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RESIDENTS HAVE MANY QUESTIONS

## Landfill meeting draws a crowd

Materials accepted would be wood, paper, glass, plastic, yard waste, and metals

#### By Daniel Sherrier | Editor

The principals of Caroline Recycling LLC conducted a community meeting Dec. 16 to discuss their proposal for operating a construction, demolition, and debris landfill at the intersection of Route 301 and Route

A large crowd filled the Reedy Church Ruritan building and at times grew contentious, with residents openly skeptical of the project. The principals attempted to address concerns and lay out what they perceive to be the benefits of the landfill, if the project were ever to come to fruition.

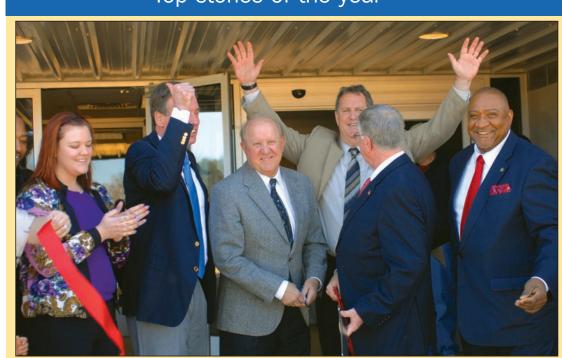
As Board of Supervisors Chairman Floyd Thomas reminded residents at the end of the meeting, "This is not a done deal. This is step one of what would probably be 20 steps. ... We're all going to listen to each other and we're going to talk and we're going to interface, and then we're going to come to what's best for the county."

The construction debris landfill would be nothing like a municipal solid waste landfill, according to principal Ed Wilbourne.

"If you equate our landfill with King George's, (that is) 100 percent wrong," he said. "It's not like the landfills that we all fear. I would not support a MSW landfill near me, no way, because I understand what we're talking about here and I've been around it."

Wilbourne added, "It's not going see Landfill page 3

Top stories of the year



One facility opens, and another closes. Above, officials celebrate the grand opening of the Caroline Family YMCA in the spring. At right, Abundant Life Academy sent its students home in the fall following a string of runaways and criminal charges against school employees.



#### **CURATOR HAD DONATED 10 PORTRAITS**

## **Donor upset over portraits'** removal from courtroom

By Sarah Vogelsong **CP Reporter** 

The donor of 10 portraits to the Caroline circuit courtroom is upset over the removal of the paintings from the chamber.

Herbert Collins, a Caroline historian and former Smithsonian curator, previously donated the 10 portraits to the courtroom with, he said, the stipulation that they always remain there.

However, a recent decision to place a portrait of Luther Morris, a former clerk of the court, in the circuit courtroom sparked a decision to remove Collins' paintings.

The local presiding judge has authority over not only what occurs in the courts, but also the

court buildings. According to Board of Supervisors Chairman Floyd Thomas, Caroline's presiding judge, the Hon. Patricia Kelly, made the decision that, as Thomas wrote in an email, "only judicial related portraits ... would be allowed in the Courtroom." A phone call to Judge Kelly was directed to the Board of Supervisors.

Collins believes that Thomas was responsible for having the portraits removed. Thomas, however, when asked if anyone from the county had asked Kelly to consider removing the portraits, stated, "Judge Kelly made the final decision on the portraits."

"Even if I suggested to Judge see Portraits **p**age 8

## 2014 was an eventful year

## Schools, YMCA opening, balloon accident are among top stories

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

aroline County saw its share of controversy, tragedy, and drama this year, but 'also a continuous stream of successes, victories, and community members coming together in support of each other and their home. Here, one reporter looks back on some of the events that got Caroline talking over the past 12

**Schools** 

It's been a stormy year for Caroline County Public Schools, which spent much of 2014 trying to bring the system up to the level of surrounding

Despite two formal groundbreakings, one in May and one in September, both the Madison Elementary School and Caroline High School renovation projects are currently on hold due to new stormwater management regulations from the Department of Environmental Quality that went into effect this summer. The agency, along with several other groups, is currently reviewing the school system's plans, as Caroline County waits with bated breath to see ground broken in earnest sometime in 2015.

County residents, who overwhelmingly approved borrowing roughly \$25 million to finance the school renovations in a bond referendum held last fall, have watched the ups and downs of the MES and CHS projects closely. This August, the news that incomplete plans for Madison Elementary School had been sent out to contractors for bid led the School Board to pull back and redesign the project to scale back its costs.

