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Gunmen ambush bus, killing one, wounding 14 A7



Hylton's Davis balances work, family, football B1

Cherry Hill development plan

By LILLIAN KAFKA
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Development valued close to \$1 billion hit a major stumbling block Wednesday night when KSI's site plan for Harbor Station North was denied.

The Prince William County Planning Commission turned down the Cherry Hill peninsula plan, which shows how 885 acres would be transformed into an 18-

hole golf-course community and town center.

Commissioners who voted against the plan rejected it on grounds that administrative changes made a year ago should have been made through a public hearing process.

The decision could shred the county's chances for what was imminent economic investment, said Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors Sean T.

Connaughton, R-at large.

"That decision [Wednesday] night negatively impacted Prince William County to the tune of hundreds of million of dollars in investments and countless jobs," said Connaughton in a phone interview Thursday.

KSI and the Diocese of Arlington were already vested in their multi-million projects for houses, a town center and a Catholic high school.

Also part of the project were commuter parking lots, an elementary school and a Virginia Railway Express train station.

KSI officials wouldn't speculate about the total value of the project.

Rjchard Hausler, president of KSI, said Harbor Station was a major component of the county's efforts to revitalize the U.S. 1 corridor.

"We're reviewing all of our various options, but it's worth noting that the plan was meticulously pre-

pared and it's been reviewed over a year and it's in accord with all the requirements," Hausler said Thursday.

He would not comment on KSI is planning to do some have said it could result in legal action.

Connaughton said the commission's decision "invited which we likely cannot

See CHERRY HILL

HISTORIC SITE FILE: OCCOQUAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
RELIC/Bull Run Rec Lib Manassas, VA

Workers discover pieces of past

Occoquan hopes to exhibit pipe, bridge beam

By AILEEN M. STRENG
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Two old, well-worn and rusted pieces of Occoquan's history were recently discovered as work got underway to ensure the town's future as well as that of the surrounding communities.

Historic Occoquan wants to create outdoor exhibits with these pieces to teach today's visitors to the 200-year-old town about its past.

Thirty-two years ago, Hurricane Agnes toppled the nearly 100-year-old bridge that crossed the Occoquan River. It was the Ox Road or Va. 123 bridge at that time. It had served for many years as the main mail route south from Washington, D.C.

In the 1960s and 1970s, it had become old and rickety, but it was the only place to cross the river into Fairfax County aside from a bridge along U.S. 1, and was used by many who worked at the nearby Lorton prison along Ox Road.

Given its importance to local traffic, state officials moved quickly to replace the bridge with the one that now stands to the east of the town of Occoquan.

That bridge now needs to be replaced because it is no longer adequate to handle the increased traffic from Prince William and Fairfax



Photos by Christian Fuchs/News & Messenger

Martha Roberts, left, and Lorraine Musselman, stand outside the Mill House Museum in Occoquan. The rusted pipe to the left is a piece of the original pipe which brought water from a cauldron to the mill.

counties. As construction got underway, a rusty old 4-foot long piece of iron was discovered at the bottom of the Occoquan River.

The beam had once been part of the old Pratt Truss Iron bridge that was built in 1878 and met its demise at the hands of Agnes's floodwaters in 1972. Pratt truss refers to the make and type of bridge commonly built in the 1800s.

When recovered from the river bottom, the once straight piece of iron was mangled and twisted, undoubtedly from the fierce fast-moving floodwaters.

"I was there when it came down," said Lorraine Musselman, who has lived in the town of Occoquan all of her life. She said she was one of about five or six people who stood along the banks of the



A footbridge now stands at the location of Occoquan's original truss bridge, which was destroyed by flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

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by BB gun

The 15-year-old was arrested and charged with aggravated malicious wounding. He is being held without bond at the Prince William-Manassas regional jail.

It was unclear if the man permanently lost vision in that eye; his condition was unavailable last Thursday.

Virginia law prohibits authorities from releasing the names of juveniles charged with crimes.

Staff writer Daniel Drew can be reached at (703) 878-8065.

BRIEFS

Timothy J. Scallan, of 17820 Oyster Bay Court, was held by authorities until he sobered, said Detective Dennis Mangan, Prince William police spokesman.

