSAW—The Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Prevention Services Division (MPNNCSB) in partnership with Coalition for Healthy Virginia Communities (CHVC) will be awarding Mini-Grants (up to \$1,000) to coalitions/groups who are interested in implementing Healthy Prevention Activities designed to create positive and resilient communities.

In order to apply for this funding, a representative from each group must attend one of the two scheduled trainings on Community Collaboration, said MPNNCSB director Cheryl Matteo-Kerney.

The first training is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Church at 440 Emmanuel Church Road in Warsaw. The second training is June 10 at the Gloucester Public Library at 6920 Main Street in Gloucester.

Pre-register for these

events at [surveymonkey.com/hpactivities](http://surveymonkey.com/hpactivities), call 642-5402, or email [prevent@mpnn.state.va.us](mailto:prevent@mpnn.state.va.us).

This prevention initiative is made possible through funding from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

## The Agenda

### Local Government News

LANCASTER—The planning commission will elect officers during its meeting tonight, May 16, beginning at 7 p.m. at the county administration building in Lancaster.

Also on the agenda, planners will begin discussions on Chapter 7 of the comprehensive plan, dealing with land use and the economy.

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Shop for fresh produce from four local farms, breads and baked goods, nursery plants, handcrafts, and locally-raised poultry, lamb and pork.  
**Beginner Machine Quilting Class:**  
Learn the basics of machine quilting and complete your first quilt this summer. Takes just three Saturdays, starting June 1st. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call for details.  
**'Grandparents Camp': July 8th - 12th**  
Learn traditional arts and crafts with your favorite child. Taught by the Tavern Blacksmiths, Quilters, Woodworkers, Scrappers, and Spinners & Weavers. Call for details.  
Located just off Route 360 in Heathsville behind the old Courthouse.  
[www.rhhtfoundation.org](http://www.rhhtfoundation.org) • [info@rhhtfoundation.org](mailto:info@rhhtfoundation.org) • 804-580-3377

## NEWS BREAK

### ■ Voting rights

Anyone who needs to restore their voting rights is welcome to attend a meeting from 9 to 11 a.m. May 25 at the Northumberland County Community Center at 679 Browns Store Road in Wicomico Church.

For those who need a ride, assistance will be provided. Call Jim Long at 580-2477 or 724-3240, or Gerald Howard at 580-4829.

### ■ Hazardous waste

Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District and Virginia Cooperative Extension staff will operate household hazardous waste and electronics waste collection stations May 18 in Lancaster and Northumberland.

In the morning, they will be at the White Point Drive convenience site near Kilmarnock for Lancaster residents. In the afternoon, they will move to the Horsehead convenience site on Northumberland Highway for Northumberland residents.

### ■ Paving project

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is paving a four-mile section of Route 17 north in Essex County near the Middlesex County line.

Crews will be working daylight to dusk, Monday through Friday. The work is expected to be completed by Friday, May 24, weather permitting.

Motorists will be restricted to one lane in the work zone. Real time listings of work zones, delays and road conditions in Virginia are available at [511virginia.org](http://511virginia.org), or by calling 511 from any phone in Virginia.

### ■ Suspect buried

The Caroline County administrator's office learned after-the-fact through media reports that the deceased Boston bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was apparently buried in a Muslim cemetery on Sadie Lane within the county.

"Caroline County was not consulted or given any input into the decision-making process for determining a burial site for this individual. We had no advance notice of the decision and unfortunately learned of the selection of a burial site through the media," said county administrator Charles M. Culley Jr. "We would much prefer to be associated with positive news reports from the national media, but unfortunately had no say in the matter."

## Academy auction is successful

IRVINGTON—Chesapeake Academy's annual dinner auction gala May 4 at the Dog and Oyster Vineyard in Irvington was a huge success, according to development associate Catherine Emry.

The "Masquerade in May" Auction attracted a sell-out crowd enjoying the entertainment of juggler/magician Jonathan Austin, the Jason Jenkins jazz band, dinner by Willaby's and silent and live auctions.

Proceeds benefit Chesapeake Academy's financial assistance program offering students enrollment who would not otherwise be able to attend, enhances the academic programs including the integration of current technology into the curriculum and offers students enhanced educational opportunities on and off campus, said Emry.

"Chesapeake Academy wishes to thank every sponsor, donor, attendee and volunteer for making this event so spectacular and to Adrienne Bugg, auction chair extraordinaire, said Emry.

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From left, George Frayne, John Elsdon and Bill Wright discuss the layout of steamboats.

## Steamboat era diorama docks in Reedville for the summer

REEDVILLE—After three years of research, planning, developing and model construction, the Reedville Fishermen's Museum is displaying a diorama illustrating the construction of a typical steamboat that would have carried people, freight and produce to landings all around the Chesapeake Bay for over 100 years.

The ubiquitous vessels—numbering well over 500 at the height of the Steamboat era in the early 1900s—were constructed and serviced in shipyards all along the East Coast of the U.S., according to curator George Frayne.

The diorama is part of an exhibition on display at Reedville Fishermen's Museum through Labor Day 2013, after which it will become part of the permanent collection at the Steamboat Era Museum in

Irvington.

