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90 new jobs are coming to Caroline

American Signature/Value City Furniture will be hiring 50 for its Caroline County facility due to a realignment of its distribution network.

Also, McKesson Pharmaceutical in Carmel Church will be expanding their warehouse staff by about 40 hires by the summer.

Read more on page 2

Chamber hears state of county

By Sarah Vogel song
CP Reporter

County Administrator Charles Culley painted a positive picture of Caroline County's growth in fiscal year 2014 and prospects for fiscal year 2015 at the State of the County event held Thursday, April 24, sponsored by the Caroline Chamber of Commerce.

"Overall, the state of the county is positive and improving," said Culley. "We're paying our bills, we're moving forward."

Culley's speech, delivered to a small audience at the Caroline Community Center, mainly focused

on the FY2015 budget, which he described as "an austere spending plan with the primary goal of limiting tax increases largely to what is needed to cover debt service."

Two major contributors to that debt that Culley highlighted were the \$26 million renovations to Caroline High School and Madison Elementary School that passed in a bond referendum with more than 80 percent voter support in November 2013, and the \$6.6 million borrowing for a public safety radio system that will bring the county into compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's narrowband

Culley says: County is positive and improving



County Administrator
Charles Culley

mandate and significantly improve radio coverage throughout the county.

Culley emphasized the connection between the school renovations and new radio system and the

11-cent real estate tax increase approved by the Board of Supervisors in April, which will first take effect for the June 2014 billings.

"We borrowed \$32 million and see *State of the County* page 2

247 pairs of feet race in annual festival



Photo by Bill Butler

Representatives from the Virginia State Police participated in Saturday's Festival of Feet, which honors the memory of the late 1st Sgt. Mark Haygood.

By Lisa Gattie
CP Correspondent

"It's not a typical race course," Terri Haygood said regarding the seventh annual Festival of Feet Memorial Race. "It's a race for everyone."

The streets of Bowling Green were filled with racers of all ages and abilities Saturday, April 26, for this 10K/5K marathon. Haygood, wife of the late State Police 1st Sgt. Mark Haygood, whom this race is in memory of, was happy with the turnout and the beautiful weather.

"It's probably our largest race in seven years," said Stephen Manster, Town Manager of Bowling Green who worked the festival. With 247 participants, this year's race was truly a success.

The race's start and finish line was fittingly on Butler Street, near the Mark Haygood Playground. The proceeds of this festival benefit not only the playground, but also the Caroline Relay for Life and the Virginia

State Police Association's Emergency Fund.

The playground has its first phase completed but needs funds to support a second phase, which will be a pavilion, and a third phase—a more adult-use area of pull-up bars and a walking path.

Caroline Relay for Life was added two years ago, in an effort to increase Caroline County's overall support of this effort.

The Virginia State Police Association's Emergency Relief fund helps to support members of the Department of State Police and other law enforcement officers who are suffering a crisis. Marty Chapman, Vice President of the Virginia State Police Department, said, "Sponsoring (the Festival) is a very smooth process."

Proceeds they receive from this festival go toward emergency situations such as clothing for those who have lost their homes to fire, or transportation costs for those undergoing critical health issues. This is the

see *Festival of Feet* page 2

VDOT to conduct traffic study of Durrette Road

By Sarah Vogel song
CP Reporter

The County Department of Planning and Community Development is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct a study of traffic levels on Durrette Road in Ladysmith Village, in response to residents' concerns.

Durrette Road, also known as State Route 622, is a roughly 1.5 mile-long secondary gravel road that terminates in the east at U.S. Route 1, Jefferson Davis Highway. The last traffic study of Durrette, conducted in 2004, found an average daily traffic count of 110 vehicles per day.

In the past decade, however, development of the land surrounding Durrette appears to have changed the road's usage and traffic burden, leading to complaints from residents about its maintenance.

