

Potomac News

VA 35 cents

A Media General Newspaper

Sod success

Times are good for area agriculture A3



Suicide attack

A dozen people killed by bomber in Baghdad A10



Blazing a trail

Gar-Field grad leads UCLA to NCAA title B1



WHAT'S ON TAP

Good Monday morning Prince William ...

This is the last week of school and not only that, this Sunday is Father's Day. There is so much to do and so little time. While dashing about getting ready for summer and finding that perfect gift, try taking in one of the fun events happening locally this week.

Grab the family and head out to the Grand Reopening Celebration of Veteran's Park, 14300 Featherstone Road, Woodbridge, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. There will be giveaways, games, rides, free ice cream, the slide naming contest winner will be announced, as well as the dollar swim from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Not to mention all the food and fun. For more information, call (703) 491-2183.

Also, this Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street N.W., Washington, D.C., is The Washington Humane

Dominion says hum is squelched

Power plant says generator fan caused noise; some neighbors still dissatisfied

By AILEEN M. STRENG
astreng@potomacnews.com

Dominion Virginia has identified the source of the nighttime hum that has bothered nearby residents of its Possum Point power plant.

After several months of collecting data from residents and taking noise readings, a plant official said as many corrective measures as possible have been taken to minimize the sound.

"We've determined that we've done a full investigation," said Le-

Ha Anderson, spokeswoman for Dominion Virginia. "We feel the noise levels recorded are at levels before the county ordinances."

The plant also is shutting down its dedicated telephone line that residents have been calling to

report the occurrences of the hum.

"It would be misleading to keep it operational forever," Anderson said. The purpose of the phone line was to collect information from those reporting the noise as part of the investigation. Now that the

investigation is over, the dedicated line is unnecessary.

Instead, customers and residents wishing to report new problems may do so through the power company's regular customer service number. That number is (888) 667-3000.

See NOISE, Page A2

HISTORIC SITE FILE: PR. WM COURTHOUSE
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA
BRENTSVILLE

A PIECE OF THE PAST



Repaving lags on Minnieville

Dear Lane Ranger: When will the Saratoga Hunt development restore Minnieville Road surface?

Some months ago, perhaps five or six, the Saratoga Hunt developers dug up the side of Minnieville Road for approximately a fourth of a mile and then patched it while building approach lanes to their development. The patchwork is rough and deteriorating with pot holes while the approach lanes require a final surfacing. Wondering how long I must wait? — Roger Dean of Woodbridge

Dear Roger: Prince William officials contacted the developer and the developer said the resurfacing should be completed by the end of June, said county public works engineer Steve Stevens.

At least your road is paved. Try driving on Glenkirk Road by Lake Manassas. Some of it is paved and a lot of it is



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Also, this Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street N.W., Washington, D.C., is **The Washington Humane Society's 17th Annual Bark Ball**. All guests at the Bark Ball are encouraged to bring their dogs from home as "dates." Tickets are \$200 per person (\$130 of each ticket is a charitable contribution) and includes a formal dinner, open bar and dancing with the dogs into the night. At the Washington Humane Society, no call for help goes unanswered, and no animal is ever turned away. If you can't attend the ball but would still like to send a donation or would like more information, visit www.barkball.com or call (202) 332-3556. It is a black tie event, tails optional.

Look out Prince William, the boys are back in town. Yes this Father's Day weekend the **Potomac Cannons**, the Carolina League

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Donna Richardson/For the News & Messenger

Pamela M. Sackett, chairwoman of the Brentsville Historic Center Trust, right, gives visitors information about the historic courthouse during an open house held Saturday.

Hobbyists, experts survey old courthouse

By KEITH WALKER
kwalker@potomacnews.com

The Brentsville Courthouse on Bristow Road has the distinction of being one of the oldest courthouses in the commonwealth that is still standing, and it might be haunted.

"This this is one of the few remaining 1820's courthouses in the United States," said Gary Moody, chairman

of the Friends of the Brentsville Courthouse, Saturday at the Brentsville Preservation Day.

The courthouse was built in 1822 and survived the Civil War when it was occupied by Union troops.

Gen. J.E.B. Stuart scouted the area around the courthouse and there is evidence that Mosby's Raiders came through a time or two, Moody said.

"Mosby's raiders had some activity through here doing his usual thing — running and strafing, moving up and down running skirmishes," Moody said.

The legend of the haunting, though connected to the Civil War, only goes back to the mid-1970's, Moody said. At the time, the County Clerk's

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Dear Roger: Prince William officials contacted the developer and the developer said the resurfacing should be completed by the end of June, said county public works engineer Steve Stevens.

At least your road is paved.

Try driving on Glenkirk Road by Lake Manassas. Some of it is paved and a lot of it is not.

That's not stopping the 600-home Glenkirk community from being built. When is the developer going to pave Glenkirk Road at the entrance of the neighborhood?

The community's Web site: "Situated perfectly between the mountains and the metropolitan area, Glenkirk is the ideal place to live. What more could you ask for?"

How about not living off a dirt road?
I have a call in.

