Rappahannock Record

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Thursday, October 19, 2017

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Pets on parade

Charlie and Pendleton get a pep talk (above) during the Dog Gone Dog Show Saturday, October 14, at the Irvington Commons. The show is an annual fundraiser of the Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck, an animal rescue organization finding homes for abandoned pets. From left are Bob Sutherland, Sandy Sutherland, Erin Thompson and Matt Sutherland. Dogs of all shapes and sizes put their best paw forward for the show. The event featured 13 competition divisions, baked goods, picnic foods, a silent auction, pet boutique and vendors. Mia and Lucy are ready for the best dressed category, according to their friend Greg Grichtmeier. More Cog Gone Dog Show coverage appears on page C4. Photos by Audrey Thomasson



Northumberland transfers cable franchise

by Madison White Franks

berland supervisors on October 12 The official closing on the sale will be adopted a resolution transferring the around January 4 and existing agreecounty's cable television franchise ments will remain in place, he said. from Metrocast to Atlantic Broad-

District 1 supervisor Joseph Self moved to adopt the resolution, District 3 supervisor James Long sec- ees who wish to will transfer to was adopted, 5-0.

Metrocast recently was purchased of Cogeco Communications, the 9th from the existing service," said Dis-

largest cable operator in the U.S.

Francis Bradley of Atlantic Broad-HEATHSVILLE—Northum- band addressed the board Thursday.

> increasing speeds and create larger business services," said Bradley.

He said all local Metrocast employonded the motion and the resolution employment with Atlantic Broadband.

"Internet is everywhere...people

trict 4 supervisor Tommy Tomlin. "Picking up more people and more subdivisions is the question we are all being asked."

Expansion has to make economic sense, said Bradley. He suggested "We want to offer more packages, supervisors put together a list of target areas in the county to expand internet service.

Bradley said the company will operate under the new Atlantic Broadband name but existing customers with a Metrocast email address will stay the same. New customers will by Atlantic Broadband, a subsidiary want the internet but they are too far be assigned an Atlantic Broadband email address.

Positive vibes at LHS are praised, absenteeism is a concern at LMS

by Madison White Franks

KILMARNOCK—Lancaster High School principal Butch Gross last week reported to the school board that homecoming week was a success.

"The parade was phenomenal because it took a lot to make that happen," said

Board member Kenya Moody thanked him for organizing the homecoming parade and bringing back school spirit.

"I have been hearing nothing but positive things about you and the administration at the high school. I think it's very important that you know that," said Moody.

"It's a team effort and we have great kids and I have been impressed with them. We are very blessed in lots of ways," said Gross.

"Mr. Gross and his staff have done a really great job at the high school," said parent C.D. Hathaway.

Gross also noted the positive behavior interventions and supports reward system (PBIS) is working great for the students.

Hathaway found issues with the fairness of how many points are rewarded from different teachers. He also thinks the athletic events should be separate from the PBIS reward system and any student with a student ID should pay a reduced rate to get in to any athletic

Gross indicated he would contact surrounding schools to see how they handle

student admission to athletic events. The middle and primary school prin-

cipals both addressed the board as well. Middle school principal Jessica Davis noted an attendance problem.

"We have a very high rate of student absenteeism at the middle school," she

The school is forming a committee to

look into the problem and find solutions for improvement, said Davis.

makes a huge difference," said superinmotion. Joan Gravatt was absent. tendent Steve Parker. "It is something we need to address."

Primary School principal Michael Daddario highlighted community partnerships. On October 13, the Master Gardeners taught third graders about the soil and ecosystems. Also on October 13, the 4-year-olds took a trip to Green Hand Farm and a firetruck visited the school

to teach the 3-year-olds about fire safety. The Lancaster County Lions Club came to conduct hearing and vision screenings on October 16.

Daddario noted a trunk or treat event is planned by the Parent Teacher Association on October 27. He also highlighted the ongoing partnership with Northern Neck Food Bank.

"Currently we are handing out 75 Backpacks for Buddies on Thursdays and Fridays," he said. The school is sending backpacks full of food home with the students in case they don't have anything else to eat over the weekend, he said.

Chairman Robert Westbrook gave an update on the school facilities project.

"We are looking at different parcels of land that we are considering; we are getting official appraisals," he said.

Westbrook said the facilities committee is looking into three different parcels of land.

"The momentum that we had in February seems to have subsided," said Hathaway.

Westbrook said there are other bodies that are involved in making this school facilities project move forward but it has gone slow.

"It's maddening how slow it has been," said Westbrook.

The school board was asked by teacher Christa Dameron to approve a field trip to Tangier Island in early May for the county's 80 first graders. The fee will be \$20 per person and a payment plan will be offered. The first grade teachers are also exploring fundraising options.

She noted the first graders of Lancaster will be pen pals with the four first graders on the island. The field trip will entail a detailed tour around the island, meeting the first graders of Tangier and enjoying lunch and a treat before heading for home.

Board member Audrey Thomasson moved to approve the field trip and Moody seconded the motion. Robert "Kids are missing instruction and that Smart and Westbrook supported the

> Director of technology Kevin Bean demonstrated the capabilities of the new smart boards in all the third-grade classrooms. The smart boards were acquired through the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation and the Wiley Foundation. A grant of approximately \$20,000 provided four boards for each classroom.

Fundraising continues for upcoming LHS band trip

LANCASTER—The Lancaster Band Boosters seek help to transport the Lancaster Red Devils Marching Band to the 2017 Taxslayer Bowl game. The band will perform in the half time show December 30 on the Jaguars' Everbank Field in Jacksonville, Fla.

This will be the last band trip for director Rob Spiers who is retiring at the end of this school year, said band booster president Donna McGrath.

The Boosters have been asked by Spiers to cover the cost of the charter buses to transport the band and equipment, which has helped to lower the individual cost for each student who goes on the trip.

A benefit concert to help fund the trip will be held at 3 p.m. October 29 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater, 191



A handcrafted wooden American flag is being raffled to raise funds for the Lancaster High School band's trip to the Taxslayer Bowl.

School Street, Kilmarnock. The concert will feature Lancaster graduate Willsonia Boyer, a soprano who performs both as an opera singer and concert artist worldwide.

She will be accompanied on the piano

the assistant conductor at the New York City Opera.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Lancaster High School, Lancaster Middle School, W.F. Booth & Son Inc. and Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce. Reservations also may be made at suiteeventsly.webs.com/boyer.

7th Street Band

Spiers, a member of the 7th Street Band from Yorktown, asked them to hold a benefit performance to help raise funds and they were very happy to, he said.

"The 7th St. Band features some of the best musicians in the area including Lynda Smith, a Donk's Theater star, Kenny Flester and myself in a fabulous horn section," said Spiers. "We play Motown, beach music and oldies dance the season," he said.

The show will be held November 3 at Town Centre Park, Kilmarnock, 150 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m., music will follow from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and food, drink and beer will be available for purchase.

Flag raffle

The third fundraiser is a raffle, said McGrath.

Steve Pacheco, parent of drum major Alexis Pacheco, approached the Boosters with a cool item—a rustic wooden American flag that was being handcrafted for the band, she said.

Pacheco, an E8 senior chief electrician's mate in the U.S. Coast Guard, indicated someone who was retiring

by Marijo Newman who has served as music, so this will be the party event of received a beautiful wooden flag created by Kevin Powell of American Heirloom Woodworks, continued McGrath. Pacheco asked Powell to create one for the band to be used as a raffle item.

> "Mr. Powell agreed and this beautiful piece of art was made for us," she said.

> The drawing will be held at the Lancaster Middle School Band's winter concert on December 18. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. at the LMS Theater. Tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5.

To purchase tickets for the concerts and/or flag raffle, contact Donna at 438-5803, or dmcgrath64@gmail.com. Donations and ticket requests also may be sent to LHS Band Boosters, P.O. Box 3, Lancaster, VA 22503. Include a selfaddressed stamped envelope with the



Calendar.....B2 Churches.....B6-8 Classified......DI-3

DirectoryD7 Notices......D6

Obituaries.....B7 Opinion A6-10

Police......A4

Upcoming.....BI-5



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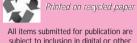
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Town council fails to muster a quorum

by Audrey Thomasson

IRVINGTON—The monthly meeting of the Irvington town council ended before it began when council failed to make a

mayor Ralph Ransone last Thursber 2.

day night were Kathleen Pollard, Fran Westbrook and Mike Merrill. Members Jerry Latel, Wayne Nunnally and Mike Bombay failed to make the meeting.

Another meeting was not scheduled. Council's next regular The only members to join monthly meeting date is Novem-

Committee reports prompt action by Kilmarnock council

by Madison White Franks

KILMARNOCK—Town council committees weighed in on Monday night with several action items.

During the administrative finance committee report, council member Rebecca Nunn said a fiscal year 2018 supplement needed to be transferred. The transfer of funds was for Virginia's River Realm from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2018 in the amount of \$48,371.53. The money was received from Middlesex County in June for the fiscal year now under way. Kilmarnock serves as the fiscal agent for the regional economic development initiative.

Nunn moved to transfer the funds and council member Michael Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with support from council members Keith Butler, Betsy Crowther, Emerson Gravatt and Dr. Curtis Smith.

During the economic development committee report, Gravatt said the Virginia's River Realm marketing initiative will be a sponsor for a new VIP Oyster Lovers Experience tent at the Urbanna Oyster Festival November 3 and 4. He also noted the latest Virginia's River Realm newsletter was published and will go out to consumers next week. It is called "Fall in the Realm" and features the area's fall festivals.

Also during the administrative finance committee report, council voted unanimously to:

• Set a public hearing at the November meeting to review the proposed transfer of a small parcel of town-owned land to the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire

and public works, \$5,000.

 Appropriate fiscal year 2017 budget transfers to close the year.

During the water/sewer committee report, council authorized town manager Tom Saunders to seek outside expertise to assist in evaluating the town's water and wastewater assets and to commence a thorough analysis of an unsolicited proposal from Aqua Virginia.

During the streets/sidewalks/ playground committee report, upcoming events were highlighted including:

• The Taters on the Half Shell Stage, Town Centre Park, Octo-

• Kandy for Kids, Steptoe's District, October 28.

• Christmas in the Park, tree lighting, Santa visit, November

• Kilmarnock Trolley Express, December 16 and 17.



Cellist Sarah Tindall performs with conductor Michael Repper and the Northern Neck Orchestra. Photo by Kent Eanes

Young cellist captures concert audience

On Saturday, October 14, at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock, a large audience attending the Northern Neck Orchestra's 2017-18 season opening concert enjoyed a stirring performance by teenage cellist Sarah Tindall.