Durrette is adjoined to the north by Ladysmith Village, a roughly 580-acre parcel being developed by Newland Communities under the name NNP-IV Ladysmith, LLC. Between June 2005 and April 2006 the same developer also purchased the parcel of land to the west of Ladysmith Village that was previously designated as Section 1 of the South River project zoned by the Board of Supervisors in January 2001. When fully developed, Ladysmith Village is

see *Durrette Road* page 8



Photo by Dawn Haun

Spring Soccer

Caroline Parks and Rec fields were colorful last Saturday with the shirts of many soccer players. Above photo: Zion Green (Purple Panthers) struts at the start of the game against opponent Tiger players Katy Taylor, Cameron Grant and Jayden Truheart. See more photos page 6.

Wounded Warriors get in a day of fishing and fun

By Greg Glassner
CP Correspondent

Catching fish at a farm pond on a bright and sunny Saturday in spring can do a lot to lift one's spirits. When you add in good food and the companionship of men and women with the shared background of serving their country in time of war, the experience can be much more meaningful.

Such was the case with 20 wounded veterans who participated in the third annual Wounded Warrior Fishing Tournament sponsored by American Legion Post 221 at Jim and Boo Smythe's Mt. Olympus Farm on U.S. 1 in Caroline County.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have multiplied the ranks of wounded servicemen, leaving many thousands of them with severe, even incapacitating injuries, which can make the transition into civilian life a challenging one.

Over the years, military medical facilities and the Veterans Administration have become quite proficient at patching up battle casualties. What happens after that is sometimes left to chance.

With a motto of "The Greatest Casualty is Being Forgotten," the Wounded Warrior Project helps veterans deal with various problems and concerns, providing financial help, employment and education opportunities and assistance in socializing and adjusting to their new lives, according to Jimmy Brinkley, the Caroline County

Wounded Warrior Program and Veteran Peer Specialist for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Started in Roanoke, Virginia in 2003 by John Melia, who was wounded in a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter crash in Somalia a decade before, the Wounded Warrior Project spread across the nation and now serves more than 36,000 registered "alumni."

Virginia has more than 825,000 veterans, and the program here is especially strong, Brinkley noted. "We

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LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Tanisha Wimmer: 'I love a challenge'

By Daniel Sherrier
Editor

Tanisha Wimmer has more than a few duties at the Caroline County Sheriff's Office.

Project manager, IT support, accreditation team member, and record-keeper are just some of the hats she wears as the agency's administrative manager.

Wimmer is not a sworn officer. She's one of several civilian employees who provide behind-the-scenes support to the deputy sheriffs.

"I love a challenge. I love being busy. I love the fact that when I first came

here, I knew nothing about law enforcement," she said.

Wimmer is used to learning on the job. She previously taught herself an accounting program and other office computer programs when she worked for local convenience stores—and did so alongside Sheriff Tony Lipka's wife, it just so happened.

"She's known me since I was a kid," Wimmer said.

Wimmer's mother, Arlene Mills, worked for the Caroline County Department of Planning and Community Development for more than 20 years, and she expected to follow in

her footsteps and serve the local government in some capacity.

Wimmer was a supporter of Lipka's original campaign for sheriff in 2003, but she didn't have a job hunt in mind at the time.

"I never knew that I'd be working for him," she said. "After he got elected, I was told he was looking for some office personnel. ... I applied, and next thing you know, I got it, and I've been here since he's been here."

The job's been anything but boring.

On one day, she'll provide technical support for the fingerprinting machine.



Tanisha Wimmer

On another, she'll send reports to the Department of Criminal Justice Services. At other times, her focus is overseeing a capital project to upgrade the court security system—or maybe it'll be overseeing the physical testing of deputy sheriffs.

She collects evidence for the agency's accreditation process, whether it's

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LADYSMITH DAY THIS SATURDAY, MAY 3 • 11-4 • LADYSMITH VILLAGE

New reporter joins Progress staff

The Caroline Progress has a new part-time reporter. Sarah Vogelsong comes to the Progress after six years managing journals and working as an editor for journals, textbooks, and nonfiction. As a freelance reporter she has written for the University of Richmond and publications including Style Weekly and the Washington Independent

Review of Books. Vogelsong graduated from the College of William & Mary in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in religious studies.



