



summed up the sentiments of the class of 2017 using the analogy of a turtle, her favorite animal, and its shell.

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ional opportunities leading into independence. to successful lives. The pro-

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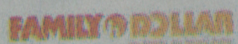
This Week's Weather

| | | |
|------|--------|-----|
| WED- | Rain | 87° |
| THU- | Cloudy | 94° |
| FRI- | Rain | 89° |

Weekend Peek

| | | |
|------|------|-----|
| SAT- | Rain | 89° |
| SUN- | Rain | 84° |

Inside



Graduation Tab



Senator John Warner, daughter Virginia Warner and Chief G. Anne Richardson

Photo credit to Peter Turcik

Virginia Warner donates acre of land at Fones Cliffs to Rappahannock Tribe

By DJ Jackson

U.S. Senator John Warner (VA-retired) and his daughter Ms. Virginia Warner participated in a ceremonial and official event, celebrating the donation of an acre of land to the Rappahannock Tribe, Saturday, June 17. Also present and recognized for their support of this effort was The Chesapeake Conservancy (Conservancy), Rappahannock Tribe, the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, and a host of well-wishers and supporters. The .99-acre lot is located at Fones Cliffs near a public landing along the Rappahannock River.

Rappahannock Tribe Chief G. Anne Richardson, conducted the ceremonial blessing of the transfer of land with Senator Warner and Ms. Warner sharing the platform. Richardson also presented Ms. Warner with a lovely teapot dis-

covered on the land where a house once stood. In addition, she spoke passionately about the meaning and history of the land.

Richardson shared, "It has been three generations of our people that have not practiced our traditional lifeways.

The Return to the River program will ensure its continued practice among our people." The donated land will serve as a base of operation for the program. "Designed as a leadership and team-building program," said Richardson. Youth will engage in water-related activities. To assist with the effort the effort the Conservancy donated a canoe.

Richardson pointed out the facts that tribal people understand the importance of being good stewards of the land "in the physical and spiritual realms."

See Warner, page A5

Essex Supervisors public meeting coming soon

By DJ Jackson

Freedom of speech was truly exercised as each resident used their five minutes to passionately discuss topics including: Rifle hunting, school funding, conflict of interest, fiscal accountability and the proposed purchase of the June Parker Marina (Marina). The Essex Board of Supervisors (BOS) held its monthly meeting Tuesday, June 13; the public hearing session consumed the majority of the two-hour meeting. The first order of business was the motion to accept and amend the FY 2017/2018 budget and appropriate the \$875,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The CDBG grant is earmarked for the repair and restoration of residents' homes damaged during the 2016 tornado. The Northern Neck Planning District is administering the funds; however, Richmond County is the fiscal agent. During the public hearing session Joseph Boseman shared his concerns regarding the purchase of the Parker Marina saying, "Put your hands in the air and step away from that Marina." Boseman feels that there is a conflict of interest due to Board Chair, Margaret H. Davis' personal hunting prefer-

ence and he requested the names of Board members in favor of the purchase of the Marina.

John Clickener, addressed specific concerns in three areas—planning, financial management and stewardship, stating, "... overspending, unbudgeted spending, unauthorized spending, and the frequent need to transfer funds." Clickener also questioned the soundness of the purchase of the Marina.

Mossimo Volo, owner of Bella pizza, shared his frustration over the 50 percent increase in his personal property taxes and the purchase of the Marina. Volo said, "This is a small town, this ain't Fredericksburg... Richmond...you will drive business away." He gave the analogy if he decided to increase his menu prices by 50 percent guaranteeing that customers would go elsewhere.

Lottie Brooks and Roy Bray shared their sentiments against the development of the Marina. Brooks simply asked, "What is your plan for the Marina. How much beachfront is on the marina?"

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Supervisors

Continued from A1

Bill Croxton stated "He has heard a lot over the last few months over the Marina...there is one underlying major problem...we have done a pitiful job of public relations in explaining what we intend to do with that Marina and what positive things could come from the county acquiring it." Croxton agreed with some of what the previous speakers stated, saying, "The citizens have not been apprised of where the money is coming from..." Croxton believes a public forum is necessary.

Jeremy Gaskins, co-owner of the Essex Inn, a bed and breakfast, said, "Every weekend every guest asked what can I do on the water...we are sending our guests somewhere else. It could change the financial dynamic of a small town like this."

Cheyenne Bray, speaking on behalf of the millennial generation, stated "The Marina, if done right can become something great." Bray spoke about the need to protect the small businesses, low wage individuals, and those on fixed incomes when consideration is given to raising taxes.

Hill Welford spoke in favor of the development of the Marina. Welford said, "...when we learned there was an opportunity to purchase the Marina, we got together and looked at how it could benefit the county." Looking from the other perspective—what would happen if we lost river access. Welford and the group have worked for months looking at the Marina project saying, "All we are talking about is a plan, an option at this point. An option is not absolute; it gives you the right to purchase." He has identified federal and state grant to pay for the purchase and maintenance, depending on the usage.

