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Town clears way for \$8 million assisted living facility

By Eric Miller
Editor

Construction could start on an \$8 million assisted living facility in Bowling Green in 2014, and it could open in 2015.

On a recommendation for approval by the Bowling Green Planning Commission, the Bowling Green Town Council approved measures on Dec. 12 that will allow the facility. It will be called New Hope and will be located on a 3.5 acre parcel on the north side of Milford Street and the

east side of Trewalla Lane.

“This \$8 million investment in our town is nothing to take lightly,” Bowling Green Mayor David Storke said during the meeting. “This is a local group of folks coming to us to contribute to our town to the tune of \$8 million.

“People will come here to visit family members,” the mayor added. “We can all think of folks who left our community because we didn’t have a facility like this. We all know someone who could use a facility like

this and I’m in whole-hearted support of this project.”

After the mayor made his comments, the Town Council unanimously approved of a motion by Glenn McDearmon, vice mayor, to rezone the property from R-1 to R-3. On a motion from councilor Otis Wright, the Town Council approved of a special use permit that restricts the height of the building to 45 feet from the ground level. The facility must also have a 10-foot wide buffer

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David Upshaw (left), Mayor David Storke and Vice Mayor Glen McDearmon stand beside site plans for the new assisted living facility.

SCHOOL BOND SIGNED



History in the making

Caroline County officials sign documents related to a \$26 million school bond approved by voters on Nov. 5. The money will be used to upgrade and expand Caroline High School and Madison Elementary School. In the photo from the left are: Floyd Thomas, chairman of the Caroline Board of Supervisors; Alan Partin, assistant county administrator; Pam Hall, county administrative assistant; and Charles Culley, county administrator. They signed the paperwork on Dec. 16. Thomas commented, “With the approval of the citizens of Caroline County, we have started an aggressive renovation program for school facilities. All of us in the county will work to make this a success and something we will all be proud of.”

School board moves toward selecting architectural firm

By Christina Lopes
Reporter

The Caroline County School Board voted 4-1 to start negotiations with OWPR Architects and Engineers on a proposal to design upgrades and expansions of two schools.

The board approved Superintendent Gregory Killough’s recommendation of OWPR during a special meeting on Dec. 16. The board and OWPR will discuss a proposal for the architectural firm to design the improvements needed for Caroline High School and Madison Elementary School.

Caroline voters approved a bond referendum on Nov. 5 that allows the county to borrow \$26.3 million for school improvements and renovations. During the Caroline County Board of Supervisors meeting on Dec. 9, the board approved the financing for the project.

see Board page A5

Colorado woman warns Caroline about fracking

By Christina Lopes
Reporter

Environmental groups warned Caroline County residents about the consequences of drilling for natural gas during a Dec. 11 meeting in Bowling Green.

The workshop was put on by Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) and the Caroline County Countryside Alliance to provide information about environmental concerns related to a proposal by a Texas oil company to drill for oil and natural gas on the eastern side of Caroline County.

Apparently, the workshop troubled some residents. Some left while uttering comments such as, “What a mess.” One said, “It’s scary.” Others said, “It’s all about the money.” Several residents wondered aloud when the next meeting will be, and someone else asked, “How many

(county) supervisors were here?”

Shore Exploration and Production Company has plans to extract oil and natural gas through a process known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.”

“Horizontal drilling technology, known as hydrofracking or fracking, uses high pressure to force millions of gallons of water, some sand and chemicals a mile or more underground to break up shale rock and release gas or oil,” FOR representatives have said.

Leases for gas and oil drilling in Caroline County cover over 40,733 acres, nearly half of the total of 84,390 acres leased in the region since 2010, according to a search of county courthouse records this summer, said FOR Executive Director John Tippet in a news release.

see Fracking page A6

After two seasons

CHS football coach resigns

After two seasons at Caroline High School, head football coach Jeremiah Ross has resigned.

When Ross came to Caroline two years ago, he was the school’s fourth football coach in five years. The previous coach, Gene Boley, stepped down after coming under fire from parents.

Ross submitted his resignation last week and is looking around the area for other positions. Ross reportedly may leave Caroline prior to the school year ending if a position becomes available.

“Coach Ross improved the team in a lot of areas, winning four games this



year and making an appearance in the regionals,” said Paul Heizer, CHS athletic director. “The fact that there are a lot of good players returning next year makes this position very attractive.”

Heizer commented that several people have contacted him already and that he sees no problem in finding someone suitable for the position.

Concerned with the further development of such

see Coach page A6



Child MOLESTATION IN CAROLINE

This is part 3 of a 3 part series on child molestation in Caroline County. This article focuses on victims and what motivates offenders to molest children.

Child molestation can ruin a life

By Eric Miller
Editor

Eddie’s son was 5 when he began going to a therapist but what happened behind the closed door of the therapist’s office has nearly driven the boy to suicide.

Josh, not his real name, was taken by Eddie, not his real name, to licensed therapist Scott Gordon Henry in Bowling Green for two years to get counseling in dealing with a traumatic event he had witnessed in his neighborhood. Eddie said he thought it was a little

odd that the therapist spent so much time alone with his son.

It was four or five years later when Josh and Eddie were riding down the road together that Josh told his dad something he could no longer hold back. He said the therapist had made him take his pants down and the therapist had fondled the boy’s genitals. This went on hundreds of times for more than two years.

Investigator Kristel DiGravio of the Caroline County Sheriff’s Office

(CCSO) deals with close to 40 child sexual abuse cases a year in Caroline, she said. During the past five years that she’s been with the CCSO as an investigator, she’s handled nearly 200 child sexual abuse cases, she noted.

Initially, Eddie was told Josh would need only two or three counseling sessions with Henry, but the sessions continued for over two years because Henry had found just the right victim in Josh—a shy, trusting little boy who wouldn’t tell his

parents about the fondling. Children this young trust an authority figure who says he needs to touch their genitals.

“I delivered my son to him on a silver platter twice a week,” Eddie said. He

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