

Manassas Journal Messenger

A MEDIA GENERAL NEWSPAPER

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2003

35 CENTS

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MANASSAS' ONLY LOCAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



Model citizen

Manassas resident donates his scale replica of the depot to the Center for the Arts / A3

Faces



Getting ready

Virginia Beach prepares for business increase brought by sniper trials / A4

State



RECEIVED

Lucky day

PGA tour rookie Ben Curtis takes surprise win at British Open / B1

Sports

WHAT'S

ON TAP

Good Monday morning
Manassas and Manassas
Park...

Got a gripe to take up
with a senator?

Head to Manassas City
Hall on Wednesday from 10
a.m. to noon. U.S. Sen.

George F. Allen (R-Va.)
will have a regional repre-
sentative for Northern
Virginia conduct local
office hours.

John Putney will be
available to talk to con-
stituents in the first floor
conference room, 9027
Center St., Manassas.

Load up the kids for a
movie under the summer
night sky.

Harry Potter and the
Sorcerer's Stone will be
the movie of the week
Friday at 9 p.m. at the
Mary Louise Jackson
Amphitheater on the

Manassas Campus of
Northern Virginia
Community College.

Admission is \$3 for
adults, \$2 for seniors and
children and students free.

Bench seating is available
or bring lawn chairs and
blankets. In case of rain, the
movie will be moved

indoors to Howson Hall
Room 216.
Nokesville residents want

Club closes at former church

Owner Wood faces charges, lawsuit

By MARIA HEGSTAD
mhgstad@manassasjournal.com

Though Manassas club owner Reginald E. "Reggie" Wood Jr. lost the lease on the old Manassas Presbyterian Church building, he was using for his Northern Virginia Professionals Club this spring, eviction may be the least of Wood's worries.

Among the 200 criminal indictments handed up by the Grand Jury in July was a bad check charge against Wood. Wood is also being sued by former investors in another Manassas jazz club, CO2 Jazz Inc.

"I was trying to bring something to Manassas that Manassas needs. I didn't get the support from the community, and I couldn't survive," Wood said in a phone interview Friday.

The owner of the Northern Virginia Professionals Club building, JAT Industries of Manassas, successfully took Wood's corporation, R. Wood Enterprises, to court for non-payment of the lease. A General District Court judge certified in June that Wood owed JAT \$36,758 plus 9 percent interest from May.

"The landlord is the problem," Wood said. He described a city sewage flood in the church building that closed him down, and endless snows in the winter that damaged business when he needed it most. "I tried to work with the landlord. He wasn't reasonable. ... I spent over \$140,000 in [building improvements]."

Wood said the landlord was unreasonable with the last three tenants, part of the reason their businesses also failed. He claimed that the landlord is also suing the previous tenant.

A \$700 check Wood paid to JFEC air conditioning and plumbing for heating work at the Northern Virginia Professionals Club in March was returned due to insufficient funds, Sandra Pindexter of JFEC said.



Peter Chalka/News & Messenger
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Nokesville residents want people that care about their community to join the new group **Friends Uniting Nokesville**. The group next meeting is scheduled for Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.

This fledgling group needs leadership and people willing to work toward the community goals the group sets. Bring your enthusiasm and prepare to brainstorm. For more information, call (703) 594-3654.

Cheer on the home team this week as the **Potomac Cannons** host the **Kinston Indians** on Monday.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All games begin at 7:05 p.m. The games are a good value and great family time. For ticket information, call (703) 594-3654.

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"We'd done some work over there and we got the shaft," Poindexter said. "The small claims court granted us judgment, but I haven't been able to pursue it yet."

The small claims court certified that Wood owed JFEC \$1,577.99 plus 9 percent interest until paid. Poindexter has yet to see any payments. Wood says the landlord, JAT Industries, was supposed to pay that bill because the air conditioning didn't work when he moved into the building.

"All I know is I want my money and I'm going to have to jump through hoops to get it," Poindexter said. "I don't think the law helps out a whole lot in these types of situations."

