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Supervisors justify trip to conference

By Eric Miller
Reporter

MILFORD — Members of the Caroline County Board of Supervisors defended their attendance at an association convention that cost county taxpayers more than \$5,000.

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) held its annual conference at The Homestead, a luxury resort hotel in Bath County, three days and nights in November.

Three members of the board — Wayne Acors, Calvin Taylor, and Floyd Thomas — attended the conference along with County Administrator Charles Culley. Acors is a member of the association's board of directors.

The total cost for them to attend was \$5,020, which includes conference registration fees, food, lodging, plus mileage for the three supervisors.

Taylor, who did not respond to requests from The Caroline Prog-

ress to comment about the conference for a report in last week's edition, read a prepared statement at the board's regular Jan. 22 meeting, defending attendance at the conference.

"There were workshops and meetings which provide valuable information as well as opportunities for board members to gain insight from other localities in addressing similar issues to ours," Taylor said in part.

He listed seminars that he and other supervisors attended, including those on local funding issues, regional cooperation, and bringing broadband Internet service to underserved areas. The education committee and VACO's Region 7 meetings were helpful, too, he said.

"The citizens of Caroline should be represented in all areas and have elected officials who

see Trip page A2



Meetings held on fort study

Three public meeting were held last week in conjunction with the Fort A.P. Hill Joint Land Use Study. Above, John Lampmann of Port Royal raises questions about the study. Left, Ken Perrotte, an Army official, fields a question from the audience. See story page A2.

Photos by Tim Cox

Acors ducks queries about 'Y' fund drive

Critics seek to 'bash the YMCA,' he says

MILFORD - Caroline County Supervisor Wayne Acors declined to reveal how much money has been raised so far in a capital campaign intended to retire debt the county incurred to build a YMCA.

Acors, who pledged to lead the capital campaign, was questioned about it by a citizen and a fellow supervisor during the regular Board of Supervisors meeting Jan. 22.

Instead of sharing any details about the capital campaign, Acors suggested the questions were aimed at bashing the YMCA, which is scheduled to open later this year.

"Some people are trying to make this into a negative thing and bash the YMCA," Acors said in response to questions by Supervisor Jeff Black.

"Money has been collected, and we have been making presentations to organizations," added Acors, referring to a committee that is involved in the capital campaign. "At the end of the day, if they haven't raised all the money, then that's cause for complaint."

The Board of Supervisors agreed about two years ago to borrow \$5 million to pay for building the YMCA in Ladysmith, which is now under construction. The debt was to be repaid from proffers and the capital campaign that Acors pledged to lead.

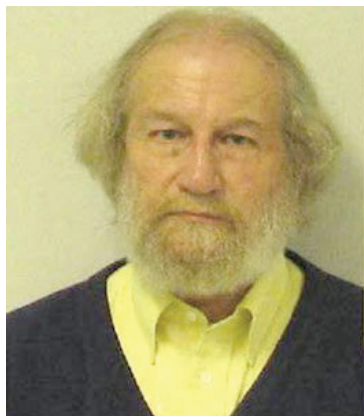
At a kick-off meeting in September 2011 to promote the YMCA, Acors indicated the capital campaign would take five years and acknowledged the challenge of raising funds during a time of economic weakness. "I promised no county funds would be used," he said at the time. I intend to keep my promise." A ceremony to break ground for the construction was held a few months later.

Information on the progress of the capital campaign will be posted on the Caroline County government website, Acors said at last week's meeting.

During the public comment session of the meeting, Melissa Lewis of Bowling Green asked Acors about the progress of the capital campaign. Lewis has served as a volunteer to help promote the YMCA and is a member of a steering committee to lead the YMCA forward.

Originally she did not support the idea of building the YMCA, said Lewis. She thought borrowing the funds was fiscally irresponsible, particularly when the county's school system was in need of so many im-

see YMCA page A2



Scott Gordon Henry

Therapist faces more accusers, more charges

BOWLING GREEN — Scott Gordon Henry, 67, of Richmond, a licensed therapist for the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board arrested for sex offenses involving a girl, is facing new charges from more accusers.

Henry was arraigned in Caroline County Circuit Court on Jan. 23 on additional charges of aggravated sexual battery and taking indecent liberties with minors.

He was arrested in December and initially charged with aggravated sexual battery and indecent liberties. Those charges were based on statements from a teenage girl who was 6 years old when the alleged offenses occurred between 2003 and 2004, said Caroline Sheriff Tony Lipka.

