



STANDARD
 PRESORT
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 223
 Manassas VA

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 LOCAL

Int'l ambassador
 Gainesville broker advising Poland on establishing its national real estate market ... **page 36.**

Fresh eats at school
 Prince William County Schools using locally grown farm-to-table products ... **page 12.**

Index

Business 34-37
 Business Directory 43-45
 Calendar...www.bullrunnow.com
 Classified 46
 Education 19-28
 Health & Safety 14-18
 Milestones 46
 Opinion 7
 Politics 47
 Religion 38-42
 Spare Time 31-33
 Next issue due out Aug. 5

rum.
 Andrew Buchheit, principal of T. Clay Wood Elementary, and Michael Bishop, principal of Patriot High, welcomed the students and their families.
 The newly formed T. Clay Wood chorus performed three songs, including the inaugural performance of the school's song, written by Rebecca Anderson, the school's music teacher.

continued on page 28

History could become a bridge to nowhere

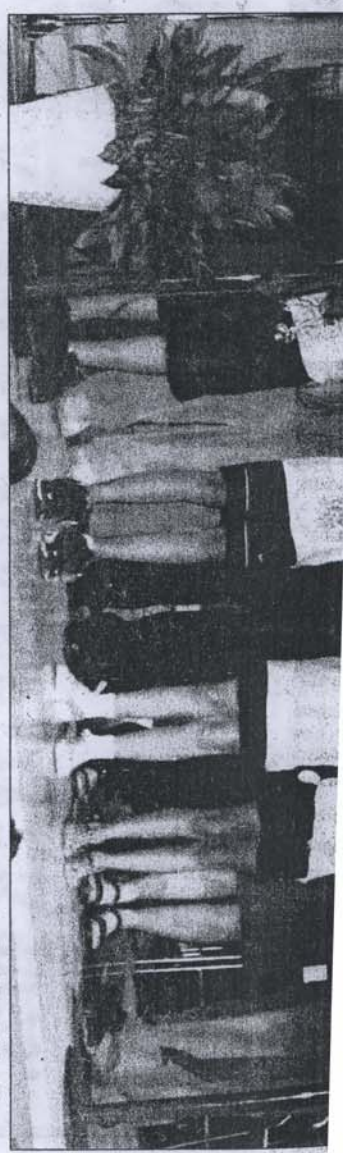
By **GRETCHEN L.H. O'BRIEN**
 Observer staff

When Jolea Harrison heard the news that the truss bridge in Nokesville was set to be removed, she was horrified. She set about finding out what was happening and why. She's still working to uncover the plans but wants to make sure locals know the bridge is set to be removed from the area as a crossing for cars over the railroad tracks.

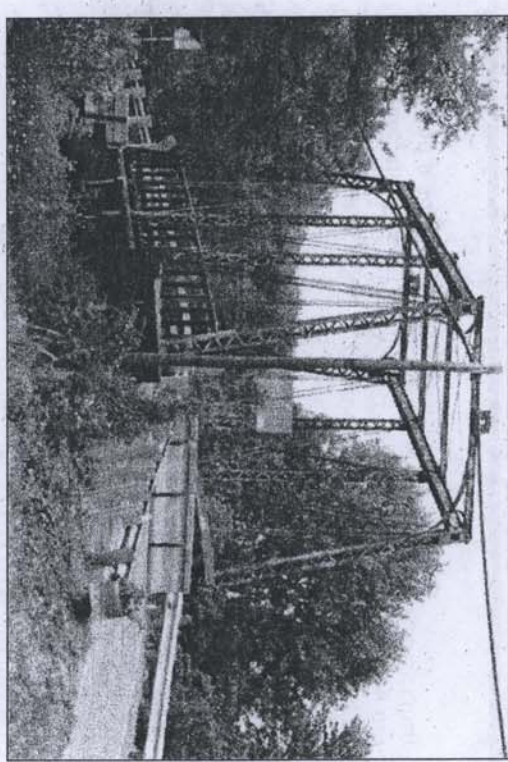
Harrison said the bridge was built in 1882 and once offered a crossing for carriages. It's important for us to stop tearing down things without regard to their history. It's important, she said, to hold onto the past and its history.

The bridge has been part of Harrison's history since she first moved to Nokesville in 1968. She likes the one-way bridge and the feeling it maintains in the area.

It's her understanding that the bridge will be moved somewhere else in the county, but that isn't good enough for her. She wants to know what's planned for the bridge,



Students helped cut the ribbon at the ceremony officially opening the new T. Clay Wood Elementary School.



