

# FAMILY LIFE

## Tech petting zoo comes to RCC

Two "Technology Petting Zoos" will soon be hosted by Rappahannock Community College's Glens and Warsaw/Richmond County libraries. The "Petting Zoos" represent an innovative program from the Library of Virginia, which gives a variety of new technology tools to selected local libraries around the state in exchange for their help in offering demonstrations to library staff and the general public. The RCC events will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, in the Warsaw Campus lecture hall, and on Friday, Feb. 14, in the Glens Campus lecture hall, both running from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.; they are free and open to all who wish to attend.

Electronic devices that will be presented for hands-on review by participants in "Wow . . . That's Cool! But What Is It?" include products from Nook, Kobo, Sony, Kindle, Asus, Nexus 7, Microsoft Surface, iPad, and MacBook Pro. The

meanings of such terms as e-book, e-ink, digital rights management, sideloading, quick response codes, and the formats of ePUB, PDF, Kindle, iBook, Hypertext, and eReader will be explained, as will a number of "apps" (applications) that facilitate downloading, reading, and other tasks performed by mobile electronic devices. Attendees will gain the knowledge to make informed choices among the bewildering variety of products available in today's market. For more information on these two events, please call Dan Ream, RCC's coordinator of library resources, at 804-758-6716, or e-mail him at dream@rappahannock.edu.

"This is a great opportunity to try out quite a few new computer tablets, e-readers and other technical gadgets, with no sales pressure to buy something," says Ream. "If you're confused about the differences between Kindles, Nooks, iPads and

other such gadgets, then getting to see, handle, and try them can make it easier to figure out which you like best." Ream emphasizes that a major reason why the college is bringing this program to its campuses is to make the information available to a wider public.

Local libraries in each of the six Virginia Library Association regions have been chosen to promote the "Technology Petting Zoo" program. Representing Region 3, which covers an area stretching from the North Carolina border through the Northern Neck, is Mathews Memorial Library in Mathews Courthouse. Questions about the program based at this facility, including requests for on-site demonstrations similar to the two being held at RCC, can be addressed to the library's head of technology services, Greg Lewis (the "Tech Zookeeper"), at 804-725-5747 or greglewis@mathewslibrary.org.

## Dads & Donuts at the State Capitol

**RICHMOND**—On Monday, Jan. 20 Delegate Margaret Ransone sponsored "Dads and Donuts", an event to bring fathers and children together and to promote strong families.

Over 30 people attended the event, which was held in the General Assembly Building, where families from across the 99th District enjoyed meeting their state legislators and fellowship with each other.

They learned about the legislative process, took tours of the Capitol and participated in "Being a Delegate", an activity where the children got to experience what a State Delegate does every day while in Richmond.

Delegate Ransone said of the event "It was great to honor our dads and the important role they play in keeping our families strong."



CJ Crocker enjoys his day as a State Delegate



Dr. Miles Press with the Store Manager at the Dahlgren Walmart at a recent fair organized by Dr. Press.

## Local Eye Dr Helping School Children with Vision Problems

A Virginia eye doctor, who saw the impact of helping underprivileged children get eye exams and glasses when he helped provide 5,000 pairs of glasses to people in Peru, will be examining children in King George County schools beginning this month and providing free glasses to those who cannot afford them.

Dr. Miles Press, who has offices in the King George Walmart in Dahlgren, is a former Air Force officer who is trying to make a difference. "When people can see, they can function better, they can focus better," said Press, who has been an eye doctor for 42 years. Dr. Press was the developer of the first tinted soft contact lens in 1980 and had his own contact lens company called CTL Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina. I helped people with disfigured pupils function better by providing a tinted soft contact lens to cover their disfigured pupil, thereby giving the individual more self esteem and allowing them to look like a normal individual.

Working with the Christian-based organization Vision With A Purpose, Dr. Press hopes to provide eyeglasses for children in need in King George, Colonial Beach and Westmoreland County in coming months.

"Beginning Feb. 19, we are going to be visiting all five public schools in King George. We will screen the children and provide glasses for those who cannot afford them," Press said.

Press, a native of Pennsylvania, has been in private practice in Virginia since 1973. In addition to his offices in Dahlgren, he also has an office in Culpeper and divides his time between the two locations. The Dahlgren office is located at 16375 Merchant Lane, inside the Walmart.

His efforts to provide eyewear in King George are being sponsored by the Peoples Community Bank and by Vision With A Purpose, where Press serves as a vice-president of the charitable organization.

Vision With A Purpose, which has an office in Manassas, is committed to helping correct vision problems for those who cannot afford to get medical care. With the help of Dr. Press and other eye doctors across the country, Vision With A Purpose

provides free eye exams and free glasses to those in need. Press said his work is "definitely meaningful. I want to make a difference in people's vision."