Tindall's rendition of the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto Number 1, considered by many musicologists to be the finest (and most difficult, technically) of cello concertos, Star-Spangled Banner, the

received an uproarious standing ovation, reported Terrell

"Her poise and command of the instrument showed a maturity of musicianship far beyond her 16 years," said Green. "This was a musical event of a quality rarely available in small towns of America.

Conductor and musical director Michael Repper opened the concert with the audience joining in with full voice. He then led the orchestra in a rousing performance of Rossini's overture to the Barber of Seville, followed by the Saint-Saens concerto, where the 50-member orchestra must accompany but not overwhelm the soloist. The concert concluded with a powerful rendition of Beethoven's pastoral Sixth Symphony.

"It was a musical experience to be remembered," said

Transportation officials respond to Academic Lane project issues

by Madison White Franks

HEATHSVILLE—A project to improve traffic flow and enhance safety at Northumberland Highway and Academic Lane has Northumberland supervisors asking questions. The project involves extending and adding left turn lanes.

At last Thursday's meeting, District 4 supervisor Tommy Tomlin questioned Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) residency administrator Steven McKeever regarding the · Reappoint Neil Schultz and status of project completion and Dr. Smith to the planning com- the quality of the work.

McKeever indicated VDOT • Renew the town's member- is not satisfied with the paving ship in the Kilmarnock Museum. by the contractor and the proj-

their paving schedule to pave this contractor: thumbs down." from Academic Lane to Macedonia Baptist Church and this would help the pavement issue. It was obvious both the super-

with the contractor's work. "We are equally as frustrated with this project...it's not that difficult of a job by any means and

visors and VDOT are unhappy

we have suffered about every problem possible," he said. "Public procurement laws require you to accept the low bid provided the contractor can perform the work and that's the

"Unfortunately, we can't force the contractor to use a certain type of equipment," said McK-

"You could if you worded the contract that way," said Tomlin. "We want the traveling public to be safe," said McKeever. "This job is not over yet."

District 1 supervisor Joseph Self and District 5 supervisor Ronnie Jett thanked VDOT for

their work on this project. School superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo said VDOT has issue on this," said Tomlin. "They been very responsive to concerns District 3 supervisor Jim Long could not do the work with the raised throughout the project. equipment they had...I would rate The project construction engi-

neer Robert Ridgell committed to widening the back entrance by 7 feet. The back entrance is on Northumberland Highway behind the school complex.

"This project had been a very challenging project for all of us,'

Among other items, supervisors approved a request from Charles D. O'Bier to construct a 21-foot by 30-foot by 23-foot boathouse alongside an existing pier on Kingscote Creek at 108 Island Lane, Lottsburg. Self moved to approve the request and seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

River Counties Community Foundation's • Approve departmental pur- ect engineer will be looking into chasing thresholds for adminis- improving it. 2017 annual fundraising drive is under way tration at \$10,000; police, \$5,000; He noted there are plans in KILMARNOCK-River reported chairman William O. community it serves, which

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Counties Community Founda- Vose. This is accomplished by tion (RCCF) recently launched increasing public awareness of the local nonprofit sector's annual fundraising campaign needs and being a conduit for donors to accomplish their own profit organizations in Lan- long- or short-term charitable

apply for funding through RCCF's competitive grants program and each year the amount requested by the more than 60 nonprofits exceeds funds available. Together.Stronger. is a proactive response to this

The primary purpose of RCCF is to support and encourage local philanthropic giving in Lancaster, Northumberland and Middlesex counties.

shortfall.

goals. For longer-term goals,

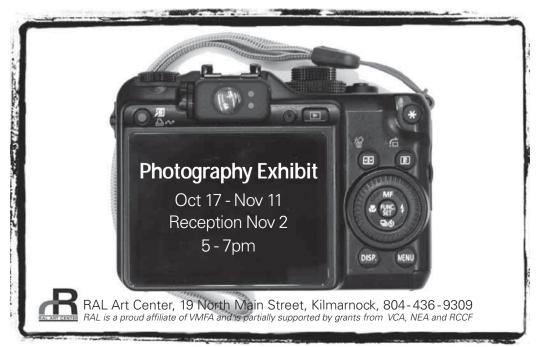
Each year organizations donors can establish funds with the Foundation, knowing that the power of endowsource of funding to meet those goals. Supporting RCCF's annual fundraising campaign allows donors to respond to more immediate needs in the community, with shorter-term goals. Some donors choose

and evaluates the needs of the 22482.

change over time, said Vose. The foundation also works closely with nonprofit organizations across the three counties to understand their capacity for providing programs and services. This work occurs throughout the year and is used in the review of grant applications to understand how funding requests relate to commument will provide a permanent nity needs and the capacity of the grantee to deliver results.

RCCF is a significant regional grantmaker and has the advantage of being able to aggregate charitable funds for larger, more impactful awards.

To support Together.Stronger., send donations to RCCF, RCCF continually monitors PO Box 222, Kilmarnock, VA



Bill Estell accepts NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award

thumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) on Saturday, October 14, presented the 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award to Bill Estell.

"In my tenure as NAPS president I presented six of these awards to very special people and never in my wildest dreams thought about receiving one," said Estell.

The award was presented at the NAPS annual social at the Bay Quarter Shores Community Club House.

Estell said the award had special meaning because it came from "my NAPS family." He noted contributions by NAPS in environment, community outreach and especially educational opportunities as the core values of what NAPS represents.

Estell listed a number of these activities, in effect turning himself from the award winner to an award giver. He mentioned environmental initiatives from the early sea grass plantings and phragmites eradication to the creek clean ups, such as the work on the Little Wicomico October 1, and highway pick-up efforts slated October 23.

The educational programs received the most attention. NAPS provided the foundation for developing STEM education in the Northumberland County schools that included Lego STEM, a 120 W solar panel construction and a quadcopter drone demonstration, said Estell. In addition, NAPS scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduating students every year.

Estell lauded the number of school projects that NAPS has helped finance, including the student Eco-Tours by watermen on the Chesapeake Bay.

"I am very proud of NAPS

NEWS **BREAK**

■ Re-appointment

Gov. Terry McAuliffe recently announced additional appointments to his administration.

The Hon. Harvey B. Morgan of Cobbs Creek, former District 98 delegate, was reappointed to the board of conservation and recreation.

■ 50/50 raffle

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

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

■ Show raffle

The Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation is raffling tickets to "Broadway in Richmond" plays. The plays are "The Sound of Music," "Finding Neverland," "Cabaret," "Dirty Dancing" and "Rent 20th Anniversary Tour."

Tickets are \$10 each, three for \$20, or 15 for \$100. The tickets are available at various business, from LCVEF board members or 438-6604.

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Accepting the 2017 NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award, Bill Estell (right) introduces three "important ladies" in his life. From left are Northumberland Public Library director Cherie Carl, his daughter, Marti, and his wife, Jinny.

and all of you who have worked Department. so hard to make these programs possible," he said.

life. "First is Jinny, my wife, life mine." partner and best friend of 63 years—married for nearly 56 of those years," he said. "In the Heathsville Farmers Market Northern Neck I am known as Jinny Estell's husband!"

is daughter, Marti, visiting for the eclipse-viewing glasses were disweekend from her job in the State pensed in just 13 minutes.

The third woman he introduced is Cherie Carl, "director Before leaving he introduced of our wonderful library, because "some important ladies" in his the library is another passion of

He said Carl will unveil the library's Tech Mobile at the Saturday, October 21. He also recalled the joint project between The second woman in his life NAPS and the library when 200

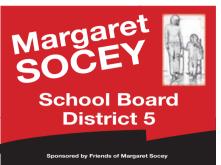




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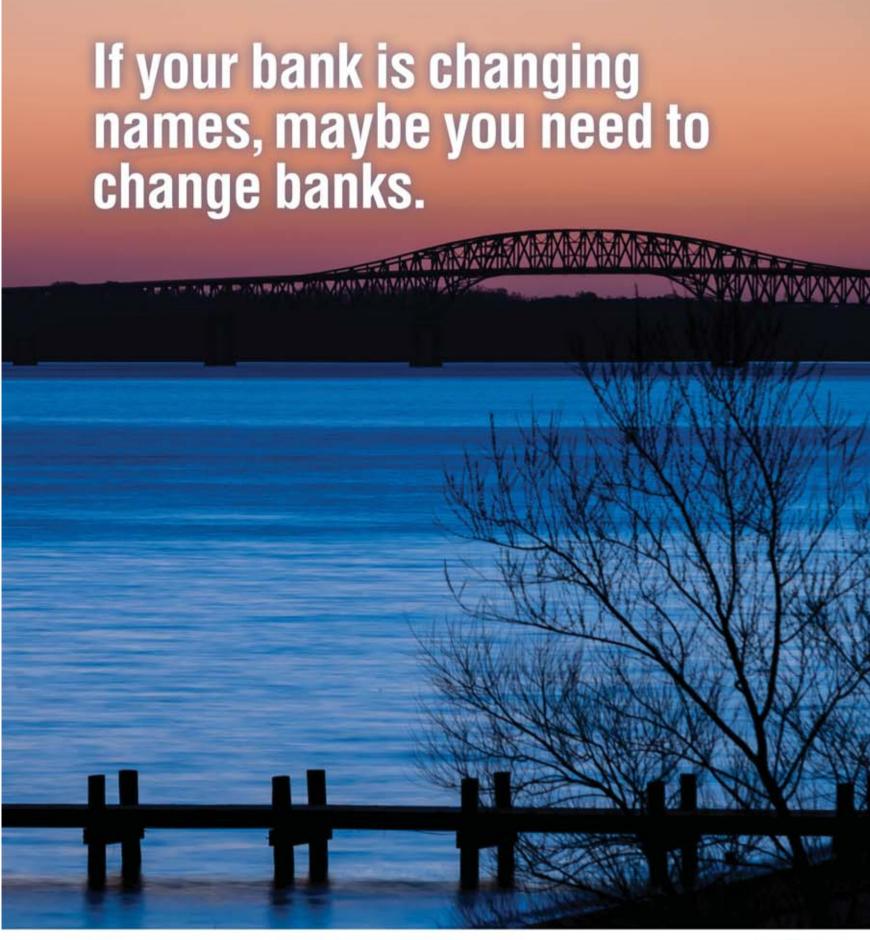
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SHERIFFS' REPORTS

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

Felony

Nancy M. Shepherd, 48, of Doggett Lane was charged October 15 with felony probation violation in a Spotsylvania County case (Shepherd was reported missing on October 5).

Misdemeanors

A Gaskins Road man, 36, was charged October 11 with a noise ordinance violation.