This bridge, which crosses the railroad tracks in Nokesville, may no longer be a useable bridge in a few years.

Courtesy photo

which she believes will be removed in about three years.

Ray Burkhardt, assistant manager for the Prince William Preliminary Engineering of the Virginia Department of Transportation, said, "A project to replace the bridge is in the early stages of design. The tentative project schedule calls for advertising for construction bids" in

spring 2014.
 Harrison said the bridge may be moved. She worries that the cost of moving the bridge will deter the county from holding on to this piece of the area's history.
 Even if the bridge is moved and saved somewhere else in the

continued on page 2

Saving land for park tied in with cemetery growth

By **ROSE MURPHY**
 Observer staff

Forty-six acres of battlefield once thought to be lost to development near Manassas National Battlefield Park were to be turned over to the Civil War Trust (CWT) July 20, one day before the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's first great land battle. At the same time, another ten acres were to be given to the National Park Service (NPS).

According to information from the CWT July 13, the larger parcel will be protected because of a public-private partnership among government officials on the county, state and federal level.

A news conference announcing the preservation victories was scheduled for July 20 at Brawner Farm at the national battlefield in

continued on page 2

Preserving land for MNBP tied in with cemetery expansion

continued from page 1

Gainesville. CWT officials were to be joined by federal, state and Prince William County officials.

Also on July 13, Prince William County's Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of a special use permit (SUP) for the expansion of Stone-wall Memory Gardens, an 85.6-acre site that is surrounded completely by the battlefield. The county's board of supervisors was to act on the SUP at its meeting July 19. Applicant is SCI Virginia Funeral Services, Inc.

Corey Stewart, chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, said at presstime July 15 the arrangement is a "great example of a public-private partnership."

He added, "We're lucky to have such a generous landowner

willing to work with the public-sector to preserve an important piece of the battlefield in perpetuity."

The Special Use Permit applicant wants to add a funeral home, additional mausoleums, a mortuary and crematorium on about 53 acres of the property on the northwest corner of U.S. 29 and Feathered Lane. The remaining almost 33 acres to the rear of the tract, plus almost an acre property containing the Dogan House, would be given to CWT.

Ed Clark, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, said July 14 that the back part of the SUP site "is the most key unprotected land of Second Manassas," and was intended for homes and a mausoleum. SCI worked with officials to donate the land to CWT.

Clark reported an additional nine-acre parcel, owned by a private individual, and located on

Sudley Road between the Stone House and Sudley United Methodist Church, plus a one-acre lot from another owner on Feathered Lane, were to be given to NPS.

The superintendent explained that years ago, the U.S. Congress set the boundaries for the battlefield park, which did not include the SCI land. This prevents NPS from receiving the donated acres directly from SCI, so CWT will hold the land until the park's boundaries are redrawn.

Clark noted the Davis Tract on Feathered Lane was saved from development about ten years ago when residents purchased the 136-acre property, some of them taking out second mortgages on their homes to do so. That property, which was given to CWT, also is outside park boundaries.

There are two cemeteries on the SCI site, the Dogan family cemetery and a slave cemetery.

The boundaries of the cemeteries will be identified and fences will surround them, Clark pointed out. The MNBP superintendent noted SCI "was great to work with."

CWT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organiza-

Worried about bridge in Nokesville

continued from page 1

county, that's not good enough for her. She's "very upset that it's even being considered." This landmark is important to the community. Now, she has the feeling that the powers that be have decided to close the bridge and move it without any community consultation.

She spoke with Garret Moore of the Virginia Department of Transportation who told her it's too early for her to be concerned. "I don't agree with that." Moore was nice, she said, and plans to set up community communications, but she wants it done sooner rather than later.

tion in the country. Its press release reported it has saved more than 30,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states, including almost 16,000 acres in Virginia. Its goal is to save endangered Civil War sites and promote appreciation of the sites through education and tourism.

"I don't understand why they can't work something out with Norfolk Southern" who owns the bridge right now, she said.

Her high-school graduate even noted that the senior artwork in the school this year prominently includes the bridge.

She does not want the community landmark "to get yanked out of here." Most people in Nokesville, Harrison said, don't know about the bridge plans and will be upset when they find out.

Safety is important to her; she wants a safe bridge. She also wants to hold onto Nokesville's history; the bridge is a part of that.

**I AM STILL SPECIALIZING IN TRADITIONAL SALES!
NO BANKS INVOLVED! OUR PRICES ARE UP OVER 40%!**

I LIVE HERE. I WORK HERE.™

**Call me today for a FREE In-Home Market Analysis
of your Non Short Sale Home.**

1439

DOING ALL THE WORK