He is also charged with possession of marijuana.

Woodbridge man charged with possession of drugs

A 20-year-old Woodbridge man was charged with possession of marijuana outside the MC Potomac Mills movie theater at 9:40 p.m. Wednesday, Prince William police said Thursday.

Mensah Abomako, of Stacy's Edge Court in Dale City, was released on a summons.

Dale City man charged with marijuana possession

A 49-year-old Dale City man was charged with possession of marijuana in the 4300 block of Castle Hill Drive in Dale City after officers stopped his 1990 Toyota at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, Prince William police said.

Ceasari Mario Quispe, of 549 Forestdale Ave., was released on a summons.

— Daniel Drew

LOTTER

Friday and 5 a.m. Wednesday.

- An amplifier, CD player, speakers, and a sub woofer valued at \$2,000 were stolen from a 993 Nissan in the 12900 block of Fitzwater Drive in Nokesville between 6:30 p.m. Monday and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Manassas Park police reported the following incidents:

- Someone spray-painted graffiti on a sidewalk at the intersection of Sandstone Way and Englewood Court at 2:43 p.m. Monday. Damage is estimated at \$50.

- Someone stole two handheld data devices from a Radio Shack 8454 Centreville Road at 11:55 p.m. Tuesday.

— Daniel Drew

Crime Solvers
Prince William County and Manassas Park Crime Solvers will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the rest of a suspect or the recovery of stolen property.

OCOQUAN

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Ocoquan and watched the historic bridge get swept away.

"The water was so high it was over [Mill Street]," Musselman said. "It was everywhere in the town. It was terrible."

The beam was given to Historic Ocoquan and sits outside of the Mill House Museum within the town. The miller's house building is all that remains of the town's Merchant Mill, built in the mid-1700s, which operated until 1924 when it was destroyed by fire.

A piece of that mill—a pipe that carried river water from a canal, or run, beside the river, under the town road and to the mill's wheel—was found when the town made improvements to Mill Street a couple of years ago.

It too awaits a permanent home in an outdoor exhibit.

CHERRY HILL

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He said, in Virginia courts, rights of property owners are favored when financial interests have been vested.

Reasons for denying the plan reach back to a change in a road alignment that staff approved last year.

The Planning Commission, affirmed a change that realigned 1.5 miles of New Cherry Hill Road in July 2003. Six of those eight commissioners are no longer on the panel.

The commission OK'd that change at a public meeting, but there was no public hearing directly associated with that resolution.

On Wednesday night commissioners suggested KSI revisit those road changes.

They suggested the developer's change go through a public hearing process.

Planning Commissioner Martha Hendley, who represents the Gainesville District, introduced the motion to deny Harbor Station's plan.

"I'm very disappointed with the [administrative] way this was handled and frankly, I don't need any memo to tell me what is the right thing to do with this," Hendley said before voting against the plan.

Richard Heffer, the at-large representative whose term began this year, cast the lone vote for the plan just before it died.

"From everything I reviewed in the zoning ordinance, I think the process essentially has been followed and because of that, I'm not going to recommend denial based on a process issue," Heffer said.

Planning Commission Chairman Rene Fry represents the

Dumfries district and was the only commissioner present Wednesday who affirmed the administrative road changes last year.

He said a last-minute change in the number of houses was not reflected on a corresponding map at the 2000 rezoning.

Fry said last year's New Cherry Hill Road change was necessary to accommodate the lower number of cars.

He voted to deny the plan, after saying the commissioners were left "standing in a pool of muck."

"Let [the Board of County Supervisors] sort it out and let them give guidance under their action on how they can undo what they did," Fry said.

If KSI were to submit a proffer amendment request, the advertisement process and notice to neighbors could take up to six months.

Commissioners Russell Bryant, Woodbridge; Ronald Burgess, Brentsville; Ernie Gonzales, Coles; and Kim Hosen, Ocoquan, voted to deny the site plan.

Commissioner Bruce Holley, Neabsco, was absent from the meeting.

Harbor Station, formerly known as Southbridge, spans the border of Woodbridge and Dumfries.