LIGHT RUNNERS RAMPANT ON LINTON HALL ROAD

Emily Lepore of Linton Hall Road called into the Lane Ranger asking if anything could be done about red-light runners turning left off Linton Hall Road to Nokesville Road.

"Every single day it's at least six or seven drivers running the light. Today it just happened to be 12 drivers," said Lepore, a school bus driver, on Tuesday. She usually drives through it around 6:30 a.m.

See LANE RANGER, Page A2



BRENTSVILLE

Continued from Page A1

office was in the old jail next to the courthouse, Moody said.

One day, everyone but one secretary left the office to go out to lunch.

While the secretary was alone in the old jail, the legend says, she saw a woman outside dressed in Civil War clothing.

"The woman came up the sidewalk, she was all dressed in period dress" and said "Where's my soldier?" Moody said.

The secretary asked her what she was talking about.

"I've come for my soldier," the ghost woman said. "They said he's back here. I've come for my soldier."

Then the woman vanished, Moody said.

"The other folks got back from lunch and the poor receptionist packed up her things and left and never came back," Moody said.

Ghost stories weren't all that visitors to Preservation Day could learn about on Saturday.

People from the Friends group as well as representatives of the Brentsville Historic Centre and Hylton High School archaeology students were there to share the history of the area that was once a hub of activity in Prince William County.

Plaques on the wall of the old one-room school, built in 1928, showed that prisoners in the jail, built in 1822, got food from a nearby tavern and slept on feather beds with comforters.

Brentsville was the Prince William County seat between 1822 and 1892 and Hatcher's church, built of stone in the 1700's, was open to all denominations.

Pam Sackett, chair of the Historical Centre, told visitors that Prince William's County seat has moved often until it finally wound up in Manassas.

The county seat moved from Brentsville to Cedar Run and then to Woodbridge, Sackett said.

From Woodbridge it moved to Dumfries and finally to Manassas.

"There was a big push to move

near here and I didn't realize that and I've always been a Civil War buff," Cabe said.

Ewell moved from Georgetown to Prince William county as a boy with his family.

He served in campaigns from Gettysburg to Spotsylvania. He lost his leg early in the war but returned to fight on with a wooden leg.

The Hylton High School students at the preservation day were members of Partnership Prince William, a program of cooperation between county businesses and schools, said Carrie English, the partnership coordinator between Hylton High School and the Friends of Brentsville Incorporated.

The partnership gives students the chance practice in their fields of study and offers the businesses the prestige associated with the program and the chance to recruit summer interns, said English, Hylton's business department chair.

"The kid get first hand experience," English said.

"There's so much the text books don't give the students," she said.

Amanda Strickland said the program has had a profound influence on her.

"After this year, that's what I want to do with my life. I want to be an archaeologist," she said.

In the fall, students work on archaeological digs in the Brentsville historic district. Research papers are due in the spring.

Combining the two aspects of archaeology to find history appeals to Strickland.

"It's amazing that you can mix documents and digging in the ground to find this huge product," the 17-year-old Hylton High School student said.

Strickland said her first dig last October and November produced a water pump, tongue-and-groove flooring from a tavern, ceramics, nails and glass among other things.

"We found a wheat-back penny dating from 1873, or somewhere around there," she said.

"We found teeth," she said. The students learned that job

Haymarket to hold preservation meeting

The Town of Haymarket will hold a public discussion on historic preservation Tuesday night at Town Hall, in an attempt to find ways to incorporate Haymarket's history into its future.

Speakers will include Brendan Hanafin, historic preservation manager for Prince

William County, and other officials from Prince William's Department of Public Works.

A representative from the Virginia Main Street program will also be in attendance. The 19-year-old program is designed to help revitalize downtown districts. Among the 17 cities

involved in the program are Manassas, Warrenton and Winchester.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. Individuals can call Town Hall at (703) 753-2600 for more information.

— Matt Hourihan

NOISE

Continued from Page A1

The sound has been described to vary in its intensity — from a low hum to a revving jet engine — and in its occurrence — a couple of hours at a time for a day or so and then disappearing for days, weeks and even months.

It was first heard during the summer of 2002 and was thought to be coming from a military installation in Indian Head, Md., just across the Potomac River from the power plant and the surrounding neighborhoods. Missile testing was being conducted there.

Dominion began receiving complaints at the beginning of the year. Over the last several months, plant officials determined the sound was coming from a turbine fan associated with an oil-fired generator.

The equipment was then adjusted and cleaned. "That seemed to help with some of the sound, but

residents were still hearing it," Anderson said.

An acoustical engineer from St. Louis was brought in to investigate the sound and monitor it.

"He gathered data in a slew of locations including on the property of some of the neighborhoods," Anderson said.

Residents in Southbridge as well as Powell's Landing, both communities off of U.S. 1 and within a few miles of the plant, have reported hearing the hum.

"All the readings registered quiet or very quiet," Anderson said.

Still, the sound was detected and plant officials made further modifications.

It also decided to modify the time schedule when the oil-fired generator operated.

Anderson said that the plant started bringing it on- and off-line during daytime hours when other ambient noises from traffic and other activities were present.