A Johns Neck Road man, 36, was charged October 12 with petit larceny in a Chesterfield

A Hull Neck Road man, 41, was charged October 15 with aggravated malicious wounding and breaking and entering into a Merry

A White Chapel Road man, 27, was charged October 15 with disorderly conduct.

Activity Report

October 9: Staff responded to a trespass complaint on Crab Point Road (legal hunting

October 10: Staff responded to a possible illegal dumping incident on Devils Bottom Road (legal water drafting from the stream), to an E911 disconnect call in the 2800 block of Morattico Road (telephone line problem), with Virginia State Police (VSP) to a single-vehicle traffic crash in the 700 block of Goodluck Road, to a complaint of a girlfriend using the password to repeatedly turn off her boyfriend's cellphone, and to the 400 block of Twin Branch Road on a report of a domestic assault (no criminal incident); and attempted to intercept a reported reckless driver on Windmill Point Road.

October 11: Staff responded to a domestic disturbance on Benson Road, with emergency medical services (EMS) to a possible overdose incident on Lara Ridge Road, with Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to a domestic assault call on Southport Lane, to Twin Branch Road on a hit-and-run incident complaint, to a shots fired complaint in the 2400 block of River Road (incident involved a dog; warning shot fired by landowner on his property), and with Middlesex authorities to the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge for traffic control due to faulty traffic lights; and received repeated E911 calls from a Kilmarnock area resident seeking transport from Lancaster to his home (the subject was warned of criminal charges for misuse of the E911 system) and information from a local citizen of attempted fraud involving Apple I-Cloud accounts (no financial loss involved).

October 12: Staff received a grand larceny report from an Old Orchard Road resident (cargo trailer; \$2,000 loss); investigated a report of a registered sex offender at Lancaster Middle School (LMS) to pick up his own child; and responded with KPD to a traffic crash near Norris Pond, to a possible mental health emergency involving random gun fire on Christ Church Road (intoxicated person within his own home; rifle recovered; incident under investigation), and to a fight call at Lancaster High School (LHS) to assist off duty deputies, working the football game (juvenile petitions to

October 13: Staff notified Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) of a reported missing stop sign at Harris and Mary Ball roads; received a child sexual assault report (no further information released in order to protect the victim and due to the nature of the investigation), and a domestic disturbance complaint from a Washington Street resident (complainant cancelled the call; parent-child incident involved); and responded to a verbal dispute in the 18400 block of Mary Ball Road.

October 14: Staff responded initially to Mill Creek Lane (Northumberland County) to assist EMS as Northumberland deputies were then involved in a missing person incident, but were diverted to the community hospital for a combative patient, being the same person involved at the Mill Creek Lane location; intercepted a reported reckless driver near Pinckardsville Road; received a walk-in report of a lost wallet; and responded to the Litwalton area on a complaint of a dirt bike being operated on the highway, to a domestic disturbance in the 3100 block of White Chapel Road, with KPD to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of North Main Street, to a child custody/visitation complaint in the 2000 block of Morattico Road and to a domestic disturbance call on Shalem Place, and to a domestic disturbance in the 7800 block of River Road (emergency protective orders issued).

October 15: Staff received a larceny complaint from the 400 block of King Carter Drive (report withdrawn by complaint who found the item), and a walk-in complaint of an assault; and responded to the 1800 block of Ocran Road to assist VSP with a search (drug possession arrest made by VSP), to Mary Ball, Alfonso and Morattico roads on a report of a man screaming and running into the roadway, to the 20000 block of Windmill Point Road for a complaint of the theft of an ATV (complainant withdrew the complaint to report recovering the ATV), to a verbal dispute in the 300 block of Gaskins Road, to the area of LHS on a complaint of an adult with a small child riding an ATV (complainant was concerned about the safety of the child who was not wearing a helmet), to Irvington Road and School Street on a report of a possible fight brewing among several teenagers, to an assault call in the 200 block of Mosquito Point Road (victim declined to prosecute), and to a fight call in the 100 block of Ocran Road (juvenile petitions to follow).

October 16: Staff received a walk-in complaint of an assault (EMS dispatched to check victim's injuries), and a report of a drunk/reckless driver in the White Stone area (no unit in position to attempt to intercept); responded to Second Avenue for landlord/tenant complaint (default on rent and damage to property); notified VDOT of down tree on Alfonso Road; and the school resource officer received an assault report at LMS.

Staff also conducted 20 traffic stops, issued seven summonses, assisted five motorists, recorded two deer strike accidents, handled two calls for traffic control, investigated nine building alarms, logged three inmate transports, received eight E911 hang-up calls and fielded two calls for animal control service.

Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department responded to a request to establish a med-evac landing one in the 3800 block of Mary Ball

Kilmarnock VFD responded to a traffic crash in the 700 block of Goodluck Road.

White Stone VFD responded to a controlled burn in the 200 block of Ocran Road.

EMS calls

For the week of October 8 through 14, the Kilmarnock-Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad, Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad and Lancaster County Emergency Services responded to 33 calls for service including 15 medical emergencies, seven injuries, a traffic accident and 10 other calls.

Northumberland County Sheriff James R. "Doc" Lyons this week reported charges against 10 individuals.

Felonies

Lawrence Michael Jenkins, 19, of Heathsville was charged October 4 with a capias/attachment of the body from the Essex County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for failing to appear.

Charles Linwood Folk, 81, was charged October 9 with assault and battery of a police officer. He also has been charged with stalking and attempt to flee from law enforcement. These warrants were served by the Virginia State

Brian Luckham, 29, of Kilmarnock, was charged October 12 with a capias to show cause for violating the terms of his release.

Misdemeanors

A Kilmarnock man, 65 was charged October 2 with possession of alcohol after being inter-

A Lottsburg man, 45, was charged October 4 with being drunk in public.

A Weems woman, 26, was charged October 4 with failing to tag an animal, failing to vaccinate an animal and animal cruelty. These were Northumberland County summons served by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

A Warsaw man, 25, was charged October 6 with one capias/attachment of the body for failing to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court. He also was charged for failing to obey pre-trial services. These were Northumberland County warrants served by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

A Heathsville man, 30, was charged October 8 with being drunk in public.

A Mechanicsville man, 23, was charged October 9 with driving suspended third or more times, obstruction of justice, speeding and two counts of abusive language to another.

A Heathsville man, 38, was charged October 15 with being drunk in public.

Historyland Community Workshop Benefit Gift Sale Nov. 18 - 8:30 am-12:30 pm **Grace House at Grace Episcopal Church**

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Firearms Sale, Repairs and Transfers

Democrats will host candidate Santana

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland County Democratic Party will meet today, October 19, at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville. A social period will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Edwin Santana, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Congress in the First District. Santana is one of four candidates vying for the Democratic nomination in 2018.

Candidate Vangie Williams will speak on November 15 and Ryan Sawyer, January 18.

Also, at this meeting, plans for election day and pre-election day party work for the November 7 election will be discussed, reported chairman Frank J.

Bennett to address Lancaster **Democrats**

LANCASTER—The Lan-County Democratic Committee (LCDC) will meet Monday, October 23, at the Lancaster Community Library, 16 Town Centre Drive, Kilmarnock.

The meeting will open at 6:30 p.m. with a social period, reported chairman Nick Magnani. At 7 p.m., distribution of campaign signs, preparation for next month's election, discussion of the upcoming reorganization caucus and Christmas Party, planning for the annual 'Dinning with Dems' dinner and identifying volunteers for the November 4 Irvington Farmers Market.

Attendance at LCDC meetings this year has been remarkable, said Magnani. With strong Democratic candidates in both local and state-wide races, Virginia's 2017 election is testament to the Commonwealth's mettle. In this very challenging political environment, the LCDC goal of 2017 is mobilizing the Northern Neck to action.

Robert Bennett, vice chairman of the Lancaster County Electoral Board, will present "Every Vote Counts." He will explain the election process in Lancaster County to count every vote so every vote counts. Close elections will be discussed to show how important it is for everyone to vote.

Bennett serves on the executive committee of the Lancaster County Democratic Committee.

The meeting is open to all. Snacks, treats and goodies will be provided by our members. attendees and volunteers. Volunteer treats are especially wel-

Redistricting documentary will be shown in Montross

MONTROSS—Westmoreland Indivisible will host a viewing of "Gerryrigged: Turning Democracy on its Head" from 6 to 8 p.m. October 30 at Galilee Baptist Church, Montross.

Gerrymandering is the process by which political district lines are drawn by the very politicians who stand to benefit from them, reported Donna Lloyd-Jones.

In Virginia, both Democrats and Republicans have engaged in this practice to distort the electoral process, promote the party in power and turn competitive districts into non-competitive ones, said Lloyd-Jones. The PBS documentary will examine the historical context and consequences of gerrymandering through a multi-partisan lens that includes Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians and the Tea Party.

Liz White, a representative from the non-partisan Virginia2021, will be available to discuss gerrymandering and efforts toward redistricting reform.



From left are Elizabeth Friel, Northern Neck Land Conservancy past president Steve Walker and A. Mason Brent.

Brent family honored by conservation group

WARSAW—The A. Mason rounding acreage. Brent Family was named the cy's "Conservation Champion" Mount Farm.

nection his family has to its con-ville Fishermen's Museum. served land, reported executive director Elizabeth Friel.

Brent, the retired president of Columbia Propane Corp. and ern Neck, said Friel. It recently Columbia Propane LP and chair- agreed to begin work in Essex man of Atlantic Energy Inc., has County at the request of landbeen a longtime supporter of the land conservancy's efforts to preserve farmland in the Northern ments in cooperation with land-Neck. He lives in Heathsville owners who wish to permanently where he restored the historic Roanoke home and grows specialty corn and grain on its sur- land forever, she said.

A past treasurer of the North-Northern Neck Land Conservan- ern Neck Land Conservancy, Brent also has been active in at the organization's recent Boots other local organizations includand Barbecue gathering at Grove ing the Northumberland Family YMCA, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett Brent shared the special con- Tavern Foundation and the Reed-

> The land conservancy's volunteer board has helped preserve 15,000 acres in the Northowners there.

The conservancy writes easeprotect their property from development so it will remain farm-

The Agenda

Local Government News

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland planning **commission** will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 19, at the Northumberland County Courts Building, 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville.

The commission will resume a discussion on electrical substations and solar farms.

LANCASTER—Supervisors will hold two public hearings at the October 26 meeting. The board will convene at 7 p.m. in the County Administration Building, 8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster.

James and Elizabeth Stanley seek authorization to enlarge an existing structure on a 2.5acre parcel at 2011 Mosquito Point Road. The property is zoned general residential.

