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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

see *Spotlight* page 8

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

McKesson Pharmaceutical hiring 40 by summer

The Caroline County Board of Supervisors has been advised that McKesson Pharmaceutical located in Carmel Church will be expanding their warehouse staff by about 40 hires by the summer of 2014.

McKesson will not accept applications directly—but do not call—but encourages those interested in apply-

ing to contact the Virginia Employment Commission. The Virginia Employment Commission will handle all enquiries directly through their website: www.vawc.virginia.gov, reference job order # 434071.

The McKesson Pharmaceutical distribution center was recruited by the Caroline County Department of

Economic Development & Tourism in 2010. The 340,000-square-foot distribution center currently employs about 150 people. The employment expansion should bring the total hires to about 190 by the end of summer.

McKesson was the largest private investment by square foot in Virginia in

2010, and one of Virginia's largest financially at about \$50,000,000. McKesson was the largest industrial recruitment in Caroline County history. A ribbon was cut

on the completed facility in April 2012.

Caroline County is proud to have a Fortune 14 company as a corporate citizen. Caroline hopes to recruit

similar investment in the future due to its outstanding workforce, excellent location, proximity to Interstate 95, ready-to-go sites and infrastructure in place.

Value City expands operations

The Caroline County Board of Supervisors announced last week that American Signature/Value City Furniture will be hiring for its Caroline County facility due to a realignment of its distribution network.

The realignment will involve the growth of the Virginia Distribution Center in Ruther Glen, Virginia from servicing 17 stores to 28 stores and adding approximately 60 to 75 associates to

its team in the next 90 days. Approximately 50 of these jobs will serve the Caroline facility while the remaining positions will work at a Richmond location.

The Value City Distribution Center welcomes direct calls at (804) 448-5333 ext. 205 regarding career opportunities. Applications can be obtained in person at their 11266 Enterprise Parkway location in Caroline.

The Ruther Glen loca-

tion will become one of the largest regional distribution centers for American Signature/Value City Furniture by number of employees. Both day and night shift work will be available. Value City offers medical and dental benefits, 401K plan, prescription drug card, and vision care.

Value City has been a corporate citizen of Caroline County for 15 years.

State of the County from page 1



Photo by Bill Butler

More than 200 people participated in Festival of Feet in Bowling Green last weekend.

Festival of Feet from page 1

Association's fourth year as a sponsor.

"The proceeds are split across the board unless a participant specifies what cause they want it to go to," stated Eunice Key, sister-in-law to Mark Haygood. Key works on the festival committee and helps to manage the volunteers.

Winners for the 5K Women's Overall are: first place, Rebecca Sollenberger, 0:21:59; second place, Zoe Gobeille, 0:25:27; and third place, Kristen Peppers, 0:27:14. The record is held by Brittany Kilough, 0:21:18 in 2013.

Winners for the 5K Men's Overall are: first place, Eric Sollenberger, 0:18:40; second place, Dennis Billings, 0:18:50; and third place, Terry McLaughlin, 0:19:36. The record is held by Scott Merisowsky, 0:17:55 in 2011.

Winners for the 10K

Women's Overall are: first place: Heather Howes, 0:48:12; second place, Kate Moga, 0:48:50; third place, Ryan Carter, 0:49:16. The record is held by Emily Webb, 0:45:33 in 2012.

Winners for the 10K Men's Overall are: first place, Bob Blunkosky, 0:39:33; second place, Frank Corbe, 0:40:15; and third place, Ashley Gray, 0:41:06. The record is held by Silvio Guerra, 0:36:24 in 2011.

Potential racers who are uncertain about whether they should try the Festival should not hesitate. Virginia Runner in Central Park has been supportive of the Festival for four years.

Nate Brooks, Director of Marketing and Team Sales of the Fredericksburg location, offered advice for those who are not veteran racers. "Enjoy it," Brooks said. "Don't put too much

stress on yourself."

Brooks suggested choosing a training partner who is motivating. He also said to stay hydrated while training, eat carbs throughout the week—not just on race day—and not to experiment with energy drinks, especially on race day.