"We know that works because

we recorded no complaints during those times," Anderson said.

Since the Possum Point plant kicks into gear to make electricity only during peak periods of demand, limiting the activity of the generator to daytime use only is not always possible, Anderson said.

Given problematic situations at some of Dominion's other plants as well as very warm weather, "we've had to run the units [at Possum Point] more so than in the past," Anderson said.

"This Possum Point plant play a major role in our service area of Virginia and North Carolina. We have an obligation to our 2.1 million customers," Anderson said. "We can not just turn the plant off. It's just not reasonable."

Paul Fucito, a Southbridge resident, is among those so bothered by the hum that he sometimes wears earplugs to bed.

"It definitely seems quieter but it does reappear from time to time," Fucito said. "If they can make it so

it's not a day-after-day-after-day and hour-after-hour-after hour — I can live with that. But, if it's two weeks straight, that I find unbearable."

Nancy Figueroa lives in Powell's Landing is very sensitive to the hum.

"I don't feel like they have done everything they could have done," Figueroa said. "There is a noise. They created it and they are giving up."

Fucito and Figueroa said they wish Dominion would have kept the dedicated line operational for a few months longer.

Fucito said this would be useful since the modifications to the equipment and the changing hours of operation are relatively new and the hum has grown louder and more frequent during the summer months.

"I feel like I've been thrown into the corner and nothing's been solved," Figueroa said.

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

LANE RANGER

Continued from Page A1

Prince William police said complaints have increased about Nokesville Road and its intersections with Vint Hill Road, Linton Hall and Chapel Springs Road, with motorists running red lights, blocking intersections and cutting through parking lots — including one church.

"As a result, enforcement efforts have been

stepped up there," said 1st Sgt. Bud Dulaney in a written update Wednesday. "This week, county police officers and deputies have worked together to address these violations. Sixty violation notices have been issued to offending drivers there over the past two days."

Dulaney said police have asked the county and Virginia Department of Transportation to assist in evaluating the signal synchronization and possible new signage. Some improvements to Nokesville Road could be coming soon paid for by proffer money.

The Lane Ranger shakes his head. The police are doing everything they can, but until someone magically finds a ton of cash, and I'm talking at least \$200 million on top of the \$100 million already in the pipeline, the commuters in western Prince William are going to remain miserable.

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HORSE SHOW

Continued from Page A1



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From Woodbridge it moved to Dumfries and finally to Manassas.

"There was a big push to move west because a lot of the influential people had tobacco farms and wheat farms and they were tired of going all the way across the county," Sackett said.

Ned Cabe, a visitor to preservation day, stopped to get a look at the old courthouse that is currently under renovation.

"I've never really been able to look inside and always been really curious," said the 57-year-old Manassas Xerox field engineer.

Cabe said he also learned that Brig. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell hailed from Prince William County.

"General Ewell's family was

weeks associated with the program and the chance to recruit summer interns, said English, Hylton's business department chair.

"The kid get first hand experience," English said.

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"We found a wheat-back penny dating from 1873, or somewhere around there," she said.

"We found teeth," she said.

The students learned that job skills in the old days were less specialized than jobs in modern times. "The barber that would come cut your hair, he was the same guy that was the dentist. He'd pull people's teeth and just throw them out the window," she said.

Rebecca Wells, who moved to Prince William County from Annandale four years ago, said she took the class to be centered on the planet.

"I didn't grow up around here. I like to know where I am," the 16-year-old said.

Staff writer Keith Walker can be reached at (703) 878-8063.

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HORSE SHOW

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area," said Skillman.

The society began holding shows last summer, with the English showing style in the mornings and the Western showing style in the afternoon. The difference between the two styles is in the type of saddle, the attire and the competitive patterns and events.

Skillman said the society broke even at the first show, and it's taken off since then. The shows became big enough that the society now holds two separate series, one each for Western and English schooling.

"They were too big last year for one day. We'd be looking at 12 and 13-hour days," said Shoup. "That's the killer on the volunteers."

The English shows now average about 70 riders, said Shoup. The Western shows aren't as well-attended, said Skillman, because the Western style is generally more popular among adults.

For some riders, the schooling shows serve simply as a fun way to spend an afternoon. For others,



Donna Richardson/For the News & Messenger

Elison Grove, 8, with her horse, Whispering Kink, waits for her riding event at the Nokesville Horse Society English schooling show on Saturday in Nokesville Park.

ed," she said. "It's fun, and you get to see how other people ride." what they could have done right or differently. you remember your jumps? Did you stay on? Did you have fun?"

Lotteries

These numbers were drawn Sunday, June 13:



District of Columbia
Midday Lucky Nos. 7-5-9
Midday D.C. Four 8-9-0-0
Lucky Numbers 2-1-1

Maryland

Midday Pick 3 5-1-1
Midday Pick 4 3-3-1-4
Pick 3 3-0-3
Pick 4 7-7-6-6
B. Match 5 1-4-22-38-39 (8)

These numbers were drawn Saturday, June 12:
Virginia 5-8-9