The intimately detailed layout includes a shipyard as it would have appeared in the early 20th century and six exceptionally fine detailed models of a steamboat in the numerous stages of construction from laying the keel to the commissioning of the completed vessel, said Frayne.

No effort was spared in finding out what the construction facilities were like in the early 1900s. Not too much information about this activity has been preserved.

Porter Kier, a former director of the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, was chief research consultant to the project. Kathy Elsdon was a major information gatherer among several who composed the research team from time to time, said Frayne.

The persistent efforts of Kier and Elsdon unearthed enough data and visual material to enable the construction crew to start the building process which has gone on now for more than a year and a half.

Frayne led the crew responsible for the model work. His exhibits have graced the Steamboat Era and the Reedville Fishermen's museums for many years. A consummate artist and craftsman, he also insists on historical accuracy,

which, as he puts it “we owe to the public.”

Bill Wright constructed the six models which show progressive development of a passenger/freight, propeller-driven steamboat and are the main attraction in the exhibition, said Frayne.

Other outstanding model work by Bob Butler, whose fine craftsmanship is well known to visitors to Heathsville's Rice's Hotel/Hewlett's Tavern and Christ Church in Irvington as well as the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and the Steamboat Era Museum, is present in the number of buildings in the ship yard's array on the layout, said Frayne.

Much of the additional detail on this panoramic display was contributed by John Elsdon and Larry Wagner. Elsdon, another master model builder, stepped in for Butler when he became too ill to continue, added Frayne.

The exhibition and diorama have been dedicated to Butler's memory. He had continued to devote time to this project although diagnosed with a fatal condition. His last contribution was made just days before he died, Frayne said.

The display is open during museum hours, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

## PDC lands grant for log barging study

RICHMOND—Gov. Bob McDonnell recently announced the recipients of fiscal year 2013 planning grants from the Governor's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID).

Eleven projects covering more than 30 localities were awarded a total of \$249,000 to support the growth of agricultural and forestry projects in the Commonwealth.

The program was developed to encourage local governments and regional organizations to analyze and plan strategically about how they can support and integrate agriculture and forestry-based industries into their communities' overall economic development efforts.

The Northern Neck Planning District received \$35,000 towards a proposed \$100,000 feasibility study to determine the economic efficiency of utilizing barge transport to bring logs timbered on the Eastern Shore for milling in Kinsale.

Phase I of the study will determine the basic economic feasibility of the project, especially as compared to extending their current wood basket by truck. Phase II will develop a detailed proposal for moving forward with the project.

The study seeks to address the timber availability problem faced by sawmills on the Northern Neck and lack of a robust transportation infrastructure to otherwise transport timber into the area.

“We've had great success incorporating two of the Commonwealth's largest industries, agriculture and forestry, and their significant overall impact on our economy into our economic development agenda,” said Gov. McDonnell.

“That strategic decision has been justified many times over. Exports have reached new record highs during the last three years and we've successfully utilized AFID economic development grants to attract new agribusinesses to Virginia and to help existing operations expand,” he said.

## NEWS BREAK

### ■ Quilt raffle

The Morattico Waterfront Museum is conducting a quilt raffle. The “Morattico Village Quilt” features images of riverfront life. A drawing will be held at the museum's oyster roast October 19. The quilt, by member Gary Bradley, may be viewed at the museum.

Tickets are \$5. Tickets may be purchased at the museum, from board members, at mem.chrs@verizon.net, or call 353-2972, or 382-4604.



## Northern Neck Family YMCA and Commonwealth Assisted Living

invite you to  
Lunch and DVD showing of

### Age of Champions

an award-winning documentary about  
the National Senior Olympics

Wednesday, May 22, 12 p.m. • In the multi  
purpose room at the Northern Neck Family YMCA

You do not need to be a member of the YMCA  
This event is free and open to the public  
To reserve your seat, please call Vera 435-0223



## The Bank of Great Grand Openings.

May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12 until 4p.m.  
10880 General Puller Highway

We're The Bank of One-on-One, treating customers like neighbors and giving them great mortgages. That's our creed. Now, we'll do the same in Middlesex County. Come by our new loan production office, we'll be having a grand opening party with food, refreshments and door prizes. Stop by and meet our Residential Lending team.