The new charges, handed down by a Caroline County Circuit Court grand jury earlier this month, stem from statements from two other victims who were also clients of

see Therapist page A2

Applications filed for Thornburg speedway complex

The operator of Old Dominion Speedway in Prince William has filed applications with Spotsylvania County officials to develop a new race-track and entertainment facility in the Thornburg area.

Steve Britt, who revealed his plans last fall to bring the speedway to Spotsylvania, submitted the applications last week and is seeking an expedited process to review his request.

Britt wants the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors and county's Planning Commission to hold a joint public hearing on his application. Usually, a county planning commission considers such an application independently, holds a public hearing, and makes a recommendation to governing body, and then a board of supervisors goes through the same public hearing process before making a decision.

Britt wants to begin construction in May and to open the raceway

see Speedway page A5

Bus driver to serve 6 years

BOWLING GREEN — The driver of a discount passenger bus that crashed and killed four passengers in Caroline County in 2011 will serve six years in prison.

Kin Yiu Cheung, who was convicted of four counts of involuntary manslaughter in November in connection with the accident on Interstate 95 near Carmel Church, could have been sentenced up to 40 years in prison.

However, under the punishment handed down by Caroline County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Ellis on Jan. 23, Cheung will be incarcerated only six years.

"You have wiped from this planet four good souls," Ellis,

speaking through a Chinese translator, told Cheung.

Ellis told Cheung he was "not evil" but instead had made a "bad choice" in deciding to continue driving for over an hour, knowing he was too sleepy and tired to drive.

The judge read an earlier statement from Cheung that said, "My mind thought I could complete the trip, but physically I couldn't. Four people lost their lives due to my inability to use good judgment. I often wish it had been me who died. May my soul be forgiven."

Ellis sentenced Cheung to 10

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RG man charged with assaulting officer

A Ruther Glen man was arrested for assaulting a law enforcement officer and three other charges, the Caroline County Sheriff's Office reported.

Robert A. Wood, 45, also was charged with drunk in public, obstruction of justice, and resisting arrest Jan. 18.

In other incidents and arrests for the week ending Jan. 19, the sheriff's office reported one rape, one robbery, five cases of assault, and eight thefts.

The following people were arrested:

- Michael J. Middlebrook, 38, Beaverdam, assault.
- Rachel E. Baker, 20, Rappahannock Academy, obstruction of justice.
- Michael L. Call, 22, Ruther Glen, carrying a concealed weapon and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon.
- Stephanie L. Batson, 33, Rappahannock Academy, drunk in public.
- Linda D. Hudgins, 51, Woodford, shoplifting.
- Christopher Anderson, 19, Woodford, possession of marijuana.
- Wayne L. Minor, 24, Woodford, shoplifting.

Wrap-Up

According to Sheriff Tony Lipa, Caroline Deputies made four drug arrests, four domestic violence arrests, 86 other criminal arrests, and issued one animal control summons or arrests during the past week. The deputies served 208 civil papers, issued 44 traffic summonses, handled nine motor vehicle crashes, responded to 21 alarm calls, and dealt with three juvenile offenders.

The sheriff's office communications center dispatched 402 calls for service and handled 1,450 telephone inquiries. The center also logged 19 calls assisting outside agencies and had 260 self-initiated calls.

Meetings on fort study draw comments and questions

Consultants leading the Fort A.P. Hill Joint Land Use Study involving the Army installation and its neighboring localities held a series of meetings both to inform the public and solicit comments from citizens.

About 30 people showed up for a meeting at the Caroline Community Services Center in Milford on Tuesday night of last week. About 60 people attended a meeting on Fort A.P. Hill the night before, and the third and final meeting attracted 19 people in Spotsylvania on Thursday night.

The consultants presented some of the preliminary information they have gathered so far, in the form of exhibits and a briefing, and took questions and comments from the public. They also take a quick survey at each meeting to get information on the people who attend and to assess their views on issues related to the Army installation.

The meeting in Milford generated only a few questions and concerns from citizens until John Lampmann of Port Royal began raising questions about the study.

Lampmann, who lives in the Portobago community, noted that the study's policy committee, made up of one person representing each locality, the fort commander, and an official from the state Department of Veterans affairs, will vote on the final recommendations. Caroline County, he suggested, has three votes - the representatives of Caroline and the towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal. Lampmann suggested the other localities - the counties of Spotsylvania, King George, and Essex - could vote in a block with the fort commander and the state official and essentially rule the committee over the interests of Caroline and its incorporated towns.