So far, the only part of the renovations completed is the track—which sparked a tempest in a teapot after the School Board voted to spend an extra \$63,000 to color it "Caroline blue." Any regular attendee of School Board meetings, like this reporter, has found that it's not a proper meeting unless at least five minutes are spent discussing the pros and cons of the blue track.

Even amidst criticism over the cost of the renovations, the School Board has plunged ahead with its work this year, ambitiously sketching a plan to increase salaries for teachers, administration, and support staff across the board in fiscal year 2016.

Whether the Board of Supervisors agrees to fork over the increased funds that will be necessary is a question best left to 2015.

No matter what, School Board meetings in 2014 were never dull. The fall was enlivened by an October incident in which Superintendent Gregory Killough allegedly threw Bowling Green Supervisor Jeff Sili out of Bowling Green Elementary. Whatever events exactly took place, the incident left a bad taste in the mouths of many, particularly after the School Board voted to formally censure Western Caroline representative Mary Anderson in connection with the occurrence.

**YMCA** 

The long-awaited Caroline Family YMCA in Ladysmith Village held its grand opening in March, an event attended by Senator Mark Warner and local dignitaries. Since then, despite some problems with contractor payments and lingering questions over how the facility will be paid for, the YMCA has quickly become an integral part of



A fatal hot air balloon crash at Meadow Event Park made national news.

for many residents. **Balloon accident** 

Caroline made national headlines in May when a hot air balloon at the Mid-Atlantic Balloon Festival at Meadow Event Park crashed into a power line, killing three. The tragic event brought the

see Year Review page 8

# SERVANT SPOTLIGH

## **Gloria Bolecek:**

'I just enjoy helping people if I can'

**By Sarah Vogelsong CP Reporter** 

Few can claim to have given as much to their community as Gloria Bolecek.

The former Caroline County Public Schools teacher has in one way or another devoted her life to service in the county where she

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Community calendar—page 5 CHS Math League gaining in popularity—page 5

CHS sports schedule—page 6





grew up and has chosen to spend

> her life. Whether it's the Literacy Council, the Red Cross, or other relief efforts, Bolecek is almost certain to have a finger in the pieand to be the first to offer a slice of that pie to whoever is hungry.

Born in Woodford, Bolecek was raised on a cattle and hay farm about five miles north of Bowling Green that her grandparents purchased when they first came to Caroline. Today, she both oversees that farm and takes care of her father, who this past year celebrated his 100th birthday.

From an early age, Bolecek was interested in science—the plants that grew on the land and the animals and other creatures that wandered there.

"I just like being outside," she

see **Spotlight** page 3

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## **REC returns \$3 million to members**

of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) received their electric bills in November, they were met with a pleasant surprise. The electric cooperative returned \$3 million in capital credits to its member-

"Capital credits are the members' share of the annual margins — money remaining after expenses are paid — and are assigned to an account in their name," explained Chris Headley, REC's manager of administrative services and conDirectors authorized the return of a portion of the accumulated Capital Credits as a general retirement once they determined the Cooperative was in stable and adequate financial condition to meet operating costs."

Each REC member-owner is assigned capital credits based on their purchases of electricity during the previous year. This invested amount represents the value of their ownership in the Cooperative. Anyone who receives electricity from

"It is important to everyone at REC that we efficiently manage the Cooperative's expenses," Headley added. "As a cooperative, we work for our members, not for investors or shareholders. Capital credits are a great benefit of being a member of an electric cooperative."

REC has returned over \$80 million in capital credits to members since 1980. Unlike other electric utilities, the Cooperative exists to make sure members' needs are always met, not information on capital credits, log on to www.myrec.coop.

REC provides electric service to over 160,000 connections in parts of 22 Virginia counties. With its general office in Fredericksburg, Va., the Cooperative operates and maintains over 16,000 miles of power lines through its service area, which ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. For information about REC, please visit www.myrec.coop.



#### **Spotlight: Gloria Bolecek** from page 1

So when she went off to college, it was a natural decision to study biology and environmental science, garnering a bachelor of science degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg and a master's from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Even when occupied elsewhere, Bolecek maintained her ties to Caroline, working at the middle school while in the midst of her thesis. Spending time researching flowering plants in Caroline County for the professor directing her work, Bolecek became even more intimately familiar with the terrain of the region.

"It was a long time after I finished that I didn't get the urge to pull over (off the road)," Bolecek said with a laugh, recalling her days of scrambling through the fields and woods.