Supervisors will also conduct a hearing on proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding enforcement, amendments, administration and interpretation. The changes include additions, deletions and modifications for uniformity.

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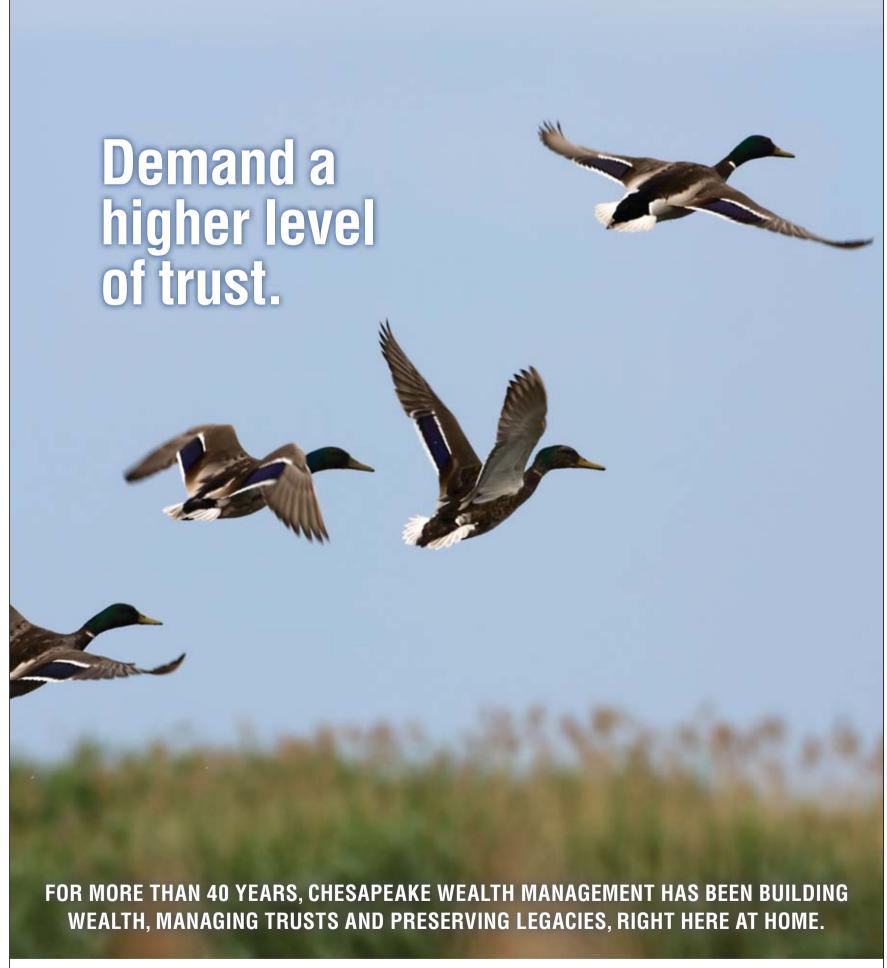
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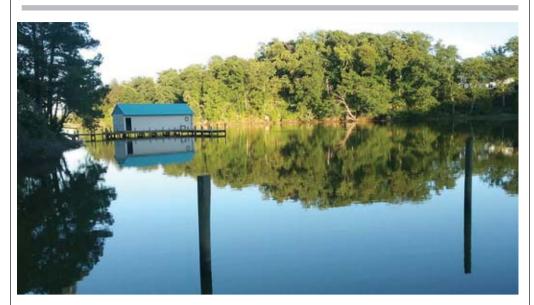


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Focal Point



Mill Creek reflections

Photo by Doreen Hamblet

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

YOUR LETTERS

Vote for Edwards

I noticed that Del. Margaret Bevans Ransone's campaign material emphasizes that the NFIB Small Business Association endorses her. That endorsement is puzzling especially because some small business people are leaving the Northern Neck because of a problem she could help fix.

That problem is lack of high speed internet. A friend of mine is leaving the Northern Neck because of no high-speed internet. This problem has been around for some time and Ransone is aware of it, but she has not lifted a finger to help correct the problem.

Lack of high-speed internet makes it hard to attract businesses to the Northern Neck and keep them here.

District 99. We need to be represented by someone who has ideas and policies about moving the area forward; we need Francis Edwards.

Horace Adams, Reedville

Del. Ransone is broadminded

political incivilities that have endeavor. Also WIGO provided plagued this year's election cycle spots publicizing the event. This in the Virginia House of Delegates District 99 race, I would respectfully like to express my support for Margaret Ransone.

Margaret, a life-long resident of the Northern Neck who continues to work in our community, has consistently provided effective representation for our district during her tenure as our

our needs in her role at the General Assembly, she does so in a manner that balances those needs with the overall needs of

our nation.

Broadmindedness such as this is a rare quality in our world riddled with self importance today. Mason Brent,

Heathsville

Vote Nov. 7

Last Thursday night at Lancaster Community Library all the candidates for local office participated in Candidate's Night. They each presented themselves in excellent tone, enthusiasm and willingness to inform those citizens in attendance. While positions differed, they conducted their presentations in a respectful manner. The candidates agreed to remain and take questions from the many citizens. This resulted in about an additional hour of discussion to the benefit of all present.

The Lancaster Community It is time for a change in Library staff and Friends of Lancaster County members had the privilege of preparing the facility, developing and conducting the event. Lloyd Hill, our timekeeper, ensured every candidate had equal time and kept us on

The staff of the Rappahannock Record provided excellent support in furthering the victed of a variety of crime contribution to the informing of including destroying docu-Amidst all of the rancor and our citizenry in this important ments. Company executives assistance was invaluable to our community.

The citizens of this county now have a major task on their hands on November 7. The local candidates that are selected face many challenges in the years ahead and their decisions will affect all the county citizens, not just "their" district.

We owe it to each other to be Not only does she address involved in the selection process and to vote in our local and state He is fit for serving beer, not election on November 7.

> Charles Costello, Merry Point, president, FOLCVA

Gillespie flawed

Gillespie, Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate, is telling voters he has a plan to bring jobs to Virginia, but never tells us what the plan is. In fact, he has remained silent while members of his party, most notably Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, have moved high-paying government jobs out of Northern Virginia to Huntsville.

Gillespie tells us the current governor's job creation program has not worked. That is incorrect. Virginia has a low unemployment rate and under McAuliffe some 200,000 jobs have been created. Gillespie doesn't say one word about his Republican colleagues targeting federal jobs in Virginia. Gillespie is uniquely qualified to stop this pillaging—he is a former head of the Republican

Apparently Gillespie has lost none of his nefarious business dealings from his days with ENRON. Gillespie was a lobbyist for ENRON. Gillespie doesn't tell voters that ENRON executives were tried and conwere sent to jail. Thousands of ENRON employees and stockholders lost their life's savings and were ruined. Does Virginia really need this kind of deceitful leadership in the Governor's

Gillespie's campaign ads also talk about his days working in a restaurant and serving beer. Next time I throw a party, rather than hire a Bavarian beer maid who can carry six steins in each hand, I'll call Gillespie. running the state of Virginia.

Frank J. Kober, Heathsville

YOUR LETTERS

Edwards is likable

I would like to know if Margaret Ransone wants to represent me. I can't find her to talk to her. I waited most of the morning at a Heathsville Farmers Market. I attended the NAACP Forum in the Northumberland High School auditorium.

I had hoped that she would agree to debate Francis Edwards at Rappahannock Community College. I called her office. I scanned her Facebook page. I asked a friend who works on her campaign to find out where I could find her. No luck.

I did vote for her when I first moved here and taught with her former sister-inlaw. I even put up a yard sign. However, I do not see my life improving since that election.

I have talked to Francis Edwards, her opponent, several times. He was at the Heathsville Farmers Market. He was at the NAACP Forum. I like listening to him. I like what he says about developing Northern Neck businesses. I like his anti-fracking stance. I like his intelligence. I like his ethics. I like that he is accessible to me and to my questions.

Francis is a known entity to me. He deserves my vote. Get to know him yourself. He is easy to find.

Terry Dutcher,

Del. Ransone is a friend to law enforcement

I would like to take this opportunity to share some personal thoughts regarding Del. Margaret Ransone and her bid for re-election.

I have gotten to know Margaret since I was elected Sheriff of Northumberland County. I cannot remember a time when I called her with a particular problem of my own or of another citizen that she did not take time to listen. On several occasions she has come to my office genuinely wanting to know what she could do to help with issues **Bott is a** occurring in this county. She has always been accessible to this office regardless of whether she is at home or in Richmond.

She recently appeared at a meeting with six local sheriffs where for over two hours she intently listened to the problems that present themselves to rural law enforcement agencies. She is, and always has been, a friend to law enforcement.

I would encourage every citizen to vote for Margaret in the upcoming election because I know that she genuinely cares for the people in the Northern Neck.

James R. Lyons, Heathsville, **Sheriff, Northumberland County**

Socey has my vote

It is my pleasure to endorse Margaret Socey for the Lancaster County School Board.

I have known Margaret for many years; and I can say without hesitation that her passion for our local youth and our schools is to be commended. My association with Margaret began years ago when she and her late husband began a program for all third graders in public school to have the opportunity to go on a field trip to Washington, D.C.

For the 2017-18 school term, the third-grade classes will take this trip for the 18th consecutive year. From this program evolved the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation, which last year put almost \$100,000 back into our local schools for field trips, robotics, band instruments, reading programs, SMART tables, to name only a few. Under Margaret's leadership, the foundation since its inception has raised approximately \$500,000 to support educational opportunities for our primary, middle and high school students.

She began a recognition program for students and teachers called "Celebration of Excellence."

Her efforts even helped to ing program for our public school system. Last year 169 students in grades K-12 were tutored by a volunteer base of 68 tutors. Margaret has been a tutor and mentor for local youth for 20 plus years. I am privileged to serve on the foundation board with Margaret and have seen firsthand her tireless efforts and her dedication to giving our local youth opportunities to enrich their lives and their futures.

Having worked so closely for many years with all of our teachers and administrators, Margaret has a keen understanding of our public schools: The needs, the issues and also what is working extremely well. I know she will be an asset to our school board; she most definitely has my vote.

Hazel Farmer, Irvington

proven asset

supervisor in District 1 because of his clear vision to create a growing and economically stimulated Lancaster County.

As a citizen, he has worked to ensure the boat tax revocation—which brought more boats to local marinas and created jobs. Pointing out budget surpluses, he successfully got the last two tax decreases.