Sarah Vogelsong

She previously worked for Heldref Publications and the American Political Science Association, as well as a host of jobs ranging from cake decorator to transcriber to doughnut delivery girl. She currently lives in Richmond. "Sarah brings a lot to the table. I am pleased to have her join the Caroline Progress staff," said Mosby L. "Chip" Wigginton, publisher. "I'm excited to welcome another William & Mary alum to the CP," Daniel Sherrier, editor of the Progress, said. "It's not just 'Tribe pride.' I know firsthand that W&M grads are used to working hard—which Sarah has demonstrated in her previous positions."

Community Calendar continued from page 7

broadcast live. Donations are accepted. ***Caroline High School** is hosting a 16 & Up Men's Basketball Tournament from 10am – 8pm. **May 8** ***The Hanover Rotary Club** is having its 32nd Annual Shrimp & Suds Feast from 4:30 – 8 p.m. at Kings Dominion Pavilion in Doswell. The B2B Band will perform. Tickets available online at www.hanoverrotary.org and at most Union Bank locations in Hanover as well as Martin's in Virginia Center Commons. For more information or to get tickets, call Bruce at (804) 550-3098. Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the gate. ***Doswell Ruritan Club**, located at 16433 N. Washington

Hwy. in Doswell, is holding an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner from 5–7 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4 to 10. Dinner includes bread, coffee, tea, and dessert; take-out dinners are available. **May 8-9** ***Caroline High School Theatre presents: The Rules of Comedy by Peter Bloedel** beginning at 7 p.m. each evening in the school's auditorium. Tickets are \$3 each. There will be a special preview on May 2 at the Caroline County Annual Art Show at 6:15 p.m. **May 10** ***Madison Ruritan Club** is having an all-you-can-eat Seafood Festival from 1 – 5 p.m. at their club, located at 18206 Timothy Ln. in Ladysmith. From Rt. 1, go west

on Ladysmith Rd, take first left on Allen St., follow around behind old Ladysmith Elementary; club is on the right. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-12 if purchased before April 25, and \$30 for adults and \$12 for children ages 6-12 if purchased after April 25. The menu will include fried oysters, scallops, and fish, roasted oysters, steamed shrimp, clam chowder, cole slaw, hushpuppies, hot dogs, beer, soda, and tea. For info or to purchase tickets, call (804) 448-3111 or (804) 448-4233. Tickets will be sold at Hair Jungle, Ladysmith Pharmacy, and Pizazz Hair Salon; tickets will not be available at the gate. **May 17** ***The Caroline County Agricultural Fair** is hosting

a community yard sale at its fair grounds, located in Ruth Glen, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tables are currently available for people interested in selling their items and for non-food vendors. The cost is \$10 per space; email carolinefairgrounds@gmail.com to reserve your space. Shelter is provided; tables and chairs are not. ***The Humane Society of Caroline County, Inc.** is participating in The Longest Yard Sale and is collecting slightly used donations (no clothes please) that may be dropped off at Village Self Storage in Ladysmith between 4–7 p.m. on May 14. If this time is inconvenient, please call (804) 867-7534 to arrange pick up prior to the 14th.

Library raising funds online through Community Give

Caroline Library, Inc., is raising funds through the Community Give on May 6. The Community Give, a 24-hour online-only giving marathon, is Tuesday from 12 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. Go to www.thecommunitygive.org to donate to the Caroline Library on this one day and help

the system qualify for even more funding. Every participating area nonprofit is eligible for \$100,000 in incentive prizes from The Community Foundation and its sponsors. The library system's direct link is: www.bit.ly/CarolineLibraryGIVE14.

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would be halted at 2 a.m. • Fireworks - There was an option to limit the number of firework displays. • Boy Scouts and other groups - It was stated that groups such as the Boy Scouts would be contained and that the Scout leadership would be held responsible to maintain such containment.

Concerning the closure of Meadow Farm Road, Stone said resident permits are given out to allow passage when the road is closed. Stone further stated that road closure is only during the State Fair. As to fire safety, there are no county hydrants on the property, Stone said, but there is a maintained water system that could be utilized in case of a fire. Stanley raised a question

concerning the hours an event could go on. Stone's reply was that private events could go on until 2 a.m., whereas public events were required to shut down by 1 a.m. The Planning Commission deferred action and indicated that the Commonwealth Fairs and Events requests would be taken up in a work session on May 7. In unfinished business that evening, the Commission endorsed three changes in the text of county ordinances that pertain to the definitions of "rural resort, general store and museum." In other business, the Commission recommended approval of an exception to the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance in Lake Land'Or as previously made by the BZA.



