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Inside Today: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebrated in Dawn • p8

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Landfill amendment rejected by Board of Supervisors

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A surprise decision by the Board of Supervisors to not approve any changes to the county's Solid Waste Management Plan has left a controversial proposal for a commercial landfill dead in the water.

County residents have hotly contested a proposal by Caroline Recycling, LLC, to establish a landfill on 684 acres at the intersection of Route 301 and Route 656 since it first emerged in November.

However, because neither the county's Solid Waste Management Plan nor its zoning ordinance currently permit any private company to operate a waste management facility within the county, Caroline Recycling has not been able to file a formal application to develop the site.

On Dec. 2, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the SWMP. Several dozen residents turned out to voice their opposition to any changes

that would open the door to an application from Caroline Recycling. At that time, the Board deferred a decision on the matter to its Jan. 27 meeting to allow Reggie Underwood, the representative for the Reedy Church district, where the landfill would be located, to hold several constituent meetings on the matter.

Although the landfill was not on the published agenda for last night's Board of Supervisors meeting, 10 residents spoke during the

public comment period to urge the supervisors to say no to the project.

After the public hearing closed, newly elected chairman Calvin Taylor informed those in attendance that "no decision has been made on the landfill."

"Some people feel that the Board has already made up its mind, and I can assure you that no decision has been made," he said. "The Board has not made up its mind."

see Landfill page 5



Rebound man

AJ Derricott, #34, grabs the rebound from a Chancellor opponent's shot. The Cavs lost the battle against the Chargers 82-74 at home last Tuesday. After a loss to North Stafford on Friday, the Cavs' season record fell to 6-7. See full story on page 7. Photo by Dawn Haun.

Route 722 bridge to close during construction

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A bridge on Nelson Hill Road spanning the Mattaponi River will be closed for 75 days to allow necessary structural work in 2016, the Board of Supervisors decided at its Jan. 13 meeting.

The decision represents a compromise with the Virginia Department of Transportation. VDOT, which is overseeing the bridge repairs on both Nelson Hill Road (Route 722) and Route 606, in November asked the Board to consider closing one or both bridges during construction in order to provide cost savings.

According to VDOT administrator Sean Nelson, the projects are currently underfunded by about \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Closing the Route 722 bridge during construction instead of leaving one lane open and carrying out the work in stages would save \$754,407. Closing the Route 606 bridge would save \$863,658.

No county funds will be used for either project. All money will come from the state. However, as Nelson told the Board on

Jan. 13, "the conditions of the bridges are deteriorating at a rapid rate," and delays in construction due to insufficient funding could cause lower weight limits to be posted and eventually the bridges to go out of service.

"I'm not asking for both of them to be open," Nelson said. "If we just have one to be closed for the duration, it's going to help us."

While closing one of the bridges wouldn't completely make up for the shortfall in funds for both projects, Nelson said that it would make it easier for VDOT to come up with the additional funds needed.

Other factors affecting the supervisors' decision included the length of the detours that would be produced by the bridge closures and the project duration. Although closing the Route 606 bridge would cut construction time from 270 days to 125 days, it would subject motorists to a 20-mile detour for three months.

Closure of the Route 722 bridge would also cut project duration from 270 to 125

see Bridge page 5

Hispanic Congregation of Ladysmith celebrates 10th anniversary

By Greg Glassner | CP Correspondent

Caroline County's only Hispanic church celebrated its 10th anniversary Sunday.

Are there enough Spanish-speaking residents in the county to support a church? The short answer: Yes, although Pastor Eduardo Negron and his wife Idalia asked themselves the same question when they moved here in 2003.

"We knew that God had brought us to work with the Hispanic community. The problem was that we did not know where they lived or who were Hispanic," Negron said.

"I remember praying with my wife, 'Lord, thou hast brought us here to do something for you but this place is a desert of Hispanics. Show us what to do and where to go as we are baffled.'"