He has laid the groundwork to provide high-speed internet to all of Lancaster County. Again, his perseverance and out-ofthe-box thinking has provided proven direction in this endeavor. Investment in our future through creative contacts and partner-

ships will result in robust internet access that will benefit all in the county. This will provide impetus for expansion of existing businesses and for new companies to locate in the area.

His opponent, Mr. Larson, using old and often incorrect budget numbers, says the county cannot afford new schools. Mr. Bott, after almost two years of review, determined the overall health of our school district requires some new construction and renovation. Utilizing clear, defined operating budget reductions and actual revenue generated by the surplus energy production of the new state-ofthe-art school campus, his proposal would only require a 3% tax increase. But, this investment would serve our existing community and attract new families. These families represent the stimuli Lancaster County needs

Mr. Larson's plan of putting more band-aids on a hemorrhaging school district will keep us in the same rut we now find ourselves in. He offers no substantive plan of action to remedy the problems in our schools. Mr. Bott recognizes the need for Lancaster to differentiate itself in the marketplace and believes that budget controlled investment in our schools is critical to our growth.

Mr. Bott has already proven organize and fund a tutor- himself an asset to building a stronger Lancaster County.

Sharon Gill, Lancaster

Re-elect 'Champion of Regulatory Reform'

On November 7, the voters in District 99 have the opportunity to vote and allow Del. Margaret Ransone to continue representing the district.

As a lifelong resident of the area, Margaret is aware of the challenges and issues facing its residents. She is genuinely concerned about everyone, young and old, farmers, watermen, loggers, small business owners, as well as those who enjoy the recreational opportunities in the area.

She opposes increasing taxes on hardworking families and small businesses. She has also been an advocate of reducing regulations, earning her the "Champion of Regulatory Reform" Award for years 2015-17. Her common sense approach I'm endorsing George Bott for to issues, strong work ethic and conservative values have served us well for the past six years.

> I have always found Margaret to be ready and willing to address any questions and concerns whenever contacted. She has been a guest at our committee meetings on several occasions, presenting legislative updates and explaining how legislation will affect the 99th District.

> I urge voters throughout the district to go the polls on November 7 and vote to re-elect Margaret Ransone as our delegate in Richmond.

Debbie Harper, Warsaw, chairman **Richmond County Republican** Committee

by Henry Lane Hull

Excerpts

In 1974 Jim Heston retired, at the age of **1**53, after a highly decorated career in the Department of Defense, and with his wife, Marie, moved to a home in Westmoreland County on the banks of the Yeocomico River. His was not to be a typical retirement. As he was moving to the Northern Neck, the counties of Virginia were moving into a new form of county government, the result of which was Jim becoming the first county administrator of Westmoreland County.

In that capacity for five years he guided and directed the county into its current form of government, using his engineering background and long experience in federal service. In 1979 Jim retired again, this time upon leaving his position with the county, he entered the world of volunteerism. In that arena he flowered.

I used to tell Jim that with every organization in the Northern Neck his relationship could be described in one of two ways, either as chairman or non-member. He was such a stellar individual that every group sought his leadership, and he willingly gave abundantly of his time and talent. I should need far more than this column merely to list his various

Knowing that John is a great devotee of greens cooked in the Northern Neck manner, *Jim made certain that the* menu included them.

contributions, but to me two were particu-

larly notable. The first was the Northern Neck Planning District Commission. As county administrator of Westmoreland County he was present for the commission's formative years and after his second retirement served for many more years as one of the county's two citizen members.

Jim was gifted with a keen deliberative ability and he expressed his thoughts in reasoned discourse, to the enlightenment of all present. In truth he was the godfather of the commission and from his work there he went forward to serve on the State Commission on Local Government, which he chaired for several years and which, due to the regulatory

process, necessitated his departure from the Planning District Commission.

On the Local Government Commission Jim traveled all across the Commonwealth, advising localities, chairing public hearings and helping to bring about new initiatives. His energy level was profound and it matched his enthusiasm. Jim genuinely enjoyed the mechanics of government at the local level.

Another of his noteworthy contributions was in leading the Northern Neck Christian Men's Group, which met each month at Carmel Church in Westmoreland County. I need not say that his role again was chairman, in which position he brought in speakers to feast on a great home-cooked meal and to address the group on topics of community, regional and national interest.

At the end of each legislative session Sen. John Chichester would come to apprise the members of the new laws that had passed, as well as those that had not. Knowing that John is a great devotee of greens cooked in the Northern Neck manner, Jim made certain that the menu included them.

Jim was born in Philadelphia, shortly after

the Army Air Corps throughout the Second World War, and then with the Department of the Air Force for most of his federal career. He was an engineering graduate of Temple University and reflected the engineer's "can-do" approach to every undertaking. He thrived on the nitty-gritty of a complex problem, working out the details and seeing it resolved.

Jim remained active well into his mid90s and earlier this month he died at the age of 96. The Elder B.E. and I visited him four days before he died. He was unable to speak, but he extended his hand to shake hands, thereby confirming that he was pleased we had come to see him. He was ever the gracious host, whether presiding at a public hearing or greeting a visitor in his room in the nursing home. Jim was a mighty contributor to the progress made in the Northern Neck over the last third of the 20th century, but, more importantly, this Yankee from Philadelphia who came to our midst became in the minds of all who met him a true example of the Virginia Gentleman.

James Joseph Heston, Jr., January 29,

the end of the First World War. He served in 1921 – October 2, 2017. R.I.P.



Do you remember?

This reproduction of a picture postcard shows Cobbs Hall near Kilmarnock. This structure was built about 1850 on the foundation of a previous house. It is believed to be the third Cobbs Hall plantation house, the previous two destroyed by fire. "The Immigrant" Col. Richard Lee I, the first Lee to arrive in Virginia from Shropshire, England, established Cobbs Hall about 1650. He died in 1664 and was buried there. The existing house is under renovation to restore it to its original glory, reported Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. The house has II fire places and was a former home of Kilmarnock mayor Walter Harvey Sr. "Do you remember?" is a public service of the Kilmarnock Museum. Photo courtesy of Selden Richardson

YOUR LETTERS

Del. Ransone doesn't represent all of the people

I'm a resident of Kinsale and am acquainted with Del. Ransone and her family, who I'm sure exemplify traditional Northern Neck values. What concerns me, however, is her voting record on issues that affect all the families she represents.

Ransone voted in favor of fracking here. Injecting chemicals into the ground uses up to 8 million gallons of aquifer water per well. Fracking causes chemical contamination of ground surfaces, ground water and depletion of our fresh water aquifer. Fracking creates frequent and stronger earthquakes. I don't want this here at home, do you?

Secondly is her vote to use our dedicated public school tax dollars to fund private and charter schools. As a taxpayer, it's not my responsibility to fund private or charter school educations. The larger question is, can most families afford to send their kids to private schools? My tax dollars should stay where they are needed, in county schools that need more funding not less.

Thirdly is her push against redistricting. Drawing congressional boundaries that segregate populations into like-minded districts benefits the political party that draws those boundaries. Washington-bound representatives have no mandate, then, to place people over party. Instead they focus on placating their base, causing political gridlock. Officials won't compromise for fear of alienating that base. The better way forward for the Northern Neck and Virginia is not gerrymandering.

Lastly, Ransone refuses to meet with non-partisan organizations interested in comparing her views and values with her opponent's. How do we make an informed decision without thoughtful conversation?

Her refusal to attend such events and her support for the issues above clearly state she isn't interested in representing all of the people of the Northern Neck.

> Hope Jackson, **Kinsale**

YOUR LETTERS

Elect those who support referendum on school project

The unrealistic advertising done in April sions. County demographics, school population engineering and other overrun costs is based on want, not need.

public referendum on the issue. To obligate a community for 40 years is beyond prudent comprehension. Some studies show a 24% annual increase in real estate taxes which would impair the county. Jack Larson, District 1 candidate, advocates "Make the Right Choice" and have

All concerned citizens deserve transparency, objectivity and the best mix of effort for our students. Hearings, written responses and the campus. a public referendum will make for better deci-

2017 advocating a 40-year mortgage for a \$71 direction, vital ratios re students and teachers/ million school campus plus land, architecture/ administrators, relative test scores, grad rates, turnovers and other data should be published.

The lame excuse of school ages is nonsense. It dramatically shows that voters should only In other areas of the world, 100-year-old buildvote November 7 for candidates who support a ings have outstanding educations in them. I guess we must bulldoze the ivy leagues. Meanwhile, will the existing facilities be torn down or

converted at what costs? The time span will be disruptive and cause more faculty turnover. Obviously, costs will go up. However, the most important consideration is the potential negative impact on the student

Vote for sponsors of a public referendum on

Rick Frisbie.

Endorsing Margaret Socey

We are writing to wholeheartedly endorse Margaret Socey for the Lancaster County School Board in District 5.

Ms. Socey has spent years donating her time and energy for the children of our community. She founded the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation that not only has provided new technology for the classroom, but has also provided the funds for an annual trip to Washington, D.C., for our third graders for years.

In addition to her commitment to the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation, Socey has served as a volunteer tutor for all grades for 20 years.

Please consider voting for Margaret Socey for the Lancaster County School Board on November 7.

> Harriette B. Fishburne and Cary N.D. Fishburne, Weems

GOT THE ITCH TO PLACE AN AD? Mail@RappRecord.com

Above the fray

I continue to be amazed and available. disappointed by the statements by some people in our commu- and in Richmond and gets nity about Margaret Ransone. Either they are uninformed Northern Neck. or just spreading false or fake information in support of their candidate. This may play well in Washington politics, but is not appropriate here.

- I have known and worked with Margaret Ransone for a number of years. I can attest that she:
- Knows the area, the people, the businesses.
- · Serves all of her constituents and is always open and

• Is most respected locally results for the people in the I had the privilege of being

with Margaret and her fellow delegates and our senators and saw firsthand how they sought her out for her opinion and advice.

Margaret has run a positive campaign, based on her record and ideas. Margaret has earned and deserves our support and

> B. H. Hubbard, Weems



Strong Roots

-Get to Know William Smith

There are scores of uncommon bankers at Bank of Lancaster.

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

A Reedville native and graduate of Northumberland High School, William's roots are firmly planted here. He has been a Northern Neck banker since graduating from James Madison University in 1989. William and his wife Cathy along with their 3 children currently live in Kilmarnock.

"Supporting public education here is a big priority for me. A great education will help preserve what we love about living in the Northern Neck for decades."

William Smith Vice President, Commercial Lending

Serving his commercial banking customers and public education are William's passions. As the former vice mayor of the Kilmarnock Town Council, he is most proud of the council's effort to support Rappahannock Community College in establishing a Kilmarnock campus. He's now Treasurer of Lancaster County High School's PTSO and the school's athletic boosters. His son, Daniel, is a member of the football team. He is also a board member of the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce and a member of the 2017 class of LEAD Northern Neck.