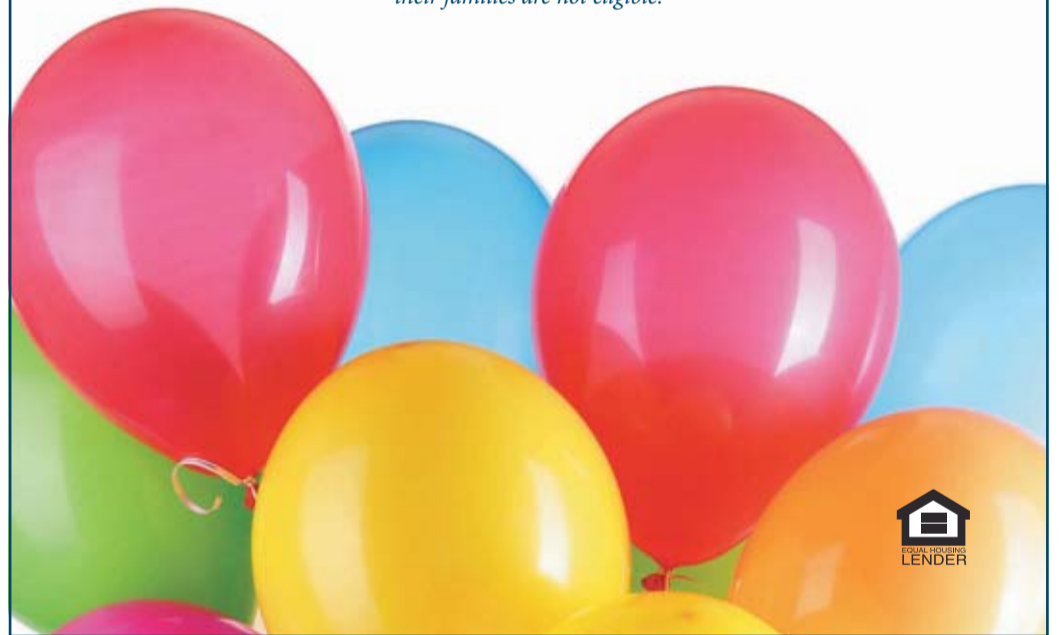
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### Door Prizes

Gift Certificate from Fleet Brothers, Weber Grill from Harrow's Home Center, Patio Set from Hurd's Hardware, Fish Cooker & Gift Certificate from Revere Gas.

Winners do not need to be present to win. Participants must be 18 years of age to enter. One entry per person. Bay Banks of Virginia employees & their families are not eligible.



Office Hours By Appointment

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In recognition of

## National Hospital Week

Rappahannock Health System

would like to take this opportunity to thank  
the devoted health care professionals and  
staff that have proudly served the Northern Neck and  
Middle Peninsula for more than 35 years.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the  
community and to our health system!

www.rappahannockhealth.com



# Rain barrels aren't just black anymore

HORSEHEAD—Northern Neck Master Gardeners recently held a rain barrel construction workshop at the Northern Neck Farm Museum.

Participants learned to construct rain barrels from recycled containers and readily available hardware at a cost of \$50 each.

"These containers are a source of sodium-free water for gardens and catch runoff that would otherwise end up in the bay," said workshop leader Edna Roberts. "Add a little paint, ... you have a yard ornament as well. The barrels we buy are black, but can also be painted with one coat of latex primer and then two coats of any exterior latex or oil-based paint."

Future workshops will be held June 8 at Belle Isle State



From left are Carol Gifford, Cindy Franklin, Linda Gill, Edna Roberts, Sharon Lemke, Sue Kosinski, JoAnne Brown and Jeanne Swan. The heavy plastic recycled barrels have been spray painted for decorative effect.

Park in Lancaster County and August 24 at Menokin in Richmond County. Master Gardeners also sell ready-

made barrels for \$60 each and ready-made composters for \$75.

To register or buy ready-

made barrels and composters, contact the Northumberland Extension Office at 580-5694.

# Electric cooperative to purchase 40 acres

WARSAW—Northern Neck Electric Cooperative (NNEC) has entered into an option to purchase 40 acres of land in Warsaw between Hamilton Boulevard and the Route 3 Bypass. The option is contingent upon the land being rezoned to accommodate NNEC's facilities and upon the conclusions of the engineering assessment and environmental impact studies for the site's feasibility.

"The availability and proximity of the land make this purchase an excellent opportunity for NNEC's vision for the future," said president and chief executive officer Greg White.

"This site will allow us to establish a much more effective area for our current operational crews, and together with our existing site, will allow us to handle the massive outside forces we bring in for a major outage event," said White. "NNEC has operated its system from Warsaw for 75 years and

we anticipate that this land acquisition will allow us to operate from here for at least another 75 years."

NNEC was considering additional land acquisition prior to the economic downturn of 2009, but put those plans on hold. Now, with the economy beginning to show improvement, the cooperative has reinstated that process. There is a two-fold reason for the cooperative acquiring additional land. Primarily, NNEC does not have the room to carry out its operations properly due to the very limited space at the existing property. Electric utility equipment has evolved over the years from rather simple modified pickup trucks to line trucks and bucket trucks costing in excess of \$200,000.

Most utilities keep these vehicles and other expensive equipment under covered bays to extend their life and make for easy access by crews in all types of weather. The limited acreage

NNEC currently owns does not allow for construction of these bays and is a very congested area in the morning and evening as the crews move through the yard.

Secondarily, NNEC needs a much larger area to assemble the outside crews it brings in for major storms such as Hurricane Irene or extreme winter blizzards. To decrease the amount of time members are without power following a major storm, the cooperative has steadily increased the number of outside forces brought in to help with its outage restoration. During the next major storm, NNEC expects to bring in up to eight times the number of people it normally uses to run its outside operations.

It is anticipated the warehouse, garage, pole storage area and the operational staff will be moved to the new site over the next few years with the remaining staff working out of the relatively new building on St. Johns

Street for many years to come.

NNEC is a member-owned cooperative serving over 18,800 homes and businesses in Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George and Stafford Counties. Visit [nneec.coop](http://nneec.coop).