"We bought a house here and went to several churches. We went to Ladysmith Baptist and Pastor (James) Eads and told him the Lord had brought us here and we didn't know why. We said we were inter-



Pastor Eduardo Negron and his wife Idalia.

ested in starting a Bible study," Negron said.

Eads was supportive and even suggested they look into the church building that Ladysmith Baptist used for many years before building a new church.

see Hispanic Congregation page 2

Board eliminates penalty

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A penalty for late filing of tax returns for personal property acquired mid-year -- a penalty that has angered some county residents -- is being eliminated from the county code in response to legal advice and the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

At their Jan. 13 meeting, the Board of

Supervisors unanimously passed an emergency ordinance that makes the amendment effective immediately and is retroactive back to Jan. 1 of this year.

In Caroline, all residents are required to send an itemization of their personal property to the Commissioner's Office by Feb. 1 of each year. Until 2013, any property ac-

see Penalty page 2

LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Rachael Matern:

Every child is different

By Daniel Sherrier
Editor

Rachael Matern remembers several great teachers from her school days, particularly a few middle school teachers who would go out of their way to push her toward the next level, help her out in any problem areas, and generally make the classes fun and engaging.

Those educators inspired Matern to become a teacher herself—a decision she made while taking eighth grade history with a Miss Carlton.

"She made me love history," Matern said. "She made us look at different perspectives ... and why each side took the stand that they took."

That's an approach Matern brings to Caroline Middle School.

Matern, a Baltimore native and Randolph-Macon College graduate, has taught at CMS for the past seven years, the length of her career. She teaches ACE

(All Children Excel) social studies to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders—which means she teaches U.S. history through the Civil War, civics and economics, and world history to 1500 A.D., respectively—and she instructs a general education sixth grade class.

ACE is an advanced-level program that allows for extra enrichment. For example, Matern's sixth graders recently portrayed a debate between Revolutionary War-era patriots and loyalists—and midway through, the students switched which side they were presenting. That class will also be creating historically themed board games with special dice that will require them to use their mathematical skills as well.

With projects like these, Matern follows the examples of her own teachers who made the subject matter compelling.

"I had some pretty funny teachers in high school that



also drew me towards wanting to teach history. I took AP (Advanced Placement) U.S. and Government, but they made it interesting. It wasn't just that rote memorization," Matern said.

"I try to do that for my kids, because I don't want them just sitting there being bored," she added.

Working with three different grade levels of middle school students, Matern has little chance of becoming bored herself.

"I know everyone's like, 'Oh my gosh, how could you teach middle school?' They really are sweet, and they really mean well.

They don't always have filters. They don't always know the correct way to

see Spotlight page 3

INSIDE THIS WEEK

- Classifieds—6
- Obits—3
- Sports—7
- Community Calendar—3
- Church Calendar—3



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Man injured as vehicle overturns on Route 301

A local man was injured in a vehicular accident Monday morning. According to the Virginia State Police, Henry G. Lynd, of Bowling Green, pulled his Dodge Dakota out of a gas station on Route 301 one mile north of Wagon Wheel Lane without yielding to a Bluebird RV that was traveling in the right lane. The RV struck the Dakota on the driver's side front, causing the Dakota to overturn. Lynd was transported to Mary Washington Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, and the RV driver, Donald J. McChargue of Sand Lake, N.Y., was not injured. Charges are pending. Photos by Dawn Hawn



Board eliminates penalty from page 1

quired after Feb. 1 did not need to be filed until the following year.

Citizens who do not file their return by Feb. 1 are subject to a penalty that is either \$10 or 10 percent of the tax owed, whichever is greater.

A policy change that was passed by the Board in October 2012 and went into effect on Jan. 1, 2013, however, required any resident who acquired new personal property, such as a car, after Feb. 1 to file a return with the Commissioner's Office within 60 days of the acquisition. The tax was then prorated based on the number of months the property was in Caroline.