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Durrette Road from page 1

projected to contain roughly 2,800 homes. Under the terms of the Ladysmith Village proffer, Newland is responsible for relocating and reconstructing Durrette Road south of its current location. The Planning Commission in 2010 clarified the timeline for these improvements, stating that they should "be designed and bonded no later than the completion of the final section of Phase I" of the project "or as otherwise approved by the County and VDOT based upon the approved traffic study, whichever occurs first." Although Phase I is

not yet complete, a March 2014 Department of Planning memo from Director of Planning and Community Development Michael Finchum notes that the portion that is finished "contributes to the increase in traffic" on Durrette Road. Several roads that were intended to be built as cul-de-sacs currently provide access to Durrette. Two other developments—the construction of Lewis and Clark Elementary School in 2006 and the construction of the Caroline Family YMCA in 2012–13—also appear to have contributed to an increase in traffic on Durrette. These projects additionally led to the pavement of two sections, constituting approximately 0.2 miles in total, of the road. Under the design for the Lewis and Clark site, the school buses that travel to and from the elementary school four times daily access the school via a paved section of Durrette Road instead of the nearby Meriwether Lewis Street or Clark and York Boulevard. The Department of Planning memo notes that "the road improvements constructed to accommodate the school also facilitate the use of Durrette Road as a cut-through for those driv-



Approximately 0.2 miles of Durrette Road is paved, and the rest is currently gravel. (CP photo by Sarah Vogelsong)

ers who want to avoid the intersection of Ladysmith Road and Jefferson Davis Highway." Similarly, although the YMCA has only been open for a little more than a month, the memo notes that "the convenience of Durrette Road ... makes it likely that there will be some traffic increase." Taken together, the de-

velopments that have occurred along the Durrette corridor over the past 10 years necessitate an updated traffic study, which is expected to be conducted by VDOT in the next month. If the study finds a greatly increased traffic burden, this finding may potentially hasten the timeline for the road's improvement.

Spotlight from page 1

reconciling the petty cash or gathering proof that the deputy sheriffs wear safety vests when they direct traffic. "What an accreditation is, is they (Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission) give you 180-some standards that we have to follow, and you have to prove that you followed your policy," Wimmer explained. Occasionally, a day brings something entirely new to her, such as when she recently assisted the agency's first Project Lifesaver search. When she arrived at work the morning of April 11, she learned an elderly man was reported missing—and she had just seen an old gentleman walking along the road on her way in. A captain who was heading back into the field with additional Project Lifesaver equipment took Wimmer along, and she donned a sheriff's office vest and joined the search effort. "I was very happy that

he was found—and found in a matter of no time, actually—so those things really do work," Wimmer said. "I see the applications (for Project Lifesaver), and to actually see it work firsthand was kind of nice." "Every day is different, which is fun to me. Co-workers are great, because the sheriff's the kind of guy where as long as you get your job done, he's okay with you having fun while you do it. He's a great guy to work for," she said. Wimmer also appreciates working for the community she grew up in. "Sometimes the only bad thing is with what we do here, you see some people that you remember going to school with, and they're in handcuffs," she said. However, she added, "We're more than just locking people up. We try and also do the community-oriented side of it as well and try to help people out." For example, the Caroline County Sheriff's Office participates in the Torch Run each year to support

the Special Olympics, and Wimmer lends a hand with that, too. Additionally, she noted that the agency offers several services people might not be aware of, such as child safety seat inspections and vacation checks. "We pride ourselves on the fact of being community-oriented, and if citizens ever need any kind of help whatsoever, we are always telling them to call us," she said. And Wimmer demonstrates daily that she doesn't need a badge to help out the Sheriff's Office. **SAFETY TIP** While Wimmer is not a deputy sheriff, she's picked up quite a bit during her years at the Sheriff's Office—including skepticism toward certain solicitations. "One of the biggest things that sticks in my mind is people that get scammed a lot, and I always feel that if it's too good to be true, it's probably not true," she said. "A lot of scammers take advantage of elderly people, and I hate to see that."

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