"Supporting my commercial customers is important for our community to maintain and grow jobs for students graduating from our area high schools and colleges," says William. "We are here to provide our customers with the very best in financial services, no matter the name of our bank. We're here. We're not going anywhere, because we love it here in the Northern Neck."





Supporting Strong Branches

With seven branches in the Northern Neck, Bank of Lancaster makes banking easy and convenient. There are scores of other uncommon bankers, like William, at Bank of Lancaster. They assure you of exceptional service, optimum return on your investments, and an enduring focus on making our community a better place.

Want to speak with Willian about your commercial banking needs? Call (804) 761-4991 or e-mail him at wsmith@banklanc.com.



YOUR LETTERS

Vote for Socey

Margaret Socey, running as a District 5 candidate for the Lancaster County School Board, is a superb choice for the position.

Margaret has been involved with the school system as a tutor, mentor, organizer and fundraiser for the highly successful third-grade trips to Washington, D.C. This has served as a much-anticipated part of the students' school year. Not only do they see the museums and the zoo, but it increases understanding of the values of our country.

In addition, she is the founder of the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation, which provides funding for important learning tools in schools through grants and funding for a volunteer coordinator to help students achieve success.

many years at the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, which gave her insight into the lives of the families of many of the children served by the public schools.

She is eminently qualified to assume a leadership role on the school board. I strongly encourage District 5 residents to vote for this outstanding woman.

> Eve Jordan, Heathsville

George Bott is the best choice

I have worked with George Bott for the last five or six years to, among other things, help the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta get better organized to become a larger producer of funds for Hospice Support Service of the Northern Neck.

George's efforts in this area have been very successful. He has a very good way of working with volunteers to get the most out of the Turkey Shoot Regatta and make the entire regatta a fun event for all concerned. He also has crewed on a J-24 that won overall champion in 2016.

He put together a plan to eliminate personal property tax on privately owned boats which was very successful and resulted in more growth (meaning hired more people) throughout the county. As a past owner of a boat yard and marina who fought that tax for about 14 years without success, I was impressed at how he was able to get many people from Lancaster County involved to speak at the hearings so supervisors could have some real hard facts on which to base their decision.

I believe he is the best choice for District 1 and he has my vote.

> John McConnico, Lively

Drawing the wrong conclusion

There is a push in Virginia to change how voting districts are drawn by the General Assembly. Some want to create a nonpartisan redistricting committee and give them the task. As one group says "Let the voter pick the delegate, do not let the delegate pick the voter." You know, take the politics out of politics. It sounds good, but this is wrong in ways not obvi-

January, Eric Holder In announced plans for a National Redistricting Democratic Committee. As Politico put it, "The goal is to roll back recent Republican gains at the state

A sampling of the first nine bills submitted in 2017 calling for an appointed committee in Virginia finds 89% have Democrat chief sponsors. Hmmm, no politics here.

There are various ways to establish these impartial committees but most allow the two largest political parties to appoint the bulk of the members. Who will be appointed, maybe impartial lawyers and impartial college professors? What then would happen to the delegate calling for tort reform or fighting college tuition increases?

There will be the usual horse

trading and deal cutting. These firmly committed to fostering of the children of Lancaster Vote Larson for a appointees will protect their interests, just like now but with one exception. They are beyond recall of the voter. If you like being controlled by a faceless committee you will love this.

says the manner of electing senators and representatives shall be prescribed by state legislators, not by an appointed committee. The Founding Fathers designed a proper Republic.

committee Placing between the voter and the General Assembly will help make Richmond as distant as Washington, D.C., is now. This choice has more downside than supposed benefits. We are fortunate that Del. Ransone sees through this bad idea.

Rodger Meredith, Callao

She also volunteered for **Del. Ransone will** support public safety

I am writing to ask the citizens to re-elect Del. Margaret Ransone. In January 2016, sheriffs were invited to the General Assembly to meet with legislators. It ended up being a frustrating day due to all the delegates and senators attending committee meetings.

We were all deflated to say the least.

However, one legislator did come out to meet and greet and that was Margaret Ransone. She took the time from her busy day to hear what was on our mind. That meant so much and showed her true character that she does care. Last week Del. Ransone sat down and discussed the issues that are important to sheriffs and sheriffs' offices. She listened and wrote down the thoughts of five sheriffs and we were promised that our concerns would be brought up during the next session of the General

When the president of the Virginia Sheriff's Association says he wishes all the legislators were as easy to work with as Margaret Ransone, that employer considering our resonates with me. As a law enforcement officer, public safety is priority number one our home-based businesses and I know Margaret will support public safety to keep our citizens safe.

Sheriff Patrick McCranie,

Keith for school board in District I

As the November 2017 election approaches we are reminded of the many talented and committed individuals available on the ballot in Lancaster County.

candidate is Katherine Lee Keith who is running for the school board in District 1.

board a wealth of experience as a former school principal and educational consultant in Northern Virginia. Since moving to the Northern Neck more than a decade ago, Keith has served the community as well as being the founder and director of Grandmother's House, a local non-profit providing cribs, car seats, diapers, clothing, formula and other essentials for babies and children in need. Grandmother's House has aided and protected hundreds of local children since 2014. Ms. Keith has also effectively advocated for these children, when necessary, in public schools.

serves her community as a certified Master Naturalist and an active Friend of Belle Isle State Park where she runs educational and recreational programs for young people in the

background of service, Ms. Keith is the owner and chief executive officer of a growing local business which provides an increasing number of jobs in the county each month. In this capacity, candidate Keith knows the importance of sound fiscal management as well as preparing all students for the demanding realities of today's

work place.

successful schools by improving performance levels, raising graduation rates and will work tirelessly to ensure that every child, whatever their gifts or challenges, receives the highest level of quality public edu-Article 1 of the Constitution cation possible. Please give her your vote on November 7.

Ernest Monschein,

Skip the slogans, elect Jack Larson

The nature of the issues facing Lancaster County this election cycle should cause all voters to take pause and consider the consequences of electing a slogan rather than an experienced fiscal conservative to the board of supervisors.

As an example: Without a doubt we all desire a better education for our children, yet any student of school reform and student achievement knows that a better building does not a better education make. There are processes and procedures in place to study and analyze the cost/benefit ratios of every aspect of this issue, yet they seem to have been ignored.

Jack Larson will be a responsible and equitable steward of our resources. He will avail himself with all relevant data, share it with the county's citizens, request feedback and then, and only then, reach a decision. He understands that an informed citizenry is at the heart of our democracy.

As a former resident of Central America for years, I've noted that many third world countries have better communication infrastructures than our county. Our cell phone coverage is erratic. True broadband internet is only available in or around the larger population centers. The rest of us are left at the mercy of 20th century technology or very expensive and unreliable satellite

Pity the student who needs to use the internet to complete an assignment and perish the thought of any serious county for any meaningful endeavors. It's bad enough for and those who "tele-commute" from our county.

Jack Larson knows our county and understands these problems. This is the time to elect an experienced, ethical and proven steward of our resources. Let's elect Jack to the board of supervisors to lead the county into a new era of transparency. No slogans. Just results.

Kurt Muse, Lancaster

One particularly impressive **Proven record** of commitment

I am writing in support of Ms. Keith would bring to the Margaret Socey, candidate for school board in District 5. As a dedicated citizen of Lancaster County, Margaret has spent decades supporting the education and welfare of the children in this county.

Most notably she founded the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation. For over a decade this foundation has brought opportunities and state-of-the art technology and needed equipment to the children of Lancaster County. Nearly \$500,000 has been raised and distributed under her leadership and used to enhance the educational experiences of our children. Her oversight of this foundation exemplifies her Katherine Lee Keith also fiduciary responsibility, organizational skill and commitment to education.

She has received awards from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education, Alpha Delta Kappa and Lancaster County schools for Beyond this impressive her educational commitment and volunteerism. She has been a mentor of students and volunteer tutor for all levels of schools within the county.

In addition to volunteering for the schools, Margaret has given time to the Northern Neck Middlesex Free Health Clinic for 15 years and to the Bright Beginnings program at the YMCA for seven years. She is motivated in her support Katherine Lee Keith is of the education and welfare

Margaret is fully in support of the Lancaster schools committee's comprehensive plan that seeks to upgrade our schools and provide our students with the tools needed for success. As a retired engineer, she can offer guidance in the planning for schools for tomorrow. Our students will have the opportunity to gain the education and skills that will lead to our children becoming successful and productive members of our community following graduation.

Thomas E. Nolte,

Fairly and well represented with Ransome

Ransone has Margaret represented us, her constituents, fairly and well during her time as our delegate. I have found her to be available, eager to introduce various groups and individuals of merit to the House and to be present at events, both small and large, here in Lancaster County.

I read recently that on two occasions she had not attended meetings where she was invited to speak. On both of those occasions, she was occupied at other meetings of equal importance.

One of her most outstanding achievements has been her assistance with cleaning up and bolstering the success of the Chesapeake Bay and its abundant resources. Through her efforts, the entire bay and all those who make their living from it have reaped the rewards. Everyone in the 99th District benefits when the watermen's livelihood improves.

I found it most strange that a recent writer complained about staff members and Ms. Ransone's sister not knowing her whereabouts or when they would see her. It's been my experience when I have emailed her or called her office, I have received a response within 24 hours and often sooner and most often, it's from Ms. Ransone herself, not a staff member.

We have been well represented by a woman who loves God, her family and those of us she represents. Let's make sure we send her back to Richmond for another term.

Rebecca Tebbs Nunn,

Larson has a record of fiscal responsibility

The citizens of Lancaster County's District 1 are fortunate to have the opportunity to elect Jack Larson as their representative on the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors.

I have known Jack for many years and had the pleasure of working with him during his tenure as assistant county administrator/finance director.

Jack was instrumental in making efficient use of county fiscal resources by critically examining the annual budget and the requests from county departments for operating funds. During his tenure, he provided experienced analysis of the budget to assist the board of supervisors in adopting a budget that provided necessary goods and services that made the county an efficiently managed local government. Jack's budget preparation always considered the effect on the taxpayer as he forwarded his recommendations for adoption.

I know of Jack's commitment to our public schools by providing for adequate school buildings yet considering the salaries of teachers and school employees as a significant requirement for quality education. The most important part of public education is its human resources—students, teachers and school employees.

Buildings are important but they must be evaluated for their utility and not for excessive costs. I will be voting for Jack on November 7 and I hope other

voters in District 1 will do like-

wise.

