



SAVANNAH GOODMAN MAKES HER 1,000TH BASKET!

See page B1

Northern Neck News

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LOCAL

Power from the sun

Richmond County Schools explore solar power

By Jackie Nunnery

Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent of Richmond County Public Schools announced that the district was in its initial exploration phase of “using solar power to offset some of its energy costs” during a school board meeting held Wednesday at Rappahannock High School.

Grants are available to school districts through the RVA Solar Fund, which is part of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond. According to its website, they “seek to support local governments, K-12 public school systems, and non-profit organizations in the greater Richmond region that wish to go solar on site.”

Two solar farms have popped up in the Northern Neck area in recent years, one successful, the other not so much. Construction was recently completed on a 20-megawatt facility located on Rt. 3 in Westmoreland County, which is generating power for Dominion Energy as of mid-December. A spokesperson for Dominion Energy stated “the project created 200-250 jobs during construction with a positive economic impact of \$20 million. The site will “generate \$700,000 in tax revenue annually” for the county.

In January of 2018, Essex County held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a similar 20-megawatt solar farm off Rt. 17 in Dunnsville.

See SUN, page A2

WEEKLY WEATHER

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



45°/32°



46°/44°



55°/14°

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INSIDE



Northern Neck Ginger Ale used to be bottled at the now vacant Montross Coca-Cola facility.

A Northern Neck treasure

Ginger Ale may get state-wide recognition

By Jackie Nunnery

What's not to love? Sweet, with just a bite and bubbles that tickle the nose. It's a refreshing

drink on its own as well as a great mixer for cocktails.

Northern Neck Ginger Ale, a hometown favorite for generations since 1926 when it was first brewed by the Carver family of Montross, is seeing a resurgence in popularity thanks to an effort to make it the official soft drink of Virginia.

See GINGER ALE, page A2



Potential change on the horizon for schools

Richmond County Public Schools may open before Labor Day

By Jackie Nunnery

Richmond County Public School's Superintendent, Dr. Greg Smith, discussed the possibility of opening the high school

prior to Labor Day during January's school board meeting.

The potential change comes as regional programs shared with other districts, like Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and the Northern Neck Technical Center, are encountering scheduling issues with other school districts who have different start dates due to pre-Labor Day opening waivers.

The waivers are based on “the Kings Dominion Law” passed by the Virginia Legislature in 1986, which prevented school districts from starting class prior to Labor Day. The original purpose of the hotly contested law was to help Virginia tourist destinations like Kings Dominion attract more guests and retain high school aged employees through Labor Day.

See RCPS, page A2

Building a better world

By Jackie Nunnery

Roman Cutler, a senior at Lancaster High School and Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, is busy setting up for a beginner's electronics/robotics class, which he's holding as part of the FIRST Robotics group that meets regularly at Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock.

Cutler talks excitedly about robotics, something he's taught himself and enjoys teaching to others. He was “around 5 or 8” when he built his first robot using a LEGO Mindstorms set that was originally purchased for his older brother. A quick learner, he moved on to more serious stuff with Arduino, an open source programming language for electronics, and his own 3D printer. YouTube videos provided the expert guidance and the opportunity to ask questions that allowed him “to test designs and programming.” Successes and failures spurred him on, eventually developing a robot that folds his clothes. With these tools, the options seemed endless. “I could make anything I could think of.”

With FIRST Robotics, it's opened his world to more mentors, challenges and experiences. FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, was created by prolific inventor Dean Kamen (most famously of the Segway) in 1989 to “to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology” according to their website, firstinspires.org.

FIRST offers four competitions to help develop budding engineers using real-world challenges which teams try to solve by building robots. Depending on age, there are two LEGO Leagues for elementary and middle schoolers; the FIRST Tech challenge, which Cutler's team, the Stardust Crusaders, participates in, for grades 7-12, and the FIRST Robotics Competition, for grades 9 through 12.

But while the competitions are about robots, student participants, Cutler included, will tell you that it's about much more. “It's about sharing your knowledge,” which is one of the reasons he is teaching this beginner's class to home-schooled students who normally wouldn't have access to electronics parts and software. Or someone with Cutler's advanced knowledge of how to use them.

See ROBOTICS, page A5



Kim Aguilar helps a student warm up.

A different kind of team member

Athletic trainer makes sure Lady Raiders are ready to conquer

By Jackie Nunnery

On the sidelines of Thursday night's home game, the Lady Raiders basketball team had a valuable member that no other county in the Northern Neck has. An athletic trainer.

