

Letter to the Editor

Supervisor writes about forged petition

Editor's note: The writer, Jeff Sili, represents the Bowling Green District on the Caroline County Board of Supervisors.

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the many phone calls I have received regarding the petition with forged signatures presented as part of the Special Exception Application for Chaney Enterprises to mine sand and gravel on Rt. 17. The property is located in Caroline County and owned by Larry Silver of Silver Companies.

I will fully disclose to the public what I know about the petition and the circumstances of its presentation to the Caroline Board of Supervisors. The actual petition itself purports to be the signatures of "Caroline Citizens and Taxpayers." The petition is very detailed and promises to create employment opportunities for locally based small businesses, create 45 new jobs, bring \$89,000 yearly in new revenue and further indicates the project will help pay for new county schools, water, sewer and public safety facilities and county museums.

My knowledge of the petition actually began in late July of this year when a person appeared on my doorstep with a copy of the petition and a question. She told me she had been attending the "meat giveaway" on Saturday at Caroline Social Services. She said her family needed the meat but did not feel "they" should be required to sign something they did not understand in exchange for meat. Since I serve on the Social Services Board, I knew immediately we were not giving away meat and made some phone calls. Starting apparently in May, and continuing throughout the summer, on Saturdays when Social Services is closed, a refrigerator truck had been pulling up to the parking lot there full of free pork.

The line was so long it wrapped all the way around the Community Center and was seen by some county employees who thought it was a USDA truck giving away free cheese. This was not the case. I was later told that Silver Company had slaughtered the pigs on the property at Moss Neck Farm on 17 and was "giving it away to the poor." The truck was from the Food for Families program at Bragg Hill. In addition to the petition, there was a waiver which clients also signed as a hold harmless agreement; however, only a copy of the petition was brought to me. I contacted both the Sheriff and the County Administrator as the county did not give permission for free pork in exchange for signatures for a special exception. It is illegal to offer any type of proffer for a special exception.

The following Saturday, I went to the parking lot at 9 a.m. to wait for the truck. The truck was late but the clients were not. They began to arrive with large coolers and I was able to talk with several. A number of people were from Spotsylvania who told me the truck was late and that the project was being coordinated by a minister, also from Spotsylvania. In the past they said, their coolers had been packed for them, but there was a new directive which stated they had to pack the coolers themselves. The meat truck arrived later in the day and was asked to leave

by a Sheriff's deputy, with the operators of the truck making the statement they would use a church parking lot, but did not mention the location.

Given this information, it was not a surprise to have a lengthy petition show up in my board packet in favor of the mine. I realize most people who are not familiar with how these things work will be taken back, but this is how business is done with many companies. The last mine approved on the Rappahannock River had a petition for signatures which promised a camouflaged hat, pen and t-shirt and a free "lunch on the Rivah" if you would agree to sign. These things are certainly wrong, but not illegal.

As I began to read the petition, I realized that my neighbor's name as well as members of his family were on the document. I also began to recognize the names of folks who had been deceased for quite some time. I started to call the names on the petition and identified 30-plus individuals who did not sign the petition, as well as six who had passed away, some as early as 2008. A number of those decided to come to the board meeting on behalf of either themselves or their deceased family members. I also attempted to vet several pages of signatures to see if they were indeed citizens of Caroline and was unable to do so using either voting lists or tax records. With time constraints, I was only able to go through about a quarter of the 600-plus names, but hope the Sher-

remembering

OBITUARIES AND IN MEMORIAM

Paul A. Cox

Paul A. Cox, 79, went to Jesus on Monday, Nov. 17. He was the son of William Moten and Virgie Reed Cox in Indian Valley, Virginia. He was preceded in death by a brother, Mickey Eugene Cox.

He is survived by his lovely wife, Bernice; two children, Paul, Jr. and his wife, Debbie, and his daughter, Teresa Cox Stephenson, her husband, Brian; four grandchildren, Carl and Addison Cox and Kyle and Hallie Stephenson; two sisters, Evelyn Baker and her husband, Danny and Pauline Pendleton and her husband, Swanson; on step-daughter, Joanne Carneal Verdi and her children, Marc, Jeff, and Patrick Verdi; step-son, Kenneth Lewis Carneal and his children, Kenneth, Joseph and Andrew Carneal; seven great-grandchildren and his step-daughter-in-law, Marcia Carneal.

Paul was a 1956 graduate of Virginia Tech, a member and past president of Reedy



Church Ruritan Club, Alabama and Tennessee Dairy Booster Club, and a member of the Hanover Café Breakfast Group.

A funeral service will be held 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Storke Funeral Home, Bowling Green with Rev. Mark Lawrence officiating. Burial will follow in Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Sign register book online www.storkefuneralhome.com.

iff's Office will be more successful.

At Thursday night's board meeting, when the forged petition was discussed, there was no clear consensus by the applicant or their supporters who had crafted and carried the petition, but the word had spread that there were forged signatures on the document. A minister who is not from Caroline named Cunningham joked that he understood "dead people" could not speak but they would "take care of it." He also stated the "problems are all in Bowling Green."

