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People flock to the State Fair on opening weekend

Favorable weather contributes to high attendance which continues through Sunday

By Christina Lopes
 Reporter

The State Fair of Virginia was buzzing with activity during its opening weekend. Exciting attractions, food, games and rides brought in spectators from all over. Crowds lined up to be a part of the action as they eagerly watched pig races, chainsaw carving, dog shows, horse shows and live band performances.

The fair opened on Friday, Sept. 27 and will continue through Oct. 6. Operating hours are: Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Madison Slaybaugh of Colonial Heights got an early start in thrill-seeking by jumping onto a giant inflatable airbag at the U.S. Airbag Freefall. Slaybaugh was grinning triumphantly after her jump and was excited to see what else the fair had to offer. Slaybaugh said her favorite parts of the fair were the animals, and all of the fun rides. She said she couldn't think of anything that she didn't like about the fair.

One of the fair's newest attractions for people of all ages is the Butterfly House; an interactive attraction where children and adults can learn about butterflies by walking in an enclosed area where they can interact with 400 butterflies, including painted ladies and monarchs. Johanna Schneck, 7, of Henrico was an excited patron of the butterfly house. During her excursion through the enclosure, Schneck was at one point covered by an estimated 20 butterflies, which

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(From left to right) Iyana, Lauren, Kayla, and Bryson enjoy a break from fair excitement by chowing down on some traditional funnel cakes, courtesy of the Funnel Cake Factory.

Sili seeks to stop county payments on YMCA

Thomas urges board to allow more time

By Christina Lopes

MILFORD— During the Sept. 24 Caroline County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Jeff Sili made a motion to not pay the YMCA bills due to YMCA representatives' failure to provide descriptions, explanations, and cost of change orders.

Supervisor Jeff Black seconded the motion.

Floyd Thomas, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, asked the other supervisors to withdraw their motion to not pay the YMCA bills, if they would be willing to give the YMCA two additional weeks to submit the information.

Thomas stated that if the information had not been presented by then, he would support the motion. Sili agreed to compromise and stay the motion until the Oct. 8 Board of Supervisors meeting.

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with the Rappahannock Area YMCA to give the organization \$5 million to build a Caroline YMCA. The county accomplished this with a secured loan

from SunTrust Bank. The collateral for this debt is the Bowling Green Elementary School, which recently underwent a \$10 million expansion and renovation. Apart from this gift and the loan that made it possible to make the gift, there are 10 interest-only payments on the SunTrust loan of \$103,100 due twice a year.

The county government recently helped pay part of the interest-only payment.

In other business, supervisors were told Caroline County has until July 1, 2014 to implement state-mandated storm water management regulations.

There have been two bills approved by the assembly, and approved by the governor.

Three programs are required to be in place by July 1. These programs include the old Chesapeake Bay program, the old EMS program, and a new program specific to storm water management.

County planning director Mike Finchum said, "I can sum that up in three words: confusing, duplicative, and

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Caroline honors local historic art legend Sidney King Arts Center opens with fanfare



From left to right: Bernard Collins, Jeff Sili, Floyd Thomas, Patrick DeCrane, David Storke, Lucy Lawliss, John Stoddard cut the ribbon during opening ceremony.

By Eric Miller
 Editor

BOWLING GREEN— Federal, county and town officials gathered here on Sept. 24 and dedicated an arts center in honor of Sidney E. King, whose original

paintings have been viewed by 100 million.

Dignitaries and elected officials extolled the talent and eminence of King before cutting the ribbon to officially open the Sidney E. King Arts Center along

North Main Street. Located in the south wing of the old courthouse, it features 13 of King's original paintings, along with the work of local artists.

King died at 95 in 2002 after spending much of his life in Caroline County. The paintings hanging in Bowling Green were commissioned by the National Park Service 30 years ago and were on display at battlefields around Fredericksburg. A 14th painting hangs in the Caroline County Visitor's Center in Carmel Church.

King painted nearly 200 historic murals in national parks across the eastern United States. He painted six days a week into his 90s, painting landscapes, people, animals, flowers, still lifes, religious and historical subjects. He taught art in Caroline County, Warsaw and Tappahannock.