## NEWS BREAK

### ■ Portrait mission

Yours Truly Photography of Kilmarnock will travel to Brooklyn, N.Y., June 8 to provide professional portraits to many of the families in the neighborhoods of Gerritsen Beach that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. The trip is expected to cost some \$1,250.

Yours Truly is volunteering time and talents and is calling on the community to help support the mission. Donations will be collected at Yours Truly Photography in Lancaster Square Shopping Center in Kilmarnock.

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**Magnificent "Millie"**

2 year old spayed female with all shots current. Crate trained, gets along well with other dogs, 60 lbs. of love and energy. Millie may have some Mastiff in her background so she's very strong, not for first time canine person. Millie needs a firm hand to learn good manners, she is very anxious to please and will make a wonderful addition to a loving family.  
**To arrange a meeting call Joyce, 804-462-0091**

*This ad is sponsored by an animal lover through the Animal Welfare League. 804-435-0822*



# OMEGA PROTEIN celebrating 100 YEARS of HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE INGREDIENTS

*Omega Protein would like to thank the community for 100 years of support. In celebration of our 100-year-history, Omega Protein will be hosting a Centennial Celebration and Family Day Picnic.*

*We welcome all of you who currently serve Omega and those who have worked for Omega Protein, Ampro, Standard Products, SeaCoast, and Smith's throughout the years as well as your families to celebrate this special event.*

## FREE ADMISSION

OMEGA PROTEIN'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

When: Saturday, May 18  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Where: Morris-Fisher Stack  
610 Menhaden Road  
Reedville, VA 22539



## FREE ADMISSION



ALL OMEGA PROTEIN GUESTS MAY RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO THE REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM DURING THE MONTH OF MAY





## Focal Point



First butterfly of the season!

Photo by Nadege Watson

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

## Civil War Sesquicentennial

## 150 years ago this month, May 20-30, 1863: Attacks on the Northern Neck

Beginning in May 1863, and lasting for the duration of the war, the Union intensified its attacks on the citizens of the South.

The Northern Neck was not an area of military conflict and the people had no troops there to protect them. They were surrounded by hostile waters and could not easily leave the peninsula. While they relied on blockade runners from Maryland for some essential items such as medicines and farm equipment, there is no evidence that they were involved in the supply of weapons or materials other than what they needed for their own survival.

Attacks on the Northern Neck began with three coordinated raids over the course of May 20-30, 1863. The 8th Illinois Cavalry was chosen to lead the attack, leaving camp near Potomac Creek Station with 500 men and four days' rations. They invaded from King George Court House down the entire length of the Neck to the end of Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

The First Army Corps Expeditionary Force comprised about 1,200 infantry soldiers from the 24th Michigan, 19th Indiana, 16th Wisconsin, and 2nd Wisconsin regiments, plus supporting cavalry. This ground expedition traveled from the upper Neck near Fitzhugh's Crossing, through King George Court House, across Mattox Creek, to Oak Grove and Leedstown, then to Westmoreland Court House and on to Heathsville.

The 3rd Indiana Cavalry invaded from Moon Landing near the convergence of the Little Wicomico and Potomac rivers. They traveled through Heathsville, to Lancaster Court House, to Chowning's Ferry, and across the Rappahannock to Urbanna. Part of their mission included capturing some fine horses for General Pleasonton and George Custer, later to be named a general.

Dr. Abner Hard, surgeon for the 8th Illinois Cavalry, described the expedition as "capturing and destroying rebel property without limit." In a history of his unit written after the war, he stated: "The entire county was searched, and every nook along the banks of the two rivers explored. One hundred sloops, yawls, and ferry-boats, etc., were burned with their contents; consisting of salt, oil, whisky, leather, stationary, wool cards, percussion caps, boots, shoes, clothing and many other articles of especial value to the rebels. About twenty thousand pounds of bacon and a large quantity of flour was also destroyed. At Leed's ferry it was ascertained that the ferry-boat was used for smuggling was on the southern bank of the Rappahannock, and it was especially desirable that it should be destroyed. A yankee trick was devised to induce the rebels to bring it across the river. Captain Southworth, Ser-

geant Cassidy and four others dressed themselves in rebel gray, and taking two of their own men along as prisoners, called to the men on the opposite bank to bring the boat over to take them across. The deception was so complete that the rebels brought the boat over, whereupon they were made prisoners and the boat destroyed...."

"Not the least important result of this expedition was the addition of five hundred valuable horses and mule; much needed in the service.... As a result of the expedition, we brought in one hundred prisoners, some of whom were guilty of crimes punishable by death; also three officers, a few smugglers, and upward of five thousand dollars on confederate money, besides some government securities. Of the negroes, three hundred stout field hands were assigned to the Quartermaster's department as laborers."