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See WOOD, Page A2



Peter Chelka/News & Messenger

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By **BENNIE SCARTON JR.**
bscarton@manassasjnm.com

When Reginald E. "Reggie" Wood Jr. hosted a preview of his proposed jazz and blues club on Dec. 13, 2002 in Manassas, he promised grandeur the likes area residents had never seen.

Wood had spent months remodeling the interior of the former Manassas Presbyterian Church and doing an elaborate landscape and lighting project on the exterior.

His plans were to convert the 10,000-square foot structure into two sections. The front part of the building was to become Angela's Restaurant, to be operated by his wife, and the back part of the structure was to become the Northern Virginia Professionals Club.

Wood envisioned the club becoming private and drawing a membership of 1,000 people paying a fee of about \$60 per month to come and hear top-rated blues and jazz bands from around the Washington-Baltimore area, he told the Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger. Wood expected to see lines of stretch limousines dropping off customers dressed in fine gowns and tuxedos.

When the club officially opened in January, Wood had signed up about 200 club members, he said in a previous interview. But for some reason, the restaurant never caught on.

"I know we generated very little in

Coughter leads GMU's biotech program toward new goals

By **JENNIFER BRENNAN**
jbrennan@manassasjnm.com

Dear Lane Ranger: For the past couple of weeks I have

HOV controversy gets clarification

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Ranger and found a damaged

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Cheer on the home team this week as the **Potomac Cannons** host the **Kinston Indians** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All games begin at 7:05 p.m. The games are a good value and great family time. For ticket information, call (703) 590-2311 or visit <http://www.potomac-cannons.com>.

Manassas area seniors will be spending special time with their grandchildren during a luncheon at noon today. All seniors are welcome, even if you don't bring your grandchildren. Cost is \$1 for adults 60 and over and \$3 for age 59 and under.

Don't forget one of the world's biggest hands rolls through the area this week. Check out **Bon Jovi** Sunday at the **Nissan Pavilion**. You can bet to hear "codies" like "Livin' on a Prayer" and new material like "It's My Life." The show begins at 7 p.m. with opening act, the **Go Go Dolls**. For tickets, call (703) 573-7328. *Have a super week!*

WEATHER

High 88. Low 71
Chance of showers
Details /A4

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See WOOD, Page A2

Coughter leads GMU's biotech program toward new goals

By JENNIFER BRENNAN
jennan@manassasjrn.com

Jerald P. Coughter will have a hand in corporate partnerships, networking and managing schedules since assuming responsibilities as George Mason University's director of life sciences management.

Since his appointment in June, Coughter has spent some time learning the ins and outs of his position, through attending seminars and preparing for future events.

University officials have placed life sciences management as one of its top priorities.

"The life sciences have grown so quickly. The structure of how we're organized is evolving," Coughter, 43, said.

Come this fall, George Mason University's Prince William Campus will offer graduate programs in biodefense. Coughter's mandate includes advancing the university's commitment to biomedical research, according to a



Angie Rosenthal/News & Messenger

Jerald P. Coughter is the new director of life sciences management at George Mason University.

press release.

Ken Albick and Charles Bailey, executive directors for George Mason's National Center for Biodefense, bring expertise in biomedical research to the university. One of Coughter's key responsibilities will be managing their sched-

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See CLUB, Page A2

HOV controversy gets clarification

Dear Lane Ranger: For the past couple of weeks I have noticed that the light at the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Antietam Woodbridge Senior High will turn green for traffic coming out of the high school even when there are no cars waiting and no cars have recently turned right on red. This delays the light for the traffic on Antietam turning onto Old Bridge and the Old Bridge traffic as everyone has to wait for the light to cycle. Can you do anything to have the light cycle corrected? I always thought the light was operated by a sensor.



—Barbara Carnahan of Lake Ridge

Dear Barbara: As you saw a Virginia Department of Transportation crew was out the day after you wrote the Lane

HOV UPROAR OVER ENFORCEMENT

Over the past several weeks the Lane Ranger columns have been awash in controversy. Some readers have been concerned about rules concerning law enforcement vehicle in the HOV lanes.