As their athletic trainer, Kim Aguilar, attends all of the varsity home games to help those student athletes stay healthy and if injured, “healing in an optimal setting.” “I'm responsible for the prevention, evaluation and treatment of sports related injuries.”

Aguilar attended Hardin-Simmons University in Texas, receiving a degree in

Athletic Training and Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation. She was attracted to the field because she “loved helping people and loved sports.”

On a typical night, Aguilar will help athletes stretch, apply tape, “and stand on the sidelines, hoping no one gets hurt.” Of course, injuries do occur, typically “sprains, strains, contusions, and concussions.” Having Aguilar on the sidelines to evaluate injuries has prevented some unnecessary visits to urgent care or the emergency room. She is also the one who makes the call regarding an athlete's return to the game, which helps the coaches immensely. She is not only better qualified to make such a call, but it prevents any strain in the coach/player relationship.

See TRAINER, page A5



ELIJAH CAREY HITS A THREE POINTER TO GIVE HIS TEAM A LEAD.

See page B1

Northern Neck News

SERVING THE 'HEART OF HISTORYLAND' SINCE 1974

VA. • JANUARY 23, 2019

75¢

LOCAL

Murder trial on hold

Medical furlough granted for defendant

By Jackie Nunnery

“Based on a humanitarian need for medical care,” Richmond County Circuit Court Judge R. Michael McKenney, granted a medical furlough with supervision for Michael Veney, a defendant in a murder trial. The Northern Neck Regional Jail will transport Veney to Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond to receive treatment for a recurring infection and fever, which the judge noted would “affect the defendant’s ability to assist his attorney in his defense.”

Veney is charged with the First-Degree Murder of Edwardo “Jay” Garner on July 21, 2018. Richmond County Sheriff’s Office responded to a call at 2:24 a.m. about a vehicle stopped near the intersection of Route 3 and Farnham Creek Road. Deputies found Garner lying next to the vehicle, and he was pronounced dead at the scene of an apparent gunshot wound. Veney’s son, Trevaughn Veney was also charged with First-Degree Murder, Accessory Before the Fact.

During his medical furlough, Veney was ordered to refrain from drugs, alcohol and controlled substances unless prescribed.

See Murder Trial, page A6

WEEKLY WEATHER

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | | |
| 40°/20° | 36°/28° | 41°/27° |

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INSIDE



Photo by Angela Dawson

An astronomical phenomenon

The ‘super blood wolf moon’ wowed the world on Jan. 21

By Jackie Nunnery

What sounds like an ominous occurrence is really a unique combination of astronomical events. The biggest of these events is the lunar eclipse, the first of 2019. It’s also a total lunar eclipse, and the next won’t be here until 2021. In a lunar eclipse, the Earth blocks the sunlight that normally reaches the moon. The Earth’s shadow falls on the moon, creating a reddish hue, or what some call a “blood moon.”

As for the “wolf moon” portion of the name, it’s called that because it’s the first full moon of the year. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, this full moon was called the “wolf moon,” because it appeared “when wolves howled outside the villages in hunger.” It could also be because wolves howl more during their mating season, which begins in January.

The night’s moon was also be a “super moon” because it was a full moon that was closer to Earth in its elliptical orbit, also called a perigee. This means that the moon appeared larger and brighter (except during the lunar eclipse) than a regular full moon.

Excerpted from an article published in the January 9 edition of the Northern Neck News

Making their dream a reality

Community bands together to help feed our neighbors around the world

By Steven M. Waterfield

More than 220 volunteers from at least 15 local churches bonded together to help with the gathering and delivery of over 30,000 meals destined for the people of Haiti.

Hope United Haiti was established after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated much of Haiti in 2008 killing over 220,000 people and leaving over 1 million displaced.

Years afterward, hundreds of thousands of Haitians lived in tent cities and were denied basic essentials like clean water and food. There was no employment, and no hospitals, churches, or schools.

In 2017, “Hope United Haiti” opened its doors to help resolve some of Haiti’s issues, and a number of churches from the Northern Neck area answered the call.

Volunteer Teresa Williams from Menokin

Baptist Church started a medical clinic in La Mer Frappee Haiti, and will return there in May of this year. The clinic gives medical attention by qualified volunteer staff.