From the middle school, Bolecek eventually moved to teach at Bowling Green High School and then, when the county's two up-

per schools combined, at Caroline High School. All told, she spent 39 years as a CCPS teacher, instructing students in biology, environmental science, chemistry, and earth science.

In addition to her regular duties, Bolecek also offered instruction to students in a very different area-emergency response. For about 10 years, she either assisted or taught the high school's EMT class, preparing students to go out into the community and help those in need. Although she was unable to volunteer as an EMT herself, she did have the chance to ride out on calls several times, experiences she described as "exciting."

Nor were CCPS classes enough for Bolecek. She has been closely involved with the Caroline Literacy Council since its inception over 40 years ago. She still recalls the earliest class she taught: it was in Dawn, but because she and all of her students came from the Bowling Green area, they

would all carpool to and from the classroom together.

Literacy work, Bolecek notes, can be particularly challenging because of how hard it often is to reach out to those who need those ser-

"Most people who can't read are very good about covering it up," she said.

Today, Bolecek teaches math and science for the Literacy Council's GED classes, helping adults get their diploma and advance further toward their goals.

Besides this organization, Bolecek is very involved in the Red Cross, Caroline Emergency Relief Volunteer Efforts (CERVE), and her church, St. Mary of the Annunciation in Ladysmith.

With the Red Cross, she's helped coordinate disaster relief, such as housing 111 people who were driven by an ice storm to take shelter for five nights at the Caroline Middle School. She provides similar relief through her role as secretary of the board of CERVE,

which provides financial and practical assistance to transients and residents in need.

"I just enjoy helping people if I can," said Bolecek. "My family has just always tried to help out where they could. ... That's just the way we were raised."

Caroline has been the focus of those efforts over the years. To Bolecek, one of the qualities that makes the county such a nice place to live is people's tendency to help each other.

"They do help out," she said. "And they always have."

Although she retired from CCPS in 2010, with all of her activities, Bolecek seems unlikely to slow her pace anytime soon.

"You retire and you think you're going to settle down," she said. "But there's no way I could go back to work-there's just no time."

## **Peoples elected to Utah Senate**

Mrs. Marie Boone Jackson-Peoples and Robert L. Peoples wish to announce that their son, Alvin Bernard Jackson Jr., won an election in November to represent Utah's 14th district in the state Senate. Alvin is the grandson of the late Willis Boone Sr. and Lillie Wright Boone, who lived in Caroline County.

### **Reckless driving** charges filed

The Caroline Sheriff's Office charged Susan N. Kratzer, 28, of Woodford, with driving under the influence and reckless driving Dec. 6.

Jeffrey D. Whitner, 18, of Waldorf, Maryland, was charged with reckless driving Dec. 7.

A 17-year-old juvenile female was charged with drugs/narcotics violations Dec. 7.

Xavier D. Byrd, 26, and Derek C. Wilson, 22, both of Fredericksburg, were charged with weapon law violations Dec. 7.

Raquan M. Moore, 18, of Ruther Glen, was charged with grand larceny Dec. 12.

Varon Gupta, 20, of Williamsburg, was charged with drug/narcotic violations Dec. 13.

According to Sheriff Tony Lippa, Caroline Deputies made five drug arrests, zero DUI arrests, nine domestic violence arrests, 53 other criminal arrests and issued five animal control summons or arrests during the week ending Dec. 13.

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### **Landfill** from page 1

to ooze odors, because there's not going to be the moisture that would biodegrade a vegetable or a salad of some kind that somebody out of a restaurant threw in there. That's not going to be in this landfill."

Paul Farrell, another principal, outlined the three types of landfills that the Department of Environmental Quality permits—municipal solid waste, industrial, and then what Caroline Recycling is proposing, which is construction, demolition, and debris (CDD).

A CDD landfill cannot accept household waste or anything wet. Wilbourne described it as a "dry landfill."

Types of materials accepted would be wood, paper, glass, plastic, yard waste, and met-

Caroline Recycling is also proposing a "limited commercial" component to the landfill, which would allow the same types of materials, but from different sources, such as Lowe's or Home Depot

Caroline Recycling would line its landfill. "We had said from the beginning we're going to install the best liner system allowed in the regulations. So we're putting the double liner on the landfill, even though only a single liner is required," Farrell noted.

The landfill would function as a free debris dump for all county residents. "As you're remodeling your house, you've got a place to take your debris," Wilbourne said.

Caroline Reycling intends to fund a \$10,000 scholarship annually for college students from Caroline County, as well as \$15,000 a year for county Fire and Rescue.