Caroline "would be defenseless to stop it," argued Lampmann.

"That's not true," responded Richard Dorrier, a principal for AECOM, the company that is facilitating the study. The policy committee only will vote to make recommendations, he noted. If an individual locality chooses to act on the recommendations, it would be up to the governing body and the locality's planning commission, said Dorrier. The recommendations would have to go through public processes in order to be implemented.

Lampmann later argued that Caroline is at a financial disadvantage compared to other counties in part because of conservation easements on land around Fort A.P. Hill; land covered by such easements is exempt from real estate taxes, he said. In addition, the county's rural nature reduces the amount of state aid Caroline receives for schools, he suggested.

However, Ken Perrotte, chief of the Fort A.P. Hill office for plans, analysis, and integration, pointed out later to the news media that land covered by conservation easements is subject to taxation. In addition, the county's rural nature is a factor in receiving more state aid for education, not less, he said. Perrotte also pointed to studies that demonstrate that working or natural lands generate more money in taxes than they require in tax-funded services compared to residential properties.

Caroline officials need to ensure that "what's good for the Army is good for Caroline," said Lampmann, who urged people to be in communication with Caroline's representative on the policy committee, Supervisor Calvin Taylor, as the study proceeds.

Bowling Green Mayor David Storke, who serves on the policy committee, called the study "a good faith effort" to develop recommendations that will benefit all the participants.

"The most important thing is for the military and localities to sit down at the table and talk together," said Dorrier. "That's a real value this study brings."

Andrea Sweigart, an associate principal for AECOM, reviewed some of the preliminary information the consulting firm has gathered so far, much of it related to growth trends, existing land uses, operational activities on the fort, and future development.

Among other things, Sweigart noted that Spotsylvania's population is expected to continue to increase dramatically, and a new Virginia Rail Express station and other development are expected to occur in the area just west of New Post. Other localities involved in the study are expected to experience modest growth except Essex's population will grow an estimated 16 percent by 2040.

A draft report is scheduled to be ready for review in June with a final report to be issued in July-August.

People who wish to comment on the concerns or issues about their community and Fort A.P. Hill may do so via e-mail to fortaphilljls@aecom.com or regular mail to Stephen Manster, Town of Bowling Green, 117 Butler St., P.O. Box 468, Bowling Green, Va., 22427. Comments are due Feb. 22.

The study group also has a page with information on the Caroline County government website; the page is at www.visitcaroline.com/fortaphilljls.html.

YMCA from page A1

provements, she said.

"From what I know of Mr. Acors, he is an honest and up-standing man, and I believe he will stand by his word," said Lewis. "So with that, I would ask for, and I believe the citizens deserve, an update on the progress of the capital campaign."

Acors did not respond.

The Caroline YMCA is under construction next to Ladsmyth Village. The project is expected to be completed in the spring or summer. It began enrolling members last year with a goal of signing up 500 people by the time the doors open.

avail themselves to the best and most recent information," Taylor said.

Information the three supervisors gleaned from VACO conferences has helped the county save money, Thomas said later. "We have saved a signifi-

Trip from page A1

cant amount of money due to the conference, especially in technology," he said. "Based on the last meeting, we learned we could provide broadband."

A prescription drug program for county employees helps keep down health care costs, and supervisors first learned about that option at a VACO conference, noted Thomas.

When asked why VACO holds its conferences at a luxury resort hotel, Acors said the board has considered other locations. However, The Homestead "is the most

efficient location," he said.

"We negotiate costs with The Homestead," said Acors. "I can assure you that if we went to Northern Virginia, it would cost even more."

More than 1,000 people attended the VACO conference and "it helps to have everything under one roof," Acors said.

The association's annual conference, held Nov. 11-13, was dubbed 'Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity.'

The total cost to the county for each supervisor was \$1,297 for Acors, \$1,295

for Taylor, and \$1,641 for Thomas.

Although the conference was three nights, Thomas stayed four nights at The Homestead, which was the main reason his tab was \$330 higher than the other supervisors.

Thomas did not respond to an e-mail from the newspaper asking why he stayed an extra night.

Acors, Thomas, and former supervisor Bobby Popowicz attended the VACO conference in 2011 - again at The Homestead - at a cost to the county of \$4,693.

Therapist from page A1

the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board, which employed Henry at its offices near Caroline High School.

Henry now faces 12 counts of aggravated sexual battery and 12 counts of indecent liberties. A fourth victim may be forthcoming, according to Caroline County deputy commonwealth's attorney Diane Abato.