William H. Pennell Jr., Lancaster

reasoned approach

I am a Lancaster resident and taxpayer in District 1 who supports Jack Larson because he has called for a reasoned approach to the question of new school construction rather than an emotional approach.

I am puzzled about why the public has not recently heard more information about the proposal for a \$71 million school project. The school board has accepted its facilities committee recommendation for this project, so I assume a request for appropriations will be forthcoming. This appropriation will be

many times larger than any previous appropriation ever considered by this county. If passed, the burden of massive debt will fall on every property owner. I trust Jack's figures on this and not his opponent's figures. Servicing this debt will require a tax rate increase of 13 to 15 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This will be on top of the recent 5 cent tax rate increase, plus whatever more may be required to balance future annual budgets.

Many people are going to be hurt, especially those with low or fixed income who own real estate. Tax increases will cause some struggling businesses to fail. This will cost jobs.

An appropriation of \$71 million will profoundly affect the economy of this county for decades to come. I personally think this matter should be put to public referendum. In this manner the taxpayers of Lancaster County have a chance to express their willingness, or unwillingness, to bear the financial burden.

Once the contract for construction is signed there will be no turning back. Cost overruns may occur. Other critical public needs may arise in the future. The principal plus interest for a \$71 million project will likely exceed \$130 million during the life of the loan. Practically every one of those dollars will leave this county.

William P. Ronayne,

Young is the right choice

I believe Carolyn Young, a lifelong career educator with extensive classroom experience and visionary ideas, is the best choice for District 5 school board.

Carolyn understands how our schools can better prepare students for the new world of work that awaits them. It is one whose demands for knowledge and skills are far different from what most of us have experienced.

Carolyn's wisdom comes from locally and internationally. Her plans for the schools of Lancaster County would not only prepare our children academically and vocationally, but socially and culturally as well. Carolyn understands that providing education without values will not help students achieve success.

An outside of the box thinker,

Carolyn believes:

- · Every student should graduate with either a job or a letter of acceptance from a community college or university.
- · Career and technical skill training as a curriculum should be an option at our high school.
- Local businesses should be called on to incorporate their insights and expertise into a local educational model.
- · The small school size and tightly knit community of Lancaster County is the perfect incubator for such a cooperative program.

Carolyn Young's greatest skill is her ability to bring positive energy and infectious enthusiasm to challenging tasks. Her warm, compassionate personality makes her a very effective advocate for students, parents and teachers. She's the right choice for the Lancaster County School Board.

Lucy Schneider, Irvington

Carolyn Young: Honor and excellence

On these pages we have learned of Carolyn Young's long career as an educator around the world as Navy wife and Peace Corps volunteer, across the Norris Bridge at Christchurch School, and here at home as math tutor at Lancaster High School; and of her vision that each LHS graduate be intentionally prepared for meaningful employment or further

I speak now to her spirit. Having worshipped and worked with Carolyn for 10 years at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems, I have witnessed time and again her creative thinking and thoughtfulness, her courage to innovate, her resourcefulness in making more out of less and her energy and perseverance in difficult challenges. I value her respect for the dignity of every individual.

Carolyn Young will bring honor and excellence to the Lancaster County School Board and thereby to the education of our children in this community.

Jane Tims, Kilmarnock

Low Road

The Virginia governor and attorney general campaigns have become a complete farce. Do any of you in Virginia really know what these candidates stand for?

I sure don't! I can't remember any campaign ads or mailings from them that actually told me what the candidates stood for or what they wanted to accomplish if elected. Their campaigns are only mud slinging and negativity about the other candidate.

Statewide and federal elecyears of working with children tions have become votes against a candidate rather than for a candidate. Simply disgusting.

This November election would be a good time to start "draining the swamp" in Virginia. Unfortunately it is probably too late.

Bob Norman, Lancaster

CUSTOM YACHT

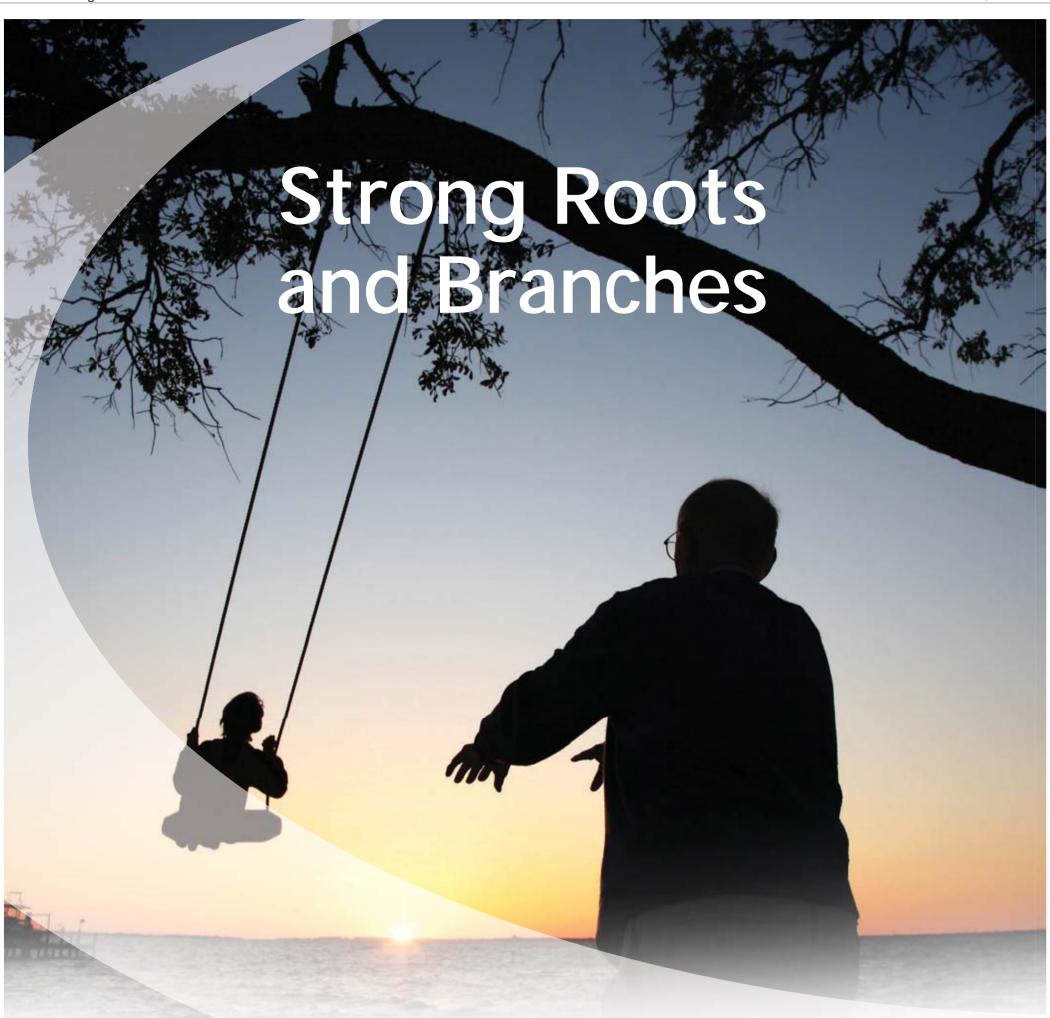
This winter... Let us be your pride and joy's home away from home

Conveniently located on the Eastern **Branch of Carters Creek** Outdoor and heated indoor dry storage 50-ton travel lift and 9 feet at mean low water



96 Seafood Lane in Irvington (804) 438-5563 A Full Service Boatyard





Because growth is essential

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

- More dollars to help Northern Neck businesses create new jobs
- Better services to make banking easier for you
- New options for families to save and invest

- Numerous branches in the Northern Neck for maximum convenience
- New resources to support community initiatives
- The staff you already know and trust

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

Callao Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

Warsaw Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

Kilmarnock Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

Colonial Beach Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

White Stone Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

Burgess Branch

24-Hour ATM

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

Montross Branch

24-Hour ATM

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





the uncommon bank

Re-elect **Pemberton**

I am a "come here," beginning in the late 1950s and a homeowner since 1980. I became a full-time resident in 2009, and have been involved in many orga-

I met Bob Pemberton about the same time I became a resident of Richmond County and count it a blessing to have him as a friend.

I was involved in his first election to the Richmond County board of supervisors as a supporter and was appointed by him to represent District 4 on the Richmond County Board of Social Services, which I now

Bob has been the supervisor representative on that board and has demonstrated great concern for both the taxpayer and those in need of services in this county.

In a time when politics and politicians are not held in the highest esteem by folks, we are so very fortunate to have people like Bob who are willing to handle the adversity with patience and good humor while continuing to provide quality representation to District 4 residents.

I hope that we re-elect him for another 4 years.

Dave Cordes, **Farnham**

Elect a 'Navy Wife'

I recommend with enthusiasm the election of Carolyn Young to the Lancaster County School Board, District 5. Carolyn is eminently qualified for this position academically, by life experience and temperament.

Others have written at length extolling this candidate's virtues as a mother, teacher and public activist. I agree with all that has been said. In addition, Carolyn possesses a quality shared by few in our society: She is a "Navy

Navy wives are special. They are that which holds their families together in their husbands' long absences on remote deployments in distant climes, duty which involves hazardous weather and the possibility of combat. Then, there are foreign assignments when the family accompanies the sailor husband to interesting places around the world. These can be the "fun" assignments, but they require a lot of effort from a Navy wife.

Every move is a complex logistics effort, much of which falls on the wives' shoulders. Then there is the matter of "diplomacy," foreign and domestic.

family has the collateral duty of helping to advance the interests of the U.S. by being the best possible examples of the U.S. as a whole and the USN specifically. Carolyn and her husband, Bill, did this so well during their Navy career that the U.S. State Department was glad to have them as volunteers for the Peace Corps in Ukraine where they were educators in the local school system.

Luci and I are sorry that as residents of Lancaster's District 4 we will be unable to vote for Carolyn.

Thomas A.York, Kilmarnock

Socey knows how to address problems

I have had the pleasure of working with Margaret Socey to benefit the schools in Lancaster County for 11 years. She is dedicated, personally devoted to helping children and relentless in her pursuit of quality in education. I believe she will be an enormous asset to our school

Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation. With Margaret's guidance, the foundation has provided multiple grants every year to the schools; each grant is several hundred dollars.

Here's the important theme to remember—to receive the grant funds, Margaret asked the teachers to submit a proposal outlining a problem to be solved and how they would use the grant to solve the problem. The epitome of local control. Have the teachers decide who knows the classroom better than the teachers? No one.

school board in District 5. You will be glad you did.