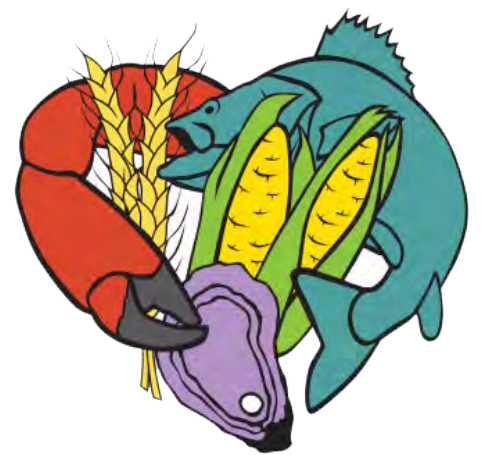
Hope United is always looking for someone to sponsor a child through the habitat. They currently have 210 children for whom they have found sponsors for and help with the needs of the children.

“During mission week, a company called Life Line Mission, comes and we pack meals for an orphanage in Haiti,” Williams said.

Last July Williams was able to reach out to Life Line and arranged for over 100 people to help pack 15,000 meals.

When Williams returned from one of her mission trips to Haiti, she started the process of recruiting 100 volunteers to pack the meals. Her group visited a number of churches in the Northern Neck, mostly during Vacation Bible School, where they talked about Haiti and out-of-the-country mission work with the goal of recruiting 100 volunteers to help pack over 15,000 meals. The response was immediate.

See Feeding, page A5



Warsaw: A changing town

More Main Street improvements on the horizon

By Jackie Nunnery

Warsaw Town Manager, Joseph Quesenberry shared the latest on additional improvements coming to the Main Street area at the latest town council meeting.

In Phase One of new street lighting, 15 “acorn” style lights, identical to the lights at Family Dollar, will be installed along Main Street from Warsaw Baptist Church to the Richmond County YMCA. This work is expected to finish sometime in either March or April. In Phase Two, which will start immediately after, 21 of the same styled lights will cover from the church to Union Bank at the corner of Main Street and Route 360.

See Changing, page A5



For 3 hours, local churches and volunteers worked hard to help feed families in Haiti.

Warsaw Town Council seeks to extend Enterprise Zone

By Jackie Nunnery

The Warsaw Town Council passed a resolution that would seek to extend the time on the Northern Neck Virginia Enterprise Zone (VEZ) for another five years. Without renewal, the current zone is set to expire on December 31, 2019.

The Town of Warsaw is included in the Northern Neck VEZ along with the counties of Richmond, Westmoreland, Northumberland and Lancaster, as well as the towns of Colonial Beach, Kilmarnock, Irvington, and White Stone.

The VEZ program, a partnership between

state and local government, is designed to encourage job creation and private investment. It is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, which offers two grant-based incentives for qualified investors and job creators within those zones: the Job Creation Grant, providing employers with money for each new job created; and the Real Property Investment Grant, providing up to \$200,000 for building renovation or new construction.

Warsaw Town Manager Joseph Quesenberry,

stressed the importance of the Enterprise Zones as Warsaw continues to look for ways spur growth. They are an “invaluable resource for economic development in our area.” The resolution also cited that “without the incentive, the Northern Neck would be at a disadvantage in comparison to other rural areas across the Commonwealth” and would “negatively impact the sustainability and economic vitality of our community.”

The resolution has been passed on to Sen. Ryan McDougal and Del. Margaret Ransone at the Virginia General Assembly.

FOURTH GRADE PROJECTS



Fourth graders from Richmond County Elementary and Middle School presented their community projects to the school board. The student lead projects were part of the Appreciation Project. Those projects included helping out at the Essex County Animal shelter, The Orchard, and building a little library at the Warsaw Town Park.

LOCAL

Vague septic guidelines

Development of Amish school reveals some of Richmond County's more lax regulations

By Michelle Smith

A new school in the Amish community revealed that Richmond County has vague septic system regulations.

At this month's board of supervisors meeting, chairman F. Lee Sanders told fellow board members that he was approached by individuals with questions about the Amish being allowed to build a school without bathrooms.

"They've got two outhouses but they're not traditional outhouses sitting on a septic tank to be pumped," said Lee. "I'm concerned about this thing. There's no running water. Nowhere for kids to get anything to drink, nowhere for them to wash their hands."

He asked Planning and Zoning Administrator, Hope Mothershead to explain how it got approved.