The last speaker on the topic of the Marina was Carl Strock who spoke in favor of the Marina. Strock believes a public forum, which outlays the plans, is what is needed at this point. "It is about quality of life and being able

to get into this wonderful river." A grant application is in place and it will cover 50 percent and additional funding could be sought to cover the balance.

Joey Reinhardt brought to the BOS' attention the contract agreement between the grant writer and the Fire Department. "We definitely want to work with the county 100 percent and appreciate the service you provide our department, but...suggested..." the county get in some type of agreement with the grant writer." Reinhardt also said, "I suggest you reexamine the Marina proposal to make sure nothing was missed like the radio system." The BOS has to come up with \$451,000 for the radio system, originally presented as a complete package.

During the Action Matters session, much discussion ensued regarding the \$19,222 request from Tommy Blackwell, Commissioner of the Revenue (COR). The funds support the appointment of a part-time employee.

"Every weekend every guest asked what can I do on the water...we are sending our guests somewhere else. It could change the financial dynamic of a small town like this."

-Jeremy Gaskins

The BOS differed on the responsibility of the position and funding of the position. Sydney Johnson openly apologized and took responsibility for not moving on Backwell's request when brought to the personnel committee, saying, "Tommy brought this to my attention on two occasions and I let him down."

E. Stanley Langford,

Jr. does not feel the BOS should take responsibility. Langford pointed out the COR's lack of appropriated funds to support the position from the outset and lack of funds to fund the position to date. John C. McGruder shared his sentiments that the BOS does share responsibility if we did not take action and the position allowed. The BOS voted, 3 to 1, to move \$11,922 from the general funds to pay for the COR position.

Before the closed session, Langford requested that the BOS look at the tax rate on businesses saying, "In this case it may seem a small amount, but over time that adds up." He also suggested the scheduling of a public meeting to discuss the plans for the Marina and asked that the group investigating options report to them and prepare a presentation for the public.

Future to foster private-sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration by business, education, and government.

Bipartisan and business-led, the GO

Warner

Continued from A1

Recognizing the atrocities and bloodshed upon the land by Native American and non-native Americans, Richardson stated, "Today, we have been given an amazing opportunity to come together in unity, bringing those descendants of the first colonies to reconcile with the native peoples of the land, to ensure the environment here on the Rappahannock River will continue to be blessed." Cheers and applause interrupted Richards's heartfelt words. During the event, Richardson presented gifts and thanks to individuals instrumental in making the day possible.

Each gift of thanks, starting with the Warners, was meaningful and representative of the character of the individuals. Additionally, tribal youth blessed the crowd with a drumming ceremony.

Chesapeake Conservancy President and CEO Joel Dunn recognized and

thanked many people who contributed to this day, whom he called, "conservation all-stars." Dunn who is a lover of natural beauty, thanked Ms. Warner for her funds used to purchase the property, the Rappahannock tribe for their partnership and Chuck Hunt, Superintendent of the Chesapeake National office. Dunn pointed out the importance of maintain-

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- Anne Richardson

ing access to our coastline, as 98 percent of the Chesapeake is private. Dunn stated, "In Virginia alone, \$13.6 billion dollars were spent in outdoor recreation, 138,000 jobs were created, \$3.9 billion dollars in spent in wages, salaries, and \$923 million dollars in local and state tax revenue.

Fones Cliffs, a four-mile stretch of white colored diatomaceous cliffs rising over 100 feet above the Rappahannock River, is currently under threat of development to become a luxury resort and golf course. The cliffs provide important habitat for one of the largest concentration of bald eagles on the East Coast.

Graduation

Continued from A1

Each student showed their expressions of joy in unique ways, to include a selfie with Ferguson. The conclusion of the commencement ended with the traditional congratulatory praise and announcement from John A. Brown, School Board Chairman and of course, the throwing of the hats.



**Congratulations Class of 2017
from the Northern Neck News staff**

Real Estate Auction
Friday, June 30th at 12pm
9 Properties and still adding more!
Current properties include.....

- 1) Bay Quarter Shores lots 19-E & 20-E .8 Acres
- 2) Bay Quarter Shores Lot 26 #11B-2-26 .35 Acres
- 3) Sherwood Forest Lot 35 #28c-2-35 .24 Acres
- 4) White Sand Harbour lot 198 * beautiful corner lot* .58 Acres
- 5) Heritage Point Lot 126 20E-1-126 2.294 Acres
- 6) Lot 33 Presley Creek *nice waterfront lot 1.32 Acres
- 7) 2 lots totaling 4 acres on Hacks neck rd with farm income and old family home
- 8) Lot 10 Field Trail Road *great hunting track 5.459 Acres

Auction conducted by Big Red Auctions!
For more property details and a bidders packet
email bigredflea@gmail.com.

Broker participation paid.

Auction will be held at

Tappahannock

Continued from A2

Also pointed out was the fact that 72