Residents who did not file within 60 days were subject to a penalty equal to 10 percent of the prorated tax due.

It is this second penalty, not the tax itself, that the supervisors voted Jan. 13 to eliminate.

The action was driven by advice from county attorney Benjamin Emerson, who advised the Board that state statute does not allow the county to put two different penalties in place for failure to file by the general county deadline of Feb. 1 and failure to file within 60 days of acquiring new property mid-year. Commissioner of the Revenue Sharon Carter suggested

that the best way to handle this problem was to simply eliminate the proration penalty.

Penalties for late filing of prorated property generated \$65,000 in revenue for the county in 2014. Removing the penalty means that the county will lose this revenue but will be in compliance with state law.

County administrator Charles Culley clarified that the amendment also eliminates the requirement that residents file a personal property tax return within 60 days of acquiring property after Feb. 1. Residents will still be subject to the personal property tax, and that tax will still be prorated, but they will not have to file a return themselves within 60 days of the acquisition.

Instead, the Commissioner's Office will identify the purchases using monthly data from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and will send a bill to residents for the property.

Under Virginia code, an emergency ordinance can be enforced for no more than 60 days after their adoption. A public hearing will be held on the amendment within that time.

Taxes of a different kind also sparked some conversation at the supervisors' Jan. 13 meeting, when the Board split over the ques-

tion of whether the county zoning ordinance should be amended to require individuals applying for a building-related permit to provide evidence of having paid their real estate taxes.

The amendment would affect both commercial and residential applications for special exception permits, variances, rezonings, and land-disturbing permits.

"This I think would address what might be a loophole," county Director of Planning Mike Finchum told the Board.

Madison Supervisor Wayne Acors expressed some concerns with the change, noting that "many times there are mitigating circumstances."

"I want everybody to pay their fair share of taxes ... but I think also we can sometimes go overboard in what we are trying to do," he said.

Hispanic congregation celebrates 10th anniversary from page 1

That struck them as far too ambitious at the time, but the Negrons started a Bible study with four seasonal workers from Mexico.

Things grew from that humble beginning. The Hispanic Congregation of Ladysmith held its first service in January 2005.

Ten years later the congregation numbers over

100 members who trace their heritage from Puerto Rico, Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, and Honduras. The congregation is multi-racial and bilingual.

Services are conducted primarily in Spanish. What is in Spanish is also interpreted in English via headphones. Hymn and song lyrics are projected onto a large screen in both Spanish and English, and portions are sung in both languages.

Music plays a huge role in the regular Sunday morning services as well as at special occasions. The six-piece band, half adults and half children, consists of three guitars, a keyboard, and two percussionists. It is good, loud, and loaded with energy.

"If you want to sing,



Man charged with harassment by computer

The Caroline County Sheriff's Office charged Anthony P. Carter, 22, of Bumpass, with harassment by computer and committing an act of terrorism by weapon Dec. 17.

Samantha I. Cauthorne, 26, of Woodford, was charged with drug/narcotic violations Dec. 9.

James C. Simms, 51, of Ruther Glen, was charged with trespass of real property Dec. 19.

John E. McLaren III, 31, of Woodford, was charged with drug/narcotic violations Dec. 11.

Logan A. Plummer, 18, of Fredericksburg, was charged with underage consumption of alcohol, drug/narcotic violations, and driving after illegally consuming alcohol Dec. 21.

Joshua M. Honaker, 25, of Hanover, was charged with driving after a DUI conviction Dec. 21.

Jeffery A. O'Connell, 44, of Ruther Glen, was charged with public drunkenness Dec. 21.

Sharon K. Cole, 50, of Rappahannock Academy, was charged as a felony habitual offender Dec. 26.

Steven L. Hickman, 66, of King George, was charged with drug/narcotic violations Dec. 26.

Dakota A. Anderson, 18, of Fredericksburg, was charged with assault and battery and drug/narcotic violations Dec. 26.