Henry's arms and legs were shackled as he stood before Judge Joseph Ellis for arraignment on the latest charges. He requested a trial by judge that was scheduled for May 7. He also faces trial

in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Feb. 19.

The indictments allege that between May 17 and May 31, 2002, Henry sexually abused one victim who was physically or mentally incapacitated.

The indictments also allege other offenses during 2007 and those in 2003 associated with Henry's original arrest.

Aggravated sexual battery is a felony punishable by 1-20 years in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Ellis denied a motion by defense attorney Kathy Hancock to release Henry on

bond. He is being held at the Pamunkey Regional Jail in Hanover County.

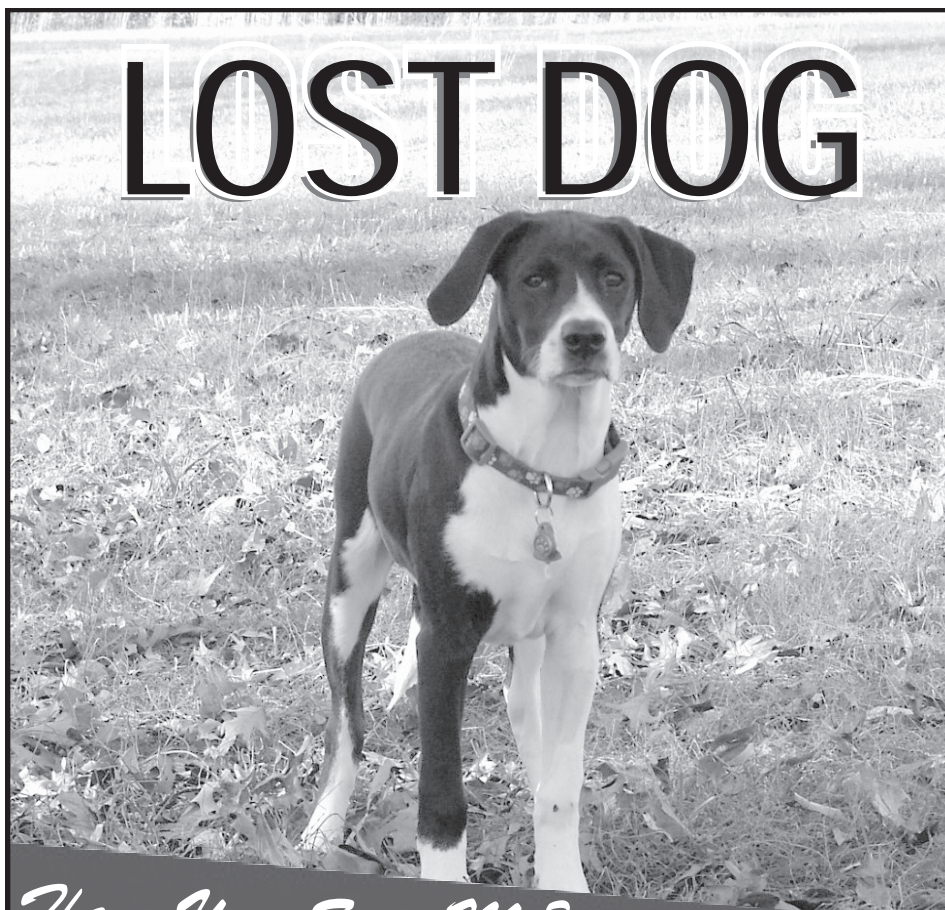
The allegations against Henry "go back several years," said Hancock, who also cited Henry's age and lack of a criminal record.

Abato countered that Henry made sexual advances on children "he was supposed to be helping."

"We have someone who had access to children, and he was using that to molest them," argued Abato. "This life he was living is crumbling. He's a great risk. I don't think he can be trusted. He was in a position of trust and he misused that."

Henry had been employed by RACSB since 2000. The case has been widely publicized, which prompted two other victims to come forward since December, Abato said.

RACSB, which provides services for mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, prevention, and early intervention, operates a clinic at 19254 Rogers Clark Blvd. in Ruther Glen, across from Caroline High School.



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My name is Atticus and I have been missing since January 21, 2013 from my home on Sparta Road. I am a 70-pound black and white Lab mix and I am 1 ½ years old. Usually friendly, but shy around strangers. I was wearing a collar with tags and I have been micro-chipped. Please help me find my way home to my parents who are heartbroken.

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