So devastating were the attacks of the 8th Illinois on the civilian population of the Northern Neck that Colonel Morrow of the 24th Michigan Infantry was prompted to express his displeasure to higher command. In his report of May 29, 1863, he wrote to his superior: "Everywhere I found a majority of the people bitterly opposed to the Government, which they charged with sending among them cavalry to rob and plunder them. In several instances I was assured by intelligent men and women that the wholesale plunder and pillage of our cavalry had done more to weaken the affection of the people for the Government than all other causes combined, and, in fact, the cavalry left the inhabitants very little cause to respect them as men and soldiers. They have robbed and plundered all that came in their way. These men, pretending to be the representatives of our Government, and to act under and by virtue of its orders, have stripped helpless women and children of their last horse, and in many instances of their last article of food, and have grossly insulted them for complaining. I do not believe the general commanding the Army of the Potomac is aware of the utter want of every principle of true soldiers which characterize the intercourse between the cavalry and the inhabitants of the Northern Neck, and hence the strong terms in which I have referred to it."

Many Neck residents would likely have agreed with Morrow's description of their feelings toward the Union: "The coming of our cavalry among them is anticipated by the people with terror, and their departure is hailed with joy as a deliverance from a scourge."

*This article is provided by the Lancaster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library, with assistance from Ed Trexler, author of Civil War Northern Neck.*

## Stroke awareness

Brain injury is a serious health problem in our country, and stroke is a brain injury that can often be prevented. The designation of May as National Stroke Awareness Month is a good opportunity to learn about stroke and to make lifestyle changes to lessen the risk of suffering an event with potentially devastating physical and cognitive effects.

A stroke is a "brain attack," cutting off vital blood and oxygen to the brain cells controlling everything we do: speaking, walking, talking, breathing. Most strokes are caused by a build-up of fatty deposits that create blood clots, blocking the arteries that carry oxygen to the brain.

About 795,000 Americans will suffer a stroke this year, yet most people cannot identify stroke warning signs or risk factors. Many strokes can be prevented by monitoring blood pressure and cholesterol levels and committing to a program of exercise and weight management. Diets low in fat, salt, and sugar reduce the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, and other health conditions that can contribute to stroke risk.

Stroke symptoms are sudden: numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg; confusion; trouble speaking; vision problems; dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and severe headache with no known cause. Learning the symptoms, and acting fast by calling 9-1-1 when they occur, could save your life, and minimize long-term damage to your brain.

Celebrate National Stroke Awareness Month by reviewing your life for possible stroke risk factors and taking steps to lower that risk for yourself and those you love.

**Martha M. Hall, Warsaw, Regional Resource Coordinator, Brain Injury Association of VA**

## Buy local

The emphasis on "Buying Locally" by the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber, Chesapeake Bank and others is a great idea and can have a significant, positive effect on our community. The following are some of our thoughts, as they directly affect us and the community.

The internet has brought monumental changes to our society. We in the travel industry are not the only ones impacted. It affects banking and finance, wholesale and retail trade, real estate, education and most other aspects of our lives.

We welcome the opportunity to compete fairly with every other travel provider for the consumer dollar. We are convinced that not only can we compete but we can do so while making a meaningful contribution to our community.

Studies show that in most cases our prices will be equal or lower than faceless internet competitors. In addition, we provide professional, personal service not available from our far-off competitors.

## YOUR LETTERS

More than providing valuable travel services, our responsibility includes being an asset to the community by supporting our schools, churches and civic activities. Unlike the internet or far-off competitors, our profits, our ideas and our energies are used to better the community.

Where does the internet pay taxes?

Sure we try to make a profit, but without that, who would pay for next year's rent, taxes, groceries, insurance, clothes, advertising, medical care and the list goes on? Who would support the schools, churches, government and community activities?

So we go about our business each day, we pledge to not only give you the best possible value and personal service, we expect to use our resources to make the community a better place for all of us to live, work and play. We hope you support the local effort.

**David Hallett, Kilmarnock**

## Climate facts

A recent letter referred to the linkages between human emissions of CO2 and severe weather. Yes, there is "no need to panic now," but we all need to anticipate the climate change crisis that will endanger our children and grandchildren.

There is a need to take immediate action to reduce human emissions such as implementing a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend program. Daniel Patrick Moynihan is credited with saying "everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts." Virtually every statement made in the May 2 letter regarding the climate and CO2 was not factual.

As reported in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, May 2, 2013, the current level of atmospheric CO2 at almost 400 ppm was last seen "2.5 to 5 million years ago."

"Average temperatures during the Pliocene rose as much as 18 degrees Fahrenheit. Sea levels were between 16 and 131 feet higher than current levels" according to Dr. Richard North, a Scripps geologist.

For the most recent 800,000 years, CO2 levels have never exceeded 300 ppm. CO2 levels were about 280 ppm at the start of the Industrial Revolution when the burning of fossil fuels began in earnest.

In 1896, a Swedish physicist described how doubling of the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere (280 to 560 ppm) would cause a temperature increase of approximately 3.5 degrees Centigrade (6.3 deg F) because of the "Greenhouse Effect."

The writer's contention that "there is no evidence that carbon dioxide...has had any effect on the global temperature..." is refuted by our understanding of how electromagnetic radiation interact with matter. The observed temperature increase has resulted in more moisture in the atmosphere, which is partly responsible for episodic severe weather.

A booklet from the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, "Climate Change, Evidence, Impacts and Choices," is available from the National Academies Press.

NAPS will provide citizens a copy, or a CD, upon request. We can also meet with groups who want to discuss the science behind this issue.