Linda Odum, Lancaster

YOUR LETTERS

Americans and foreigners alike all face U.S. border walls daily. International air travelers are shepherded from the aircraft into an arrival hall surrounded by walls.

Border walls

They stand in line while being sniffed by dogs looking for drugs. They then face the questions of a border control officer. Where have you been? What is your business? Why are you here?

There is eye contact. Passports are carefully examined for all requisite approvals. If all goes well you may pass through an opening in a wall into another room surrounded by walls.

Here you retrieve your luggage and present yourself to a customs agent with a form that you have signed and testified as true under penalty of law. Where have you been? What is the value of your purchases? Your luggage is subject to search as is your body. If all goes well, another door opens in a wall and you may leave.

During the countless times I have experienced this process I have wondered why some politicians, mostly Democrats, support a policy of "walk ins" across our Southern border. Astonishing and incredulous are a few of the vords that have come to mind.

We carefully screen business drug runners walk in to fuel gang wars and the carnage in our cities. Why?

Paul Boyenga, Kilmarnock

Raise the fuel tax

I had the occasion this summer to drive from White Stone to Georgetown, S.C., to visit relatives. I noticed that Virginia and South Carolina have two very noticeable things in common.

Poor roads and low motor fuels

In making the trip I drove on interstates, U.S. highways, state highways and local roads. I found the conditions were the same much poorer than those in North

Several articles in this paper indicated that the slow progress on the repairs to the Norris Bridge was the result of having to find money to begin or complete work. This may also be a cause for the poor quality of repairs and resurfacing of many of the roadways in our fair state.

We can judge the quality of work by the patches on the Norris and the newly reconstructed Piankatank River bridges.

sales tax slightly increased didn't funds to get the job done. It is also true that traffic passing through our state received a discount in their contribution to the cause while we residents picked up a bit more cost. It should be noted that sales tax is the most regressive tax in the government's arsenal.

There seems to be room at present to raise the motor fuels/ gas tax by 10 cents per gallon to bridge this shortfall.

Additionally, if half the increase were dedicated to infrastructure improvements in rural areas perhaps adequate avenues could be built to support economic growth. Thus bringing much needed industry to areas like ours with resulting increases in job opportunities for our youth who must leave the area to find employment.

Roy Cameron, White Stone

Questions for Rep. Wittman

Since Rob Wittman deems it Margaret is the founder of the necessary to delete negative comments on his Facebook page there were 54 comments on pic of Wittman with Bush of which half were negative and within two days the number of comments your own states prove gun magically was reduced to 24—I have decided to take my ques-

tions to a place he can't control. Here are the questions to Wit-

- you get around \$700,000 from defense contractors —in 2016, \$302 billion tax dollars went to start upholding existing laws defense contractors. Is this cor-
- Vote for Margaret Socey for missioned aircraft carriers, criminals. How about mandanewest one cost \$12.9 billion, and tory sentencing for people that the rest of the planet has 21. How many more do we need?
 - Since World War II, the U.S. me as a child," "I am mentally

has been involved in covert and overt interventions in 72 different countries. Can you name a successful one? FYI, Grenada does not count.

• Can you name the one that happened on August 19, 1953?

Those of us not shivering in fear under the snow globe you are constructing from the financial future of our children would like to know.

Lon Crow, Lottsburg

Benefits far outweigh risks of vaccinations

Last week I read a letter to the editor entitled "Beware of vaccinations." The letter expressed dangerous perspective.

We are all protected by vaccinations that prevent serious diseases. Smallpox was eradicated by vaccinations. Epidemics of polio and other serious illnesses are stopped by vaccination programs.

The earlier letter cited a website that relies on the fraudulent contributions of Andrew Wakefield. He and his co-authors retracted their poorly reported Lancet publication that studied only 12 patients. The British Medical Council has revoked Wakefield's people and tourists while letting medical license because of his misconduct. I trust my physician. I do not trust Andrew Wakefield. Numerous and much better studies show no link between autism and vaccinations, with or without thimerisol (which hasn't been used in vaccines since 2001). These studies far outweigh Wakefield's highly selective, fraudulent

and retracted report. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) does sell licenses for certain vaccines. The income to that federal agency amounts to about 2% of its budget, which represents a tax savings for us. It offsets some of the cost of considerable vaccine research. CDC does not, however, mandate vaccination. That is a state job and Virginia (and all 50 states) requires certain vaccinations.

Infectious disease risks far outweigh the risk of potential harm from vaccination side effects. According to the CDC, the MMR vaccine protects our children and the risk of serious harm is "extremely small." Influenza and pneumonia kill tens of thousands of Americans each year and hospitalize hundreds of thousands

The benefits of vaccination The last highway funding far outweigh the risks. Ask your attempt whereby the motor fuels physician about this. My family On foreign duty, the entire tax was slightly reduced and the and I will be getting the flu shot this year with little or no concern apparently provide sufficient about side effects. I hope that others will do the same so the community can enjoy a safer flu season.

Iames C. Lamb, **Wicomico Church**

Time for accountability

Democrats and liberals want to blame guns for the heinous act in Las Vegas. Guns are just a tool that this man used to carry out his brutal attack. He also had explosive material in

Again playing on the emotions of people, the liberals and Democrats want to press for feel-good legislation that will not solve the problem at hand. The Democrats' and liberals' claim-to-fame is they are the educated people.

Let's educate you. Illinois, Maryland and Washington, D.C., have the strictest gun laws in the land. They also have the highest gun-related crimes in the land. Could we conclude that strict gun laws do not work to deter gun violence in these liberal Democrat-ruled states?

Democrats and liberals, when it comes to gun control laws are ineffective to deter gun violence. When you refuse to acknowledge the obvious for liberal ideology, well that makes you stupid. Those that • Available info indicates are ignorant can learn but you can't fix stupid.

It is time for legislators to (sanctuary states, good start) and pass laws that protect the • We currently have 20 com- people and victims not the use guns in violent crimes, meaning no more "my dad beat

distraught," "I was not taught adequately protected. responsibility as a child," simply not guilty for a domestic reason.

In short, liberals stop making excuses and let's have some accountability. How about "I am tired of your excuses, look at the devastation you have created." You must pay the price and in some cases the ultimate price for your absurd actions.

What we need is a law abiding America by upholding existing laws and support law enforcement.

Donald Peebles, Heathsville

Bring back U.S. v. Miller U.S. 174

In 1939, the Supreme Court followed the collective rights theory of the Second Amendment which asserts that citizens do not have an individual right to possess guns and that legislative bodies possess the authority to regulate firearms under the constitution. This lasted until 2008.

The "Origionalists" the more recent, ideological, Supreme Court believe that interpretation of the text of the Constitution should be based on how they think the framers would have interpreted it in 1791. This assumes they had vision to consider that firearms wouldn't always be black powder, singleshot weapons, or that information would travel at the speed of light instead of the fastest horse.

I remember when both automatic and semi-automatic weapons weren't sold to civilians. They weren't necessary for any "law abiding purpose." An adult could buy a handgun for their home, but only with a permit issued by a law enforcement agency. No one felt deprived. When we lived in rural West Virginia for six years we were told by the county sheriff that we should keep a loaded gun in the house because it would take at least 30-minutes for them to get to us in an emergency. We slept with a loaded Winchester 94 30-30 next to our bed and felt

The Supreme Court in 1939 was correct. Semi-automatic and automatic rifles are not necessary for civilians in America for any legal purposes. Carrying a handgun outside the home or ones place of business should require justification and a specific permit by local law enforcement. Carrying any loaded firearm in public should be prohibited. All firearms should be registered.

I'd hate to be a cop today. They have to assume that everyone they encounter is armed.

Bob Wilson, Reedville

Inspiration

On October 14, the Northern Neck Orchestra again wowed its audience, adding to its treats a 16-year-old soloist.

Sarah Tindall travelled to Kilmarnock from the Midwest, bringing along her cello—and expertise far beyond her years. But, more than that, she brought her obvious love of music which seemed to come across to the audience as a message from another world.

We sat absolutely enraptured while she gave every inch of her body and soul to what was far more than just an excellent performance. Then, much too soon, she was finished and the auditorium erupted in heartfelt, prolonged applause.

What made this concert so special is that it demonstrated to the young people in the audience how possible it might be for them to aspire to heights in music. That is really what the Northern Neck Orchestra does. It isn't just for entertainment. It nurtures—not just our young people—but all of us who connect with performers who transport us to a higher plane.

We are blessed with our incredible young conductor, Michael Repper, who happily "discovered" Sarah Tindall in a competition he was judging.

Miriam MacCarthy, White Stone

Campaign letters due by 11 a.m. October 24

Letters commenting on positions of candidates in the November 7 election will be published in the Rappahannock Record as space allows through the October 26 issue.

No election letters will be published November 2.

Letters should contain the name of the writer, place of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but are required in case the writer needs to be contacted. Phone numbers are required, even if the letter has been emailed to the

Letters are due by 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24.

Letters should be concise and to the point. The Record editorial department enforces a 300-word maximum length on all letters.

All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, or potentially libelous statements. Letters should be written by those whose name appears on the letter.

Endorsement letters are welcome. However, mean-spirited letters disrespectful of candidates are not. Hate mail will not be published.

No more than two letters from the same writer.. Letters from the same writer will not be published in consecutive issues.

Letters obviously part of a letter-writing campaign, or those obviously abstracted from a blog, or other internet site will not be published.

No attacks on a candidate's personal life will be published. Statements that are obviously false, rumors and hearsay will not be published. Writers are reminded it is a misdemeanor in Virginia to knowingly submit false information for publication in a newspaper.

Letters from candidates will not be published prior to November 2 and then only if there is a demonstrated need to respond to a specific issue raised in a prior



FREE HEARING TESTS

For the Greater Gloucester, Mathews & Kilmarnock Areas! October 19th - October 27th

Free electronic hearing tests will be given in our Gloucester office locations between October 19th and October 27th.

Tests have been arranged for anyone who suspects they are losing their hearing. Such persons generally say they can hear, but cannot understand words. Testing with the latest computerized equipment will indicate if you can be helped.

Everyone, especially adults over 55, should have an electronic hearing test at least once a year. If there is a hearing problem, hearing tests may reveal that newly developed methods or correction will help, even for those who have been told in the past that a hearing aid would not help them.

If you suspect you have hearing loss, call for a free hearing test appointment. Our licensed specialists are trained in the latest auditory testing methods and will be the first ones to tell you if you don't need a hearing aid. If you do have a hearing loss, we will explain your results and provide you with a list of options.

KILMARNOCK 25 Office Park Dr, Ste 4 804-438-2420

6568 Main St, Ste 1