Daniel R. Leake, 26, of Spotsylvania was charged with driving under the influence and drug/narcotic violations Dec. 29.

Joseph E. Deavers, 19, of King George, was charged with drug/narcotic violations and liquor law violations Jan. 1.

Karl Anderson, 50, of

Ruther Glen, was charged with driving under the influence and refusal to submit to testing Jan. 1.

Robert W. Stenson III, 48, of Ruther Glen, was charged with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license Jan. 3.

Herbert L. Vaillancourt, 55, of Ruther Glen, was charged with disorderly conduct Jan. 3.

Jason D. Althouse, 32, of Fredericksburg, was charged with public drunkenness Jan. 4.

Benjamin S. Wash, 32, of Stafford, was charged with stolen property offenses, driving under the influence, and driving under revocation Jan. 7.

Jeffrey A. O'Connell, 44, of Ruther Glen, was charged with public drunkenness Jan. 8.

William T. Simmons, 64, of Warsaw, was charged with public drunkenness Jan. 9.

Jonathan Mullins, 25, of Ruther Glen, was charged with public drunkenness Jan. 9.

According to Sheriff Tony Lippa, Caroline deputies made seven drug arrests, two DUI arrests, five domestic violence arrests, 32 other criminal arrests, and issued 10 animal control summons or arrests during the week ending Dec. 27.

The deputies served 85 civil papers, issued 87 traffic summonses, handled 11 motor vehicle crashes, responded to 13 alarm calls, and dealt with five juvenile offenders.

The Sheriff's Office Communications Center dispatched 442 calls for service and handled 1,338 telephone inquiries.

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PUBLIC NOTICE Town of Bowling Green WHITE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION SEWER PROJECT

The Town of Bowling Green will hold a public hearing on Thursday February 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bowling Green Town Hall, 117 Butler Street, Bowling Green, to solicit input on local community development and housing needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the White Meadows Community primarily related to sewer service.

Information on the amount of funding available, the requirement of benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance as necessary will be available. Citizens will also be given the opportunity to comment on the Town's and County's past use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are urged to attend. For additional information, contact Stephen Manster, Town Manager at (804)633-6212.

Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the Town of Bowling Green, P.O. Box 468, Bowling Green, VA 22427 or by phone at (804)633-6212 and TTY 1-800-552-7917 or Virginia Relay #711 until February 13, 2015.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

sing. If you want to dance, dance," the congregation is exhorted. And they do.

Although some members of this Evangelical Christian congregation used to attend Catholic churches, it is not their objective to convert Catholics, Negron emphasized.

"We are trying to reach the people who are not going to any church," he said. "I am talking about the Bible. I am not talking about religion."

During Sunday's anniversary service, Negron and others noted that the past 10 years have provided many ups and downs, but the Hispanic Congregation has survived and prospered.

A number of members of the original flock were engaged in the building trades, and some of those

families had to relocate during the post-2008 recession. Participation has been on the upswing, however.

Like music, family values and solidarity are important to their faith as well as their Hispanic heritage.

"Last Sunday we had 68 in church, and three or four families were not here," said Idalia Negron, who serves as church secretary.

Her sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Alex Montalvo, are involved in the music ministry. The Negrons' daughter and son-in-law, Idalis and Luis Dominguez are also active in the ministry as youth directors, as are other family members.

Like many country pastors, Negron has a "day job" as a custodial manager in Prince William County.

A more festive celebration is planned for summer, when the weather is more predictable. The Negrons and the members of the congregation clearly are looking forward to what the next 10 years bring.

According to the U.S. Census, there are at least 1,100 residents in Caroline County who listed their ethnicity as Hispanic. The potential for growth is apparent.

The Hispanic Congregation of Ladysmith holds services at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday and Bible Study at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. It is located at 19443 Jeff Davis Highway, Ruther Glen.