Apparently there was a discrepancy between the rules, as stated on the DMV Web site, and the Virginia code.

According to the Virginia Code, law enforcement vehicles are allowed to travel in the HOV lanes at anytime for any or no reason whatsoever.

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COMING TOMORROW

SPORTS

Carolina League Baseball — Kinston at Potomac results

ON THE WEB

Manassas Journal Messenger
www.manassasjrn.com
Potomac News
www.potomacnews.com



State may restrict traditional net fishing

By The Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS — In an effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay's sea grasses, Virginia regulators are considering new restrictions on a traditional form of fishing.

Few commercial fishermen still use the long-weighted net called a haul seine, but those who do are angrily opposed to the limits and the idea that their trade — once practiced by George Washington — is tearing up grass beds and harming the environment.

In March, state legislators adopted a new definition of haul seine in an attempt to clarify rules for a fishery that brings about \$3 million worth of croaker, grey trout and spot to seafood markets each year.

At a recent Virginia Marine Resources Commission public hearing, fishermen challenged scientists, sportsmen and environmentalists who want to shut down hundreds of acres of damaged grass beds to netting activity.

"This whole issue is a sham intended to put haul seiners out of business," said Doug Jenkins, a waterman near the Potomac River. "There's a lot

more things causing damage to those grasses than haul seines, but you don't hear anything about regulating."

The commission is recommending that haul seiners be required to call their fishing plans in before working. They would be allowed to withdraw fish with an internal, circular net called "the pocket" only three hours before and after high tide.

Under the possible changes, the fishermen could not drag their weighted nets for more than half a nautical mile, and they could potentially lose their commercial licenses after a first offense.

State fisheries director Jack Travelstead said no grass beds will be closed for now, but he added that the commission might consider that option later this year if other limits are not working.

Scientists say the underwater grasses are crucial to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. They breathe oxygen into the water, filter sediments and nutrients and shelter baby crabs and fish.

The grasses cover about \$5,000 acres in the bay — a fraction of their historical prevalence in Virginia and Maryland, scientists say. The grasses are slowly returning to the bay.

The netting dispute stems in part from research

published two years ago by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Bob Orth headed the study and scanned aerial photographs, determining that 26 grassy areas in shallow waters had been severely damaged by boat propellers between 1987 and 2000.

The damage runs through beds in the York River, Mobjack Bay, Popponesset Flats and Buck River. Almost all of the scars are in straight lines and jut from sand bars.

In the study, Orth noted that recreational boating and crabbing might be to blame for some of the damage, but he concluded that haul seiners most likely did most of the damage. The area is a popular place for the fishing technique, which is practiced in shallow waters where grasses grow.

The mesh nets are about 1,000 yards long each and stretched into a circle by one or two boats to catch fish in the middle.

Haul seining is usually done at night because the target species swim toward the shore then in search of food.

The state commission will vote on the proposed regulations this month.

WOOD

Continued from Page A1

do not enforce payment in these situations. Once a judgment amount is entered, it's up to the landlord to use collection agencies or garnishments to retrieve the money.

But the Northern Virginia Professionals Club isn't the first of Wood's business to go under.

Three of Wood's former investors in another club, CO2 Jazz Inc., entered motions for judgment against Woods in Prince William Circuit court at the end of May.

That club closed in October 2001, without notification to the other investors, they claim. According to court documents, plaintiffs' investment in CO2 Jazz ranged from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

"I took on people who were somewhat investors, there were some struggles, and I couldn't make it," Wood said. "There were

some tie-ups with the [liquor] license. We'd put a lot of money in, but without ... the license nobody came in. ... The investors didn't understand. It ended up blowing under. I tried to pay people as best as I could."

But one of the investors, Joseph Harris, said the investors discovered the application for the liquor license had never been turned in. Wood never applied for the license, Harris said.

"We didn't pull out until after we found out he'd used our money to pay his personal debts," Harris said in a phone interview Friday.

Each of the plaintiffs, entering individual lawsuits drafted by Burke attorney John Bell, seeks \$500,000 in damages from Wood, his attorney William A. Boge,

Boge's law firm, Scanlon Law Firm and CO2 Jazz Inc. itself.

