

# JOURNAL

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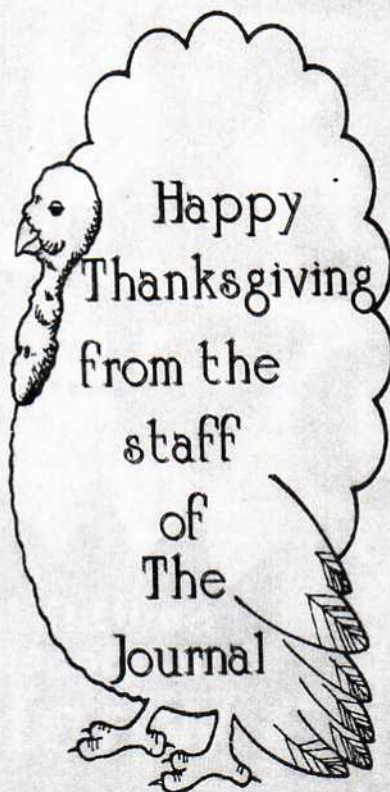
## Contract signed for off-track betting site

By Ruth Herrink  
Boat in Colonial Beach selected as the site for off-track betting. Laurel and Pimlico

Tom Flanagan, of Colonial Beach, was selected as the site for off-track betting. Flanagan has been awarded the contract so he can bring the Maryland Racetrack to the beach, which he has been fighting for. The Commission will hold a public hearing on the matter in January. There is a possibility that he will get one of the off-track betting contracts awarded last May.

Flanagan said that the time lap from that time until the signing last week has been due to contract negotiations between the parties. That hearing will be held in Colonial Beach, although Flanagan had the choice of having it held in Maryland. "I am not going in through the back door," he said, indicating that he wants people in Colonial Beach to be aware of the process. Off track betting, he said, "can't help but help the Beach. People have gone over and looked at it and been impressed." Several people have taken the trip to Urbanna, Mary-

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Norman Burgess, of King George Army Memorial at Colonial Beach while

## King George school board addresses student problems

By Phyllis Cook  
Staff Reporter

Following concern in the King George community about drugs, alcohol and weapons, and bringing them to the recent spate of students coming before the King George School Board for discipline hearings, some resulting in the resignation of Chairman John Steward began his remarks at the last meeting with a plea to the community. "I'd like to say a few words about drugs, alcohol use, and stress that they don't belong here. I hope that a lot of students don't realize how serious this is at the schools. I would like to ask the principals to talk to students about this subject, and also emphasize the dangers that having this stuff in school entails." School Superintendent Dr. Ralph Johnson to pass this message to the schools regarding student use and possession of alcohol and weapons. Steward continued, saying, "We need to be aware that this is a growing problem all

## King George rail to trail?

By Phyllis Cook  
Staff Reporter

King George resident Tim Gorder appeared before the Planning Commission last week to explain his desire for the county to acquire an 18 mile long abandoned railroad bed for use by residents as a recreational hiking/biking trail. He is proposing county acquisition of the land for public ownership.

The former railroad line runs from the Stafford county line in Sealston to B Gate of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Dahlgren. It is 100 feet wide at its narrowest and

## Court strikes battery again

By Ruth Herrink

William Miller, local King George businessman, was cleared of charges of sexual battery Thursday during a preliminary hearing on the charges brought by the Commonwealth. Charges against Miller were alleged to have taken place in one of Miller's apartments on September 13, 1993.

Miller's attorney, Alex Weimer, asked Judge John Scott to close the hearing based on the premise that "adverse publicity could affect him and his business." He said that, even if Miller were cleared of the charge, he could

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their students about this subject, and also emphasize the applications that having this stuff in school entails." school Superintendent Dr. Ralph Johnson to pass this along to the schools regarding student use and possession of drugs, alcohol and weapons Steward continued, saying, "We need to be aware that this is a growing problem all

## Questions of style...

**By Betsy Ficklin**  
Staff Reporter

Several members of the public took advantage of the public portion of last week's school Board Council meeting to ask questions relating to current issues and recent developments in the riverside area.