That statement is not true—for the record, the forged signatures encompass the entire county. A family member of one of the deceased citizens was greeted in the back by a minister he did know who called him by his first name and promised to "take care of him."

see Letter page 6

Alease H. Nelson

Alease "Hoppy" Nelson, 63, of Mechanicsville, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Nov. 14.

She was a longtime resident of Caroline County and was preceded in death by her parents, Beulah and Arnell Nelson and her brother, Phillip Pitts. Survivors include her life partner, Bob Armbrust; siblings, James Pitts, Patsy Hakim, Edward A. Nelson, Robert W. Nelson, Overton "Oakie" Nelson, Margie Health and June Larson; numerous nieces and nephews and close friend and sister-in-law, Roberta Nelson.

The family received friends at Storke Funeral Home, Bowling Green, Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral service followed on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the funeral home, with burial following in the Pitts - Nelson Cemetery, Alps.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.storkefuneralhome.com.

Mildred K. Durrett

Mildred K. Durrett, 93, of Ruther Glen passed away Nov. 17 surrounded by her family at her home.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jeter N. Durrett, Sr., her son, Jeter N. "Buster" Durrett, Jr.; five brothers and four sisters.

She is survived by four daughters, Judith D. Richardson (Marvin), Barbara D. Bylilly, Ellen Thomas (Larry) E. P. "Polly" Durrett; one foster son, John W. Childress II, two sisters, Rachael D. Rowley and Doris D. Taylor; as well as her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandson.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in the chapel of Storke Funeral Home with Rev. Charles Tillapaugh officiating. Burial will follow in County Line Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family received friends 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at the funeral home.

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Words of Encouragement

Rooted Love

By Joe Stowell

When I think of all the wonders of God's magnificent creation, I am especially awed by the giant sequoia tree. These amazing behemoths of the forest can grow to around 300 feet tall with a diameter that exceeds 20 feet.

They can live over 3,000 years and are even fire resistant. In fact, forest fires pop the sequoia cones open, distributing their seeds on the forest floor that has been fertilized by the ashes. Perhaps the most amazing fact is that these trees can grow in just 3 feet of soil and withstand high winds. Their strength lies in the fact that their roots intertwine with other sequoias, providing mutual strength and shared resources.

God's plan for us is like that. Our ability to stand tall in spite of the buffeting winds of life is directly related to the love and support we receive from

God and one another. And then, as the writer of Hebrews says, we are to "do good and to share" (13:16). Think of how tough it would be to withstand adversity if someone were not sharing the roots of their strength with us.

There is great power in the entwining gifts of words of encouragement, prayers of intercession, weeping together, holding each other, and sometimes just sitting with one another sharing the presence of our love.

Lord, thank You for entwining Your strength into my life. Lead me today to someone who needs the love of shared strength from resources that

You have given to me. Let the roots of God's love in your life be entwined with others who need your support.

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Church is located 2 miles east of I-95, Ladysmith exit 110.

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Ruther Glen VA 22546
804-448-2915

Contemporary Service.....8:30 a.m.
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Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Service and Mission Groups..... 7:00 p.m.

Rev. David P. Williamson
Email-countylinechurch@wildblue.net

Letter Sili from page 5

The mood regarding the forged petition was openly light-hearted and there was no remorse or apology, even regarding the forging of the names of citizens who have passed away. Chaney Enterprises at one point asked that the entire petition be removed from the record; however, documents such as these are part of the official record and the petition had been previously used by the Planning Commission to make their decision.

Many of the speakers who spoke for the mine were not from Caroline and were very forthcoming about their place of residence, which seemed to be Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, or Essex, and the subject of their presentation consisted of reports of Larry Silver's character and generosity in their communities. Attorney

Richard Stuart, who represents Silver Companies on the matter of their unauthorized campsite violations on the same property, was present but did not speak. That matter will be heard in the future by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Anyone who views the petition both online or in person will easily realize the forgeries are the work of either one or two people, as there is little attempt to change the handwriting and much of it looks the same. The petition is now online on the county website or can be viewed by visiting the Administration office on Main Street.

In looking to see how it was done, it first appeared that a voting list was used. However, the names and addresses of the forgeries appear to be interspersed between the names of those

who signed for the free meat or at some other location. I learned on Sunday from a citizen from Lake Land'Or whose name was forged, that she was approached at the Ladysmith Food Lion, but refused to sign. The forged names now look to be taken from an old phonebook, which accounts for why husbands and wives are not forged together. The names are forged according to how they are listed in the phone book, A-Z, which accounts for some of the deceased.

Forging a signature on a petition is another form of "uttering" and is a Class Four or Five felony. If you believe your name has been added to this petition fraudulently, please call the Caroline Sheriff's office at (804) 633-5400, as they are handling the investigation.