**Gregory T. Haugan, PhD., Heathsville**

## Sad Saturday

A friend and I happened to meet in the Walmart parking lot Saturday morning and were chatting as we walked to our cars which were parked next to each other.

As we were parting she asked if I wanted to say "hi" to her precious dog, Carmine, who had ridden to town with her. When we approached the car and saw that Carmine wasn't responding to our voices we knew something was wrong. We opened the door and could see that Carmine was unresponsive and we reacted by screaming for help to get her up the hill, on foot, to the Kilmarnock Animal Hospital.

Our screams for help brought a gentleman who got Carmine out of the car and asked which way to the vet. With him running and her momma following on foot they reached the vet in moments, shortly before the hospital closed for the weekend. Unfortunately, Carmine didn't make it, she had had a heart attack and was gone by only a few minutes.

We are completely distraught but we want to acknowledge the effort of this gentleman for getting Carmine to the hospital as fast as anyone could. He displayed true compassion in coming to the aid of a dying dog and two hysterical women.

God bless him and the good doctor at KAH, Dr. Joyce Cunningham. She couldn't have been kinder.

Everyone will miss Carmine so very much. She was loved immensely by many.

**Joyce Page, Lancaster**

## Valuable service

I can't say enough about the "Keep Safe" program the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has available for the community. Before I leave on a vacation, I make arrangements with the sheriff's office to call our home at 7 p.m. every evening.

As my husband was in his late 80s, this service gave me peace of mind that someone was checking to see if he was okay. If there is no answer after several attempts, someone from the Sheriff's office comes to the house.

While I was vacationing with my sister on a Rhine cruise, I received a shocking and devastating call from the sheriff's office advising me of his demise.

The staff at the sheriff's office should be commended for offering this caring and important service for the community.

**Greta Rogg, Laurel Point**

## Excerpts

A few Lents ago, leaving our church after the Community Lenten Service, my friend, the Rev. Larry Adams, remarked to me that our organist never looked at the music. I replied that where she looked was not of significance as she was blind. He was impressed that she could play so well without eyesight.

The loss of her vision in her 80s was only one of many setbacks that challenged Jeanne Bridge over the near century that she lived. She was the constant and enduring optimist, always seeing something good coming out of whatever crisis came her way.

Jeanne and her late husband, Bill, spent their careers teaching school, and in retirement they came to Bluff Point to live in the country. They happily enjoyed life in the Northern Neck, but soon had to face the onset of Bill's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Jeanne said that the doctors' prognosis had laid out a scenario whereby for two years she should be able to care for Bill at home by herself, but then for two years she should need assistance in the house, and then for two years Bill would have to live in a facility where he

*She liked to call people, "Kiddo," usually replying to inquiries about her health with the phrase, "I'm fine, Kiddo. How about you?"*

could receive professional care.

The pattern proved to be virtually letter-perfect. Jeanne gave Bill a wonderful quality of life despite his illness, but along the way she grieved at seeing him decline. After his death, she devoted herself among other areas to her music, where she possessed extraordinary gifts. She thrived on playing the organ in church, and became something of an icon around Kilmarnock.

She drove a sedan with the distinctive license plate, "A FOSSIL," indicating that she saw herself as a relic from the past, but as her eyesight failed, she had to give up her car and rely on others to take her to church, the doctor,

and on errands. She accepted this reduction, but always retained a desire for independence. Jeanne was a great proponent of freedom, and she had an abiding love of country. She was patriotic to the core, and let everyone know it.

Jeanne and Bill had four sons, two of whom she lost in recent years, but within a week of each one's passing she was back in church playing the organ, thankful in her sorrow that she had been able to care for them as a mother, even in her own advanced age.

The Community Lenten Services were among her favorite annual happenings. After the services she would sit at the luncheon, usually with her friend and fellow nonagenarian, Alice Marie Brady, by the entrance, greeting as many attendees as she could, many of whom would have to identify themselves as she could not see them. The role of matriarch, or "grande dame," fit Jeanne very well.

In that regard her hearing became a decided asset. She often could tell who was speaking to her by the sound of the person's voice. She liked to call people, "Kiddo," usually replying to inquiries about her health with the phrase,

"I'm fine, Kiddo. How about you?"

Jeanne also liked to wear distinctive clothing. Her dresses went almost to her ankles, and despite her inability to see, everything she wore always matched, and she appeared looking elegant wherever she went.

Age never was an obstacle to Jeanne's living life to the fullest. Having spent a good part of her years as a teacher, she retained a keen interest in children. She liked to converse with them, to know what they were doing and thinking, and to be part of their lives. She said they were the means for her keeping up with the world.

Jeanne was born less than three weeks before America entered the First World War, and she lived almost to witness the centenary of its outbreak. That century has been defined in large part by its wars and conflicts, but Jeanne's century, with which it coincided, could be defined as one of peace, goodness, kindness, and cheerfulness. In short, her life abounded with love.