Ayers was the first to propose a question on behalf of a parent who couldn't attend the Tuesday evening meeting. She said her associate had come to Town Hall to find out how much the Town had paid for a playground equipment

placed in the vicinity of the former Rock's Motel late this summer.

"She was told it was twenty thousand dollars, and it cost seven thousand dollars to put it up. She wants to know why the Town crews didn't do that work," Ayers explained, adding that Town Hall had given her friend a copy of a catalog showing six thousand dollar playground equipment. "Was this equipment equivalent to that or not?" she queried. "Also, she wanted to know if you took bids before you bought it."

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## School board has \$257,024 cushion in its contingency fund

**By Phyllis Cook**  
Staff Reporter

Board members heard they have wanted to do a long time, but only a few members were there to get the news.

Board Chairman John called the November 10 meeting to order shortly after the scheduled time, after waiting for a third member to arrive to set up a quorum. Then the new director of finance presented his proposed budget to Steward, Dan and Bob Fuscaldo which he said was the best budget they have been for. Missing were members Stevens and Isaac Hughes.

With a graph showing a 1.9% difference between projected revenue and projected expenditures, Lyon commented, "We are projecting revenue at exactly what we budgeted. We have \$257,024 in our contingency fund, and it's obvious to me that any fluctuation in our revenue wouldn't take much to turn us negative with expenditures passing revenue."

Lyon took the job in the end of September, and has been working hard to get a handle on the financial status of the schools in the wake of the administrative turnover experienced with the resignations of former superintendent Dr. David Stuckwisch,

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residents as a recreational hiking/biking trail. He is proposing county acquisition of the land for public ownership.

The former railroad line runs from the Stafford county line in Sealston to B Gate of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Dahlgren. It is 100 feet wide at its narrowest and 300 feet at its widest portions. The land was originally acquired by the federal government by condemnation. It was used for transporting guns, munitions and workers to and from the Dahlgren Weapons Laboratory during the Second World War.

The line was then acquired by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway (RF&P). It is now owned by CSX Transportation, Inc. and is for sale, listed with Stan Palivoda of Battlefield Century 21 Realty for \$945,000. Gorder says that the price is twice what CSX has settled for in similar sale situations.

Planning Commissioner Robert Clare says that about 30 years ago the rail line was offered to the county for \$1, but it was turned down. Gorder has heard similar anecdotes, and speculates that it may have been turned down by the county to keep the annual taxes coming in as revenue. The tale has not been corroborated.

Planning Commissioner Ray Morrissette raised questions about the possible safety of residents on isolated portions of the line. Gorder's opinion was that, "Certain kinds of people don't get too much exercise. Walk by the parking area, and you might get in trouble. But walk a few miles and most of the riff-raff falls behind." This opinion is a commonly-held idea that has been borne out by many hikers, bikers and backpackers.

Gorder became interested in the land in September when he heard about "Rails to Trails", a

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1993. Miller's attorney, Alex Weimer, asked Judge John Scott to close the hearing based on the premise that "adverse publicity could affect him and his business." He said that, even if Miller were cleared of the charge, he could

## Col. Beach Treasurer's

**By Betsy Ficklin**  
Staff Reporter

Following the reading of prior minutes and other documents by Treasurer Jim Shaffer, (see article page 9) Councilman Andy Saulnier asked if the new auditing firm had delivered the services delineated in the documents of record by the stated June 30, 1993 deadline. Shaffer replied in the negative.

"Well," Saulnier commented, "if that's the way they do their work, I think we should be looking for somebody else. I don't think we should continue with

## KG School for capital improvements

**Phyllis Cook**  
Staff Reporter

"We were told by county staff that they don't expect to have funds for capital improvements for next year," said School Superintendent Dr. Ralph Johnson. He was reporting to the school board on the capital improvement plan prepared for submission to the county on their behalf.

Notwithstanding that information, the school capital improvement plan calls for an expenditure of \$612,000 out of next year's county budget and a total estimated cost of \$25,257,000 over the next five years.

A five year capital improvement plan is prepared and up-