The company has agreed to pay a host fee to Caroline County at a rate of \$3 for every ton that comes in. With about 2,500 tons anticipated daily, that would generate \$1.7 million annually for the county's coffers. Of that, \$240,000 would specifically benefit the Reedy Church District.

The company would give another \$100,000 to allow the

county to hire an inspector "that will be there every single day to make sure every promise that has been made is kept and nothing comes into that landfill that's not supposed to," Wilbourne said.

Additionally, the operation would have its own monitoring systems.

"We absolutely monitor that, because that's our livelihood. If we get caught breaking that, we lose our permit. So we will not allow somebody to come in with a load of garbage. If they start dumping it, we've got spotters. They'll be stopped. We'll load them back in that guy's truck. He will be sent back to where he came from. He won't be allowed in there again," Wilbourne said

Residents expressed their concerns about potential impacts to their groundwater and

Farrell explained that the company would install 35 wells around the landfill itself and would monitor them frequently to determine if the landfill is leaking. A year before the landfill would ever be built, the company would want to test neighbors' private wells and then would continue to test the wells annually for at least the first five years.

According to Farrell, 25 new landfills have been permitted in Virginia since regulations intensified in 1993, and since then, "25 out of 25 landfills do not have groundwater contamination."

He added, "We believe that long-term we won't have a problem with the wells."

But residents wanted to know what the company would do if private wells did somehow get contaminated.

The principals said Caroline Recycling would supply water to the affected property owners at the company's ex-

Wilbourne explained that if one of the 35 monitoring wells became contaminated, "we're all over it ... long before it would leave our property."

"Nobody is going to be left

hanging out to dry from this compound. What we're telling you is those are almost impossible scenarios (for contaminants) to get through 35 feet of clay," Wilbourne said.

Farrell said, "The only landfills that are having groundwater problems now are landfills that were unlined originally and they started adding other sections of the landfill that are lined, but their old section is causing the whole facility to go into corrective action for groundwater."

Transportation was another concern raised.

Wilbourne said no trucks would be allowed on Dry Bridge Road.

"If trucks associated with this facility are caught interfering with school buses, interfering with going on wrong roads, cutting across, they will be fined, and they will not operate out of our landfill anymore. Truckers, this is their livelihood. They usually follow the rules pretty well,"

he said. Approximately 200 trucks a day would come into the facility over a 10-hour period. Wilbourne said that would equate to three or four trucks every 15 minutes coming or going. Truck traffic coming off Interstate 95 would take Route 30 to Route 301 to reach the landfill

Wilbourne added trucks would typically try to avoid rush hour traffic. "They're going to come when it's the least congested."

He continued, "We can't eliminate every problem. ... We can mitigate to the nth degree any problem that came

Residents were also worried that the landfill might be approved as a CDD but later turn into MSW.

The principals said that would not be possible without another lengthy and very public approval process. Changing the use to a municipal solid waste landfill would require approval from both Caroline County and DEQ.

"I wouldn't accept (municipal solid waste) in my community. I don't want to ask someone else to accept it in theirs, but we're not asking for a municipal," Wilbourne

"No one is going to sneak anything by you," Farrell said.

As the meeting's atmosphere grew unruly, Reedy Church Supervisor Reggie Underwood attempted to calm things down: "The citizens of Caroline County determine what comes into Caroline County. We can't stop anyone from doing a presentation. That's what this is. I think we should be respect-

ful." Underwood continued, "The voice of the people is what we want to hear, and that's why we wanted them to talk to you. You make the determination, not us. ... Let the people hear the information."

The Caroline Recycling principals invited the public on a field trip to a similar landfill facility already in operation in Chatham. A date had not yet been scheduled.

The next community meeting on the subject will be 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Dawn Progressive Center. Another is set for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20 at the Caroline County Visitor Center.

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#### REEDY CHURCH DISTRICT **COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Hosted by Supervisor Reginald Underwood

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 – 7 p.m. Dawn Progressive Center 16315 Dawn Boulevard Hanover, VA 23069

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 - 7 p.m.

Caroline County Visitor Center 23724 Rogers Clark Boulevard (beside Arby's) Ruther Glen, VA 22546

Supervisor Underwood would like to invite residents from the Reedy Church District to discuss the proposed amendment to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan to allow a private company to locate a Construction, Demolition, Debris and Limited Commercial (CDDLC) landfill near the intersection of Route 301 and Route 656. Other issues of interest will also be discussed.

Please contact the County Administrator's office at 804-633-5380 for directions or additional information