Jeanne Louise Picard Bridge, March 30, 1917 – May 2, 2013. R.I.P.

by Henry Lane Hull





**Do you remember?**

This 1909 photo of the Bellows & Squires menhaden factory at Ocran shows three of the four boats that fished from the plant. The four boats were David K. Phillips, Elizabeth M. Froelich, George H. Bradley and Peter Streven; however, among observers today, no one seems to agree on which three boats are pictured here, said Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. The factory closed in 1936. "Do you remember?" is a community service of the Kilmarnock Museum. Photo courtesy of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

**YESTERYEAR**

(Reprints from the May 16, 1913, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

**Boat Notes**

Steamer Tivola made a trip to the Rappahannock Thursday from Baltimore with freight and empties.

In latitude 46.39 and longitude 44.40 west, with the engine slowed down on account of thick fog, the Chiltern Range, of the Furness line, last week hit an iceberg nearly 200 feet high. The ship's stern was broken and twisted. The slow speed at which the vessel was going saved a serious accident. As it was, the Chiltern Range struck the berg a glancing blow and then slid away to the east.

**Fish And Oyster Notes**

State Commission of Fisheries meets in monthly meeting in Richmond next week.

The soft crabbing season this side of the bay was fast and short. It lasted only two or three weeks, but prices were good. Boys caught as high as seventeen dozen a day, the crabs 50 cents a dozen. The crop on the eastern side is said to be big. The hard crab outlook is bright throughout all our waters, greater quantities being found than usual.

**Marvin Thomas Is Missing From Home**

Marvin Thomas, son of Edwin Thomas, of Lara, Northumberland County, is missing. The young man went to Baltimore about two weeks ago to purchase a sawmill, carrying with him \$500 in cash. He was expected to return home a few days later, but did not. His father immediately went to Baltimore in search of him. It developed that young Thomas had found board at a private boarding house, for which he had paid \$1.50. No information could be given regarding his whereabouts however, and a search was at once begun by the police

department, which has been futile.

**White Stone**

Hugh G. Ward, who has been living at Mahoneville, near here, is suffering from cancer and has been brought to this place so he can have the attention of friends. The County Board of Supervisors also made small appropriation for Mr. Ward at monthly meeting Wednesday.

Miss Carrie Evans left Wednesday to visit relatives in Middlesex County.

A most successful operation for throat trouble was performed last Tuesday at St. Christopher's Hospital, Norfolk, upon little Margaret Bellows, youngest child of Capt. J. F. Bellows. Dr. Newbill, Mrs. Bellows and Miss Fannie Bellows, accompanied the little patient, who is doing remarkably well.

D. R. James, Sr., and J. R. Gresham, have been elected delegates from the Baptist Sunday School here to the convention at Lebanon on the 24th and 25th.

**Lively**

R. O. Norris, Jr., was in Baltimore last week on business.

E. B. Clark and daughter, Miss Gazelle, spent several days last week with the former's son, Y. D. Clark, in lower Middlesex county.

Rice and Revere's new store house is rapidly going up under the skill of Messrs. Haynie and Hazzard.

James Barrack, of Rainswood, was here Sunday and Monday visiting friends.

Mrs. E. B. Clark and children visited Mrs. Clark's brother near White Chapel Sunday last. Mr. Clark is in Baltimore this week on business.

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

**HealthLine: Atrial Fibrillation 101**

Content provided by Bon Secours Richmond Health System and Dr. David Hughes, Cardiologist at Rappahannock General Hospital

Atrial fibrillation affects more than 2.6 million Americans. With more than 160,000 new cases diagnosed each year, it's highly likely that you or someone close to you could be affected by atrial fibrillation.

By recognizing potential causes and symptoms, you can improve your chances, or someone else's, at catching this condition early and receiving appropriate treatment.

**What is atrial fibrillation?**

Atrial fibrillation is the most common type of irregular heartbeat, or arrhythmia. Normally, the heart beats in a strong, steady rhythm. In atrial fibrillation, a problem with the heart's electrical system causes the two upper parts of the heart, the atria, to quiver, or fibrillate.

The quivering upsets the normal rhythm between the atria and the lower parts of the heart, the ventricles. And the ventricles may beat fast and without a regular rhythm.

This is dangerous because if the heartbeat isn't strong and steady, blood can collect, or pool, in the atria. And pooled blood is more likely to form clots. Clots can travel to the brain, block blood flow, and cause a stroke. Atrial fibrillation can also lead to heart failure.

**What causes atrial fibrillation?**

Conditions that damage or strain the heart commonly cause atrial fibrillation. These include: high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, heart attack and heart valve disease.

Other possible causes can include: heart surgery, heavy alcohol use, use of stimulants, use of some prescription medicines, or other medical problems such as heart failure, lung disease, pneumonia or high thyroid level. Sometimes doctors can't find the cause and refer to this as lone atrial fibrillation.

**What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms may include: feeling dizzy or lightheaded, out of breath, weak and tired, feeling like the heart is fluttering, racing or pounding, feeling like the heart is beating unevenly, or having chest pain.

Many patients don't notice any symptoms. If you have symptoms, see your doctor. Receiving treatment for atrial fibrillation right away can help you avoid serious problems.

**How is atrial fibrillation diagnosed?**

The doctor will ask questions about your past health, do a physical exam and order tests. The best way to find out if you have atrial fibrillation is to have an electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG). AN EKG is a test that checks for problems with the heart's electrical activity.