I am also including the

names of your elected representatives at the State level who are interested in the matter and would like to hear from as many of you as possible. Senator Ryan McDougle (804) 730-1026, Delegate Margaret Ransone (804) 493-8484, Delegate Buddy Fowler 804-305-8867 and Delegate Bobby Orrock. (540) 891-1322. In addition, our Congressman, Rob Wittman, has also been apprised of the issue and his number is (804) 443-0668.

In closing, the Free Lance-Star has reported that the supervisors did not consider the petition when making their decision on the Special Exception; however, in my case this is not correct. I do not vote yea on projects with forged documents.

Jeff Sili
Bowling Green District
Supervisor

Caroline Family Practice welcomes a new doctor

Caroline Family Practice is pleased to welcome Dr. Rachel Huot to its practice.

Dr. Huot is Board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and brings considerable experience to Caroline Family Practice (CFP). Since 2008, Huot has served as a family practice physician in community health centers in rural areas of Virginia.

Huot also holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in biology from Catholic University of America. Huot taught on the medical school faculty at Louisiana State University (LSU), where she also conducted cancer research with a focus on prostate cancer. However, she had always wanted to be a physician, so she returned to medical school and completed her medical degree at LSU, just shy of her 50th birthday.

Huot said she hopes this demonstrates that it is never too late to follow your dreams.

Once she graduated, Huot moved to Virginia, bringing her mother, who is 96. Huot has lived in numerous places in the United States, and she would like to travel eventually to see more of this country and to go abroad. She said that there is so much beauty and history to be experienced.

Huot is fluent in English and French, although she states that without regular use, her French spoken skills are not as polished as they once were. Huot said she is a good listener and really cares about her patients. She really enjoys being a physician, especially in family practice where she can see all ages.

Huot holds professional memberships in the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of Virginia, the American and Virginia Academies of Family Practice, and the American Board of Family Medicine.

Huot offers a full range of family medicine services to anyone of any age, including well and sick visits, chronic disease management, and preventive services, which include vaccines and screening tests for different types of diseases. New patients are always welcome. Patients are encouraged to ask questions about their health care and be provided information to help them manage their own health.

CFP is part of Central Virginia Health Services (CVHS), a non-profit community health center. In addition to medical care, CFP also offers dental care.

Community health centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that serve populations with limited access to health care because of geography, lack of insurance, poverty, or other factors. Along with other health care safety net providers, the health center plays a key role in the community's health.

Please stop by to meet Dr. Huot. To make an appointment, please call the office at Caroline Family Practice, (804) 632-1030. For additional information, please feel free to contact Sheena Mackenzie, Development Director, (804) 359-0477 or (804) 972-1611.

Caroline students investigate FBI



FBI Special Agent Robert Hilland visited Caroline High School last week to speak with criminal justice students.

FBI agent says work is not as glamorous as TV shows portray

By Scott Richards
CP Correspondent

The Federal Bureau of Investigation came to Car-

oline High School on Nov. 10. There was no trouble—the Cavaliers and administration are not a part of an ongoing investigation. Special Agent Robert Hilland of the Richmond Division came and spoke with the Criminal Justice classes at

Caroline, which are taught by George Honeycutt.

In a lengthy and intense presentation, Hilland not only answered many questions presented by students, but also took them through investigation of John Smith (real name), a serial killer who began a killing spree in the 1970s and murdered a number of women.

Beginning with the history of the incident, Hilland told of being assigned to the investigation as a cold case almost 20 years after it happened. He then led the students through the steps he took in his discovery of who the murderer was, the efforts to track him down, and the process that the FBI went through in the prosecution and trial.

As he spoke, he drew the students into his world, relating how this investigation was more than just looking up evidence, but how personality profiles of both the murderer and his victims were analyzed over and over. He spoke of the tedious hours going through files, making phone calls, and interviewing people.

Hilland commented that television shows portray in-

vestigations as very glamorous, when in fact they are not.

Throughout the presentation, Hilland stopped and challenged the students: "What do you do next? You are the investigator here," and then added comments concerning the students' remarks.

An astute observer, he was aware when students were getting restless and provided breaks as necessary. During one of the breaks, a student asked what they must do to become an FBI agent. Hilland was very succinct in replying that they must complete their education and make good decisions.

When asked about why the FBI visits schools, Hilland stated, "If we can reach one student, then the presentation has been successful."

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High stakes fundraiser

Ladysmith Village Clubhouse was transformed into a casino last Saturday night as folks enjoyed a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Caroline. Black Jack, Texas Hold'em, Craps, horse racing, and roulette were highlights of the evening. The Humane Society will use the proceeds for pet food and supplies.



NAP deadlines are approaching

By Ken Upshaw
Farm Service Agency

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application closing date for the 2015 NAP coverage for:

*Trees/Bushes/Vines, including strawberry, apple, Christmas, peach, pear, blueberry, caneberry (i.e.

raspberry, blackberry, etc.) and grapes is Nov. 20.

*Honey and Maple Sap is Dec. 1.

*All other Fruits and Vegetables is Feb. 15, 2015.

NOTE: If an application closing date falls on a weekend or a federal holiday, the date will move to the following business day.

Producers who already have coverage on 2014 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2015, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to

add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

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