Those who spoke at the dedication were Lucy Law-

liss, superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park; Bowling Green Mayor David W. Storke; John W. Stoddard, a member of the Caroline Industrial Development Authority (IDA); Floyd W. Thomas, chairman of the Caroline County Board of Supervisors; and Jeff M. Sili, a member of the Board of Supervisors representing the Bowling Green District of the board.

Stoddard has been a preservation specialist at the National Military Park for 30 years and he worked with King on repair of the paintings when they were damaged by vandals.

"Over the years, I have repaired, polished, installed and moved these paintings," he told the crowd gathered on the courthouse lawn. "I have watched them weather hurricanes, major snow storms, falling trees, insect damage and vandalism."

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Caroline fugitive still at large

By Eric Miller
 Editor

Shanessa Voneek Pittman, 26, of Ruther Glen, is wanted by authorities in New York, Hampton and Caroline County for charges related to a shooting, an armed robbery, possession of a sawed off shotgun and possession of marijuana.

She is considered armed and dangerous. She was scheduled to appear in court in Caroline



Shanessa Pittman

on Sept. 27, but she didn't show up, incurring yet another charge.

Caroline Sheriff Tony Lippa is asking that anyone with information on the whereabouts of Pittman to call the Caroline County Sheriff's Office anonymous tip line at 804-633-1133 or call the regular number at

804-633-5400.

In Caroline alone, she is charged with possession of a sawed-off shotgun, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, stealing property with intention to sell and possession of marijuana.

According to New York news accounts, Cortland

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Port Royal boundary proposal draws critics and advocates

By Christina Lopes
 Reporter

MILFORD—A proposed boundary change for the Town of Port Royal drew sharp criticism as well as strong pleas for help during the Sept. 24 meeting of the Caroline County Board of Supervisors.

After a public hearing on the matter, the Board of Supervisors agreed to meet with the Port Royal Town Council at 6 p.m. on Oct. 9 to revisit the issue and work out a compromise for all parties con-

cerned. The meeting will be in the Caroline County Community Services Center.

The boundary has come up for discussion regularly at Board of Supervisor meetings and Port Royal meetings for nearly a year. However, Sept. 24 marked the first time a citizen has voiced strong opposition to it. Ellen Martin told the board she would be affected by the proposed boundary adjustment. Martin said that she and her husband found it "very frustrating" that the county was doing some-

thing like this "behind our backs." Martin concluded by saying, "Do not include me in something like this without my knowledge."

Under the current proposal, the county, not the town, would collect real estate taxes from residents inside the expanded town boundaries.

An initial proposal to enlarge the town's boundary adjustment would increase the town's area from 78 acres to about 340 acres and from 126 residents to 160. It would also boost annual revenue

from \$17,000 to \$87,000 through additional business licenses, sales taxes, and food/beverage taxes from the businesses now on the fringe of the town limits.

Increased revenue would allow the town to properly maintain its water system, turn back on the other half of its streetlights, and provide other needed town services. The town's aging water system is in constant need of costly repairs, including replacement of pumps. The World War II era water tower is in danger of caving in and that

would result in the Virginia Department of Health condemning the water system, town officials have noted.

The town applied for a federal grant to upgrade the water system this year, but was recently turned down.

In late 2012, the town council asked supervisors to allow the town to expand the boundary lines so the town can take in more tax revenue from Port Royal businesses. The two governing bod-

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Kenya pastor coming to Caroline

COLUMN



Speaking Truths

by Pastor David Upshaw

On Oct. 15 a team of pastors from Kenya will be coming to Caroline County.

This team is led by the Rev. Elijah Wanje, who is president of the Kenyan Baptist Convention and pastor of Ridgeways Baptist Church in Nairobi. The Rev. Wanje attended Mombasa Baptist High School and then college at a Baptist school in Arkansas.

He wants to thank the people who have faithfully supported missions over the years because he recognizes that what God is doing in Kenya today is a result of the prayers and support of mission groups such as the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union.

The "thank you tour" began when the Rev. Wanje spoke at Concord Baptist Church last year. The church was so impressed with what God was doing in his life that they approached the Hermon Baptist Association, who is sponsoring this tour. The team of pastors is traveling at their own expense and will be speaking at churches, schools, and other organizations in our community.