"We're just trying to save someone else from losing money to Mr. Wood," Harris said. "It's a lesson learned. But, if we can save someone else ..."

The former partners' lawsuits claim that Wood and his wife, Angela Wood, diverted and illegally converted funds to the economic detriment of the plaintiff and other investors in CO2 for their personal gain; ... failed to pay lease requirements, salaries or taxes; refused to give requested financial and banking information about the operation ... set up accounts in various financial institutions to which they diverted and converted funds from the plaintiff and other investors in CO2 ..."

Harris said the group doesn't really expect to recover anything from Wood, but hopes instead to recover from Boge, who they believe to have been practicing in violation of federal trade commission guidelines when he drafted business documents and shares in the club for Wood.

Wood was previously prosecuted for uttering in 2001, when a Manassas food supplier claimed a \$1,797.45 check Wood wrote him bounced. The trial was declared a

mistrial. Wood was not convicted of the charge.

In August, he will stand before another jury on a bad check charge. A Capitol Hills, Md., furniture rental company claims that a \$6,522.74 check Wood wrote to CO2 Furniture in December 2002 bounced.

"CO2 Furniture basically screwed me," said Wood.

He said that CO2 sent the wrong shipment to NYPC, which was larger and more expensive than his actual order. He accepted because he needed furniture for his sneak preview a few days away, and then tried to return the furniture.

"It's all based on bad luck. I never tried to screw anyone. I'm trying to put myself in a position where I can pay everyone back," Wood said. "I have a lot of dreams and aspirations and good intentions."

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

COUGHTER

Continued from Page A1

George Mason.

Coughter has lived in Loudoun for about 15 years. He comes to George Mason after working at Virginia's Center for Innovative

Hill, George Mason's vice provost for research.

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Peter Chelka/News & Messenger

Businesses at the former Manassas Presbyterian Church in Old Town Manassas have had a difficult time staying open.

CLUB

Continued from Page A1

the way of meals or other taxes from the Woods," said John Grejka, Manassas Commissioner of Revenue.

After five months, the owner of the property, JAT Industries L.L.C., closed Wood's establishment for overdue lease payments. Now the building, which was built in 1875 and served the congregation for more than 100 years, is vacant again. Built of locally quarried red sandstone, the church at 9329 Main St. had original Tiffany windows that were removed to the new church at \$201

restaurant. Through the years a half-dozen different restaurant owners have attempted to make a successful eatery from it but all have failed with the exception of its original owner Luke Barzegar, who operated it for years before moving to Florida.

Barzegar retained the beautiful features of the church, and past restaurant owners all raved that it had one of the most striking interiors in the area — that they couldn't fail to draw customers into it. However, whether it was a jinx or poor management, none of the aspirations of the previous owners for the facility panned out.

Now the grounds of the building are overrun with weeds and tall grass. Its once impressive look is in shambles. The rest of the

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The church has a place in Hollywood. It was shown in "My Son John," a movie partially filmed in Manassas in 1952 starring Van Heflin and Helen Hayes.

After the church moved, the building was converted into a

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Now the grounds of the building are overrun with weeds and tall grass. Its once impressive look is in shambles. The reality firm of Randall Hagner now has posted a sign, seeking another tenant to lease the building.

In the meantime, Wood has several court dates pending.

Staff writer Bonnie Scarton Jr. can be reached at (703) 369-6707.

INDUSTRIES TO USE COLLECTIONS REVENUE
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"I'm not exaggerating to say we get contacted by somebody every day," Coughter said.

Coughter said George Mason is the perfect place to be "on the cutting edge of research."

Also a student, Coughter is currently working on his doctoral degree in public policy with a focus in science and technology policy at

George Mason.

Coughter has lived in Loudoun for about 15 years. He comes to George Mason after working at Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology since 1999.

He served as first executive director of the advisory board of Gov. Mark R. Warner's Virginia Biotechnology initiative. He serves as a member on the board of the Virginia Biotechnology Association.