You might also have lab tests and an echocardiogram can show how well your heart is pumping and whether your heart valves are damaged.

**How is it treated?**

Your treatment will depend on the cause of your atrial fibrillation, your symptoms, and your risk for stroke. Medicines are an important part of treatment. They may include blood thinners or aspirin to help prevent strokes, rate-control medicine to keep your heart from beating too fast during atrial fibrillation, or rhythm-control medicines to help bring your heart rhythm back to normal.

Doctors sometimes use a procedure called cardioversion to try to get the heartbeat back to normal. This can be done using either medicine or a low-voltage electrical shock (electrical cardioversion).

If symptoms keep bothering you, ablation may help. It destroys small areas of the heart to create scar tissue. The scar tissue blocks or destroys the areas that are causing the abnormal heart rhythm.

**What can you do for atrial fibrillation?**

Atrial fibrillation is often the result of heart disease or damage. So making changes that improve the condition of your heart may also improve your overall health.

Some health lifestyle choices include: don't smoke and avoid secondhand smoke too, eat a heart-healthy diet, get regular exercise, control your cholesterol and blood pressure, manage your stress, avoid caffeine, alcohol and stimulants, and avoid getting sick from the flu by getting an annual flu shot.

For information about medical procedures available in Kilmarnock and the surrounding areas, physician information, specialty classes and community resources, call the RGH HealthLine at 435-8010.

**Bicyclists and dogs**

Last week while riding on a peaceful Saturday afternoon, a local bicyclist was viciously attacked by an unleashed dog. The large dog was clearly intent on attacking the rider, as opposed to a playful chase, and ran into the front wheel of the bicycle.

The cyclist was thrown from his bike, at approximately 20 mph. The rider suffered broken ribs, extensive road rash and most seriously, a severely broken collar bone, dangerously close to his windpipe. He was airlifted to the hospital and will have surgery to hopefully repair the sustained damage.

However it is possible he may never be able to ride a bicycle again. All because a dog owner refused to have his animal on a leash.

The officials investigating this attack indicated that this was not the first incident involving this unleashed animal and its owner. The danger of dog attacks is one of many challenges any cyclist faces but many dog owners fail to also realize the danger to their pets as they run into the road and the path of moving vehicular traffic.

This is a tragic story that could have been avoided. Dog owners, please think long and hard about keeping your loved animals on leashes to keep them and others safe.

Steven Reiss, Irvington

**Showing respect may earn returns**

"Disrespect" in the Lancaster schools is not isolated to the students.

Due to my daughter's disabilities I escort her to her classroom. One morning, we passed a member of the school board office. My daughter extended her arm to shake hands.

Seeing her attempt to connect, I stopped and said loudly, "Did you want to shake their hand?" The individual responded from 20 feet, "I did not see her." How do you not see a child walking awkwardly with her mother?

While my daughter attended a therapy session, I waited in the office with my nine-year-old twins. A screeching voice was heard, "You know you are not supposed to chew gum in school, what are you doing chewing gum, you need to spit that gum out right now..." I was shocked at the tone of voice, and amazed that it was directed at my son.

When I tried to explain he doesn't attend Lancaster, the tirade continued. Another employee explained our situation and the teacher apologized. I accepted the apology.

What has happened to manners? Wouldn't it have been better to calmly ask my child to remove his gum?

At an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting, I expressed concerns for my daughter's safety to the building administrator. The fears were based on past incidents and a friend's observation, "there are five to six fights a day, and I saw a grandfather beat up his grandson in the lobby."

The administrator said nothing. I witnessed the administrator

**YOUR LETTERS**

doodling for the majority of the meeting with no respect for those present, the subject matter, or the future of my child.

These isolated events do not describe everyone involved with our children in Lancaster. I see a broken system that needs to return to the basics of The Golden Rule.

I still ponder if is it safe physically and emotionally for my daughter to be enrolled in Lancaster schools.

Lisa Smith, White Stone

**Do the homework**

Mr. Failmezger did not do his homework. As a teacher in the Alternative School, I can assure you that we have middle school students from Lancaster County.

Right now we have three Lan-

caster Middle School students and six high school students. The blame for the problems at the middle school is not that especially disruptive students are still in class. The problem may be in the discipline policies that are in place and the way they are enforced.

Last year the alternative students were picked up at home and transported separately so that they did not have to go to the high school. This year alternative students are bused with the regular students on the Vo-Tech bus to cut extra transportation costs.

In defense of my students, to my knowledge, there have been very few behavior issues with being transported in this manner.

Nancy Tripp, Warsaw, Northern Neck Alternative Education teacher

**Lancaster NAACP will meet May 21**

The Lancaster County NAACP will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock.

Northumberland County Social Services Jackie Clayton will be the public forum presenter. She will address Foster Parenting, including information on child abuse. The public is invited.

In other business, plans will be updated on the historical promenade and the Freedom Fund Banquet.

Information also will be shared on The NAACP real world guide to interaction with law enforcement, "The

411 on the Five-0"

President Lloyd Hill will share reflections and will lead a discussion on Supreme Court associate justice Antonin Scalia referral to voting rights as a racial entitlement.

The known slate of candidates for the county and statewide elections also will be discussed.

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