If you have ever wondered if mission work is worth the sacrifice of time and money then you need to meet this team. Their excitement and passion for what God is doing will inspire you and challenge you. Many things are happening in Kenya economically and politically that will have an impact on the world. This team of pastors will give us a glimpse into the lives of a different culture that may help us understand ourselves better.

Kenya will always have a very special place in my life because I served there on the mission field from 1974 to 1976. I taught math at Mombasa Baptist High School and Elijah was one of my students. His family was very accepting of me and now I get to share him with you. I have followed his career over the years and we have remained good friends.

Most of what we know about the world we learn through the media. Experiencing a culture is the best way to learn about a people and how they live. We send mission teams to other countries and those who go have life-changing experiences. This team of pastors will have a life-changing experience when they visit us and we have an opportunity to learn from them as well.

There are still some open dates for one of these team members to share with your church or organization. For more information, contact Dee Whitten, director of missions for the Hermon Baptist Association, at 540-841-0040.

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Birth Announcement McDowney

Kent and Jennifer McDowney Jr. of Richmond are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Kylie Loren McDowney who was born on September 17, 2013, at Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 1/2 inches long. Her big sister is Kendal Loren McDowney.

Her maternal grandparents are Everett and Adele Fortune, Sr. of Milford and Kent and Leora McDowney, Sr. of Fredericksburg.

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expensive." He told the board that there is a timeline to which the county must adhere. The planning commission has drafted a submission to be presented to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. This draft is to be presented to the board by the first Board of Supervisors meeting in November.

Supervisor Floyd Thomas aired his frustrations and described this as an unfunded mandate, which means, "the localities will bear the brunt" of something that comes from the state. "Needless to say, I don't feel happy about that," he added.

In other business, Supervisor Jeff Black reported that he received a phone call from the Ladysmith Volunteer Fire Department chief concerning the second floor of the fire department. The structure has been inspected, and has been deemed unsafe for occupancy or storage due to hazardous floor conditions.

Black said he believes that fixing this issue should be "a top priority." The fire chief of the Ladysmith district addressed the board,

saying he did not know how much repairs to the structure would cost. He noted that an engineer was coming to look at the property to make a plan so that repairs can move forward.

An appropriation of funds had been requested for the purchase of a new ambulance, new fleet vehicles, and new uniforms and t-shirts. Jason Loftus, county fire-rescue chief, said that the uniforms can be put aside, but the vehicles and ambulance are very important. Supervisors had told the station that if they could work their budget in such a way that they were able to save money, then that money would be returned to them for such purchases.

The board will honor this agreement, but asked the chief to delay the other purchases until after all of the costs are prioritized. Supervisors said they were in favor of allowing the proposed purchase of the ambulance. A motion for purchase of the ambulance was made, and was carried unanimously by the board.

In other business, Mark Giles and his wife, Tammy,

owners of Bud's Towing, were granted their request for rezoning of their property for the proposed use of a tow service operation.

The Caroline County Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding this matter, and afterward submitted a recommendation of denial to the Board of Supervisors.

The business is held in high regard, has had no complaints or citations since opening in 1982. If the business does not comply with county ordinances, they can lawfully be enforced.

In other business, a request for a special exception permit to allow the use of a campground in the Madison district was postponed for 12 months. During the public hearing, residents from the Madison district spoke out against the campground, which is in the middle of what is considered a residential area. The owner of the campground asked for more time to get his water and sewer system updated. The motion to defer the decision was passed unanimously.

Boundary from page 1

ies met and discussed the matter in February. In March, supervisors voted unanimously to ask the county staff and attorney to prepare a boundary proposal for the town and county to consider. On Aug. 13, supervisors voted to put the boundary line adjustment on the agenda for a public hearing at the September meeting.

Three other speakers said they saw no reason for an expanded boundary to include farmland. C.B. Holloway, William Booker, and Derwin Booker were at the hearing on behalf of farmland owned in conjunction with Holloway, and Lucile Holloway Booker, the mother of the other two speakers. The main concern of three of these individuals was why town officials wanted to include farmland into the boundary adjustment. They maintained that agricultural land is of no benefit to the town, and carries with it a likelihood of double taxation for the landowners.

All three representatives concurred that Port Royal is in trouble, and does need financial assistance. They also said the town could achieve this goal without folding farmland into its boundaries. They spoke against the proposed boundary lines as they had been submitted at the meeting, but were willing to change their stances if new lines are drawn that will exclude agricultural properties.