It was zoned for about 2,500 homes four years ago through a contentious process in which hundreds of residents participated.

The final approval on the rezoning was made at meetings that ran into the early morning hours.

Connaughton voted against the plan in 2000, but said that "we've got to make the best of it within the parameters of the law."

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Historic Ocoquan is hosting a Fall Wine and Cheese Tasting on Oct. 29 in part to raise money for these outdoor exhibits.

"These are among the projects we are hoping to get going," said Martha Roberts, president of Historic Ocoquan.

The event will be hosted by the Garden Kitchen, 404 Mill St., from 6 to 9 p.m. For \$15 per person, participants will have the opportunity to taste many Virginia wines as well as an assortment of cheeses and appetizers. Ocoquan historians will be on hand to discuss aspects of the town's history, including the Pratt truss bridge and the mill.

Roberts said that the destruction of the truss bridge and the location of its replacement outside of the town's business district was good for Ocoquan. It allowed it to develop into the destination location it is today for visitors looking to shop, eat and visit, instead of a cluster of old buildings that people only saw through the windows of their cars.

"After the bridge was gone, it became more amenable for people to walk up and down the streets," Roberts said.

A footbridge now stands at the site of the truss bridge and town residents and visitors can travel across the river to see Ocoquan from a different vantage point.

The old pipe from the mill also represents a significant part of the town's history. Ocoquan grew in size and reputation in the 1700s and 1800s due primarily to its mills located along the edge of the river.

Anyone interested in learning more about the town's history or its wine and cheese event can call the Mill House Museum at (703) 491-7525. Also during the event, Historic Ocoquan will be raffling off a painting of Mill House that was donated by local artist Jean Asselin. Tickets for the raffle will cost \$2 each and be available during the event.

Staff writer Aileen Streng can be reached at (703) 878-8010.

ACCIDENT

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in less than two weeks.

Three people died early Oct. 10 when driver Weston "Wes" Griggs, 17, a Forest Park graduate, lost control of his 2000 Volkswagen Jetta on Cardinal Drive.

He was travelling more than 75 mph on the small, two-lane

road when he lost control and hit a telephone pole, shearing it in two.

Griggs, Vernon Williams, Jr., 18, and Marshall Rollings, 23, were all killed instantly.

Friends said the men had been at a party where alcohol was being served and were on their way back when they crashed.

Staff writer Daniel Drew can be reached at (703) 878-8065.

CONEYS

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three six-pointed stars replacing the vowels in his name. The six-pointed star is a Gangster Disciples symbol; the points symbolize life, loyalty, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and love to gang members.

At Coney's July plea hearing, Richardson used some of the Gangster Disciples' past history to prove the gang's existence. In August 1996, two members of the gang took one of their drug runner's cars, drove him to Alabama and killed him, Richardson said. Twenty-two-year-old Timothy McClary's body was found on an Alabama highway.

Police alleged in 1996 two gang members, 19-year-old Coleman "Buddy" Langford and 18-year-old Desmond Wayne Smith were told to take McClary, of Lake Ridge, to Alabama and strand him.

McClary was believed to have stolen \$500 to \$1,000 from the gang. Instead, the gangsters forced McClary to beg for his life on his knees before shooting him in the head, Calhoun County, Ala., Sheriff Larry Amerson said in 1996.

Langford and Smith are serving time in Alabama prisons for manslaughter convictions, prosecutor Richardson said in July.

Judge Farris sentenced Coney to 10 years for the malicious wounding charge, but suspended eight years of the sentence. Farris sentenced Coney to 10 years on the criminal street gang participation charge and suspended all of that sentence. The suspended sentences are conditioned upon Coney's successful completion of five years probation when he is released, including no contact with the victim or any gang members.

Staff writer Maria Hegstad can be reached at (703) 369-6594.

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Lotteries 5/2

These numbers were drawn Thursday, Oct. 21:

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Midday Lucky Nos7-6-3
Midday D.C. Four8-3-1-6
Lucky Numbers2-8-8
D.C. Four4-8-2-7
D.C. Hot Five20-23-13-15-27
Quick Cash19-20-02-15-18-38

Maryland