Members of the Amish community came to the county seeking a permit for a privy at the school, Mothershead explained. With no prior experience dealing with that type of structure, she researched what was involved and consulted with the health department.

With a more traditional pit privy, there's a risk of waste reaching the ground surface, she learned. The county frowned upon that option and the health department would not permit it. However, the Health Department said it could permit a vault privy, which is similar to a conventional septic system.

See Guidelines, page 5

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Friday Saturday Sunday



82°/64°



89°/67°



89°/67°

INSIDE



7 12832 91231 3



HAYNESVILLE SOLAR FARM

Haynesville Correctional Center's Solar Farm to Save \$120,000 annually

The Virginia Department of Corrections received a Governor's Honor Award for diversifying its energy sources by planning and building a solar farm at Haynesville Correctional Center.

Haynesville's five-acre solar farm hosts an 852.72 kW solar photovoltaic system with an array of 2,508 photovoltaic modules – solar panels that will reduce both the facility's energy consumption and its reliance on non-renewable energy resources.

See Solar Farm, page 5

Cracking down on contraband

Virginia Department of Corrections adds limitations to visitation

By Michelle Smith

The Virginia Department of Corrections is set to impose a new state-wide rule that will limit inmates at Haynesville Correctional Center to a 10-person visiting list and modifications will only be allowed twice a year.

The policy change is an effort to crack down on contraband. Currently, inmates are allowed to add and remove people from their visitation list at any time. According to the DOC, that liberty has led to many instances where a visitor is "hired" to bring drugs into a facility for an inmate the visitor doesn't know.

"Right now, if an offender lists a person whose name he has just received and she tries to bring in drugs and gets caught, he can simply take her name off and add a new person immediately in an ongoing effort to find someone who can be successful in smuggling the contraband," explained Lisa Kinney, director of communications for DOC.

Under the new policy, inmates will only be able to change the names on their list in January and July, so they can't keep switching to new people.

See Contraband, page 10



Harlem Renaissance Rewind helped connect people with different backgrounds.

A personal renaissance

By Michelle Smith

"Nineteen nineteen to nineteen forty-nine was an amazing period for African Americans who experienced the Harlem Renaissance," said Donna Jackson, co-founder of L.I.F.E. School of Art in Tappahannock. Art, literature and music were alive and vibrant and Jackson has made it her mission to capture the essence of that time and immerse students in it.

Most recently, she held a four-ses-

sion class called Harlem Renaissance Rewind: Painting and Prose, which connected a group of women with diverse backgrounds to one another and to that historical period.

The women listened to music and read and discussed literary works. They explored different art forms and artists of the period and they wrote about and shared details of their personal renaissance.

See Renaissance, page 5

WINE & OYSTER FESTIVAL



Horses greet the guests on the grounds at Stratford Hall. Photo submitted by Emily Mooney

Story on page 10

Confession leads to body of missing man

By Colston Newton

A Northumberland County missing person case turned into a Lancaster County murder case when Jacob Monday confessed to killing David LaForge.

Northumberland Detective Todd Jones, who investigated the matter, said it began when LaForge's roommate filed a missing person report with the county's sheriff's office August 24. LaForge had never come home after getting off work at the Burgess Buoy at midnight the night before, Jones said.

The sheriff's office issued a "BOLO" (Be on the look out) for LaForge and Jones got a warrant to look at LaForge's cell phone records. "The last ping was at an address in Lively," Jones recalled.

Jones went to the address on Mary Ball Road and spoke with Monday who lived there. "He said nothing bad had happened," Jones recalled, but "I got a suspicion."

On August 30, Jones, along with Lancaster Detective Steve Sorensen,

questioned Monday for about two hours. Finally, Monday "confirmed killing LaForge" and agreed to show them where he had disposed of the body in Gloucester County.

LaForge had been shot to death with a small caliber weapon, Jones said. He and Sorensen, with Monday's help, located LaForge's car in Newport News where Monday had dumped it. It contained forensic evidence that Lancaster County is handling, Jones noted.

The case will be tried in Lancaster County because that is where the killing happened, but it will be handled by Northumberland County for the most part since it was largely developed by Northumberland officers. Northumberland Commonwealth's Attorney, Jane Wrightson will prosecute the case.

Monday is represented by Anna Lindemann of Fredericksburg and is incarcerated in the Lancaster County jail.

A preliminary hearing in the case is set for November 20 in the Lancaster County General District Court.