In other opposition, Jane Robinson presented the board with a petition signed by residents whose homes were located along U.S. 17 who felt the same way as

Holloway and the Bookers. These residents do not want their homes to be included within the town boundaries. They "urge the Board of Supervisors to move the Western Boundary line back toward 301 and to not include our properties."

The town council presented a brief presentation during the opening of the public hearing. Port Royal Mayor Nancy Long said the boundary line adjustment is "essential for Port Royal, and beneficial to Caroline County."

Long said the town needs a new water treatment system, new sidewalks, and road repairs. Long explained that when First Market Bank left Port Royal last year, it took with it an average of \$7,000 in yearly revenue paid to the town. Long described the loss as "catastrophic" and asked the board and the other districts how they would manage a "sudden loss of 31.2 percent of their revenue" just as Port Royal had.

Long insisted throughout the town's presentation that expanding the boundaries would not only save Port Royal from ceasing to exist as a chartered entity, but would also greatly benefit the county as well. Long argued that Caroline County will continue to benefit from retaining the historic town because it is a tourist attraction, and therefore an asset, and also because if the town's revenue increases, according to Long, then they will be able to stay self-sufficient and the county will not have to pay to take care of maintenance issues. Another added bonus is that Port Royal is eligible

for many grants that are not available to the county.

After the presentation and introduction by the mayor, Supervisor Chairman Floyd Thomas declared the public hearing open. The first speaker was Herbert Collins, a resident of Caroline from the Bowling Green district. Collins was adamantly in favor of the boundary line adjustment, stating that Caroline County "owes its very existence to Port Royal." Collins said that allowing for expansion would allow for more revenue, which will enable the town to remain as it is, preserving its rich historical background. "I urge you to keep the town the way it is, and the way it has been," said Collins.

Several supporters of the proposed adjustment also spoke during the hearing. Carolyn Davis, who spoke on behalf of Cleo Coleman, the president of Historic Port Royal; and Tommy Morse, the owner of Horne's Restaurant located just outside of the town's boundaries, just to name a few. Both speakers were adamant that the town needs not only an upgraded water system, but also a steady source of revenue that has room to expand in order for the town to survive.

A few county residents spoke against the proposed adjustment. The residents expressed concern that the county will ultimately lose money if Port Royal is still unable to sustain itself after the adjustment. Members of the town council also spoke at the hearing, attempting to assure residents that they want what is best for both town and county.

Receive 10 free autumn trees

The Arbor Day Foundation will brighten up your fall by offering 10 free autumn classic trees when you join the organization in October.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in October will receive these free autumn classics: two sugar maples, two red maples and one each of scarlet oak, sweetgum, northern red oak, silver maple, white flowering dogwood and Washington hawthorn.

"Members will especially enjoy these trees during the autumn months because

they'll add abundant, vibrant color to any yard or landscape for years to come," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Nov. 1 and Dec. 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To receive 10 free autumn classics, send a \$10 membership contribution to Autumn Classics Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Oct. 31, or join online at arbor.org/october.

Words of Encouragement

Drink Lots of Water

By David C. McCasland

Visitors to Colorado often become dehydrated without realizing it. The dry climate and intense sun, especially in the mountains, can rapidly deplete the body's fluids. That's why many tourist maps and signs urge people to drink plenty of water.

In the Bible, water is often used as a symbol of Jesus as the Living Water who satisfies our deepest needs. So it's quite fitting that one of Jesus' most memorable conversations took place at a well (John 4:1-42). It began with Jesus asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water (v.7). It quickly progressed to a discussion of something more when Jesus said to her: "Whoever drinks of this [physical] water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the

water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (vv.13-14).

As a result of this conversation, the woman and many people in the village where she lived came to believe that Jesus was "the Christ, the Savior of the world" (v.42).

We can't live without water. Nor can we truly live now or eternally without the living water we receive from knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior. We can drink of His life-giving water today.

Gracious and Almighty Savior,
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Quench my thirst with living water,
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Only Jesus, the Living Water, can satisfy the thirsty soul.

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Wednesday Night Prayer Service and Mission Groups.....7:00 p.m.

Dr. Fred R. Skaggs, Pastor
Email:countylinechurch@wildblue.net

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