Press' Walmart office is open Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The office phone number is (540) 663-3937. The office specializes in hard to fit contact lenses, bi-focal contact lenses, sports-vision contact lenses, contact lenses for children, LASIK surgery co-management, cataract surgery co-management, and specialty corneal contact lenses. Most major insurance plans are accepted.

— Richard Leggett

## Antiques Considered...

This past Saturday for the twelfth year I participated in the annual Saint Clement's Island/Potomac River Museum Appraiser Fair. As always, the occasion brought forth some remarkable pieces from collections in Southern Maryland and the Northern Neck.

One of the best pieces was this mahogany two-drawer Pembroke table with its extensive superlative marquetry inlay all over the surfaces as well as the legs. It had the original hardware, and was lacking only in the finish.

Unfortunately, many years ago someone applied a crude coat of barto varnish, but fortunately leaving the original finish beneath it. I suggested to the owner, who had

received the table as a gift, that she restore it to the original patina. A skilled refinisher should be able to do the work, thereby greatly enhancing its value.

The most amazing item of the day was a small sterling silver cigarette case. Intrinsically, it was a nice piece of modest value, but the engraving on it and the three letters that accompanied it made the value incalculable. The case was a present from Dame Nellie Melba, the celebrated Australian opera singer, to the man who taught her as a child to play the pianoforte.

The accompanying letters thanked him, and told him of her lifelong appreciation of the tutelage he gave the "naughty little girl." She wrote that she wanted him to have one of two of cigarette cases she had had engraved with her signature, as well as those of a dozen other musical greats of her time, including Massenet and Paderewski.

The letters were quite personal, and reflected the heart of a very



caring and devoted person. Dame Nellie gave her name to Melba toast, Peach Melba and Melba sauce. She dominated the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century world of music. Most recently the New Zealand opera star, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa portrayed her on an episode of Downton Abbey.

The owner of the case and the letters was the great grandson of Dame Nellie's teacher, and the pieces have been in the family since she gave them to the progenitor. Some more great pieces next week.

Happy Antiquing!

The Family Life page is a regular feature on The Journal. We are happy to have articles and photographs submitted by our readers! Email to news@journalpress.com

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## Let's have some fun ! !

Quite often I write on problems, diseases, insects, or something involved in the world of agriculture around us. However, as of now there are no crop diseases to deal with, no ponds weeds, no programs or cool, informative classes coming up, and it's way too early to think about planting anything. So, for something different, I thought I'd do something a little out of the norm. This is a small match the answer with the question quiz on facts of agriculture. Hopefully, everyone that reads this will have fun and learn a thing or two about agriculture and our natural resources. An added bonus: the first person to bring this correctly answered game to my office (VCE office, 10087 Kings Highway, King George, VA) where Missy Fike will grade it will win a \$20 gift certificate to Howard's Restaurant and Bakery in King George! So, everybody got their thinking caps on? Use whatever means that work for you, like process of elimination, Google, or whatever. Let's try this!

### MATCH THIS QUESTION TO

What is:

The number of square feet in an acre?  
The average depth (in inches) of topsoil in soils in King George?  
The pounds in a bushel of field corn?  
The pounds in a bushel of oats?  
The average weight of a large, round bale of hay?  
The number of loaves of bread produced by one bushel of wheat?  
The average cost of a brand new, 100 horsepower tractor?  
The average cost of a 350 horsepower GM pickup?  
The gallons of milk a dairy cow produces daily?  
The gallons of water a dairy cow drinks daily?  
The days of incubation of a chicken egg?  
The number of people fed by a farmer in 1960?  
The number of people fed by a farmer in 2014?  
The weight of a hog when it's ready for market?  
The gestation time (period of time from breeding to birth) for hogs?  
The gestation time period of cattle (hint: just like people)?  
The cost, in dollars, to raise an acre of corn?  
The price a farmer received this year for a bushel of corn?

### THE CORRECT ANSWER IN THIS COLUMN

1200 pounds  
43,560 sq. ft.  
\$100,000  
56 pounds  
6 inches  
32 pounds  
35 gallons (a full bathtub!)  
21 days  
73  
\$40,000  
7 gallons  
200 - 225 pounds  
\$450  
282 days, or 9 months  
\$4.20  
155 folks  
3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days  
26 folks

I suppose that is enough for now. I hope this wasn't too difficult and that we learned a few things about agriculture. I will post the answers and winner in the next article.

—Mike Broadus  
Ag and Natural Resources, Extension Service

## KING GEORGE PEDIATRICS



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