The course wove through the peaceful town of Bowling Green. The Festival accommodates participants who are both beginner and veteran. Strollers and families are encouraged to join in on the fun.

Why be part of the Festival of Feet?

"It's a challenging course and a great cause," stated Mayor David Storke.

"You feel so good afterwards," stated Cathy Jo Gray, race participant and member of Team Tyler. "It's nice to make it a family thing."

School Board to consider music fees

By Daniel Sherrier
Editor

High school music students might need to pay a little extra next year.

Caroline County Public Schools staff has proposed the addition of music fees for Caroline High School band, strings, and chorus students.

Dr. Rebecca Broaddus, assistant superintendent, told the School Board at its April 14 meeting that the fees would help purchase new music and supplies, as well as go toward instrument repairs.

Additionally, the fees would offset some competition and transportation costs.

If approved, band and string orchestra students would be charged \$25, and chorus students would be charged \$15 beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Currently, students are not charged any fees to participate in the high school music programs.

The School Board took no action on the matter that evening.

In other business, the board heard a report from the redistricting committee.

James Satterwhite, supervisor of transportation, said the committee is not recommending any redistricting at this time.

"The committee recom-

mends no redistricting for this year. We will be putting the team back together starting in October to review for '15-'16," Satterwhite said.

Also that evening, in discussing upcoming renovations to the high school, Western Caroline board member Mary Anderson mentioned she's been hearing concerns about the athletic field improvements occurring before the work on the main building.

"I'm getting an awful lot of feedback that people are upset that we are doing work on the field at the high school when the building itself needs so many things," Anderson said. "This is ac-

tually cost-effective."

Anderson added, "There needs to be solid communication. This needs to come out so that people understand that ... it will not go over and it will not encroach on the high school funds themselves, and this is not being well communicated. People are upset."

Geoffrey Honan, supervisor of construction and maintenance, said that information could be posted as part of the construction updates on the school division's website.

"It needs to be more vigorously approached than just putting it out on the website," Anderson said.

Fund will go to the public school system in FY2015, a 3.1 percent increase over FY2014, and stated that the increase in local funding for the school operating budget "demonstrates a continued commitment to education."

"I know the schools asked for \$2.8 million (in the FY2015 budget), but the Board tried to do what they thought was responsible with taxpayer dollars and what we had to work with," he said.

In terms of economic development and tourism, "2013 was a good year for business expansion in Caroline County," said Culley, citing new jobs and increased investment, such as the filing of plans for a Taco Bell in Carmel Church and an Advance Auto in Lady-smith.

"From a business perspective, there's a lot of interest," said Culley. "Caroline County has positioned itself well to attract industrial and commercial devel-

opment."

The unemployment rate rose from 5.6 percent in December 2013 to 6.9 percent in January 2014. However, because of seasonal employment and the advertisement of jobs that have not yet been filled, Culley said that these figures may not accurately portray the whole picture.

"From December to January, we added 225 jobs," said Culley. "Caroline employment is expanding."

Finally, Culley highlighted the "striking improvements" in the Virginia State Fair over the past year, as well as the opening of the Sidney E. King Arts Center in Bowling Green in September. Earlier in April, the Caroline County Economic Development and Tourism Department was awarded a Community Economic Development Award by the Virginia Economic Developers Association for its involvement in the King Center.

SB delays appointment of renovations manager

By Sarah Vogelsong
CP Reporter

The school board unanimously voted to table the decision appointing a clerk of the works to oversee the Caroline High School and Madison Elementary School renovations until the May 12 board meeting.

In a special meeting held on April 28, Superintendent Greg Killough again put forth the recommendation to appoint DMC as the project's architect and David McConnell as its clerk of the works.

McConnell served as clerk of the works for the renovations to Bowling Green Elementary, which was plagued by repeated problems with its floors and heating and cooling systems.

Western Caroline District representative Mary Anderson noted that the board had previously voted to reject this recommendation.

"I don't see any reason for re-voting something that's already been decided," Anderson said. She further noted that the school board had the authority to reject all bids put forward during the request for proposal period, which closed on April 8, and start over.

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