Life sciences includes studies in microbiology, molecular biology and bioinformatics computational technology, said Christopher

RANGER

Continued from Page A1

code. Read it and weep.

Section 33.1-46.2. Designation of high-occupancy vehicle lanes;

scribe, they shall be reserved during periods designated by the Board for the exclusive use of buses and high-occupancy vehicles. Any local governing body may also, with respect to highways under its exclusive jurisdiction, designate HOV lanes and impose and enforce restrictions

tion, no designation of any lane of lanes of any highway as HOV lanes shall apply to the use of any such lanes by:

1. Emergency vehicles such as fire-fighting vehicles, ambulances, and rescue squad vehicles,
2. Law-enforcement vehicles,
3. Motorcycles,

6. Until July 1, 2006, vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates issued pursuant to § 46.2-749.3, or

7. Taxicabs having two or more occupants, including the driver.

Notice, that there are no quali-

Hill, George Mason's vice provost for research. The use of highly trained people as adjunct faculty, preparing students for the work force and research opportunities can all be possible through business partnerships, said Lawrence Czarda, Prince William Campus vice president for operations.

Coughter brings specific credentials into biotechnology partnerships, Czarda said.

"I mean he's kind of uniquely qualified," Czarda said.

Staff writer Jennifer Brennan can be reached at (703) 369-6591.

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Lotteries

These numbers were drawn Sunday, July 20:

District of Columbia	
Midday Lucky N's	5-3-2
Midday D.C. Four	7-7-8-5
Lucky Numbers	2-1-0
D.C. Four	3-2-7-8
D.C. Hot Five	6-23-17-2-18

Maryland

Pick 3	7-7-9
Pick 4	1-9-5-7
B. Match 5	4-9-27-28-39 (38)

These numbers were drawn Saturday, July 18:

Virginia	
Pick 3	6-5-8
Pick 4	2-8-1-0
Cash 5	12-18-19-22-23
Lotto South	2-5-7-24-28-32

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District of Columbia
Mickey Lucky No. 5-3-2
Mickey D.C. Four 7-7-8-5
Lucky Numbers 2-1-0
D.C. Four 3-2-7-8
D.C. Hot Five 8-23-17-2-18
D.C. Hot Five 34-33-4-23-32-5

Pick 3 7-7-9
Pick 4 1-9-5-7
B. Match 5 4-9-27-28-39 (38)

These numbers were drawn Saturday, July 19:

Maryland
Pick 3 7-7-9
Pick 4 1-9-5-7
B. Match 5 4-9-27-28-39 (38)

Corrections and clarifications

The Manassas Journal Messenger wishes to present a fair and accurate news report each day. It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all errors. If you have a concern about a story or photo published, please contact the editor of the department concerned. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below.

Local news — the news that affects us most

How to reach the Manassas Journal Messenger

Manassas Journal Messenger
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tion, no designation of any lane or lanes of any highway as HOV lanes shall apply to the use of any such lanes by:

1. Emergency vehicles such as fire-fighting vehicles, ambulances, and rescue squad vehicles,
2. Law-enforcement vehicles,
3. Motorcycles,
4. a. Transit and commuter buses designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver,
- b. Commuter buses and motor coaches operating under irregular route passenger certificates issued under § 46.2-2010 and any vehicle operating under a certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity or as a common carrier of passengers under § 46.2-2075 or § 46.2-2080,
5. Vehicles of public utility companies operating in response to an emergency call.

6. Until July 1, 2006, vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates issued pursuant to § 46.2-749.3, or

7. Taxicabs having two or more occupants, including the driver.

Notice, that there are no qualifications attached to emergency and law enforcement vehicles. VDOT is in the process of changing the information on its Web site to agree with the Virginia code.

Maybe we can all put this little splitting contest behind us now.

Please send questions or comments on transportation to: Lane Ranges, c/o Potomac News, P.O. Box 2470, Woodbridge, VA 22195; fax: (703) 878-8059; email to: larranges@potomacnews.com; or by phone: (703) 878-8062.